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Indiana News

13 JUNE 2014

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Indiana - Crossroads To Your Past!



Welcome to the June 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, as well as to the public who sign up to receive it.

Are you planning to attend the [Midwestern Roots conference](#) August 1-2 on the southeast side of Indianapolis? **July 1, 2014** is the deadline for the regular registration rate. There are over 30 sessions for you to attend, and the Indiana Genealogical Society is sponsoring Curt Witcher's session, "To Infinity and Beyond: Ensuring Our Family Histories Live Well Beyond Our Years."

For IGS Members: IGS Newsletter available

A reminder for Indiana Genealogical Society members that the June 2014 issue of our newsletter is available for download in the [IGS Records](#) section

of the Members Only area. It includes news from our annual conference, as well as genealogy news items from around the state and some national items of interest.

State Library Awards Grants for Digitization Projects

The Indiana State Library recently released their [list \(PDF\)](#) of Indiana libraries who were given grants for 2014. Several digitization projects were awarded, including:

- African American historical documents, photos and newspapers from the South Bend area
 - Microfilm of Indiana Boys' School newspapers from 1933-1942
 - Microfilm of Terre Haute newspapers from 1825-1905
 - Historical photos of Evansville
-

Update: Probate Records Project

Thanks to the help of the volunteers and staff of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, we recently added 99 more [digitized files](#) of Hendricks County probate records to our website - bringing the total that are online to 912. The newest files cover these surnames:

ROACH, ROBBINS, ROBERTS, ROBINS, ROSS, RUPE, RUSHTON, RUSSELL, SANDERS, SANDS, SANDUSKY, SCANLAN, SCOVILLE, SHANER, SHANKLIN, SHARP, SHAW, SHELLEY, SHELLY, SHEPHERD, SHIRLEY, SHOCKLEY, SHOCKNEY, SHOEMAKER, SHOFNER, SHORT, SIMMONS, SIMPSON, SINGER, SKILLMAN, SLAVENS, SMITH, SOUTH, SPAULDING, SPENSER, SPICER, SPICKLEMIRE, SPOTTS, STANLEY, STARR, STEPHENS, STEPHENSON, STEWART, STOUT, SUMNER, SURBER, SWAIM, SWARTZ, SWINDLER, TALBERT, TALBOTT, TATE, TAYLOR, TENNERY, THARP, THICKSTEIN, THOMPSON, THORNBROUGH, THORNBURGH and THORP

We're over 90% finished with the unfolding & organizing of the Hendricks County 1824-1900 records collection. Want to help us get to 100%? Stop by our next work session on **Saturday, July 5, 2014** from 10 am to 4 pm at the [Plainfield Public Library](#), where we'll be working on records from the 1870's through the 1890's. Please register online via the library's [events calendar](#) or contact the library's Indiana Room - phone (317) 839-6602 extension 2114.

We've also added 25 entries to our database of the [dates of death](#) listed in the estate cases - there are now over 1,160 entries.

Listing of Institutional Cemeteries

Steve Seim is compiling information on all the institutional cemeteries (such as orphans homes, county homes & prisons) in the Midwest. Please visit his [website](#) to see if you can add to his information for Indiana institutions.

IGS Database Additions

Among the databases we've added for members in the past month is one of students of Butler University, Indianapolis (1856-1917). This database includes over 15,000 entries and was compiled from listings in the school's annual catalogs. Butler University was founded in 1855 and was originally called Northwestern Christian University.

Other premium databases that we've added in the past month:

College Records:

- Butler University - graduates (1885-1886)
- Central Normal College - students (1936-1937)
- Taylor University - graduates (1896-1897; 1922)

County Records:

- Hamilton County - Noblesville High School students & teachers (1922)
- Hancock County - Greenfield High School students & teachers (1913); alumni (1879-1912)

Statewide Records:

- Teachers in Indiana Who Received State Teaching Licenses (1906-1910)
- Doctors in Indiana State Medical Society (1862)
- Doctors in Indiana (1894)
- Obituaries of Doctors in Indiana State Medical Society (1885-1889)

New Season of "Who Do You Think You Are?"

The new season of the genealogy show "Who Do You Think You Are?" will premiere on the TLC network on Wednesday, July 23 at 9 pm Eastern. Read [an article](#) about which celebrities will be featured, and view a clip of an upcoming episode.

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.

DELAWARE COUNTY

An [article](#) discusses the history of Beech Grove Cemetery in Muncie, including some of the 44,000 people buried there.

JOHNSON COUNTY

A May storm [uprooted trees and tombstones](#) at the Rest Haven Cemetery in Edinburgh.

LAKE COUNTY

Officials from the Indiana State Library are [discussing a partnership](#) with a

long-running newspaper in northwestern Indiana to digitize the newspapers' own collection of past issues.

MARION COUNTY

An [article](#) discusses some of the patients buried at Central State Hospital for the Insane in Indianapolis.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

--A [blog post](#) by the South Bend Area Genealogical Society explains about their project to digitize Lutheran Church records, for which the Indiana Genealogical Society recently awarded them a \$500 grant.

--A [video story](#) shows how a November storm uprooted trees and exposed some remains at the City Cemetery in Mishawaka.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

An [article](#) gives a progress update on the effort to clean up and restore Greenbush Cemetery in Lafayette.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY

The Evansville-Vanderburgh County Public Library has been working to [digitize](#) its microfilm collection of Evansville newspapers. They have already digitized newspapers from 1871 through 1951, and are now working on those from the 1951-1990 time period. The digitized newspapers can only be accessed by those who visit the library in person or have an EVPL library card.

Governor's Widow Awarded Pension (1920)

In July 1920, the Indiana legislature passed a law granting a state government pension to the widow of Governor Ira J. Chase, who had died in 1895. Rhoda J. Chase, age 86, was blind as a result of smallpox that she had contracted while serving as a nurse in the Civil War. In 1920, her only source of income was a federal military pension of \$30 a month and she had to have a nurse take care of her at all times. The 1920 law instructed the state treasurer to pay Rhoda \$100 a month for the rest of her life. [Rhoda Chase died in April 1926 and is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.]

Source: *Laws of the State of Indiana passed at the special session of the General Assembly begun on the sixteenth day of January, A.D. 1920* (Fort Wayne: Fort Wayne Printing Co., 1920).

Research Tip: Looking for Orphans

If you suspect your ancestor may have been sent to an orphanage, you may need to broaden your search beyond the immediate area where they lived - as reported in the 1896 annual report of the Board of State Charities, only 38 of the 92 counties had either a county-provided orphanage or a privately-run orphanage:

Allen, Bartholomew, Cass, Clark, Daviess, Decatur, Delaware, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Gibson, Grant, Hamilton, Howard, Huntington, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, LaGrange, LaPorte, Madison, Marion, Miami, Montgomery, Pike, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, St. Joseph, Switzerland, Tippecanoe, Vanderburgh, Vigo, Wabash, Warren, Warrick, Wayne and White counties.

If your ancestor lived in one of the other 54 counties, that meant they may have been sent to an orphanage in one of these 38 counties. And because of overcrowding, they may not have been sent to the closest county orphanage.

Indiana's Sanitary School Law (1911)

In response to some horrifying reports from the Indiana State Board of Health after their annual inspections of schools, in March 1911 the Indiana legislature passed a law that established standards for whenever a new school was built. This act was titled "an act to protect the health and lives of schoolchildren." Among the provisions:

- No new school was to be built within 500 feet of a railroad, stable or barn.
- The school must have a pure water supply for its drinking water.
- If the school had indoor plumbing, there must be a stall for every toilet.
- If the school had outhouses, they must be separated for the sexes and have a dry path to them from the school.
- The school must be disinfected before the start of every school year.

School trustees whose new buildings did not conform to these standards were subject to a \$500 fine. To help pay for the new construction, this law authorized a special school fund of 5% to be added to the regular property tax levy.

Source: *Laws of the state of Indiana passed at the sixty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly begun on the fifth day of January, A.D. 1911* (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1911).

Quaker Marriages Explained

An Ancestry.com [blog post](#) explains some of the aspects of a Quaker marriage ceremony and why the marriage record that is generated can contain so many names.

Research Tip: Academies for Teenage Students

Heading into the 1900's, public high schools - for grades 9 through 12 - were still a rarity in most Indiana communities. Usually schooling culminated with graduation from the local "common school," which only went up to 8th



grade.

If you wanted more than an 8th grade diploma, you had to pay tuition to attend a private high school - known as an academy - or else pay tuition to one of the state's colleges and universities to enroll in their "Academy" course. This was a 4-year course that was certified

by the state's board of education.

After graduating from the Academy, you were then eligible to attend college for a bachelor's or other degree. Pictured above (see [full-size PDF](#)) is a list of the students attending Goshen College's Academy course in 1905, as listed in their annual catalog. It shows that the Academy students came not only from Indiana, but also Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

For colleges and universities, having an Academy course was a good way to get new students - often a student would graduate from their Academy course and then return to get a bachelor's degree.

Legal Terms Explained: In Cursu

When looking at college records, you may see the Latin terms "in cursu" and "causa honoris". In cursu translates to "in courses", and means the degree was attained because the person attended courses, as opposed to "causa honoris" - an honorary degree awarded at commencement.

Old Terms for Diseases

Think you know all the historical terms for diseases, like "softening of the brain"? Take this [10-question quiz](#) from Mental Floss.

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Indiana Genealogical Society, Inc. | P.O. Box 10507 | Fort Wayne | IN | 46852