



INDIANA - *Crossroads To Your Past!*



Indiana News - April 2015

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Welcome to the April 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 issues going back to 2010 are [available](#) in PDF format.

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UPDATE: INDIANA STATE ARCHIVES

In our [August 2014 edition](#) (PDF), we told you that state government officials were considering the former American Legion headquarters on North Meridian Street in downtown Indianapolis as a possible site for the new Indiana State Archives. The 2016 budget, which is currently being considered by the legislature, is still on track to give \$25 million to build the new State Archives.



According to an [article](#) in the *Indianapolis Business Journal*, another site is now considered the frontrunner for the new State Archives.

The new site is a narrow strip of grassy land on the canal, next to a parking garage that is for government employees. It is across the canal from the Indiana Historical Society and diagonally across the street from the Indiana State Library (on Ohio Street).

Indianapolis Business Journal graphic showing proposed site (see [full-sized PDF](#))

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Indianapolis Business Journal photo showing the grassy strip on the right side of the canal that could become the State Archives site (see [full-sized PDF](#))

This location could allow for records to be moved through existing underground tunnels that connect the Statehouse to other government buildings.

According to the article, parking at the new site would be through some parking spots on the street, and sharing the parking lot of the Indiana Historical Society.

INDIANA RESEARCHERS FOR HIRE

Need to hire someone in Indiana to do on-site research in local libraries, courthouses, etc.? We've updated our [Researchers List](#) - use the "Find" feature to search our PDF for the county or repository you need to hire someone for. You can also request to have your own name added to our list of researchers.

MARCH 2015 ISSUE OF INDIANA GENEALOGIST

Attention, Indiana Genealogical Society members: the March 2015 issue of *Indiana Genealogist*, our quarterly publication for members, was recently added to the [IGS Records](#) section of the Members-Only area - login to download your copy.

In this issue:

- **Amy Johnson Crow**, CG's detailed profile of some students from the Indiana School for the Deaf who are buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis
- **David C. Bailey, Sr.**'s biographical entries for some Indiana Civil War veterans who are buried in Illinois
- **Patricia K. Johnson's** account of the restoration of a historic church in Elkhart County
- **Rachel Popma's** compilation of items on a Dearborn County elopement in 1903
- **Marlene Polster's** profile of some of the photos in the Valparaiso Public Library's collection
- Brief records from **Adams, Bartholomew, Hamilton, Henry,**

UPDATE: ACCESS TO INDIANA ADOPTION RECORDS

In our [January 2015 edition](#) (PDF), we told you about a bill the Indiana legislature was considering that would have allowed adoptees from 1941 to 1993 to get access to their own birth records, thus giving them the names of their birth parents. But Senate Bill 352 was [shelved](#) for this legislative session due to privacy concerns.

FOUND: PHOTO OF ELKHART BOY (1890's)



Shelley Cardiel (cardiels@comcast.net) has found this photo of a young Lloyd Everett Peoples (born 9 January 1894), which was taken at the Schlotterback Studio in Elkhart, Indiana in the late 1890's.

Research indicates Lloyd was the son of Francis Ozrow/Osro Peoples (born 23 August 1869 in Indiana; died 3 July 1955 in San Diego, California) and Mary B./E. Eshenbaugh (born 1869-1871).

Lloyd was working for the railroad in Elkhart when he registered for the World War I draft in 1917, and for the World War II draft in 1942, he listed his closest relative as F.O. Peoples of Hillsdale, Michigan.

Photo of Lloyd Everett Peoples in the late 1890's

(see [full-size PDF](#))

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

UPDATE: FAMILYSEARCH AFFILIATE LIBRARIES

Several more public libraries in Indiana have recently become certified as Affiliate Libraries for FamilySearch - see our [updated list](#) (PDF) of Indiana libraries. Want to find an Affiliate Library in another state? Use FamilySearch's [locator](#).

An Affiliate Library is one where you can order microfilm from FamilySearch's catalog and have it sent directly to the Affiliate Library for viewing.

IGS NOW HAS 1,500+ DATABASES FOR MEMBERS

We now have more than 1,500 databases for members. They represent all 92 counties, plus many statewide collections. Among the premium databases for members that we've added to our website in the past month:

College Records:

- Franklin College - graduates (1890-1898)
- University of Notre Dame - students (1899-1911)

County Records:

- Floyd County - students & teachers of New Albany High School (1928)
- LaPorte County - students & teachers of LaPorte High School (1943)
- Lawrence County - students at Bedford High School (1926); alumni of Bedford High School (1871-1930)
- Miami County - graduates of Bunker Hill High School (1886-1963)
- Pulaski County - students at Winamac High School (1916)

Military Records:

- Indiana State Soldiers Home - deaths of veterans & their wives who were residents (1911-1912)

Statewide Records:

- Indiana School for the Blind - students (1910-1911)

NOT AN IGS MEMBER?

We also added some free databases, courtesy of Amy Johnson Crow, CG:

- 54th Massachusetts Infantry - [soldiers](#) from Indiana (1863-1865)
- Indiana Board of Industrial Aid for the Blind - blind [adults](#) who received services (1915)

CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS

This month marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, and with it comes several news stories:

- The *Washington Post* examines the [tragedy](#) of the steamboat Sultana, which was carrying more than 2,000 Union prisoners of war home to Indiana and other states in April 1865 when it exploded.
- A Richmond [resident](#) was a guard for Abraham Lincoln who witnessed him being shot at Ford's Theatre. Harry Hoover and his wife then died in 1928 under their own tragic circumstances, from gas fumes.
- The Associated Press [examines](#) dispatches from its correspondents who filed reports of Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, as well as other closing moments from the war.

UPDATE: ELKHART COUNTY CHURCH & CEMETERY RESTORATION



An article in the March 2015 issue of *Indiana Genealogist* detailed a project to restore St. John's Lutheran Church in Goshen. The Elkhart County church dates back to 1863 and it (along with its adjoining cemetery) suffered extensive damage last summer from a storm. Since that article was published, the group has received a \$5,000 matching grant from Indiana Landmarks to help pay for some of the costs.

If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to Friends of St. John's Lutheran Church Association and mail to:

Patricia K. Johnson
1626 Brookstone Ct.
Elkhart, IN 46514

If you would like further updates on the restoration project, please include your e-mail address with your donation.

WAR OF 1812 IN THE NEWS

The Preserve the Pensions blog has an [example](#) of some of the nuggets of information that can be found in the War of 1812 [pension files](#). It refers to Mary Carson Aston, whose husband served in the Indiana militia. The application for her widow's pension included her own obituary from an 1871 New Albany newspaper.

You can also read their [post](#) about free online indexes that can help you find your female ancestors in these pension files, particularly those whose files have not been digitized yet.

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.

DELAWARE COUNTY

In honor of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Muncie, The *Star Press* has compiled a [series of articles](#) about various aspects of Muncie's history, including its schools.

HENDRICKS COUNTY

A new genealogy interest group, calling itself "Family History Hounds," will be meeting at the [Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library](#) the 1st Thursday of every month from 1 pm to 3 pm. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7 from 1 to 3 pm. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact the library's Indiana Room - e-mail askindiana@plainfieldlibrary.net or phone (317) 839-6602 extension 2114.

HUNTINGTON COUNTY

Earlier this month, a 600-pound piece of limestone [fell off](#) of the Huntington County courthouse in Huntington. The accident occurred during the night and no one was injured. The courthouse dates back to 1906.

MADISON COUNTY

The Anderson Public Library recently added a [Madison County marriage index 1921-1951](#) to their website. They also have several other databases [available](#), including obituary and cemetery indexes.

MARION COUNTY

A guided walking tour of Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis will be offered on Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 pm. The tour will cover 1 mile and

last 90 minutes, and will cover some of the historical people that are buried there, including the tomb of James Whitcomb Riley. Pre-registration is required and is limited to ages 12 and up - to pre-register, please contact the Plainfield library's Indiana Room - e-mail askindiana@plainfieldlibrary.net or phone (317) 839-6602 extension 2114.

MONROE COUNTY

George "Anner" Shively's grave in Rose Hill Cemetery in Bloomington finally has a [tombstone](#), after some Monroe County and Indiana University groups raised money for a memorial. Shively, who died in 1962, was a baseball star who played in the Negro Leagues and he also gained fame as a musician.

VIGO COUNTY

An [article](#) in the Terre Haute *Tribune-Star* details the progress being made in FamilySearch's digitizing of Vigo County probate records from 1818-1935. The digitizing is projected to take 2 1/2 years to complete.

WAYNE COUNTY

--Wayne County's first courthouse - a 2-story log cabin that was built in 1812 - is going to be [restored](#). Historic Centerville, thanks to a matching grant from the Wayne County Foundation, has raised \$18,000 for renovations.

--The Daughters of the American Revolution's 2 area chapters (Cambridge City and Richmond) recently [dedicated](#) a monument at Veterans Memorial Park in Richmond. The monument, a granite bench, marked the 240th anniversary of the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

MENTALLY CHALLENGED MEN DROWN AT INSTITUTION (1911)

The Indiana School for Feeble-Minded Youth was created by state law in March 1879. Originally part of the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Orphan's Home in Knightstown, it became its own institution in 1887 and moved to its permanent site in Fort Wayne in 1890. Although mentally challenged children were the focus of the institution, some adults were also admitted.

On March 10, 1911, the body of Frank Parker, age 20 (inmate #1976) was found in the St. Joseph River in Fort Wayne. It was believed that he had accidentally drowned after breaking through the ice. He had strayed from the institution back on January 13 and a search had been conducted, but no trace had been found.

Other accidental drownings would follow that year. On May 27, 1911, 22-year-old Otto Lehman (inmate #1077) and 18-year-old Wesley Hoppes (inmate #2123) were among 20 boys who had gone swimming in the

river after a picnic. They strayed into deep water and drowned before their 2 attendants could rescue them.

Source: *Thirty-third annual report of the Indiana School for Feeble-Minded Youth, Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1911* (Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1912).

RESEARCH TIP: ADVANCED TIP FOR MORTALITY SCHEDULES

We've talked before about the value of the 1850-1880 mortality schedules - first in our [July 2013](#) edition (PDF), and then in our [October 2013](#) edition (PDF) specifically about the supplemental columns in the 1880 mortality schedule. We've also compiled inventories (PDFs) showing the status of Indiana's counties on the microfilm of the [1860](#), [1870](#) and [1880](#) mortality schedules, respectively.

One of the drawbacks of the mortality schedules is that they are NOT a true substitute for a death record, because they don't list the names of the deceased's parents. But if you look carefully at an entry from the 1870 or 1880 mortality schedules, you CAN match up the deceased with their household. That's because the first column in both the 1870 and 1880 mortality schedules lists the number of the household from the corresponding census.

140	Stewart William P	35	m	w	1	Indiana
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In the above example from the Eel River Township enumeration of Hendricks County's 1880 mortality schedule, the deceased is Stewart, William P. age 35 male white married birthplace Indiana, from family number 140.

125 / 140	Stewart Amanda	w	f	38	Widow	1	Kelker's House at Home
	Agnes H	w	f	15	Daugh	1	
	Charles	w	m	13	Son	1	Works on farm
	William H	w	m	11	Son	1	works on farm
	George R	w	m	8	Son	1	
	James H	w	m	7	Son	1	
	Arthur H	w	m	4	Son	1	
	Edgie M	w	f	1	Daugh	1	
	Minnie M	w	f	12	Inf. Daugh	1	

In the 1870 and 1880 censuses, the first column has the dwelling number; the second column has the family number. So if you go to the 1880 Hendricks County census and look through the Eel River Township enumeration, you will find that family number 140 (highlighted above) has a Stewart, Amanda white female age 38 widow as the head of household. Now we can identify William P. Stewart as being part of this household, likely Amanda's husband.

83	Booth Aaron	32	M	W	Ohio			April	Laborer
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Of course, the deceased didn't always have the same last name as the rest of the household. In this example from the 1870 mortality schedule for Cass County, Aaron Booth age 32 born Ohio laborer is in the Bethlehem Township enumeration, from family number 83. The Bethlehem Township enumeration of the 1870 census for Cass County shows that family number 83 has as its head of household Joseph Penrose farmer age 65 born England. Aaron may have been a hired hand on Joseph Penrose's farm. And because Joseph's wife Jemima also lists Ohio as a birthplace, Aaron Booth may be of some relation to her - a possibility worth investigating.

83	Penrose Joseph	65	M	W	Farmer	12,000	3,000	England
	Jemima A	52	F	W	Keeping house			Ohio
	Robert E	19	M	W	Working on farm			Ind
	Emma S	17	F	W				Ind
	Hulda	12	F	W				Ind
	Boggs Minnie	7	F	W				Ind
	Russle James	17	M	W				Ken

LEGAL TERMS EXPLAINED: VOLUNTARY ASSIGNMENT

Today, if someone owes a lot of money to their creditors, they may file for bankruptcy or bankruptcy protection. In the 1800's and early 1900's, debtors filed for *voluntary assignment* - petitioning the court to appoint an assignee (a third party who had no interest in the outcome) to which they voluntarily transferred all their land and personal assets. This assignee (also known as a trustee) would then auction off these assets in order to pay the creditors.



In Indiana, the first law that allowed for voluntary assignment was passed in March 1859 (Acts of 1859, Chapter 140) and it referred to debtors who were in "embarrassed or failing circumstances." NOTE: Debtors who chose voluntary assignment generated court records that resembled estates, with inventories of their assets and bills of sale showing the results of the auctions.