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Indiana News

7 JANUARY 2014

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Did you receive this e-mail from a friend?



Welcome to the January 2014 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.

Tired of winter yet?

Today, Indiana officially has lower wind chills than Siberia, and resembles a tundra with 5-foot snow drifts that have the state at a virtual standstill. But we take heart in thinking ahead - to our annual conference in Fort Wayne on Saturday, April 5th, and even to our next work session for the Hendricks County probate records, on Saturday, February 22 (surely by then the groundhog will have seen the future isn't so bad!).

In the meantime, here's some genealogy food for thought...

Congress Restricts Access To Social Security Death Index

Over the years, several bills have been introduced in Congress that would limit public access to the Social Security Death Index, over concerns of possible identity theft. Recently one of those bills was attached to the annual budget, and that bill passed and was signed into law. As [explained](#) in Judy Russell's The Legal Genealogist blog, beginning in 2014, no deaths will be added to the SSDI until 3 calendar years have passed. As the Massachusetts Genealogical Council [explains](#), this will hurt not just genealogists, but all those entities that try and help with unclaimed persons and next-of-kin notifications.

IGS Conference in Fort Wayne

We will be celebrating our 25th anniversary with a [Conference](#) on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne.

Mark Lowe

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

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>

FOUND: Vigo County photo

Geri Bell (info@southportantiquemall.net) of the Southport Antique Mall has found a framed photo identified on the back as being "Lela McKenna Naehring born 1 August 1900, daughter of James and Mary McKenna, sister of John William McKenna, Sr. Fontanet, Indiana". The photo is tinted and appears to have been taken when the woman was in her 20's - she is wearing a dark dress and has short brown hair and blue eyes.

Research has found this woman had a connection to Vigo County. Lela Catherine McKENNA (born 1 August 1899 or 1 August 1900 in Fontanet, Vigo County, Indiana; died 27 June 1965 in Guernsey County, Ohio) married Fred PHILABAUM on 1 March 1919 in Vigo County. They were divorced 15 January 1921 in Vigo County, and on 28 July 1923 in Summit County, Ohio, Lela married Frank Henry NAEHRING (born 20 July 1896 in Akron, Ohio).

Lela was the daughter of James P. McKenna (born 12 August 1854 in England; died 15 August 1916 in Vigo County) and Mary DUDDY (born August 1854 in England; died July 1938), who married circa 1880. They arrived in the United States around 1881. James P., wife Mary and several of their children are buried in Calvary Cemetery in Terre Haute. James and several of his sons (and sons-in-law) were coal miners.

Lela's siblings were:

- Edward McKenna (born June 1883; died February 1933) - married 27 May 1902 in Vigo County to Josephine GRADY (born about 1882). Edward was a coal miner who lived in Vigo County, Clay County and Sullivan County. He and wife Josephine had several children: James T., Edward, Mildred, Francis B., Maxine, Josephine, LaVerne and Donald.
- John W. McKenna (born 5 September 1888; died 17 December 1937) - married 17 July 1909 in Vigo County to Lenora "Nora" DOWELL (born 5 October 1891).
- Joseph McKenna (born 9 January 1890 or 1891 in Fontanet; died 1 February 1951). He enlisted in September 1917 in Galesburg, Illinois and served in World War I as a Private in Company C of the 6th Engineers. From May 1930 to October 1930, he stayed at the National Home for Disabled Veteran Soldiers in Danville, Illinois for various health issues, including defective hearing.
- Thomas Nicholas McKenna (born 3 December 1893 or 1894 in Fontanet; died after 1942) - married about 1923 to Katherine
- Minnie McKenna (born 3 September 1896 in Fontanet; died between 1926-1930) - married 6 September 1914 in Vigo County to Charles Earl HOFFMAN (born 18 September 1891; died February 1954)

If you are connected to this family, please contact Geri Bell - e-mail info@southportantiquemail.net; phone (317) 786-8246.

Hendricks County Probate Records Project

revenue stamp

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to make records more accessible? Come unfold and organize Hendricks County probate records at our work sessions:



--**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

A guardianship application from 1868, showing a \$1 revenue stamp (see [full-size PDF](#))

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.

FOUND: DeKalb County & Steuben County photo

Shelly Cardiel (e-mail cardiels@comcast.net) is seeking descendants of a family for a photo of a young woman she has found. The photo is identified on the back as being "the daughter of Denison Schovile". It was taken at the Newman Studio in Butler, DeKalb County, Indiana. It appears to have been taken in the 1890's, with the young woman likely in her teens.



Research has found there was a William Dennison SCOVILLE (1822-1902) who lived in adjacent Steuben County. According to information posted at

daughter of Denison Schovile
(see [full-size PDF](#))

<http://www.ingenweb.org/insteuben/obits/view/scoville-william.txt>, he was married 3 times - 1) Clarissa Sheffel, 2) Julia Ann Trowbridge, 3) Mary F. (Hicks) Watkins - and had several daughters in the right age range to be possible matches for the woman in this photo.

Shelley is hoping to return this photo to the family. If you recognize this family, please contact her.

IGS Database Additions

You may have noticed, we recently consolidated the [Members-Only](#) area:

- The Miscellaneous Records section has been renamed Statewide Records, to better reflect its content.
- The African American Records and Church Records sections have been merged into the County Records and Statewide Records sections.

Premium databases that we added in the past month:

[College Records:](#)

- DePauw University - students at Indiana Asbury University (1874-1875)
- Taylor University - graduates at Fort Wayne (1879-1890)

[County Records:](#)

- Clark County - Civilian Conservation Corps roster (1938)
- Crawford County - newspaper extracts from 1900
- Floyd County - newspaper extracts from 1852
- Franklin County - Civilian Conservation Corps roster (1938)

- Harrison County - burials of veterans of early wars
- Jackson County - Civilian Conservation Corps roster (1938)
- Posey County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Warrick County - 1860 mortality schedule index

[Statewide Records:](#)

- Doctors in Indiana State Medical Society who died (1849-1910)

Not an IGS member? We also added a free database of deaths from the Sullivan City coal mine disaster in 1925, courtesy of Donna Adams and the Sullivan County Public Library.

IGS Appoints Crawford County Genealogist

photo of Anne Hager



The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Anne Hager as the Indiana County Genealogist for Crawford County. Anne is the genealogist for the Crawford County Public Library in English, teaching genealogy classes and answering queries. She holds a Bachelor's degree in history. Contact her via our [Crawford County research](#) page.

Indiana County Genealogist (ICG) is a program of the Indiana Genealogical Society. Its goal is to appoint qualified individuals to represent each of the 92 counties in Indiana. The ICG promotes genealogical and historical research and education within the county, is familiar with the genealogical records and repositories in the county, keeps up to date on record retention policies and issues and acts as a resource person for all those with a research interest in the county.

If you would like to apply to be an Indiana County Genealogist for your area, please visit

http://www.indgensoc.org/county_genealogists.php

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.

CLAY COUNTY

An [article](#) in a Brazil newspaper talks about the Clay County Genealogical Society, including its indexing of birth and death records.

DECATUR COUNTY

The Decatur County Courthouse in Greensburg suffered [minor damage](#) when the roof leaked in December. No records were believed to have been affected. The courthouse was built in 1861 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Greenlawn Cemetery in Franklin was among those in central Indiana

[affected by flooding](#) in December. The cemetery dates back to 1845.

LAKE COUNTY

The [Northwest Indiana Genealogical Society](#) has added a free database of [deaths and obituaries](#) from the 1929 *Hammond Times* to their website. The database is located under the Lake County Archives section of the Research tab. For more information on a particular entry from the database, please contact the [Lake County Public Library](#).

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

The [South Bend Area Genealogical Society](#) recently added a database of St. Joseph County [adoptions 1908-1927](#) and a St. Joseph County [marriage index 1830-2012](#) (over 190,000 entries).

VANDERBURGH COUNTY

The city of Evansville will move [70 unmarked graves](#) from the former site of the Indiana Hospital for the Insane. The remains, which were discovered during a construction project, will be re-interred at Oak Hill Cemetery. The cost for the removal is estimated at \$275,000.

WAYNE COUNTY

The town of Centerville held a [kickoff event](#) to celebrate its 200th birthday in 2014. The celebrations will culminate in July.

Civil War in the News

A private group is [planting 620,000 trees](#) across 3 states - one tree for every soldier who died in the Civil War. The group, Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, is collaborating with Ancestry.com and Fold3 and the National Park Service, among others.

Revenue Stamps on Legal Documents



If you've looked at legal documents from the 1860's or early 1870's, chances are you saw a stamp on them - but it was not the kind of stamp used for postage. These were revenue stamps, and they were an attempt by the federal government to raise money during the Civil War. In 1862 the Internal Revenue Service instituted an income tax for the first time. The Internal Revenue Act of 1864 not only raised the rates for income taxes, it also implemented a tax on various everyday items, including legal documents (this was separate from the filing fees that the court charged). The revenue stamp was then affixed to the legal document as proof the tax had been paid.

A \$1 revenue stamp
from an 1868
guardianship application

The tax rate varied based on the kind of legal document:
--Power of attorney - between 10 cents and \$1.00, depending on the type of power of attorney (for transferring land, selling stock, etc.).
--Mortgages - if under \$500, the tax was 50

(see [full-size PDF](#))

cents. If the mortgage was for \$500 to \$1,000, the tax was \$1.00. If the mortgage was above \$1,000, the tax was the \$1.00, plus an additional 50 cents for every \$500 above the \$1,000 level.

--Letters of administration in probate cases - if the value of the estate was under \$2,000, the tax was \$1. If the value was above \$2,000, the tax was \$1 plus an additional 50 cents for every \$1,000 above the \$1,000 level.

--Writs (used when filing a case, or appealing the case to another court) - 50 cents.

--Affidavits - exempt from being taxed.

revenue stamps from 1865



Two 50-cent revenue stamps from 1865
(see [full-size PDF](#))

The concept of taxing legal documents harkened back to the days leading up to the American Revolution, when colonists reacted violently to the British government's Stamp Act of 1765. A hundred years later, there was not as much protest. This provision of the law eventually expired in 1873.

For more information, see: *The Internal Revenue Laws, Act approved June 30, 1864, as amended by acts of March 3, 1865, and July 13, 1866* compiled by Horace Dresser (New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1866)

Indiana Counties Without Jails (1918)

In 1918, there were at least 2 counties in northwestern Indiana that did not have their own jails - Newton County and Pulaski County. When someone was arrested in those areas, they had to be transported to the jails in Jasper County and Fulton County, respectively.

Source: *Twenty-Ninth Annual Report of the Board of State Charities of Indiana For The Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 1918* (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1919)

(+) Research Tip: Indiana Soldiers in Canadian World War I Records

More than 4 million Americans served in United States military units during World War I. However, the United States did not enter the war until April 1917, almost 3 years after the war began. For Americans who had English, Scottish or Irish roots, or relatives still living in the United Kingdom, the war was much more of a concern. For Indiana residents, Canada provided a nearby opportunity to participate in the Allied war effort (at that time Canada was still a British subject). That's why if your Indiana ancestor was of a certain age (born between approximately 1870 and 1900), you might want to look for them in Canadian service records.

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.

Indiana's German Heritage



A map showing ethnic ancestry by counties, as reported in the 2000 census (see [full-size PDF](#))

According to figures released by the Census Bureau, more people claim German ancestry than other group. And this map from a British newspaper [article](#) shows that in 2000, residents of most of the counties in Indiana claimed German ancestry more than any other ethnic group.

German immigrants left a lasting influence on the state's culture. This was evident as early as March 1859, when the Indiana legislature authorized a

German translation of all the laws that had been passed in 1858-1859. These German-language versions, as well as the originals in English, were to be distributed to the county clerks, as well as sold to the general public. Another law in March 1879 authorized legal notices to be published in German-language newspapers, in addition to English-language newspapers.

World War I caused a dramatic change in attitudes towards German heritage. Federal laws passed in 1917 and 1918 required all German natives who hadn't become American citizens to register themselves with their local police department (including a photo and fingerprints) and to ask for permission when they wanted to move or travel. These "enemy alien registrations" ceased at the end of 1918, but not before local newspapers published lists of these registrations.

The backlash continued even after the armistice was signed. In February 1919, the Indiana legislature outlawed the teaching of the German language in all elementary schools, whether they be public, private or parochial. Teachers who did not comply faced fines of up to \$100 and a 6 month term in county jail. A separate law passed in March 1919 outlawed the teaching of German in all high schools - it explicitly allowed for the teaching of any foreign language except German.

Legal Terms Explained: Ne Exeat

Criminal cases can include a notation that a writ of "ne exeat" has been issued. Ne exeat is from Latin, meaning "that he not depart". It means the defendant is forbidden from leaving the court's jurisdiction, and is often followed by someone subsequently posting a bond (bail) affirming that the defendant will show up for the trial.

NOTE: A writ of ne exeat can also be issued in a civil case - it is to ensure that the defendant pays the monetary judgment that's been levied against them.

Photos Of People After Death

A common practice in the late 1800's and early 1900's was to have a photograph taken of a person after they had died, to serve as a memorial and also to send to other family members who could not attend the funeral. A photography blog has several [examples](#) of this practice (warning - may be disturbing).

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