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Indiana News

7 FEBRUARY 2014

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Did you receive this e-mail from a friend?

Welcome to the February 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.

Snow - over it!

By now, we've run out of words to describe this winter in Indiana. Photos like these may do better to convey the scope of the situation...

If there's any upside to all this, it's that we have some great volunteers working hard while stuck indoors. We've added several new databases, as well as digital files of some Hendricks County probate records.

The Indiana State Police took this photo of a 5-foot high snowdrift in LaGrange County.

Read on for more positives!

giant snowman

The *Indianapolis Star* took this photo of an 18-foot tall snowman in Marion County.

48 Digital Files of Hendricks County Probate Records Added

Thanks to the help of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, we've added 48 **digitized files** of Hendricks County probate records to our website. The newest files cover these surnames:

PLASTER, PLASTERS, PLUMMER, POAK, POE, POLAND, POPE, PORTER, POULTER, POUNDS, POWEL, POWELL, PRICE, PRITCHETT, PRUETT, RAGAN, RAINS, RAMSEY, RATLIFF, RAWLINGS, RAY, REAGAN, REDDINGTON, REDMOND, REED, RENNARD, RESER, REYNOLDS, RHOADES, RICE, RICHARDS, RICHARDSON, RIGGEN, RIGNEY, RILEY and RINER.

Come help us unfold and organize Hendricks County probate records at our next work session, on **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.

We also have a work session on **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.

IGS Conference in Fort Wayne

Thanks to all who have already registered for our **Conference** on Saturday, April 5, 2014 at the Allen County Public Library in Fort

Wayne. We even have someone from Alaska who's going to attend!

Mark Lowe

In case you missed it, our featured speaker will be J. Mark Lowe, and he 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

UPDATE: Indiana Soldiers in Canadian World War I Records

In our January 2014 issue, we talked about Indiana residents who served in the Canadian military in World War I. Now comes word that Canadian World War I service files are going to be **digitized** by Library and Archives Canada, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the beginning of the war. The first batch of digital files is scheduled to go online this summer, with completion of the project in 2015.

IGS Database Additions

We have achieved "5 for 92" status - at least 5 databases for all 92 counties! Overall we have 1,216 total databases - and nearly 300 of those are free.

Among the premium databases that we've added recently is an index of the applications of Monroe County residents to be committed to Central State Hospital for the Insane in Indianapolis from 1927-1935. Central State Hospital was part of the state's system of mental institutions and its applications for 1927 through 1950 are available on microfilm at the Indiana State Archives. These applications contain a wealth of information, not only about the medical history of the applicant, but also of their family.

Other premium databases that we added in the past month:

County Records:

- Boone County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Clinton County - Kirklin High School students & teachers (1951)
- Hendricks County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Henry County - New Castle High School students & teachers (1931)
- Madison County - Elwood High School students & teachers (1933)
- Martin County - World War II civilian support officials
- Monroe County - photo index of Smithville schools yearbook (1963 & 1964)
- Morgan County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Newton County - World War II civilian support officials
- Pulaski County - World War II civilian support officials
- Putnam County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Scott County - World War II civilian support officials

Military Records

- Civil War Soldiers Moved From Greenlawn Cemetery to Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis (1866)

Statewide Records:

- Selected Members of Grand Lodge of Indiana, International Order of Odd Fellows (1898 & 1906)

Not an IGS member? We also added a free index of Crawford County wills 1818-1973, courtesy of Randi Richardson.

Research Tip: Guardianships of Adults

When you think of guardianship records, do you think they are only for children? Think again - the law also provided for guardianships to be established for adults in various situations. A guardianship could be for mental incapacity (unsound mind, insane and idiot were the main categories), but there were also guardianships for being a "habitual drunkard" or for old age (referred to as "aged and infirm").

Whether the guardianship was for a minor or an adult, it will be found in probate records. If the guardianship was for unsound mind or insane, there was a separate court proceeding to prove the mental incapacity, so you'll also want to look for "insanity inquests" in court records.

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
The Allen County Recorder has put an Allen County deed index online that covers 1829-1970. Searching the index is free; to see digital images from

the deed books, you must pay a fee. To search the index for free, go to **https://indiana-countyrecorders-records.com/User/Login.aspx** and in the Account Sign-In area in the upper left, do not enter any information - just click the button "Sign in a guest." On the next screen, select "Allen" for the County.

DEKALB COUNTY
The Eckhart Public Library's blog has a **post** about some of the features at its Willennar Genealogy Center.

FLOYD COUNTY
Indiana Landmarks has **found a buyer** for the Weinmann Building, which was built in New Albany in 1858.

HENDRICKS COUNTY
The **Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library** has added access to Fold3, which has over 429 million military records. This subscription can be accessed in person by visiting the library's Indiana Room, and is also available at home for those who have Plainfield library cards.

LAKE COUNTY
Fuller Cemetery in Lowell, which dates back to the 1800's, was **saved** from a delinquent tax sale. An area farmer purchased it for $3,043 and tended to the landscaping before turning it over to township officials.

MONROE COUNTY
The Monroe County History Center in Bloomington has a new **exhibit** that focuses on Civil War soldiers from the area, including David Van Buskirk, the tallest man to serve in the Union army.
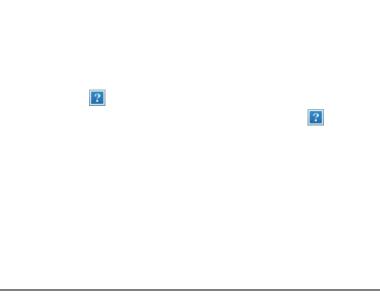
VANDERBURGH COUNTY
The Indiana Supreme Court has agreed to take up the *Evansville Courier & Press*' appeal. The newspaper had filed a lawsuit against the Vanderburgh County Health Department regarding the cause of death on death records. A lower judge's ruling sided with the health department in denying access to the public.

Research Tip: Compare Identical Databases

FamilySearch and Ancestry.com recently announced plans to expand their partnership, allowing more sharing of databases between the two sites. FamilySearch is free, while Ancestry.com is a subscription site, but if you happen to have access to Ancestry.com, it's worthwhile to check a shared database on BOTH sites. That's because the two sites use different search engines, which can give you a different list of search results. So if you don't find who you're looking for using one site, you may find them using the other site.

And there are also record sets where Ancestry.com and FamilySearch have created their own separate indexes (such as the 1940 census) and although they digitized the same microfilm source, the digital images they produce can look quite different.

Below, left: the World War I draft registration card for William John Jackson on Ancestry.com (see **full-size PDF**). Below, right: the same draft registration card on FamilySearch (see **full-size PDF**).

Smallpox Epidemic (1882)

Between March 1882 and June 1882, at least two towns in Parke County - Rosedale and Nyesville - had an epidemic of smallpox. John Lytton was the first case. At first it was misdiagnosed as just hives; by the time it was recognized, there were 12 cases and the state health officer had to establish a quarantine. In Rosedale, where the population was about 300, there were 44 cases of smallpox, 7 of which proved fatal. In Nyesville, there were 8 cases, 1 of which was fatal. The state health officer's report noted that after this epidemic, many citizens dropped their opposition to schoolchildren getting vaccinated.

Source: *First annual report of the Secretary of the Indiana State Board of Health for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1882* (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1883).

UPDATE: Indiana's German Heritage

In our January 2014 issue, we talked about how Germany represented the largest bloc of ethnic ancestry for today's Indiana residents. For your immigrant ancestor, you can often find the name of the town they came from in Germany through either their naturalization record or their entry on a passenger list. Once you know the name of their hometown in Germany, you'll want to look for their civil registration records.

In Germany, births, marriages and deaths have been recorded since the

German civil registration register

A page from a civil registration register for the town of Boll, showing the births of all of a couple's children from 1871 to 1887 (see **full-size PDF**)

beginning of the 1800's. You can write to the *standesamt* (civil registry office) for the town where your ancestors lived and get photocopies of the pages from their registers.

FamilySearch has an **article** on their Research Wiki which explains more about these records.

Abbreviations Used in City Directories

Genealogy In Time magazine has compiled a helpful **listing** of the various abbreviations you may find in a city directory, including abbreviations for first names and occupations.

Legal Terms Explained: Devisee

Court documents may refer to the "devisees" of a deceased person. A devisee is someone who has been bequeathed something in a will - whether that be real estate or personal items. However, a devisee is not the same thing as an heir - a friend or neighbor (or even a charity) could be a devisee.

How-To Video on Preserving Documents

The Illinois Secretary of State's office has put a 30-minute **video** on YouTube explaining some of the techniques you can use to help preserve your old documents, including flattening, making simple repairs and storing them.

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