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**To:** [mere\\_thom@runbox.com](mailto:mere_thom@runbox.com)  
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# Indiana News

9 DECEMBER 2013

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Did you receive this e-mail from a friend?



Welcome to the December edition of *Indiana News*! This e-mail is sent out during the first week of every month and focuses on Indiana genealogy and history. It is sent to members of the Indiana Genealogical Society as well as the public.

Items in this e-mail that are only accessible to IGS members are indicated by a plus (+) sign in front of them.

## Notes for IGS members:

- December is a busy month for our member publications - the *IGS Newsletter* has already come out and the *Indiana Genealogist* will be out later this month. As a reminder, we do not send any publications via postal mail - our publications are all in the [IGS Records](#) section of our Members Only area. We send members an e-mail notification whenever a new issue of the newsletter or quarterly has been added. Notices of the new issues are also posted on our [blog](#) and on our [Facebook page](#) (in case the notification does not get through to your e-mail provider).
- Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2014 - we appreciate your support as we head into our 25th year!

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## IGS Conference in Fort Wayne

With the winter weather in full effect, think of how much nicer Fort Wayne will be in the spring! We'll be celebrating our 25th anniversary with a [Conference](#) on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne.

Featured speaker J. Mark Lowe will offer sessions on:

- Pioneers of the Frontier: Using Online Newspapers to Find Early Settlers
- Quick, Complete and Accurate: Document Analysis for Researchers
- Finding Freedmen Marriage Records
- Out On A Limb: Trapped by Bad Research

Mark Lowe

Other sessions that will be offered at the conference:

- Apps & Programs for Genealogy - Dawne Slater-Putt
- Cousin Bait: Using the Internet to Reel In Family Treasures - Tina Lyons
- Writing & Publishing Family History, from a Technological Perspective - Rachel Popma
- Scanning, Digitizing and Records Preservation: High Tech Results on a Low Tech Budget - Diana Biddle

Staff of Indiana libraries will receive LEU credits for attending.

IGS members will receive a \$10 discount on conference registration - just use your Members-Only login on the Conference page.

To view the full schedule and registration options, please visit <http://www.indgensoc.org/conference.php>

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## New Resource for Indiana Marriages

The Indiana State Library's [website](#) now has a statewide marriage index covering [1958-2004](#). This index previously existed only as a card file on microfilm - the card file was created by the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) after a state law passed in 1958 required county clerks to send the ISDH copies of their marriage returns for statistical purposes. The State Library's database includes some details about the marriage applicants, but it does not name the county - instead, it gives a code that you must look up to determine what county to actually request the record from.

For Indiana marriages before 1958, FamilySearch's Indiana marriage index-in-progress covers [1811-1959](#) - 1811 being the earliest date that one county had records and 1959 being chosen as the cutoff date because of 50 years for privacy. This database covers [67 of Indiana's 92 counties](#) - among those counties not included are Marion County (Indianapolis) and Vanderburgh County (Evansville).

For Marion County marriages, one resource is the Marion County Clerk's [marriage index](#), which covers 1925 through 2012. To search it, you must enter not only a last name, but also an initial for the first name.

For Vanderburgh County marriages, Willard Library has a Vanderburgh County [marriage index](#), which covers 1920 through 1979.

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# 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](mailto:askindiana@plainfieldlibrary.net); phone (317) 839-6602 extension 2114.

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

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## Internet Archive Suffers Large Fire

[Internet Archive](#), which is based in San Francisco, suffered a [large fire](#) in the early morning hours of November 6. This non-profit organization has digitized over 5 million items (books, microfilm, etc.) and placed them online for free. Although no data was lost in the fire, they did suffer [\\$600,000 in damage](#) to their high-end scanning equipment. They are now seeking to rebuild their scanning center - all [donations](#) that are made before December 31 will be matched, so that a \$50 donation will actually result in a \$200 total contribution.

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## IGS Database Additions

For IGS members: Among the premium databases we've added to the [Members-Only](#) area recently:

### [College Records](#):

- Indiana Asbury University, Greencastle - students 1860 & 1862 (Indiana Asbury University later became DePauw University)
- Northwestern Christian University, Indianapolis - students 1858 (Northwestern Christian University later became Butler University)

### [County Records](#):

- Adams County - early settlers
- Madison County - Elwood High School students 1921 & 1931;

teachers 1921 & 1931

- Sullivan County - New Lebanon High School alumni 1911-1924; students 1925
- Tipton County - Tipton High School alumni 1876-1913; students & teachers 1906
- Wayne County - Hagerstown High School alumni 1881-1925; students & teachers 1926

#### Miscellaneous Records:

- Doctors - members of Indiana State Medical Society 1875

**Not an IGS member?** We also added a free database of landowners in Crawford County for 1818-1834, courtesy of Randi Richardson.

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## 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 link that no longer works.

### ALLEN COUNTY

A Civil War veteran who died in 1871 and was buried in Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne finally [has a headstone](#). Descendants of John Cranston did extensive research and applied for a military headstone from the federal government.

### FLOYD COUNTY

The New Albany-Floyd County Public Library, which recently received a grant from the Indiana State Library to digitize its collection of historic photos, has begun to post some of the photos to their [Facebook page](#).

### NEWTON COUNTY

The Indiana Historical Society recently [awarded](#) Beth Bassett with their Dorothy Riker Hoosier Historian Award for her work with the Newton County Historical Society.

### RANDOLPH COUNTY

Volunteers are trying to raise the funds needed to [restore](#) White River Cemetery near Winchester. The cemetery dates before 1830.

### TIPPECANOE COUNTY

City officials are going forward with plans to [restore](#) historic Greenbush Cemetery in Lafayette. Dead trees were recently [removed](#) so that they would not damage the tombstones.

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## (+) Research Tip: Drainage Petitions

If your ancestor owned land, you probably know to look for their names in deed books and on plat maps. But did you know there's another resource that can help you locate their land and also show you who their neighbors were?

**IGS MEMBERS:** You can read the rest of this article by logging into the [IGS Records](#) section of the Members Only area and then scrolling down

to the Research Topics section.

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## Civil War in the News

A [post](#) on the *Smithsonian Magazine's* blog talks about some of the last survivors of the Civil War and how they may have lied about their age and military service.

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## Update: Indiana Encourages Records Preservation (1901)

In our November 2013 e-mail alert, we talked about a law that was passed by the Indiana legislature in March 1901, which encouraged county councils to allocate up to \$5,000 for county historical societies to construct rooms and fireproof vaults for the preservation of local records. One of the criteria to be eligible was that the society had to have been engaged in preservation for at least 5 years before applying for the funds. We have since found that this law was amended in 1925 to remove the 5-year requirement - perhaps in recognition that some societies had formed after the celebration of the state's centennial in 1916.

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## Allen County Land Record Corrected (1909)

In August 1853, Alexander M. McJunkin purchased a parcel of "swamp land" from the federal government's land office. The parcel was in Section 29 of Township 31 North, Range 11 East - part of Allen County.



In March 1909, the Indiana legislature passed a law to correct an error that had been discovered in the original recording of the land purchase - the land patent in 1853 had recorded it as being in the southeast quarter of Section 29; however, the land was actually in the southwest

A diagram showing the location of the land in Section 29 (see [full-size PDF](#))

quarter (see diagram at left). The law directed that George Clark, who was the owner of this land in 1909, be given a corrected land patent by the governor's office.

Source: *Laws of the State of Indiana, passed at the sixty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly begun on the seventh day of January A.D. 1909* (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1909).

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## Resource for Abbreviations

Often in genealogy research, you may come across an abbreviation that is no longer in use. A [post](#) on the Genealogy's Star blog lists some online resources for figuring out what the abbreviation stands for.

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## The Myth of Name Changes at Ellis Island

The New York Public Library's blog has a [post](#) which debunks the myth that officials at Ellis Island changed the names of immigrants, pointing out that officials did not ask for the immigrants' names. The blog post also shares the story of one woman who arrived at Ellis Island and did consciously change her name - as well as her gender.

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## Legal Terms Explained: Widow's Election

In probate records or will records, you may see a reference to a "widow's election." This term has nothing to do with voting for government officials, but rather concerns the will written by her husband. Probate law said that a widow had the right to a 1/3 share of her husband's total estate - this 1/3 share is called her dower. A husband's will may have specified that his wife be given certain items after his death; however, the widow had the choice of filing an affidavit with the court electing NOT to take what was bequeathed to her in her husband's will, but instead what she was entitled to under the right of dower. So you may see a separate notation in will records or probate records mentioning the widow's election, particularly if the items mentioned in her husband's will amounted to less than a 1/3 share of his total estate.

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## Resource for Medical Terms

Have you found a reference to a disease or cause of death that you don't recognize? [Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms](#) has compiled a listing of historical medical terminology, including from other languages such as Latin (which you may find in church records).

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## Tips for Researching Historic Homes

If you live in an older house and are interested in trying to trace the history of your house, Joan Hostetler of Heritage Photo & Research Services recently gave some [research tips](#).

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