



Indiana News - May 2015

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Welcome to the May 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

Last month, we told you that a site on the canal in downtown Indianapolis (next to the Indiana Historical Society and diagonally across the street from the Indiana State Library) was being considered for the new Indiana State Archives.



This *Indianapolis Business Journal* photo shows the grassy strip on the right side of the canal that was being considered for the State Archives site (see [full-sized PDF](#)).

However, when the Indiana legislature passed the state budget at the end of April that included the \$25 million for a new State Archives, it also specifically prohibited building it at this canal site.

As explained in an [article](#) quoting Senator Luke Kenley, legislators included the prohibition because they didn't believe the space was big enough to

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support the future growth of the Archives. Kenley is chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which drafted the final version of the budget.

INDIANA LIBRARIES AWARDED DIGITIZING GRANTS

The Indiana State Library recently announced which local libraries would receive its 2015 digitization grants. Among the recipients:

- Hamilton East Public Library in Noblesville - \$3,500 to digitize 10 volumes of court docket books from the Noblesville mayor (spanning 1887 through the 1950's).
- Hancock County Public Library in Greenfield - \$6,500 to digitize pre-1923 local newspapers that are not already available online.
- Crawfordsville District Public Library - \$16,000 to digitize some early Montgomery County newspapers that are not already available online.
- Porter County Public Library in Valparaiso - \$20,000 to digitize 40 reels of microfilm of *The Times of Northwest Indiana* newspaper (spanning 1925-1940).
- Vigo County Public Library in Terre Haute - \$20,000 to digitize 53 reels of microfilm of early Terre Haute newspapers (spanning 1823-1902).
- Wells County Public Library in Bluffton - \$10,000 to purchase a scanner to help digitize local records.

UPDATE: INDIANA MARRIAGE INDEX

FamilySearch's [Indiana marriage index](#) database has updated its collection of marriage records for Vigo County. Previously it spanned 1818-1957; it now spans 1818 through 2007. To find out which Indiana counties are included in the database and what years they cover, please see our [website listing](#).

IGS DOUBLES ITS GENEALOGY GRANTS

If you are an Indiana non-profit organization, there's even more reason to apply for one of the Indiana Genealogical Society's grants - we've now doubled the amount of the grants. Recipients can get up to \$1,000 towards their project, in the category of cemetery restoration or resource development (organizations that are IGS Chapters have their own special category they can apply for). The deadline to apply is December 31, 2015 - for more information and the application form, please see our [Grants page](#).

FOUND: PHOTO OF TIPPECANOE CO. TEEN (1898)

Shelley Cardiel (cardiels@comcast.net) has found this photo of a young man, identified as Joe WETZEL or WETZELL, which was taken at the Ennis and Johnston Studio in Lafayette,



Photo of Joe Wetzel in 1898
(see full-size [PDF](#))

Indiana in 1898. Someone also wrote on the photo, "brother to Aunt Ella PATER or PATE".

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

JUDY RUSSELL TO HEADLINE INDIANA GENEALOGY FAIR

Want to hear more from The Legal Genealogist's Judy Russell, who was the featured speaker at our annual conference in Terre Haute last month? She will be a guest speaker at the Indiana State Library's annual Genealogy and Local History Fair, to be held on Saturday, October 24 from 9:30 am to 4 pm in Indianapolis. Russell will be speaking about court records and legal records, as well as "black sheep" in the family.

This is a free event and no registration is necessary, unless you are a librarian wanting to receive LEU credits for attending - please contact Crystal Ward (crward@library.in.gov) for more information.

GET INVOLVED WITH IGS

Thanks to all who have pitched in recently to help serve the Indiana Genealogical Society. We have more openings to get involved:

- Chapters manager - communicate electronically with the 11 organizations that have been designated as IGS Chapters. Provide them with their benefits (such as discounts on IGS conference for their officers) and report to the board on their activities.
- Once A Hoosier editor - edit and publish entries on Indiana ancestors that are electronically submitted to the Once A Hoosier...Always A Hoosier [blog](#). Familiarity using WordPress or other blog sites is a plus.
- Vice-President - Attend board meetings 4 Saturdays a year (3 in central Indiana and 1 in Fort Wayne). Lunch is provided and your mileage is reimbursed.

If you are interested in serving, or have questions, please contact IGS President Michael Maben (mmaben@indiana.edu).

FOUND: PHOTO OF HAMILTON CO. TODDLER (1890's)

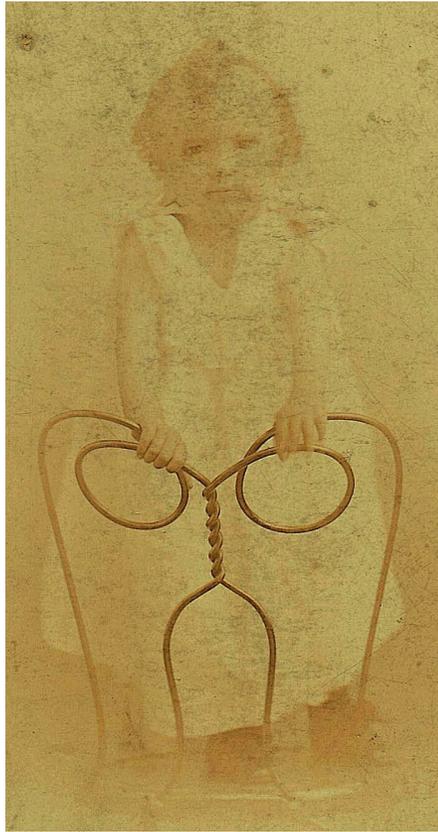


Photo of Paul Walton in 1890's (see full-size [PDF](#)) or you know someone who might be, please contact her.

Shelley Cardiel (cardiels@comcast.net) has found this faded photo of Paul Walton, which was taken at the Harnish Studio in Noblesville, Indiana in the 1890's. Paul appears to be about 3 years old in the photo.

Based on limited research Shelley has done, it appears this is Paul Francis Walton (born 3 December 1893 in Noblesville; died 19 November 1968; buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis). Paul was the son of Israel J. Walton (1859-1922) and Janette "Nettie" Shephard (1861-1950). He had a sister Iona Walton (born 1905) and he married Espie Leoma Maxwell (1892-1983).

If you are a descendant of this family, please contact her.

WAR OF 1812 IN THE NEWS

The Federation of Genealogical Societies' project to digitize the pension files of War of 1812 veterans and put them [online](#) for free at Fold3 has hit another milestone - those with surnames A through L are now online.

FOUND: PHOTO OF HAMILTON CO. BOY (1890's)

Shelley Cardiel (cardiels@comcast.net) has found this photo of George Plain of Atlanta, Indiana, which was taken at the Wolever Studio in Lafayette in the 1890's. George looks to be about 7 years old, and the photo appears to have been taken for First Communion.



Photo of George Plain in the 1890's
(see full-size [PDF](#))

Shelley's limited research shows that George Plain (1885-1909) was one of 11 children of Nicholas Plain (1847-1903) and Rosa Bauer (1862-?). George is buried in Cicero, Indiana; his father Nicholas was from Germany.

Two other First Communion photos have been found of this family - including one of George's sisters, Lena (Plain) Reis and Mary (Plain) Fischer, which was taken at the Fleischer Studio in Streator, Illinois.

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

NEW IGS DATABASES

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

[College Records:](#)

- Hanover College - students (1850-1866)
- Taylor University- graduates (1942-1970)

[County Records:](#)

- Cass County - students (grades 9-12) at Logansport High School (1946)
- Jennings County - index to 1860 mortality schedule
- Pike County - index to 1860 mortality schedule
- Ripley County - index to 1860 mortality schedule
- Scott County - students (grades 9-12) at Scottsburg High School (1964)
- Shelby County - students (grades 7-12) & teachers at Shelbyville High School (1938)
- Steuben County - students (grades 1-12) in Angola schools (1906)
- Vanderburgh County - veterans at Indiana State Soldiers' Home, Lafayette (1907-1908)
- White County - index to 1860 mortality schedule

NOT AN IGS MEMBER?

We also added some free databases, courtesy of Ron Darrah:

- Greene County - [roster and photos](#) of Civilian Conservation Corps, Jasonville (1933) - from a booklet shared by Deborah Loveless

- Marion County - [employees](#) of Indianapolis Public Schools (1889); [school boundaries](#) of Indianapolis Public Schools (1889)

CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS

--Terre Haute recently [dedicated](#) a new headstone to honor Civil War veteran John E. Wilkins, whose diary and other documents are in the collection of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne.

--Newspapers from April 1865 [recounted](#) how Abraham Lincoln's funeral train passed through eastern Indiana.

--The FamilySearch blog has a [post](#) about the various ways their Civil War databases can be used by researchers.

COUNTY ROUNDUP

Here are some genealogical and local history news items from around the state. NOTE: Items on websites often change or are removed without notice - we apologize if you encounter a link that no longer works.

HENDRICKS COUNTY

A 1925 [class photo](#) of the 11 seniors at Lizton High School was recently found on eBay and has been donated to the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library for their Archives.

HUNTINGTON COUNTY

The letters of a World War II soldier were recently [found](#) by his son. Gerald Swank's letters, which include references to many other soldiers, are being transcribed and digitized by the Huntington City-Township Public Library and added to their [collection](#) on the Indiana Memory site.

MARION COUNTY

--An *Indianapolis Star* [article](#) details the Indianapolis burial sites for several "notable" figures, including a Civil War soldier shot by firing squad for deserting.

--See [before & after photos](#) of the previous Marion County Courthouse in Indianapolis, which was torn down in 1963.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

The South Bend Area Genealogical Society has published an [online index](#) of 1870-1950 transfer records of the Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in South Bend. This is part of the society's project to preserve the records of the church.

The South Bend Area Genealogical Society now has a Facebook [page](#).

VANDERBURGH COUNTY

An [article](#) in an Evansville newspaper has some examples of the kinds of historical records held by Vanderburgh County Clerk. Interns from the University of Evansville recently helped catalog some of the collection.

WAYNE COUNTY

--An [article](#) recounts some of the unusual news items that appeared in a Richmond newspaper in 1874.

--Two area residents have compiled a thorough history of the nearly 4,500 area soldiers who served in the Civil War. *Honor Eternal: Wayne County Men in the Civil War* by Steve Martin and Duane Reed includes some tombstone photos. It is being sold through the [Morrison-Reeves Library](#) in Richmond for \$20, with proceeds to benefit the library.

GENEALOGY ON TV

--Alex Haley's 1977 TV miniseries "Roots", about the descendants of an African-American slave, is going to be [remade](#) to incorporate more research. The new version will debut in 2016 and is set to air simultaneously on the A&E, Lifetime and History networks.

--A news [article](#) delves into the details of a slave-owning ancestor of actor Ben Affleck, who was featured on the PBS series "Finding Your Roots."

INDIANA FUNDS RILEY HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN (1921)

In March 1921, the Indiana legislature passed a law establishing the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. Named after the famous children's author who had died in 1916, the hospital was formed to treat children under the age of 16 who had a disease or physical deformity. It would have beds for 200 patients and would be under the control of Indiana University. If the parents or guardians could not afford to pay their child's hospital expenses, they could petition their county's government to pay these expenses. A hearing would be held in the county's courts.

The legislature appropriated \$125,000 to build the hospital, with an additional \$75,000 for the equipment needed, and then \$50,000 a year afterward to maintain it. The hospital opened in November 1924; the governor sent a proclamation to all the county courts reminding them to obey the law.

Source: *Indiana General Assembly, Acts of 1921, Chapter 266.*

RESEARCH TIP: INDIANA STATE DIGITAL ARCHIVES

With all the talk of building a new Indiana State Archives, it's worth remembering they also have an online portal, [Indiana State Digital Archives](#), which features several databases. It's tempting to use the search feature to search all their databases at once, but sometimes it's more helpful to search by a particular category or even a specific database. Do you know what all they have?

Court Records - this category includes a substantial database of Marion County court records and wills, as well as some court records of Posey County, plus coroner's inquest records from Vigo County.

Institution Records - this category includes correctional records, notably:

- Indiana Boys' School in Plainfield - 1867-1937
- Indiana Girls' School in Indianapolis - 1873-1935
- Indiana State Prison in Michigan City - 1858-1897 (when it was the "north" prison for prisoners from the northern half of the state) and then 1897-1966 (when it was the state's only prison)
- Indiana State Prison in Jeffersonville - 1822-1897 (begun as the state's only prison, then after 1858 it was the destination for prisoners from the southern half of the state).
- Indiana Woman's Prison in Indianapolis - 1873-1969 (before 1873, women prisoners were sent to the State Prison in Jeffersonville, or served their sentences in county jails).

Other institutions are featured, too:

- Central State Hospital for the Insane in Indianapolis - the state's first hospital for the treatment of the insane, it remained the largest even after others were built for residents of the other corners of the state.
- Indiana School for the Deaf in Indianapolis
- Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home in Knightstown - for orphans of Indiana veterans.

Military Records - this category is best-known for its vast Civil War database, but it also includes information on the Indiana Veterans' Home in Lafayette, Mexican War veterans, World War I deaths, and registrations of veterans' graves in several counties, which were compiled in the 1930's by the WPA.

LEGAL TERMS EXPLAINED: EXECUTION DOCKET

Though it may sound like it's part of a death penalty proceeding, an execution docket is actually quite different. A docket is a kind of calendar for a court, listing what cases are still ongoing (and when a case is closed or dismissed, the judge orders it to be "stricken"

from the docket). An execution is a court order commanding a sheriff to seize



a defendant's property in order to satisfy a judgment against them that was the result of a civil case or criminal case.

So an execution docket book is one that records how a judgment in a case was carried out - i.e. when and where a sheriff was ordered by the court and what property they seized.