



INDIANA - Crossroads To Your Past!



Indiana News - 20 February 2015

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Welcome to the February 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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UPDATE: Indiana State Library budget cuts

In January we told you about how the state government's proposed budget had 24% cuts for the Indiana State Library, including the complete loss of funding for the library's genealogy department - particularly puzzling given that the state will celebrate its bicentennial in 2016 and is expecting many out-of-state visitors who are interested in their heritage. The state budget director said in an [article](#) that the reason the genealogy department was being eliminated was because they believe Ancestry.com offers the same services.

The response from the genealogy community has been very encouraging, with over 50,000 views of our [blog post](#) that explained how to contact the members of the House Ways and Means Committee (which is in charge of the budget). We know that several people outside Indiana took the time to write letters and e-mails to the legislature, explaining the concept of "genealogy tourism" - how they travel to Indiana and spend money on food, hotels, etc. during their stay. Various organizations sent letters of support, including the Indiana Historical Society. There have also been letters to the editor and editorials in several newspapers, including the *South Bend Tribune*, whose [editorial](#) was entitled "High Cost of Neglecting Hoosier History."

JOIN OUR LIST

Received this e-mail from a friend?



On February 18, the House Ways and Means Committee voted to [approve an amended budget](#) - one that restored the \$400,000 necessary to fund the library's genealogy department. In the article, the House Ways and Means chair noted that they had heard from "universities, libraries and genealogists" with their concerns. One other encouraging bit of news: this [amended budget](#) also still includes the \$25 million needed to build a new Indiana State Archives.

Of course, the budget is still very much a work in progress - it can be

further amended by the full House or the Senate at any point before the legislature adjourns in April. Please keep the pressure on legislators - [contact them](#) (if you're out of state, you can contact [Representative Tim Brown](#), chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, and [Senator Luke Kenley](#), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee).

GET INVOLVED WITH IGS

If you're reading this e-news, you're already invested in genealogy. How about a little more? The Indiana Genealogical Society is looking for a few good people in these positions:

- **Legislative** - Keep a watch on the Indiana General Assembly's website and news outlets for the status of legislation that could impact genealogists and historians. [Attendance at board meetings is not required].
- **Publicity** - Compile press releases on various IGS activities and send them to various outlets [Attendance at board meetings is not required].
- **Researchers List** - Maintain the contact information of people who can be hired to do on-site research in Indiana. Periodically contact all those on the list to make sure their listings are up-to-date [Attendance at board meetings is not required].
- **Vice-President** - Attend a board meeting 4 days a year, 3 in central Indiana and 1 in Fort Wayne (the best excuse to do research at the Allen County Public Library!). A yummy lunch is always provided, mileage is reimbursed, and it's a great opportunity to chat with other folks about what's going on in the genealogy world.

As IGS Founding President Curt Witcher says in an [open letter](#), you don't need to be an expert to serve, you just need to have "a passion for furthering the work of a very successful historical organization in the family history space."

Got questions? Contact IGS President [Michael Maben](#)

IGS SEMINAR FOR SOCIETY MANAGEMENT



Want one more reason to visit Terre Haute in April? Come to the Indiana Genealogical Society's society

management seminar on Friday, April 24 from 9 am to 4 pm at the Vigo County Public Library (pictured). This seminar is devoted to helping

genealogical societies get stronger, with these sessions:

- "The Changing Face of Genealogy" - Curt Witcher from the Indiana Genealogical Society
- "How to Create A Genealogy Society" - Loran Braught from the Wabash Valley Genealogy Society
- "Lead With Your Newsletter" - Ron Darrah from the Genealogical Society of Marion County and the Indiana Genealogical Society

The seminar is only \$5 (and if you're an officer from an IGS Chapter, it's FREE). For the full seminar schedule and details on how to register, please visit our [Seminar](#) page.

IGS CONFERENCE WITH "THE LEGAL GENEALOGIST"

Join the Indiana Genealogical for our annual conference on Saturday, April 25, 2015 on the campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute. Our featured speaker is 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.

IGS GIVEN FGS SERVICE AWARD FOR WAR OF 1812

At the recent joint conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and RootsTech in Salt Lake City, the Indiana Genealogical Society received the Distinguished Service Award from FGS for our help with the [Preserving the Pensions](#) project.



IGS Recording Secretary Dawne Slater (right) accepts the award from FGS President Josh Taylor (left). Photo courtesy of Fred Moss.

Thanks to matching donations, IGS has helped raise over \$64,000 to digitize the War of 1812 pension files at the National Archives.

The War of 1812 pension files are now over 60% digitized, and are being placed [online](#) for free via the Fold3 site. In the Indiana section, there are 248 surnames represented so far, starting with the letters A through M.

KNOW YOUR INDIANA HISTORY

The *Indianapolis Star's* RetroIndy regular feature recounts some stories from Indiana's history:

- [Coal mining disasters](#) - including the 1925 explosion in Sullivan.
- The [January 1892 fire](#) at the National Surgical Institute in Indianapolis, which killed 19 patients and led to safety reforms.
- [Clara \(Green\) Gibson Carl](#) of Hancock County, who was found to have poisoned both of her husbands with arsenic.
- [Visits by U.S. Presidents](#), beginning with Martin Van Buren in 1842.

DATABASES ADDED BY IGS

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

[College Records:](#)

- Manchester College - students (1936)
- Moores Hill College - students (1914) [This later became the University of Evansville]
- University of Notre Dame - graduates (1898-1910)

[County Records:](#)

- Bartholomew County - residents who died in World War II (1940-1946)
- Brown County - residents who died in World War II (1940-1946)
- Harrison County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Morgan County - graduates of Martinsville High School (1960)
- Rush County - students and teachers of Rushville High School (1927)

NOT AN IGS MEMBER?

We also added these free items:

- Fayette County - [Digital images](#) of the firemen in Connersville's Fire Department in 1886, 1900, 1912, 1914 & 1915, courtesy of Wayne Klusman.
- Monroe County - A [listing](#) of Monroe County soldiers who died during the Civil War, courtesy of Randi Richardson.
- Randolph County - A listing of Spartanburg Christian Church's [founding members](#) (in 1867); a listing of its [deacons, elders and other officials](#) (1868-1898) and [digital images](#) of its Young Ladies Class (1909), all courtesy of Wayne Klusman.
- Rush County - Raleigh High School [graduates](#) and [teachers](#) in 1904, courtesy of Wayne Klusman.
- Washington County - [owners](#) of Cave River Valley Park in Campbellsburg when it was founded in 1948, courtesy of Michele Dutcher.

GENEALOGY ON TV

- The new season of ["Who Do You Think You Are?"](#) will begin airing on TLC on Sunday, March 8 at 10 pm Eastern. They recently announced the full list of celebrities that will be profiled: Melissa Etheridge, America Ferrera, Tony Goldwyn, Josh Groban, Julie Chen, Angie Harmon, Sean Hayes and Bill Paxton. Thomas MacEntee's GeneaBloggers site has a [post](#) with more details.
- TLC will air a 1-hour special, "Long Lost Family," on Sunday, March 1 at 10 pm Eastern. The special is about 2 adoptees looking for their biological families. For details, see Dick Eastman's [blog post](#).



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.



John "Walt" Walters of Connersville, aka "The Graveyard Groomer," is [profiled](#) in a news piece. He has a cemetery restoration business and his work involves repairing tombstones,

statues, etc.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Officials with Beech Grove Cemetery in Muncie recently recorded oral histories from residents who had stories about some of the 44,000 people buried there.

HENRY COUNTY

The trial of an 18-year-old accused of vandalizing Lewisville Cemetery in July 2014 has been [postponed again](#). A 19-year-old has already been convicted for his role in the crime.

LAKE COUNTY & PORTER COUNTY

Over 100 historic photos of the area are [online](#) at a newspaper site, contributed by the public.

MARION COUNTY

A World War II veteran who died in 1945 and is buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis is [finally getting](#) a new headstone, thanks to the efforts of his son. Wallace Steward died in March 1945 and his government-issued headstone is deteriorating.

MIAMI COUNTY

The Miami County courthouse in Peru is [running out of room](#) to store its documents. There are eight years' worth of records packed in its hallways, and the courthouse lacks the \$500,000 needed to microfilm them.

SWITZERLAND COUNTY

Marlene McDerment has compiled a book, *Revolutionary Soldiers and the Wives of Soldiers with Ties to Switzerland County, Indiana*. It includes information about 115 soldiers who were in Switzerland County at one point - many of them later moved on to other Indiana counties. It can be purchased through Amazon.com or directly from the publisher, Heritage Books.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

The city government of West Lafayette is [indefinitely loaning](#) some of its records to Purdue University's Archives for student use. The records date from the 1800's to mid-1900's and include assessments. The public can also look at these records.

WARRICK COUNTY

Graves at Maple Grove Cemetery in Boonville were vandalized in December, with some remains removed. Three men have been [charged](#) with the grave robbing.

WAYNE COUNTY

- The Wayne County courthouse in Richmond is running [out of room](#) to store all its records. Officials estimate they will be completely out of room within 2 years and have begun the search for other places to use as storage.
- Morrisson-Reeves Library in Richmond has changed its hours, in order to respond to requests that it stay open later at night. The new hours are: Monday through Thursday, 9:30 am to 8 pm; Friday, 9:30 am to 6 pm; Saturday, 9:30 am to 4 pm.

INDIANA'S WOMEN PRISONERS

The American Historical Association's website features a fascinating [article](#) on the history of the Indiana Women's Prison, including some of the scandal that was it was involved in. Even more fascinating, this article was written by someone who's an inmate at the prison today - and it talks about some of the challenges of doing research.

RESEARCH TIP: DRAFT REGISTRATION LAW (1940)

4135687_00289

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 28, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1897)			
SERIAL NUMBER 496	1. NAME (Print) John R. Patterson	ORDER NUMBER	
U	(First) (Middle) (Last)		
2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) Brown Twp., Hendricks Co., Indiana			
(Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (County) (State)			
[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]			
3. MAILING ADDRESS Brownsburg, Indiana R. R. #2			
(Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If none insert word none)			
4. TELEPHONE None	5. AGE IN YEARS 54	6. PLACE OF BIRTH Hendricks Co., Indiana	
(Exchange) (Number)	(Year)	(Town or county) (State or country)	
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Ethel M. Patterson Brownsburg, Ind. R. R. #2			
8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Self-employed Farmer			
9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Brown Twp., Hendricks, Indiana			
(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State or country)			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
D. S. S. FORM 1 (Revised 4-1-42)	(7981)	16-21520-2	<i>John R. Patterson</i> (Registrant's Signature)

The front of a 1942 draft registration card. See the [PDF](#) to view the back of the card, which included physical details.

In September 1940, with Europe already a year into World War II, Congress narrowly passed the Selective Service and Training Act. It was the first military draft held in peacetime. It called for a national registration of all men ages 21-35, with those who were drafted to serve in the military for 1 year.

On October 16, 1940, 16.5 million men across the country reported to their local draft board and filled out a registration card. There were 152 draft boards in Indiana, who processed 480,000 men.

A draft lottery was then held in Washington, DC to determine the order in which the registered men had to report for classification. This

classification system was used to categorize their readiness:

1-A - fit for military service

1-B - only fit for limited military service

1-C - a member of a U.S. land or naval force

1-D - a student available to enter service after July 1, 1941

1-E - a student available to enter service before July 1, 1941

2-A - working in a necessary civilian business

2-B - a federal or state officer

2-C - an elected county or municipal officer

3-A - has dependents

4-A - has completed military service

4-B - an officer with a legal deferment

4-C - a non-declared alien

4-D - a conscientious objector, excused from service

4-E - a divinity student or a minister

4-F - unfit - physically, mentally or morally

Only those classified as 1-A would be drafted. The criteria for 1-A included being at least 5 feet tall and weighing at least 105 pounds, with a heart that could withstand the stress and teeth that met certain standards for chewing.

According to newspaper accounts, several "relics" that had last been used in the draft lottery for World War I were brought back into service:

- A blindfold worn by the Secretary of War to draw the first number - it was made from the linen on a chair that was in Independence Hall during the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787.
- A ladle used to stir the lottery numbers - it was made from an original rafter in Independence Hall.
- A goldfish bowl for holding the numbers - it arrived in Washington, D.C. via a police escort from Independence Hall in Philadelphia, where it had been on display.

After the United States entered the war in December 1941, subsequent drafts were held for different age groups. The 4th draft, held in April 1942, was for men ages 45-64 (meaning they were born between 1877 and 1897). Due to privacy laws, the draft registration cards from 1942 are the only World War II set that are available to the public. These 1942 cards have been digitized and are available online for free at [FamilySearch](#) and also to those with an [Ancestry.com](#) subscription.

The Reclaiming Kin blog has a helpful [post](#) detailing the different questions that were asked in the draft registrations of World War I and World War II.

Pendente Lite is a Latin term that literally translates to "pending the lawsuit." This term is often seen in divorce cases. Shortly after the divorce complaint is filed, a spouse will petition the court to get child support and/or alimony *pendente lite* - a temporary allowance while the case is being heard.



TIPPECANOE COUNTY WOMAN DENIED RIGHT TO VOTE (1895)

In November 1894, Helen Gougar, a Lafayette resident and suffragette, attempted to vote in a Tippecanoe County election. When she was denied (based on Indiana's 1851 constitution), she sued the election board for damages. The case was called *Gougar vs. Timberlake et al* and the trial was held in Tippecanoe County Superior Court in January 1895, with Gougar acting as her own lawyer (see [digital images](#) of the text of her argument, courtesy of Purdue University).

After the Tippecanoe County judge denied her case, Gougar appealed to the Indiana Supreme Court, which heard her arguments in February 1897 (read an [account](#) of the proceedings from a digitized Indianapolis newspaper). At the time, she was only the 3rd woman in history to give oral arguments before the Indiana Supreme Court. The Supreme Court's decision in their May 1897 term denied Gougar's appeal, but noted "the marked intellectual advancement of women since the adoption of the present constitution" and left open the possibility of women being given the "elective franchise", as it would be an "experiment" to see if they would "increase or destroy their present great influence in the affairs of man, the home, and the state."

Source: *Reports of cases argued and determined in the Supreme Court of Judicature of the State of Indiana [...] volume 148* (Indianapolis: Levey Bros. & Co., 1898).

NOTE: Helen Gougar died in 1907; in January 1920, Indiana ratified the 19th amendment to the U.S. constitution, giving women the right to vote.

CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS

A Richmond newspaper has an [article](#) about one of the regiments that was organized in eastern Indiana. The article tells the story of the 57th Indiana Infantry, and how Private Thomas Baxter of Richmond was killed in a fight with another soldier in camp.

