



INDIANA - *Crossroads To Your Past!*



## Indiana News - 20 March 2015

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Welcome to the March 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.

### UPDATE: Indiana state budget

At the beginning of March, the state government's budget (the [House-approved version](#) that restored the \$400,000 for the Indiana State Library's Genealogy Division) moved over to the Senate for consideration by its Appropriations Committee (which is chaired by [Senator Luke Kenley](#)). The Senate has until April 29th (the end of the legislative session) to bring the budget to a vote and then resolve any differences in their version with the version that the House passed.

The budget also includes \$25 million to build a new Indiana State Archives, so when you [contact the legislators](#), you can also let them know your thoughts on this issue. As pointed out by the [Friends of the Indiana State Archives](#), the new building is badly needed because after 14 years in a warehouse location that was only meant to be "temporary," records at the State Archives have already been damaged by roof leaks and malfunctioning HVAC systems, as well as the lack of climate control.

Tornadoes have also destroyed warehouses in that area in the recent past, making it all the more important that the new Archives be built to withstand F3-level tornadoes. And having space in the new Archives for a conservation lab would enable staff and volunteers to repair damaged records.

**IGS MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT: FINDMYPAST**

JOIN OUR LIST

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from a friend?



# find my past

We're happy to announce that one of the benefits of Indiana Genealogical Society membership just got bigger - the discount on findmypast's World annual subscription has just been increased to 50%. That works out to \$100 off the regular price. To claim your discount, please log into the [Members-Only area](#) for instructions and the special offer code you will need.

## IGS CONFERENCE WITH "THE LEGAL GENEALOGIST"

Welcome to all those who have already registered for the Indiana Genealogical Society's annual conference on Saturday, April 25, 2015 on the campus of Indiana State University in Terre Haute. In addition to all corners of Indiana, we also have attendees coming from Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri and even Alaska. They're going to enjoy a day of sessions with Judy Russell (pictured), lawyer, certified genealogist, and author of [The Legal Genealogist](#) blog.

Judy Russell

Time is ticking away to get the pre-registration rate - for the full conference schedule and details on how to register, please visit our [Conference](#) page.

## WELCOME IGS VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all who responded to our recent call for volunteers! We'd like to welcome:

- Legislative chair - Mauri Stotts Pratt
- Publicity chair - Matt LaFlash
- Researchers List chair - Mark Hochstetler

Their contact information is available on our [Committees](#) page.

## 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.

## INDIANA STATE LIBRARY EXTENDED HOURS EVENT

The Indiana State Library in Indianapolis will hold its "Genealogy for Night Owls" event on Wednesday, April 29 from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm. This is your chance to get in extra hours of research, go on an orientation tour, and get some 1-on-1 time with an Ask an Expert session. Want to find out a little more about what's in their collection? Read their [blog post](#) about the contents of the Genealogy Division.

Pre-registration is required - register [online](#) or phone (317) 232-3689.

## FOUND: PHOTO OF ELKHART TODDLER

Shelley Cardiel ([cardiels@comcast.net](mailto:cardiels@comcast.net)) has found this photo of Joe Kehr of Elkhart, Indiana, probably taken between 1910-1920, when he was around 2 years old. A note on the back said it was "taken in Alberta" and that he was "Roy's oldest son."

Research indicates Joseph John "Joe" Kehr (born 14 May 1912 in Elkhart; died 15 May 1997 in Middlebury or Goshen) married



*Photo of Joe Kehr, probably taken between 1910-1920 (see full-sized [PDF](#))*

Nellie Lulu Miller in 1931 and is buried in West Goshen Cemetery.

Joe was the son of Roy Franklin Kehr (born 3 August 1888 in Wakarusa, son of John L. and Lavina Bechtel Kehr) and Goldie Iola Null (born 5 August 1893; died 29 January 1989). Joe and Nellie (Miller) Kehr had 4 children, including Beverly Joan Kehr (born 2 March 1933; died 6 April 1933).

If you are a descendant of this family, or you know someone who might be, please contact her.

## CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA

If you haven't been on our [Facebook](#) page or [Twitter](#) account recently, you've been missing out! Certified genealogist Amy Johnson Crow has been posting lots of genealogy tidbits, old photos and research tips. Remember, you don't have to have a Facebook or Twitter account yourself in order to read our posts.

## DATABASES ADDED BY IGS

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

### College Records:

- University of Notre Dame - graduates (1913-1920)
- Wabash College - students (1922)

### County Records:

- Benton County - early schools (1854-1912)
- Franklin County - Brookville High School students (1948)
- Knox County - Maria Creek Baptist Church members (1809-1888)
- Morgan County - Mooresville High School graduates (1954)
- Vermillion County - early churches (1831-1887)
- Wabash High School - students & teachers (1928)
- Warren County - farmers directory (1919)

### Military Records:



## ALLEN COUNTY

There's one more reason to visit the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne - this summer [it will be open](#) on Sundays from 12 to 5 pm. The library is normally only open on Sundays during the school year (September through May) but in response to public demand, they've extended the Sunday service to the summer months.

## DAVISS COUNTY

FamilySearch has added a new [database](#) - an obituary index (with some digital images) of the *Washington Times Herald* for 1984-2012. Some of the obituaries are for deaths that occurred in Knox, Martin and Pike counties. This index was compiled by Kay Hedrick and is in the collection of the Allen County Public Library.

## HENDRICKS COUNTY

The unmarked graves of 58 infants buried at Maple Hill Cemetery in Plainfield [now have tombstones](#), thanks to a non-profit organization. Some of these burials date back to the 1950's.

## LAPORTE COUNTY

The LaPorte County, Indiana Genealogical Society has published abstracts of probate records from 1833 until 1850. The index includes not only the main subject of the probate case (the deceased) but many other individuals named on the records, including their heirs and those who bought items from their estate. The book is \$29.95 and may be purchased directly from the [society](#) or through the book's [publisher](#).

## MARION COUNTY

Last month, thieves [stole](#) a 150-pound bronze statue from Our Lady of Peace Cemetery in Indianapolis. The statue was a memorial at the grave of Joan Fullam Irick.

## PUTNAM COUNTY

A covered bridge that dates back to 1880 was recently [vandalized](#). Swastikas and Satanic symbols were spray painted over it. The bridge had been refurbished in 2014.

Take a [video tour](#) of the Putnam County Museum in Greencastle.

## WAYNE COUNTY

A house in Hagerstown has been [added](#) to the National Register of Historic Places. The John and Caroline Stonebraker house dates back to the 1870's.

## AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN THE NEWS

Last month, the *Indianapolis Recorder* [celebrated](#) its 120th anniversary. Established in February 1895, it is the oldest African-American



- Any medical issues

Merely registering for the draft did not mean your ancestor actually served in the Civil War. The National Archives has the ledger books of these draft registrations for 1863-1865, and they have shared them with Ancestry.com, in a [database](#) that includes digital images from the ledger books.

## LEGAL TERMS EXPLAINED: QUARANTINE

*Quarantine* is usually thought of in public health terms - when someone with a contagious disease is physically isolated to prevent it from spreading. But it also has a meaning as it applies to inheritance law. In May 1852, the Indiana legislature passed an inheritance law with a "quarantine" provision. This provision stated that when a man died, his widow and minor children would be allowed to live rent-free in the family home and use its adjoining lands (up to 40 acres) for 1 year after his death. In effect, the provision temporarily froze some of the deceased man's assets and gave his family time to plan what they were going to do. It may also explain why the probate process could take several years to complete.



NOTE: It's not known when the quarantine provision was dropped from Indiana probate law - it was still on the books as late as 1914.

## CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS

The *Indianapolis Star's* Retro Indy [feature](#) looks at the life of Lovina Streight, whose husband Abel Streight commanded the 51st Indiana Infantry.

## MIAMI COUNTY DOCTOR TURNED IN BY BROTHER (1906)

Under Indiana State Board of Health's rules in the early 1900's, smallpox was classified as contagious, and doctors who diagnosed it in a patient were required to report the case to their local health officers and place the patient's home in quarantine, to prevent the spread of the disease. In December 1906, the State Board of Health investigated a complaint regarding Dr. Jacob O. Malsbury of Peru in Miami County. He was alleged to have misdiagnosed the smallpox in a 25-year-old patient who lived in a boarding house, and then when he did finally diagnose it a week later, not initiating a quarantine or reporting the case to the health officer for the city of Peru.

The city's health officer happened to be his brother, Dr. Laughlin O.

Malsbury, and it was Laughlin who reported Jacob to the State Board of Health and recommended he be arrested. Several other area doctors supported Laughlin's claim - Jacob was apparently known for making statements in the newspaper that opposed the smallpox vaccine.

Jacob Malsbury was arrested in December 1906 and tried by a justice of the peace in February 1907. He was fined \$10 and costs. The State Board of Health's annual report for 1907 referred to Jacob as a "quack" and credited the prosecution of him for having turned the tide in controlling smallpox in Peru.

Source: *Twenty-sixth annual report of the State Board of Health of Indiana for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1907, statistical year ending December 31, 1907* (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1907).

NOTE: Dr. Jacob Oren Malsbury (1859-1927) is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in Peru, Indiana.

## MICHIGAN DEATH RECORDS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The Archives of Michigan's website, SeekingMichigan, now has [indexes and digital images](#) of Michigan's death records for 1897 through 1939. The digitizing is the result of a partnership between the Michigan state government and FamilySearch.