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Indiana News

16 JULY 2014

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Indiana - Crossroads To Your Past!



Welcome to the July 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.

For IGS Members: Indiana Genealogist available

A reminder for Indiana Genealogical Society members that the June 2014 issue of our quarterly is available for download in the [IGS Records](#) section of the Members Only area. It includes:

- A recap of the soldiers honored by the Society of Civil War Families of Indiana
- Indiana's soldiers' homes
- Early schools of Delaware County
- A brief history of Bloomington's postal services

An unusual source for death records from the 1830's

- Brief records from Allen, Decatur, Dubois, Hendricks, Marion, Miami, Ohio, Putnam, Randolph, Switzerland, Vigo and Whitley counties
- "Always A Hoosier" entries

FamilySearch Adds To Indiana Marriage Index

FamilySearch has updated their [Indiana Marriage Index 1811-1959](#). Some 400,000 index entries have been added, including entries for Miami County and Wells County - these counties previously only had browseable images.

For a breakdown of what counties are included (including what years have digital images available), please visit our [Indiana Marriage Indexing Project](#) page.

Update: Probate Records Project

Civil War discharge paper 1865



Thanks to everyone who helped at our July 5 work session - we worked on 178 probate packets, leaving just 62 packets in the 1824-1900 collection.

Among our recent finds is this Civil War discharge paper from 1865 (see full-size [PDF](#)) - it was included in an 1889 guardianship case for his widow, who was judged to be insane.

In the past month, we've also added 60 entries to our database of the [dates of death](#) listed in the estate cases - there are now over 1,220 entries.

BillionGraves and FGS To Photograph War of 1812 Graves

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and the cemetery website BillionGraves recently announced a joint project to photograph all of the gravestone markers for War of 1812 participants. In a press release, D. Joshua Taylor, President of FGS, said: "The images from these markers, coupled with the Federation's current project to raise the funds to digitize the 7.2 million images of the pensions for those who participated in the War of 1812 are a natural fit."

Hudson Gunn, President of BillionGraves said, "This July our focus is to see that the nation's military headstones are documented and preserved for

future generations. Headstones from early American history are quickly deteriorating, making it only a matter of time before they are lost forever. We are very pleased to have the Federation lend its help to spread this message for the War of 1812 veterans." It is estimated that as many as 350,000 men may have served in the war. Although it is impossible to know how many may have cemetery markers, there could be as many as 50,000-80,000 markers for these veterans.

BillionGraves and the Federation of Genealogical Societies are asking anyone with knowledge of a cemetery marker for a War of 1812 veteran to upload an image of the marker to the BillionGraves website (www.billiongraves.com) using their free mobile application.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies is also seeking to raise an average \$1812 each day during the month of July - for more information, visit www.preservethepensions.org

IGS Database Additions

Among the databases we've added for members in the past month is an index of old age pension applications in Lawrence County for 1933-1934, contributed by Randi Richardson. In 1933, Indiana instituted a system of giving pensions to elderly residents who were below a certain poverty level; this system was dissolved in 1936 when Congress created the Social Security system. [IGS members: You can read more about Indiana's old age pensions in the June 2013 issue of *Indiana Genealogist*, which is in the [IGS Records](#) section].

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

College Records:

- DePauw University - graduates (1898)
- Goshen College - graduates (1916-1917)
- Taylor University - graduates (1904-1920)

County Records:

- Clinton County - Forest High School alumni (1900-1959) and selected teachers (1900-1959)
- Daviess County - Washington High School students, teachers, selected alumni & World War I veterans (1932)
- Decatur County - Greensburg High School students & teachers (1948)
- Lake County - Hammond High School graduates (1941)
- Lawrence County - insanity applications index (1870-1881)
- Martin County - will records index (1894-1930)
- Putnam County - property taxpayers (1913)
- Wabash County - Pleasant Township common school graduates (1886-1897) and students (1897)

Statewide Records:

- Teachers at Indiana State Teachers Association's convention (1882)
-

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.

BOONE COUNTY

A pioneer cemetery in Thorntown that was vandalized in March by 2 young boys will be [restored](#). Town officials were able to get their insurance company to pay for the restoration of the 100 tombstones that were damaged.

DECATUR COUNTY

A newspaper [article](#) discusses the long history of the historical society in Greensburg.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

The Lafayette Country Club is hosting a Blue and Gray Ball on Saturday, November 8, with the proceeds going towards the restoration of Greenbush Cemetery (for more information, visit <http://greenbush.fairfieldtownship.us> or contact greenbushcemetery@gmail.com). To see the conditions of some of the tombstones in this cemetery, watch this [YouTube video](#).

VIGO COUNTY

The Vigo County Public Library has [received a grant](#) from the state to digitize its collection of Terre Haute newspapers from 1825-1905. The collection consists of 73 rolls of microfilm.

FamilySearch Reaches 1 Billion Digital Records

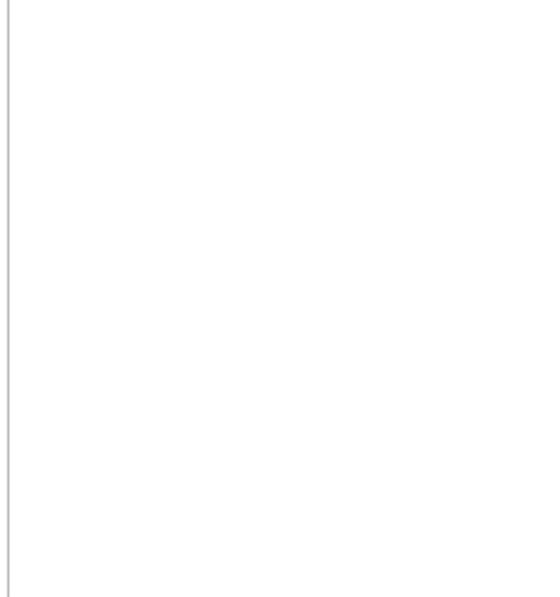
The FamilySearch website recently published its 1 billionth digital record. A Salt Lake City newspaper has a neat [article](#) with examples of some of the noteworthy finds in these records, including celebrities' marriage records.

Heated Election Leads to Libel Award (1916)

In June 1916, George W. Brown won a \$25,000 libel judgment against Edward G. Sourbier, who'd defeated him for Marion County Treasurer in the general election on November 3, 1914 election (Hendricks County Circuit Court case #9613).

Sourbier was a Republican who had previously served on the Indianapolis city council (1901-1903) and as

Edward Sourbier photo



Edward G. Sourbier, as pictured in the *Indianapolis Recorder*, issue of January 29, 1916 (see full-size [PDF](#))

Marion County Sheriff (1905-1906). When he ran for re-election in 1916, he was endorsed by the *Indianapolis Recorder*, an African-American newspaper, which praised him for being the first Republican officeholder in the state to

have appointed a colored woman as a clerk.

Brown's 1916 lawsuit was against Sourbier, as well as William F. Hansman, the owner of Indianapolis Printing Co. The lawsuit alleged that Sourbier had contracted with Hansman to mail a letter to 100,000 Indianapolis residents the week before the election, claiming that Brown was the landlord for a house of prostitution at 219 North Capitol Avenue. The jury deliberated over 49 questions and ultimately awarded Brown \$25,000 in damages. Sourbier appealed; by May 1919, when the case finally reached the Indiana Supreme Court (case #23249), Brown had died. The Supreme Court overturned the judgment, accepting Sourbier's argument that he had merely re-published something that already existed (he claimed he had been given a copy of the letter on the street and had then showed it to his friends).

In February 1920, a new trial began in Hendricks County Circuit Court. Sourbier and Hansman settled with Brown's widow, Mary J.C. Brown, who was executor of his estate - Sourbier settled with her for \$1,000, while Hansman settled with her for \$2,000.

Edward Graylyn Sourbier died in December 1932 and was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Research Tip: Adult Guardianship Cases in Civil Court Records

As a general rule, probate cases are their own record group, and are kept separate from civil cases. However, if the probate case is about the guardianship of an adult, you also need to look in civil court records. Guardianship cases normally begin with someone filing an application in

probate court to be appointed guardian; however, if their intended ward is an adult, a separate case must first be filed in civil court. This civil court case is full of details that will not be found in the probate case - the intended guardian must specify why they believe the adult cannot care for themselves (whether it's because of habitual drunkenness, mental incapacity, old & infirm, etc.) and provide witnesses to support their claims. A jury then rules on the case.

NOTE: The adult ward can later file a petition to end the guardianship and have their remaining assets returned to them - if you see this notation in their probate case, don't forget to also look for that follow-up case in the civil court records.

Quaker Meeting Minutes Explained

An Ancestry.com [blog post](#) explains the information contained in minute books of Quaker meetings, including the "certificate of removal."

Name Changes for Indiana Towns (1800's)

Laws passed by the Indiana legislature in the 1800's include name changes for several Indiana towns:

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Rochester became Cedar Grove (January 1851)

GRANT COUNTY

Uniontown became Mier (January 1850)

HAMILTON COUNTY

--Boxley became Aberdeen (January 1844), which then became Boxleytown (January 1846)

--Nicklesonville became Clarksville (January 1851)

HANCOCK COUNTY

Portland became Cleveland (February 1851)

HENDRICKS COUNTY

--Harrisburg became Brownsburg (January 1850)

--Springfield became Springtown (January 1850)

MIAMI COUNTY

--New Market became Chili (January 1845)

--White Hall became Waw-pe-cong (January 1850)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Faithsville became Parkersburg (January 1845)

PARKE COUNTY

Westport became Howard (January 1850)

POSEY COUNTY

Palestine became Poseyville (December 1844)

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Trenton became Huntsville (January 1850)

SHELBY COUNTY

Black Hawk became Mount Auburn (January 1844)

SWITZERLAND COUNTY

New York became Florence (January 1847)

TIPTON COUNTY

Canton became Tipton (January 1847)

FindMyPast Buys Mocavo

Last month, the British subscription site FindMyPast announced it was purchasing the genealogy search engine Mocavo. Read this [entry](#) in Dick Eastman's newsletter for more information about the merger.

Indiana Prisoner Helped Build His Own Electric Chair (1914)

The *Indianapolis Star* had an interesting [article](#) last month about a prisoner from Evansville, Robert Collier. Collier helped build the electric chair while at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City and in 1914 was executed in the same chair. The article is about the research his great-great-granddaughter did to learn about a part of her family no one talked about.

Legal Terms Explained: Venire De Novo

Court order books and judgments may refer to a motion for *venire de novo*. This is a shortened form of the Latin phrase *venire facias de novo*. It literally translates as "to summon the jury again" - meaning a new trial.

Abbreviations for First Names

Ever seen an abbreviation for someone's first name in a record and wondered what their full name was? Wiktionary has a list of [Abbreviations for English first names](#), including "My" for Mary and "Gul" for William.

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