Welcome to the April 2014 edition of Indiana News! This e-mail is sent out during the first half of every month and focuses on Indiana genealogy and history. It is sent to members of the Indiana Genealogical Society and the public can also sign up to receive it.

**Conference Thanks!**

Thank you to everyone who came to our conference at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. We hope you enjoyed hearing Mark Lowe, as well as our secondary sessions on technology.

During our annual meeting, we presented a $500 grant to a Tippecanoe County township trustee for their preservation of a Lafayette cemetery, a $500 grant to the Monroe County Historical Society for an oral history project, and a $500 grant to the South Bend Area Genealogical Society for a Lutheran church records project.

**Welcome New Members**

We'd like to welcome everyone who has joined the Indiana Genealogical Society recently - it's wonderful to see that people from all over the country have an interest in Indiana. Remember, as an IGS member, you will receive an e-mail whenever new issues of the *IGS Newsletter* or *Indiana Genealogist* are available for download. We recently sent out the notification about the April issue of the newsletter; look for a notification about the March issue of the quarterly in the coming days.

**Hendricks County Probate Records**
Project

We're now over 90% finished with the unfolding & organizing phase for the 1824-1900 records set. 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.

If you can't make the April 26 session, we have another session scheduled for Saturday, July 5, 2014 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Plainfield Public Library.

Descendants of Southern Indiana Civil War Regiment Sought

Descendants of those who served in the 25th Indiana Infantry are being sought for the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Rivers Bridge in South Carolina. The anniversary will be commemorated in February 2015 by the South Carolina Park Service, and they would like to include information on some of the soldiers.

The 25th Indiana Infantry was organized in Evansville. It roster included residents of Posey County, Spencer County, Vanderburgh County and Warrick County.

To share information on your ancestor who served, please contact:

Dan Bell
Historic Resource Coordinator
South Carolina State Park Service
Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site
1500 Old Towne Rd.
Charleston, SC 29407
Phone (843) 571-6623
E-mail dbell@scpnt.com

FOUND: Bartholomew County Marriage License (1923)

Bonnie Merriman (Merrimanbb@aol.com) has found what appears to be the original marriage license for Fred Herman Wehmeier and Mildred Minnie Graffa. It has a raised seal from Bartholomew County and is dated September 11, 1923. If you are a relative and are interested in the document, please contact her.

NOTE: According to the digital image of the marriage application (found online at FamilySearch), Fred Herman Wehmeier was born January 22, 1892 in Bartholomew County, the son of Henry D. Wehmeier and Malinda Brockman. Mildred Minnie Graffa was born July 23, 1901 in Waymansville, Indiana, the daughter of Edward Graffa and Emma Limecrarger.
IGS Appoints Kosciusko County Genealogist

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Teri Wheeler of Leesburg as the Indiana County Genealogist for Kosciusko County. She was appointed by the IGS board at the February meeting. Teri is the owner of Ancestors in the Attic, Inc. and has been a volunteer at the Kosciusko County Historical Society's Genealogy Library since 2012. She has also helped with the county's cemetery project. If you have questions about Kosciusko County research, you can contact her (teri.wheeler@gmail.com).

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, is aware of record retention policies and issues and acts as a resource person for those doing research 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

IGS Database Additions

Premium databases that we've added in the past month:

College Records:
- Butler University - graduates (1931)
- Butler University - students (1932)

County Records:
- Indiana Territory - databases about selected residents of Clark, Dearborn, Franklin, Harrison, Jefferson & Knox counties
- Boone County - 1880 mortality schedule index
- Hendricks County - 1880 mortality schedule index
- Hendricks County - index to probate order books (1853-1918)
- Henry County - GAR members in New Castle (1883-1904)
- Morgan County - 1880 mortality schedule index
- Putnam County - 1880 mortality schedule index

Statewide Records:
- Masonic members who died (1867; 1876; 1877)

IGS Appoints Parke County Genealogist
The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Mike Lewman of Montezuma as the Indiana County Genealogist for Parke County. He was appointed by the IGS board at the February meeting. He is currently the President and Publicity Chair of the Wabash Valley Genealogy Society, President of the Parke County Historical Society, and the Founder and President of the Hixon Cemetery Association Ltd. Mike is also the Grants Chair for the Indiana Genealogical Society. If you have questions about Parke County research, you can contact him (mblewman@yahoo.com).

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**County Roundup**

**BOONE COUNTY**

--The Old Cemetery in Thorntown, which dates back to 1845, was recently vandalized. A 6-year-old and 10-year-old admitted to the vandalism, which caused up to $75,000 in damage.

--The Ralph W. Stark Heritage Center at the Lebanon Public Library has added subscriptions to 2 genealogy databases. Visitors can now access Gale Genealogy Connect as well as ProQuest Historical Newspapers (which includes digital images from Indiana newspapers).

--The website of the Lebanon Public Library has added digital files of the interment records for Oak Hill Cemetery for the years 1872 (when it first opened) through 1883.

**CLAY COUNTY**

The Clay County Genealogy Society has received a **$500 grant** from a local utility company.

**HANCOCK COUNTY**

A group of volunteers is maintaining and preserving 92 of the county's earliest cemeteries, going back to 1833.

**HENDRICKS COUNTY**

The Hendricks County Surveyor's collection of surveyor's books have been digitized and placed online on the Hendricks County government's website.

**MARION COUNTY**
An abandoned cemetery on the northeast side of Indianapolis is getting some spring cleaning, thanks to the Washington Township Trustee. DeFord Cemetery dates back to 1839 and includes some Civil War veterans.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
The Genealogy Club of Montgomery County has an ongoing project to digitize and transcribe family Bibles. The project was started in 2012 with a grant from the Indiana Genealogical Society. Bibles that have been digitized thus far are online, at the Crawfordsville District Public Library's website.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
The Vital Records office of the St. Joseph County Health Department in South Bend is upgrading its software. Volunteers with the St. Joseph County Archives are also working to create an index to the pre-1955 birth & death records.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY
--L.A. Clugh has compiled an online listing of the various funeral homes in Tippecanoe County, including what years they were in operation and whose records are in the collection of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association's Alameda McCollough Research Library.
--The Tippecanoe County Historical Association has put its historic Fowler House in Lafayette up for sale. The house was built in 1852 and has an asking price of $1.25 million.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY
The Tri-State Genealogical Society in Evansville has a new address for its website - please update your bookmarks to http://tristategenealogicalsociety.weebly.com

Civil War in the News
The Fold3 blog has a post with examples of the various kinds of facial hair found in Civil War portraits.

Online Resources for Indiana Newspapers
Kenneth R. Marks has compiled a listing on his website, The Ancestor Hunt, of various sites (free & pay) that have digitized Indiana newspapers. The listing includes those from the Library of Congress' Chronicling America project, as well as Google's now-defunct News Archive.

Diary of Indiana Civil War Soldier Digitized
Among the free databases on our website is the diary of a Civil War soldier from
Robert B. Craig diary

Bartholomew County. Robert B. Craig served in Company G of the 33rd Indiana Infantry during the Civil War.

The database includes transcriptions of the entries, as well as scans of the pages (when possible). This database is courtesy of Marilyn Clark - she was able to return the diary to descendants of Robert Craig.

A page from the 1864 diary of Robert B. Craig - see full-size PDF

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**Jennings County Family Changes Name (1833)**

In January 1833, the Indiana legislature approved a petition to change the last name of John Meek and his wife Nancy, who were residents of Jennings County. They were to be thereafter known as John Childs and Nancy Childs, and their children as Julia Ann, Maria, Jonathan, Henry and Nancy Childs. Their marriage was to be made valid as if John's name had been John Childs at the time the license was issued.


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**Franklin College Changes Name (1844)**

In December 1844, the Indiana legislature passed a law changing the name of the Indiana Baptist Manual Labor Institute to Franklin College. The Indiana Baptist Manual Labor Institute had been incorporated in January 1836.

Source: *Laws of a local nature passed and published at the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, begun at Indianapolis on the first Monday in December, 1844* (Indianapolis: J.P. Chapman, 1845).

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**Research Tip: Civil War Pension Files**

Subscribers to
Civil War pension file card

Ancestry.com or Fold3 have access to a card file index of the pension application files of Civil War soldiers.

An index card (pictured) shows what regiment they served in and their date of death, as well as the date of the application and the type of pension being applied for (whether as an invalid, or by the soldier's widow or minor child).

Once you have this information from the index, you can order a copy of the complete file of the pension application from the National Archives, using form NATF 85D. After a few weeks, you will receive a CD in the mail which contains a PDF of the scanned pages.

The cost to request this file is not insignificant - $80 as of this writing - but the results can be well worth it for your research. Your ancestor's application may have ultimately been rejected, but the file contains extensive documentation verifying the details of their military service, as well as their medical condition after the war.

Because pensions could also be awarded to the soldier's widow and children, the application can also include statements about the soldier's family. The pension application file for James E. Scott is 69 pages long, and includes this page (pictured) that lists not only his marriage date and place, but also the names and birthdates of all of their children.

Want to see this pension application file? You can download it from our website. A high-speed Internet connection is recommended - this PDF is 14.9 MB.
Midwestern Roots 2014 Conference
Registration is now open for Midwestern Roots 2014. The Indiana Historical Society's bi-annual Family History and Genealogy Conference will be held at the Marriott East on the southeast side of Indianapolis on Friday, August 1 and Saturday, August 2. Pre-conference workshops will be held at the Indiana Historical Society, Indiana State Archives, Indiana State Library and Indianapolis Public Library on Thursday, July 31.

Important Dates in Indiana's Early History
Leland Meitzler's GenealogyBlog has a post with some important dates in Indiana's history before statehood in 1816. You can read about the area's long association with French explorers and why flatboats were a popular mode of transportation.

Legal Terms Explained: Viva Voce
Viva voce is a Latin term that translates as "by living voice". In court proceedings, it refers to testimony that is spoken, rather than written down.

Help with Understanding Scanning
The Library of Congress's Digital Preservation blog has a helpful primer that explains some of the terms that are used when discussing scanning, including an explanation of DPI and the differences in file formats.

Occupations From The 1850 Census
Business Insider looked at occupations listed in the 1850 census and found 9 jobs that still exist today (including cordwainer), as well as 11 jobs that are extinct (including salaeratus maker).

Historical Photos Colorized
A colored photo from 1939 before the Civil War through World War II.

On the LiveLeak website, there is a slideshow of some historical photos that have been colorized with the use of software. The photos include the one at left, of an Oklahoma family fleeing the Dust Bowl in 1939. The photos that were used span from...