



## Indiana News - 20 January 2015

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Welcome to the January 2015 edition of Indiana News! This e-mail is sent out once a month to members of the Indiana Genealogical Society, as well as to the public who sign up to receive it. It focuses on aspects of Indiana genealogy and history. Past e-mails going back to 2010 are [available](#) as PDFs.

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### A note from Michael Maben, IGS President:

Members of the Indiana Genealogical Society, we need your help. The work of our society does not just happen - it takes people who are dedicated and want to see it advance. When people ask me where our offices are located and how many staff we have, they are always surprised when I say that our "offices" consist of a post office box in Fort Wayne and our "staff" consists almost entirely of unpaid volunteers in all corners of the state. Our editors, webmaster and now treasurer receive a small stipend, but that's it.

We're looking for some new volunteers in several positions, including:

- Publicity chair - responsible for writing press releases and sending them out in various formats, to get out the good word about what's going on.
- Publications chair - responsible for working with the editors of our various publications.

Being a volunteer is actually a great way to meet fellow genealogists and family historians. If you'd like more information, please contact Michael Maben - [mmaben@indiana.edu](mailto:mmaben@indiana.edu)

### DECEMBER 2014 INDIANA GENEALOGIST

Attention, Indiana Genealogical Society members: the December 2014 issue of *Indiana Genealogist*, our quarterly publication for members, is now available for download in the [IGS Records](#) section of the Members-Only area. It is packed full of goodies, including:

- Joe Sipocz's profile of the digitized items available from the St.

[How to escape if buried  
alive](#)

## JOIN OUR LIST

Received this e-mail  
from a friend?



- Joseph County Public Library in South Bend
- Tom Bowen's narrative of an Indiana ancestor and Civil War veteran who started a GAR post in the then-territory of Hawaii
  - Meredith Thompson's look at Indiana laws concerning veterans and the types of records those laws generated

## SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 25, 2015

Saturday, April 25, 2015 marks the Indiana Genealogical Society's conference on the campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute. It features Judy Russell (pictured), lawyer, certified genealogist, and author of [The Legal Genealogist](#) blog. The Utah Genealogical Association recently presented her with their 2015 Silver Tray Award for her genealogy publication efforts.

Judy Russell

Judy is a legal expert but also an incredibly down-to-earth speaker who will be teaching us about Civil War military pensions, courthouse research, black sheep ancestors and the rights & responsibilities of today's genealogists.

There will also be sessions on DNA research, Vigo County history and digital records of the Wabash Valley region. Indiana librarians can receive LEU credits for attending, and if you're an Indiana Genealogical Society member, you can receive a \$10 discount on registration.

The full conference schedule and details on how to register are available on our [Conference](#) page.

## MORE INDIANA NEWSPAPERS DIGITIZED

The Indiana State Library recently announced additions to their [Hoosier State Chronicles](#) website, which has digital images of some Indiana newspapers. The additions are a South Bend newspaper from 1913-1921 and an Indianapolis newspaper from 1895-1897.



The library also announced that if you are an Indiana resident, you can get free access to the library's collection that is on the subscription site Newspapers.com. Currently this collection consists of some 400,000 digital images from a Logansport newspaper, spanning 1890-2006, and a Franklin newspaper, spanning 1912-1946 (with more content to be added in 2015). Please read the library's [blog post](#) for step-by-step

instructions on how to get the free access.

## ACCESS TO INDIANA ADOPTION RECORDS

The Indiana legislature is considering a bill to allow adoptees access to some adoption records. An Indiana law passed in 1941 closed access to all adoptions that occurred after that date; under current law, adoptions that occurred from 1941 through 1993 are closed to the adoptee unless the birth parents sign permission allowing them to have access. For adoptions from 1993 to the present, the records are by default open to the adoptee unless the birth parents specifically prohibit it.



In this legislative session, the General Assembly is [considering](#) Senate Bill 352, which would allow adoptees from the 1941-1993 time period to have access to their own adoption records unless their birth parents specifically prohibit it.

## KNOW YOUR INDIANA HISTORY

As Indiana readies to celebrate its bicentennial in 2016, do you know everything about its history?

- Read the *Indianapolis Star's* [article](#) about 7 facts you may not know about Indiana, as gleaned from Indiana University Professor James Madison's new history book. Among them? The state constitution includes a clause that prohibits the government from going into debt.
- Take the *Indianapolis Star's* [quiz](#) on Indiana's state bird, flower, etc.
- Read Accessible Archives' blog [post](#) on the legal rights of Indiana women in the 1800's.

## CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS

### Newspaper for Civil War amputees

Did you know there was a newspaper especially for Civil War veterans who had lost a limb? According to a *New York Times* [article](#), *The Soldier's Friend* was published from 1864 through 1869. The newspaper's activities included a left-handed penmanship contest for those soldiers who had lost their right hands. Ira



Broshears of Indiana was among the winners of that contest - he wrote a "biography" of his right arm and what he had used it for before the war.

## Was African-American Civil War soldier poisoned?

A history professor at Ball State University has investigated [claims](#) that Robert Townsend, a Putnam County soldier who served in the U.S. Colored Troops, may have been deliberately poisoned. The above article about Professor Nicole Etcheson's book also gives a glimpse into Indiana's social history during and after the war.

## Civil War regiments in eastern Indiana

A Richmond newspaper gives the history of some regiments that were organized in eastern Indiana:

- [16th Indiana Infantry & 36th Indiana Infantry](#)
- [57th Indiana Infantry & 69th Indiana Infantry](#)

## DATABASES ADDED BY IGS

Among the premium databases for members that we've added to our website in the past month:

### College Records:

- Central Normal College - directory of students (1940-1941)
- Taylor University - students (1955)
- University of Notre Dame - students (1877-1878)

### County Records:

- Decatur County - founding members of Kingston Presbyterian Church (1823)
- Grant County - students & teachers at Marion High School (1935)
- Henry County - index to 1860 mortality schedule
- Montgomery County - students & teachers at Crawfordsville High School (1951)
- Parke County - index to 1860 mortality schedule
- Pulaski County - students at Winamac High School (1915)
- Wabash County - students & teachers at Wabash High School (1929)
- Wayne County - students at Hagerstown High School (1917)

### Statewide Records:

- Presbyterian Church ministers in Indiana (1885)
- Indiana Boys' School - inmates released (1880-1882); graduates of Charlton High School (1925-1927)

## NOT AN IGS MEMBER?

We also added:

--A free [listing](#) of Monroe County soldiers who received military pensions from the federal government in 1883, courtesy of Randi Richardson.

## GENEALOGY ON TV

The second season of "Genealogy Roadshow" recently began airing on PBS, and [full episodes](#) may be viewed online for free on the PBS website.



## 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

An [article](#) details the genealogy holdings of the SullivanMunce Cultural Center in Zionsville and profiles its volunteer genealogist Roberta Martin, who was recently appointed as the Indiana County Genealogist for Boone County.

### CLARK COUNTY

Officials with the Clark County Cemetery Commission are [looking for expert help](#) as well as funds to help preserve a Civil War monument at the Silver Creek Cemetery in Sellersburg. The monument (which was built in 1907) also includes the remains of soldier Isaac Perry, whose bones are now exposed.

### DECATUR COUNTY

Paul Hill Cemetery in St. Paul was recently the victim of a [hit-and-run driver](#). Tire tracks show that a driver ran into several tombstones, knocking them over. Some of the damaged tombstones date back to the 1800's.

### HAMILTON COUNTY

A quilt recently purchased on eBay had a note from 1940 on it, which led the buyer to [trace the quilt](#) back to a Hamilton County woman who died in 1947. The buyer eventually located the woman's 87-year-old grandson in Indianapolis and gave him the quilt.

### JEFFERSON COUNTY

Officials in Madison recently celebrated the [restoration](#) of the bell at the courthouse. The bell dates back to 1864 but when the courthouse suffered a major fire in 2009, the bell was damaged.

## MADISON COUNTY

In December, vandals [toppled the headstones](#) of two veterans at the Brookside Cemetery in Lapel. The vandalism is believed to be related to the spray-painting of a nearby elementary school.

## PIKE COUNTY

The post office in the town of Winslow recently celebrated its 175th anniversary. It opened in December 1839.

## RESEARCHING YOUR GREEK ANCESTORS

Do you have ancestors from Greece? If so, you're not alone - Indiana ranks 10th in the country in its population of Greek-Americans. An [article](#) in a Terre Haute newspaper has some tips for doing Greek research, including some online aids.



## RESEARCHING YOUR CANADIAN ANCESTORS

Did your Indiana ancestors originate in Canada? If so, you'll want to read a [post](#) on GenealogyCanada's blog, which details free Internet resources for Canadian research.



## WORLD WAR I IN THE NEWS

If you read our [January 2014](#) e-mail, you know that Canadian enlistment records of its World War I soldiers also include some soldiers from Indiana. An [article](#) from the Canadian Broadcast Corporation looks at the progress being made in digitizing the World War I files.

## WORLD WAR II IN THE NEWS

Earlier this month, Arthur Carter, Sr. of Indianapolis died at the age of 92. He was Indiana's last known survivor of the Tuskegee Airmen, the famed group of pilots who broke the color barrier in World War II. The *Indianapolis Recorder* has a great [article](#) about his life and

achievements.

## RESEARCH TIP: REGISTRATION OF IMMIGRANTS (1940)

In June 1940, with one eye on the war raging in Europe, Congress passed the Alien Registration Act (also known as the Smith Act, after Representative Howard Smith who introduced the bill). The act required all immigrants age 14 & up who were not naturalized to get registered and fingerprinted at their local post office before December 26, 1940. Minors had to register within 30 days of turning 14, but were allowed to be accompanied to the post office by a guardian.

These immigrants had to fill out an Alien Registration Form (known as an AR-2), which asked 15 questions, including their birthdate, date of arrival in the U.S., height, weight, hair color, eye color, employer's address and any criminal history. They were then assigned a unique number, which they were to carry with them, and this number was also to be included on any naturalization paperwork they subsequently filed. The law also required them to confirm their address every 3 months, with an address card used to document any changes in the reported address.

The AR-2 form was used from August 1940 through March 1944, at which time an Alien File (known as an A-File) was implemented. If the immigrant registered as an alien and then later became naturalized, their alien registration form was to be included in their naturalization file.

The AR-2 forms and A-Files were kept by the Immigration & Naturalization Services (today known as the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services - USCIS for short). USCIS microfilmed the AR-2 forms and then destroyed the originals; in 2009 they reached an agreement to transfer the A-Files of immigrants whose birthdates were before 1910 to the National Archives' regional branches. It is not known if the National Archives' Chicago branch has the A-Files for Indiana immigrants who were born before 1910.

The USCIS has the microfilm of the AR-2 forms that date between August 1940 and March 1944 and can search their index for a fee - read the [article](#) on their website for more information about the AR-2 forms and how to order a search.

The Spring 2013 issue of the National Archive's *Prologue* magazine contains a helpful [article](#) (PDF format) explaining about the Alien Registration Forms vs. Alien Files, including examples of the kind of details you can find in the records.

## TYPHOID FEVER STRIKES FAMILY (1905)

In November 1905, inspectors from the Indiana State Board of Health investigated an epidemic of typhoid fever in Cambridge City, Wayne County. One family that was particularly affected was that of James Goodwin. He, his wife and 6 children (ages 1-12) all lived in a 2-room woodshed. At the time of the visit, James and daughters Mary (age 10) and Mamie (age 8) were sick; son Raymond had died on October 15, 1905. When the inspector asked one of the children if Mamie was sleeping by herself as ordered by the doctor, the child reportedly replied, "Oh yes, nobody sleeps with her except mama, baby and my other sister."

Source: *Twenty-fifth annual report of the State Board of Health of Indiana for the fiscal year ending October 31, 1906, statistical year ending December 31, 1906* (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1907).

## LEGAL TERMS EXPLAINED: INQUEST

If you've seen the term "inquest" in your genealogy research, it's probably because of a "coroner's inquest" - when somebody dies under suspicious circumstances, the county coroner holds an investigation and questions witnesses to determine the cause of death.



However, inquest actually refers to any kind of judicial inquiry - for example, an insanity inquest is when a jury hears evidence and delivers a verdict on whether someone is mentally capable of handling their own affairs.

Inquests - whether they be coroner's inquests or insanity inquests - can be among the most detailed of court records.

## KEEPING TRACK OF GENEALOGY MERGERS

With all the mergers and partnerships among genealogy companies in the past few years, it can be hard to keep track of which website is owned by which company. An Australian genealogy blog has a great [post](#) that attempts to make sense of all this interconnectedness.

## MYTH: NAME CHANGES AT ELLIS ISLAND

An informative [article](#) on the Mental Floss website debunks the belief that immigrants' name changes after they arrived in the United States were caused by the officials at Ellis Island misspelling their names on documents.

## HOW TO ESCAPE IF BURIED ALIVE

In the 1800's, doctors didn't always recognize the signs of death versus just being in a coma, so there was always a possibility that someone could "wake up" in their coffin after having been buried. The *Indianapolis Star's* "Retro Indy" feature [profiles](#) the 1882 patent of Albert Fearnought of Indianapolis, which would allow the buried person to make a signal that would be noticeable to those aboveground.