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Indiana News

20 OCTOBER 2014

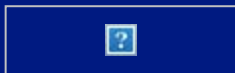
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Did you receive this e-mail from a friend?



Indiana - Crossroads To Your Past!



Welcome to the October 2014 edition of *Indiana News*! This e-mail is sent out 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.

September issue of *Indiana Genealogist* available

For IGS members: Did you receive your notification that the September issue of the quarterly is available? Just log into the [IGS Records](#) section of the Members-Only area. Topics include:

- Pre-War of 1812 records for soldiers in the Indiana militia
- Indiana marriage laws & resources
- A 1925 scandal involving a Monroe County school principal
- The Methodist Church's first female minister, Helenor M. Davisson of Jasper County

Brief records from Adams, Dearborn, Elkhart, Jay, Marion, Posey, Vigo and Wayne counties

- "Always A Hoosier" entries

War of 1812 Match Challenge Reaches Goal



Thank you to all who contributed in our match challenge to help the Federation of Genealogical Societies in their digitizing of War of 1812 pensions! We reached our goal of \$1,816 (in honor of the year of Indiana statehood), so the Indiana Genealogical Society has matched that with another \$2,016 (in honor of the year of Indiana's bicentennial). After matches by the Illinois State Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies and Ancestry.com, that will end up being \$30,656.

For many donors, it was personal, including:

--Thomas McKee of Virginia - he donated in honor of his 4th great-grandfather, Robert Haynes, who served as a private in Col. Cheatam's regiment in Tennessee.
--Sheryl (Robertson) Smith of Missouri - she donated in memory of her 4th great-grandfather, Noah Bridwell.

And then there were donors like DNA blogger Roberta Estes of Michigan, who celebrated being given a "Rockstar Genealogist" award by donating to her home state of Indiana.

By the way, the Preserve the Pensions blog has a great [post](#) with tips & tricks for accessing the digitized War of 1812 pension files.

Indiana Supreme Court Rules on Death Records

The Indiana Supreme Court has [ruled](#) unanimously in favor of the Evansville *Courier & Press* newspaper and Pike County resident Rita Ward, who had jointly sued the Vanderburgh County Health Department in August 2012 to include the cause of death on the death records that the health department released to the public. In January 2013, a Vanderburgh County judge had ruled in favor of the health department and the newspaper had appealed. In their appeal, the newspaper had the legal support of the Indiana Attorney General and the Indiana Public Access Counselor, who cited the state's Access to Public Records Act.

IGS Conference with The Legal Genealogist

Registration is open for the Indiana Genealogical Society's conference on Saturday, April 25, 2015 on the campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute. The [Wabash Valley Genealogy Society](#) will be the local host, and Judy

photo of Judy Russell



Russell, JD, CG, CGL, of [The Legal Genealogist](#), will be the featured speaker.

Sessions will include courthouse research, DNA testing, Civil War pensions, Vigo County history and digital records of the Wabash Valley.

For IGS members:

Your membership entitles you to a \$10 discount on conference registration. If

registering online, make sure you use your Members Only login in order to receive the discounted price at checkout.

For Indiana librarians:

LEU credits have been applied for, and when they are approved, the information on the conference sessions will be updated accordingly.

For more information - including the full conference schedule and how to register - please visit our [Conference](#) page.

IGS Offers Membership Special

Membership in the Indiana Genealogical Society is based on the calendar year - meaning that a new membership purchased anytime in 2014 would expire at the end of 2014. However, if you purchase a new membership between **October 1, 2014** and **December 31, 2014**, we will automatically extend your membership until the end of **2015**. To take advantage of this offer of extended membership, visit our [website](#).

Hendricks County Probate Records Project

This month we added 44 more [digitized files](#) of Hendricks County probate records to our website - we now have over 1,000 files online. The newest files span 1826 through 1896 and cover these surnames:

WHITE, WHITENACK, WILCOX, WILDMAN, WILKERSON, WILLIAMS, WILSON, WISEHEART, WITTY, WOODARD, WOODROW, WOODS, WOODWARD, WOODY, WREN, WRIGHT, YOUNT, ZIMMERMAN

IGS Database Additions

Among the premium databases that we've added in the past month is an index of Owen County funeral home records, courtesy of Randi Richardson.

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

College Records:

- Notre Dame - graduates (1877-1878); students (1942)
- Taylor University - students (1923; 1926-1936)
- University of Indianapolis - students & faculty of Indiana Central University (1920); selected alumni of Indiana Central University (1908-1919)

County Records:

- Clark County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Daviess County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Decatur County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Fulton County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Hancock County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Kosciusko County - common school graduates (1913)
- Miami County - students & teachers at Bunker Hill High School (1950)
- Pulaski County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Randolph County - students at Winchester High School (1923)
- Tipton County - students at Tipton High School (1908)
- Wabash County - alumni of Laketon High School (1893-1962); students & teachers of Linlawn High School (1951); students & teachers of White's High School (1967)
- Wayne County - alumni of Hagerstown High School (1881-1921); student at Hagerstown High School (1922)

Statewide Records:

- Ministers in Indiana (1845) - various denominations

Civil War in the News

A *Washington Post* columnist wrote a fascinating [article](#) in September about how the Civil War became personal for him when he recently discovered he had ancestors who fought on both sides during the Civil War.

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

An [article](#) discusses how some of the items in the Allen County Public Library's vast collection are being digitized.

CARROLL COUNTY

An [article](#) talks about the history of the bell at the Carroll County courthouse in Delphi. The bell was there from 1841 to 1916 and was returned to the courthouse in 1969.

HENRY COUNTY

Vandals did \$20,000 in damage to the tombstones at Lewisville Cemetery in July. In September, two 18-year-olds were [charged](#) and one has [pled](#) guilty to a felony. Cemetery officials say their insurance will not cover the damage.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

Tombstones at Spring Vale Cemetery in Lafayette were [damaged](#) when a driver crashed into them.

VIGO COUNTY

Students at Indiana State University are doing a [project](#) about the history of the Vigo County Poor Farm in Terre Haute, including interviews with people who remember the facility.

Theodore Roosevelt Has Surgery in Indianapolis (1902)

The Indiana State Library's Hoosier State Chronicles blog has a [post](#) about President Theodore Roosevelt's trip to Indianapolis in September 1902 and his subsequent surgery to treat an ankle injury. The blog post includes digital images of the Indianapolis newspapers.

Research Tip: Inheritance Tax Law (1913)

An inheritance tax receipt from 1920



In February 1913, the Indiana legislature passed a law imposing a tax on "gifts, inheritances, bequests, legacies, devises and successions." It became known as the inheritance tax law. When someone died, if the value of their estate was under \$25,000, their heirs were assessed taxes based on these levels:

An inheritance tax receipt from 1920 (see [full-size PDF](#))

1) For the spouse or children - 1% tax rate (for the widow, the first \$10,000 is exempt; for the children, the first \$2,000 is exempt)
2) For the brother or sister, niece/nephew, or the son-in-law/daughter-in-law - 1.5% tax rate (the first \$500 is exempt)

- 3) For the aunt or uncle, or their spouses - 3% tax rate (the first \$250 is exempt)
4) For the great-aunt or great-uncle, or their spouses - 4% tax rate (the first \$150 is exempt)
5) For all other blood relations, strangers or organizations (religious, charitable or educational organizations were exempt from being taxed) - 5% tax rate (the first \$100 is exempt)

If the estate was valued at between \$25,000 and \$50,000, all the heirs were to be taxed 1.5%, regardless of their family affiliation.

If the estate was valued at between \$50,000 and \$100,000, all the heirs were to be taxed 2%, regardless of their family affiliation.

If the estate was valued at between \$100,000 and \$500,000, all the heirs were to be taxed 2.5%, regardless of their family affiliation.

If the estate was valued at anything over \$500,000, all the heirs were to be taxed 3%, regardless of their family affiliation.

If the inheritance tax was paid within 1 year, a 5% discount was to be deducted from the total. If it was not paid within 18 months, a penalty of 10% interest was to be charged per year.

The county clerk was to keep a separate record book of estates, noting the deceased's name, date of death and place of death, the estimated value of their estate, along with the heirs' names, places, residences and relationships to the decedent.

NOTE: The amount of the tax rates and exemptions changed over time; Indiana repealed the inheritance tax law in 2013.

Full Episodes of "Finding Your Roots"

New episodes of "Finding Your Roots" with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. will air on PBS until the end of November, but the full versions of the just-aired episodes are being added [online](#) every week to the PBS website for free viewing.

African-American Marriage Voided (1856)

In June 1854, Arthur Berkshire (born about 1825 in Boone County, Kentucky) and Elizabeth Keith (born 1827 in Ohio) were married in Rising Sun, Ohio County, Indiana, where Arthur was a cooper. They were free people of color. But they had married after Indiana's constitution was ratified in 1851, whose Article 13 said no negro or mulatto was allowed to enter the state after that date (Elizabeth had been living across the border in Ohio before their marriage).

In January 1855, Arthur Berkshire was fined \$10 for having encouraged a negro to enter the state. He appealed but in May 1856 the Indiana Supreme Court upheld his fine, noting how "emphatically" Article 13 had been approved when voted on by residents. The court also voided their marriage, because by law all contracts made with negroes who had entered the state after the 1851 constitution were void.

Source: *Reports of cases argued and determined in the Supreme Court of Judicature of the State of Indiana [...] volume VII* (Indianapolis: Merrill & Co., 1856).

NOTE: By the 1860 census, Arthur and Elizabeth were living in Portsmouth, Scioto County, Ohio. Arthur was 40 in January 1864 when he enlisted as a Private in Company B of the 27th U.S. Colored Infantry. He was assigned as a cook in the regimental hospital and died from disease on June 25, 1864,

before the battle of Petersburg, Virginia. Elizabeth applied for his military pension in September 1864 and lived until 1900. She is buried in Greenlawn Cemetery in Portsmouth.

Legal Abbreviations Explained: H.I.

Context is everything - in other circles, "HI" is an abbreviation for Hawaii or another way of saying "Hello". In court records, "HI" is an abbreviation for "Here Insert" - it's an indication that you should look for loose papers, to find the full petition/order that is being referred to.

Abbreviations for Religious Orders

If you see a series of initials after someone's name, it may indicate their religious order. For example, old records of the University of Notre Dame show many faculty with "C.S.C." after their name - indicating the Congregation of Holy Cross. Exhaustive lists of these kinds of abbreviations can be found at [The Catholic Treasure Chest](#) and [Fisheaters.com](#)

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