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Indiana News

4 NOVEMBER 2013

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Did you receive this e-mail from a friend?



Welcome to the November edition of *Indiana News*! This e-mail is sent out during the first week of every month and focuses on those who have Indiana genealogy interests.

Extended memberships available: Normally an Indiana Genealogical Society membership is valid for the calendar year - so if you purchase a membership sometime in 2013, it will expire on December 31, 2013. But during these last 2 months of 2013, you can take advantage of our special offer - purchase a new membership and it will be extended until December 31, 2014. That means a full 13 or 14 months of access to our Members Only area and our member publications. To purchase a membership, go to <http://www.indgensoc.org/membership.php>

One of the incentives for being an Indiana Genealogical Society member is that you receive a 25% discount on registration to our [Annual Conference](#) on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. Mark Lowe will be the featured speaker, with sessions on online newspapers, document analysis and Freedmen's Bureau marriage records. Other speakers will offer sessions on genealogy apps & software, digitizing & records preservation and putting your family history in print or online. Indiana librarians are eligible to receive Library Education Units (LEUs) for each session they attend.

Update: Battle Over Indiana Death Records

The legal battle between the *Evansville Courier & Press* newspaper and the Vanderburgh County Health Department over the public's right to see the cause of death on the county's death records continues. The newspaper has filed an appeal with the state's supreme court, and their legal brief includes a statement from Indiana's Attorney General [supporting their lawsuit](#). According to the Indiana Attorney General's office, "local death certificates are a public record that the public should be able to obtain." Indiana's Public Access Counselor has made a similar ruling.

Not familiar with the background of this case? Read our [September](#)

[2013](#) e-mail (PDF format).

8 Counties Added To Indiana Marriage Index

FamilySearch has updated the [Indiana marriage index 1811-1959](#) that's in progress. Entries from 8 counties - Tipton, Vermillion, Vigo, Wabash, Warrick, Washington, Wayne and Whitley - have been added. 67 of Indiana's 92 counties are now included - see the [complete list](#) of counties.

Indexers are currently working on marriage records from Miami County and Wells County. If you would like to help with this project, please sign up at FamilySearch Indexing - <https://familysearch.org/indexing/>

Educational Opportunities for Indiana Library Staff

If you work for a library in Indiana that helps the public with their genealogy research, we invite you to apply for our \$500 [Library Staff Educational Scholarship](#). The scholarship is to help you with the expenses of attending a genealogy education opportunity, be it a conference, seminar or workshop. You will also be recognized during our annual conference in Fort Wayne in April 2014.

Applications must be mailed by **December 31, 2013**.

FOUND: BRIGHT Family Genealogy of Central Indiana

Susan Kaplan (sak62057@netzero.net) has found a treasure trove of genealogy records, photos and documents that were compiled by James Kevin Bright (1948-1997) of Southport, Marion County, Indiana. She would love to give them to either someone in Kevin's family (he had siblings in the Greenwood, Johnson County area) or to a genealogy enthusiast who is related to one of the families listed in his research. Among the families and date ranges listed in his research:

- Bright - 1802 to 1987
- Kinnick - 1775 to 1987
- Jones - 1798 to 1987
- Mock - 1797 to 1987
- Tresslar-Dresslar - 1690 to 1987

Kevin's research includes information that was compiled by Joanna Admire Bright, who in 1983 lived in Bargersville, Indiana. If you are related, or can provide any help, please contact Susan Kaplan.

IGS Database Additions

Among the premium databases we've added to the [Members-Only](#) area recently are 4,700 residents who registered as doctors with the state board

of health in 1883, and 3,600 residents who received a pharmacist's license in 1908. Both of these databases are in the [Miscellaneous Records](#) section.

Other premium databases we've added:

- Hendricks County - dates of death from estate cases 1912-1945
- Monroe County - index of 1940 yearbook of Smithville High School, which includes students in grades 1-12
- Selected members of the Indiana lodges of Odd Fellows (1933)

Not an IGS member? We also added a free database of criminals convicted in Owen County from 1897-1907, courtesy of Randi Richardson.

Hendricks County Probate Records Project



Our project to preserve and then digitize Hendricks County probate packet marches forward - we estimate we're **85%** finished with the unfolding & organizing for the packets which date from 1824 through 1900.

UPCOMING WORK SESSIONS

(Please help us plan space by pre-registering)

Letterhead showing the Johnson County Courthouse in 1893, found in the probate records (see [full-size PDF](#))

--**Saturday, February 22, 2014** from 10 am to 4 pm at the [Plainfield Public Library](#).

Register online via the library's [events calendar](#), or contact the library's Indiana Room - e-mail askindiana@plainfieldlibrary.net; phone (317) 839-6602 extension 2114.

--**Saturday, April 26, 2014** from 10 am to 4 pm at the [Danville Public Library](#). To register, please contact the library's Indiana Room - phone (317) 718-8008 extension 140.

We have also updated our database of the [dates of death](#) listed in the estate cases - there are now almost 1,100 entries.

County Roundup

Here are some genealogical and local history news items from around the state. NOTE: Items on news sites often change or are removed without notice - we apologize if you encounter a broken link.

ALLEN COUNTY

Thanks to the efforts of the township trustee, the Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Hoagland has been [restored](#).

FLOYD COUNTY

More than 20 graves at the Kraft-Graceland Cemetery in New Albany were [vandalized](#) in one weekend last month.

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

Our condolences to the family and friends of Douglas Mayer of Warsaw, who passed away on October 24, 2013. Doug was our Indiana County Genealogist for Kosciusko County - he was among the first to be appointed when we started our program back in 2006. He was also involved with the Kosciusko County Historical Society for some 30 years, most recently as the librarian for their genealogy library. He created several obituary indexes and volunteered with the North Webster library.

PUTNAM COUNTY

As part of the ongoing effort to restore the Civil War monument at Forest Hill Cemetery in Greencastle, the Heritage Preservation Society is [nominating](#) the cemetery to be added to the National Register of Historic Places. Being added to the register would make it eligible for more grant opportunities.

Indiana Man Convicted of Bigamy (1940)

In February 1940, 29-year-old Eugene George pled guilty to bigamy in Cass County Circuit Court and was sentenced to 2 to 5 years at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City. He was first married to Grace Marie Fair in Osgood, Ripley County in 1930 and had 4 children with her while living in New Castle, Henry County. While working for the WPA in Marion, Grant County in 1939, he met Marie Ellen Ivy. They married in Indianapolis and moved north to Logansport, Cass County. Someone sent a newspaper clipping about the 2nd marriage to the 1st wife (who had filed for divorce at one time but never went through it) and she had her husband arrested for bigamy. At the time of his sentencing, his 2nd wife had asked the court for leniency, testifying that she was pregnant by him.

Source: *Indianapolis Star* - issue of Thursday, February 8, 1940 - page 21, column 3.

Morgan County's Damaged Records Legalized (1877)

A fire at the Morgan County courthouse in Martinsville in March 1876 destroyed some records, and damaged others to the point where they were "liable to complete destruction, unless at once copied and transcribed." The county commissioners hired several clerks to transcribe the damaged records of the county clerk and county auditor's offices, though there was no law in place giving them the authority to do so. In March 1877 the Indiana legislature passed a law validating these transcribed records, declaring them to "have the same force and effect as the original records from which they were taken and transcribed."

Source: *Laws of the State of Indiana, passed at the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly* (Indianapolis: Sentinel Co., 1877).

FOUND: Photo of Henry County Civil War Veteran

John M. Moore (1840-1900)



Shelly Cardiel (cardiels@comcast.net) has found this photo of John M. Moore and is trying to find family to give the photo to. It was taken at the Albright Studio in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The back of the photo lists him as being a 1st Lieutenant in Company G of the 84th Indiana Infantry during the Civil War, born in 1840 and died in 1900. Shelly's limited research has found that he had a connection to New Castle, Henry County, Indiana (please see our [blog post](#) for details).

Photo of Civil War veteran John M. Moore (see [full-size PDF](#)). If you are a descendant of this Moore family, or know someone who's related, please contact Shelly.

Indiana Encourages Records Preservation (1901)

Recently on our Facebook page we mentioned a 1901 Indiana law regarding records preservation. The Indiana General Assembly passed House Bill 379 - "A law for the encouragement of county historical societies [etc.]" on March 11, 1901. County councils were authorized to allocate up to \$5,000 for county historical societies to construct rooms and fireproof vaults for the preservation of local records. The stated reason for this law was "to create and perpetuate a system for the collection and preservation of local and general history, making a record of the progress of the several counties of the State, and providing permanent nuclei for individual and family history."

To be eligible, county historical societies had to be "actively engaged in the collection of data and material [...] and in the preservation of county and State history and biography" for at least 5 years prior. They had to submit a petition (signed by at least 50 taxpayers) to their county commissioners, who would then make a recommendation to the county council. The rooms and fireproof vaults were to be built either in connection with the county courthouse or on other county government property.

If the county historical society were to subsequently stop meeting for 2 years or disband, its rooms and records would then become the property

of the county, who had the option of turning over the records to another organization with a similar purpose.

The timing of this law is also interesting - it came 25 years after the United States had celebrated its centennial (1876), but more than 2 decades before Indiana's own centennial (1916).

Legal Terms Explained: Petit or Grand Larceny

There is a definite distinction between being charged with the crime of petit larceny or grand larceny. Petit larceny is a misdemeanor; grand larceny is a felony. There is also a monetary distinction between these two crimes, which is set by law. In 1877, for example, the Indiana General Assembly said that petit larceny is when someone steals goods valued at \$15 or less, while grand larceny is when someone steals goods valued at over \$15. The 1877 law also said that the punishment for petit larceny was a fine of up to \$500 and imprisonment for 1 to 3 years, while those convicted of grand larceny faced a fine of up to 2 times the value of the goods stolen plus a prison term of 2 to 14 years.

PHOTO: Allen County Civil War Veteran in Oregon

Photo of Charles Wiebke



Photo of Charles F. Wiebke
(see [full-size PDF](#))

Randol Fletcher shared this photo from his collection of Civil War veterans who are buried in Oregon.

Carl Heinrich Friedrich Wiebke (known as Charles F. Wiebke) was from Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana and married Dorothea Grotrian there on 23 August 1863. During the Civil War, he served in Company K of the 38th Indiana Infantry as well as Company F of the 88th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

After the war, he moved to Kansas before settling in Irving, Lane County, Oregon, where he died in 1911. He is buried in the Eugene Pioneer Cemetery there.

Civil War in the News

--A [blog post](#) on the Fold3 site shows examples of some tintype photos that have been discovered among the pension files of some Civil War widows.

Research Tip: St. Clair County, Indiana

Indiana as we know it today is made up of 92 counties. But during its territorial days (1800-1816), there were only a handful of counties that divided up Indiana's land mass. These "parent" counties were subsequently carved into the 92 counties and exist today in much smaller form in the southern part of the state (e.g. Knox, Clark, Harrison).



A map showing the location of St. Clair County in 2013 (see [full-size PDF](#))

Indiana Territory was officially formed in 1800, it consisted of only 3 counties - St. Clair, Randolph and Knox.

Indiana also lost some land when other territories were formed in the Midwest. A prime example of this is St. Clair County - today it is on the western edge of Illinois, just across the river from St. Louis. But during much of the Indiana Territory, it was part of Indiana. In fact, when the

Indiana Territory was officially formed in 1800, it consisted of only 3 counties - St. Clair, Randolph and Knox. Below is a map showing Indiana's counties as of July 1801, courtesy of the [Atlas of Historical Boundaries](#) project (hosted by the Newberry Library's website). Note that Indiana's eastern boundary also included land that was subsequently claimed by Ohio when it was formed in 1803.



Map of Indiana Territory as of July 4, 1801 (see [full-size PDF](#))

By February 1809, the Indiana Territory's counties had been further carved:



Map of Indiana Territory as of February 1, 1809 (see [full-size PDF](#))

February 28, 1809 was the last day that St. Clair County was part of Indiana - on March 1, 1809, the Illinois Territory was officially formed. Note the drastic change to Indiana's western border:



Map of Indiana Territory as of March 1, 1809 (see [full-size PDF](#))

As with any other "parent" county, the records from that time period also moved with them to their new location (in this case, Belleville, Illinois). So if you are tracing Indiana ancestors from that time period, be sure you also look at resources for Illinois.

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