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Indiana News

10 MARCH 2014

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Welcome to the March 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.

Signs of Winter's End

Some temporary breaks in the harsh weather recently have reminded us that the end of winter is coming (however gradually). In the meantime, we've seen some humorous effects of the prolonged winter, including other uses for a racetrack! (see photo at right)

Last Call for Conference

If you want an excuse to visit Fort Wayne, our April 5th **conference** is quickly approaching. Our featured speaker Mark Lowe will talk about online newspapers and Freedmen's marriage records, among other topics, and we've got a technology track that includes how to digitize your records. Register now - IGS members, don't forget to use your login to get a $10 discount.

The Indianapolis Motor Speedway took this photo of Olympic medalist Nick Goepper skiing around the racetrack.

Unfolding of Hendricks County Probate Records 90% Complete

Probate documents sewn together

Probate documents sewn together with thread
(photo courtesy of Emily Schroeder) - see **full-size PDF**

Thanks to everyone who came to our work session in Plainfield on February 22 and helped us unfold & organize 235 probate packets. One of the volunteers, Emily Schroeder, even posted **photos on her blog** of the kinds of documents she worked on (see above).

We're now 90% finished with the unfolding & organizing phase, which is the prelude to them being digitized. Want to help get us closer to 100%? Come to our next work session on **Saturday, April 26, 2014** from 10 am to 4 pm at the **Danville Public Library**. Please register online via the library's **events calendar** or contact the library's Indiana Room - phone (317) 718-8008 extension 140.

59 Digital Files of Hendricks County Probate Records Added

Thanks to the help of the scanning volunteers at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, we've added 59 more **digitized files** of Hendricks County probate records to our website. The newest files cover these surnames:

MONRONEY, MONTAGUE, MONTGOMERY, MOON, MOORE, MORAN, MORELAND, MORGAN, MORIARITY, MORRIS, MORROW, MOUDY, MULLINIX, MYERS, NAVE, NELSON, NEWMAN, NORTHAWAY, NORTHCUTT, O'DEA, OSBORN, OURSLER, OVERMAN, OWEN, OWENS, PALMER, PAYNE, PERKINS, PETERSON, PETTY, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PIKE and PINSON.

There are now 813 digitized files online.

(+) UPDATE: New Resource for Indiana Marriages

In our December 2013 issue, we talked about the Indiana State Library's new **statewide marriage index** that covers 1958-2004. Now there is another resource which can enhance your search for Indiana marriages from 1993 to the present.

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.

IGS Database Additions

Among the premium databases that we've added recently is an index to a register of the Monroe County Jail for 1896 through 1905. The index was compiled by Randi Richardson and has over 4,000 entries; the register is archived at the Monroe County History Center in Bloomington.

Other premium databases that we added in the past month:

College Records:

- Butler University graduates (1889-1922)
- Indiana Asbury University graduates (1873-1874) [It later became DePauw University]

County Records:

- Boone County - 1870 mortality schedule index
- Harrison County - land purchases (1807-1810)
- Hendricks County - 1870 mortality schedule index
- Hendricks County - Plainfield High School graduates (1934-1979)
- Henry County - Mooreland High School students & teachers (1917)
- Morgan County - 1870 mortality schedule index
- Owen County - Spencer High School students & teachers (1929 & 1930)
- Posey County - 1870 mortality schedule index
- Putnam County - 1870 mortality schedule index
- Tipton County - Tipton High School students & teachers (1909)

Military Records

- Civil War officers who died or were dismissed (1861-1865)

Statewide Records:

- Doctors in Indiana State Medical Society (1857)

FOUND: Photo of Randolph & Tipton County Infant (1890)

Shelley Cardiel (**cardiels@comcast.net**) has found this photo of Russell Stephen Martin and is trying to find family to give the photo to. It was taken at a studio in Winchester, Randolph County, Indiana in 1890. Shelley's limited research has found that his family was from Randolph County and he married and moved to Tipton County, where he died in 1979 (please see our **blog post** for details).

If you are a descendant of this

photo of Russell S. Martin 1890

Russell S. Martin in 1890
(see **full-size PDF**)

Martin family, or know someone who may be related, please contact her.

War of 1812 in the News

--From now through April 27th, 2 webinars about researching War of 1812 records are available for free on the **webinars** section of the Federation of Genealogical Societies website. The webinars talk about local and state records that were generated at the time of the war, as well as post-war records.

--The effort to **digitize** all 180,000 pension files of War of 1812 veterans and put them online for free now has over 1 million documents **online**.

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 Clerk and FamilySearch have announced a partnership to **digitize Allen County's courthouse records** from the 1800's. The Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana is also lending volunteers to the project, which is expected to take 2 years.

DEKALB COUNTY
--The DeKalb County Historical Society now has a **Facebook page**.
--The Willennar Genealogy Center has **opened a scanning station** for the public to digitize its documents for free (by appointment only). Library employees will be on hand to guide you through the process.

MONROE COUNTY
The Monroe County government is in the process of **creating a dedicated archives** in Bloomington. The archives allows them to centralize their collection of records books, and they have plans to digitize them.

PARKE COUNTY

The Rockville Public Library has **renamed its genealogy collection** in honor of a Parke County resident who died last summer. Alberta T. Butler was a member of the Wabash Valley Genealogy Society and Parke County Historical Society, in addition to being the Indiana County Genealogist for Parke County.

Civil War in the News

The Fold3 blog has a **post** dispelling some of the myths about surgery performed during the Civil War.

Research Tip: Indiana's Congressional Districts

To determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives, Indiana was divided into numbered Congressional districts (NOTE: These districts are not the same as the districts that were used to determine representation in the Indiana House of Representatives). Over time, the population grew and shifted. As a result, more Congressional districts were added, and the boundaries of existing Congressional districts were changed - for example, in the 1911 redistricting, Indiana's 7th District consisted only of Marion County.

The annual report of Indiana's Secretary of State for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1916 listed Indiana's Congressional districts by county for the redistricting that was done in 1821, 1831, 1833, 1842, 1852, 1867, 1872, 1879, 1885, 1891, 1895, 1901 and 1911. We have put this listing into an easier-to-read **table** (PDF format).

Knowing what Congressional district an Indiana county was in at a particular time can be helpful in your research, particularly when it comes to federal records. The Civil War draft registration of 1863 and the Internal Revenue Service income tax lists that began in the 1860's are among the records that are grouped by Congressional district.

Tribute to Allen County Public Library's Director

If you have had the joy of experiencing the collection of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne - either online or in person - it is in part because of the efforts of Jeffrey Krull. The library's longtime director **announced** he will be retiring this fall, and an article celebrated his many accomplishments, including supporting the growth of their Genealogy Center.

Schoolhouses Condemned (1903)

Inspectors from the Indiana State Board of Health visited several schoolhouses in the spring of 1903 and ordered them to be demolished because of their condition:

- Marion County - Bridgeport, Wayne Township. The brick walls of

School #15 were crumbling because of rain and the blackboards were chipped. The halls were very narrow - "It is evident, in case of fire, that all of the children would probably not be able to escape."

- Monroe County - Stinesville, Bean Blossom Township. The walls were cracked and there was no water supply - when students were thirsty, they had to go to one of the neighboring homes.
- Orange County - West Baden. School #8 was a fire hazard, had floors full of mud and the outhouses were "too awful to describe." The area around the school was also lambasted for its dirtiness, with gutters clogged with tin cans and other debris.
- Washington County - Campbellsburg. Students frequently got eyestrain and headaches because of having to look into sunlight. The heating was so poor there was a 20 degree difference in temperature between the floor and the desks, causing some students to get frostbite. The noise from a nearby sawmill made it almost impossible for the teachers to hear the students speak.
- Washington County - Smedley, Vernon Township. Built very poorly in 1890, it had 70 children, who had to fit 3 to a seat, and there were holes in the ceiling and floors.

Source: *Twenty-second annual report of the State Board of Health of Indiana for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1903, and statistical year ending December 31, 1903* (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1904).

Help with North Carolina Research

Many Indiana ancestors can be traced back to North Carolina. From March 21 to March 23, the North Carolina Genealogical Society will offer **free access to a webinar** by Helen F.M. Leary on researching land and probate records in North Carolina.

UPDATE: Agricultural & Manufacturing Censuses

A page from the 1860 agricultural census for Cook County, Illinois, showing all 48 columns of questions (see **full-size PDF**)

In our April 2013 issue, we talked about the importance of non-population censuses, specifically the agricultural and manufacturing censuses that were taken at the same time as the federal census in 1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880. They provide great details about farms and businesses, including how many people they employed and how much they produced.

These censuses are not as widely available as the population censuses, but our Members-Only area includes indexes of the agricultural and manufacturing censuses for several counties in southeastern Indiana.

In February FamilySearch added **digital images** of the agricultural and manufacturing censuses for counties in Illinois. Even if your ancestors were not in Illinois, looking at these images can give you an idea of the kinds of information you can expect to find in these censuses.

Help with Reading Old Handwriting

The National Archives of the UK has an online tutorial, **Palaeography: Reading Old Handwriting 1500-1800**, which includes tips on how to read and transcribe old handwritten documents.

Legal Terms Explained: Lis Pendens

Lis pendens is a Latin phrase meaning "suit pending". In more modern times, it has been used when there is a lawsuit regarding a piece of real estate, such as foreclosure proceedings. A public notice of "lis pendens" is sometimes required to be published so that potential buyers will be aware there is a lawsuit involving that piece of real estate.

Help with Reading Documents in Latin

Have you run across Latin words in your genealogy research? In addition to English records from the 1700's, many American court records and Catholic church records used Latin terms through the 1900's. The National Archives of the UK has an online tutorial, **Beginners' Latin**, which includes some grammar tips and a list of common Latin words.

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