



INDIANA - *Crossroads To Your Past!*

Indiana News - June 2015

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Welcome to the June 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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MILESTONE: 6 FOR 92 STATUS

It's always been part of our mission to add databases to our Members-Only area for all 92 of Indiana's counties. This month we reached another milestone - we now have at least 6 databases for each of the 92 counties (and some counties have a lot more than that). Scroll down to see what databases we've added recently (both free and members-only).

DISCOUNTED IGS MEMBERSHIPS

Interested in purchasing a 2015 membership? Beginning on July 1st, our 2015 memberships (which will expire on December 31, 2015) will be only \$20. Visit our [Membership](#) page on or after July 1st to get the discounted rate online or the special registration form to mail in.

INDIANA STATE ARCHIVES IN THE NEWS



JOIN OUR LIST

Received this e-mail

Photo courtesy of WTHR.com: At left are shelves containing archival

from a friend?



boxes; at right are cartons on pallets waiting to be processed (see [full-size PDF](#))

An Indianapolis news station has a [story](#) on the Indiana State Archives, which focuses on some of the records they have for murderer Charles Manson and his time at the Indiana Boys' School in the 1940's. However, the story also has several photos from inside the building, including this "behind the scenes" look at the collection.

NEW IGS DATABASES

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

[College Records:](#)

- Evansville College - graduates (1921-1922)
- Franklin College - graduates (1915)
- University of Notre Dame - students (1883)
- Wabash College - students & faculty (1923)

[County Records:](#)

- Bartholomew County - index to 1860 mortality schedule
- Clinton County - students & teachers at Frankfort High School (1920)
- Elkhart County - students & teachers at Elkhart High School (1945)
- Franklin County - students at Brookville High School (1949)
- Lawrence County - students & teachers at Bedford High School (1931)
- Spencer County - students attending Indiana State Normal School, Terre Haute (1874-1897); veterans at Indiana State Soldiers' Home, Lafayette (1902-1916)

NOT AN IGS MEMBER?

We also added some free databases:

- Hamilton County - Noblesville [business directory](#) (1930) - courtesy of Wayne Klusman
- Henry County - Millville [centennial history](#) (1854-1954) - courtesy of Wayne Klusman
- Huntington County - Roanoke [business directory](#) (1930) - courtesy of Wayne Klusman
- Rush County - Rushville [business directory](#) (1930) - courtesy of Wayne Klusman
- Statewide - [deaths](#) at Indiana School for the Feeble-Minded, Fort Wayne (1891-1917) - created in 1879 to care for children who were classified as "feeble-minded" or "idiotic", the school later expanded to admit adults.

GET INVOLVED WITH IGS

Thanks to all who have pitched in recently to help serve the Indiana Genealogical Society. We still have some ways you can get involved:

- 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).

WORLD WAR I IN THE NEWS

Many Indiana researchers are familiar with *Gold Star Honor Roll*, the 1921 book that included photos and brief biographical entries on over 3,000 Indiana soldiers (as well as nurses) who died in World War I. This book has been [digitized](#) and is available for free on Internet Archive.

But what is less widely known is that the Indiana State Archives actually has all the records that were used in the compiling of the book - 57 boxes worth, including many details that could not be included due to space constraints. A Lafayette newspaper [article](#) examines some of the State Archives' files for Tippecanoe County soldiers.

INDIANA BOYS' SCHOOL NEWSPAPER BEING DIGITIZED

Issues of the Indiana Boys' School newspaper from the 1930's and early 1940's are being [digitized](#) by the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library, with issues from 1928, 1929 and 1933 online so far. The newspaper was produced by the boys themselves and included news about the boys as well as the employees.

The Indiana Boys' School was established in Plainfield in 1867. It was part of the state's correctional system, and its purpose was to reform male juvenile offenders through education and job training. The records of the institution are held by the Indiana State Archives - see their [database](#) of inmates from 1867 through 1937.

IRELAND'S CATHOLIC PARISH RECORDS TO BE DIGITIZED

Do you have Irish ancestors? The National Library of Ireland in Dublin has [announced](#) that its registers of 1,000+ Catholic parishes - which date from the 1740's through the 1880's - are being digitized and are scheduled to be placed online beginning on July 8th. These registers hold 400,000 records of baptisms, marriages and deaths; the digital images will not include an accompanying index.

INDIANA STATE LIBRARY OFFERS RESEARCH CONSULTATIONS

The Indiana State Library is now offering one-on-one research consultations with their reference staff on the 3rd Saturday of every month from 10 to 11 am. The consultations are 30 minutes long and you must pre-register with the library (e-mail spfundstein@library.in.gov) and let them know ahead of time what kind of research questions you have.

VIRGINIA VITAL RECORDS DIGITIZED

Virginia was one of the major "feeder states" for migration to Indiana. Ancestry.com recently added a collection of 16 million [Virginia vital records](#), thanks to an agreement with the Virginia state government. State law required births, marriages and deaths to be recorded beginning in 1912; state laws say that birth records are closed to the public for 100 years, while marriage, divorce and death records are closed to the public for 25 years.

Here is what is available in Ancestry.com's collection:

- **Births 1912-2014** (digital images & index for 1912-1913; index only for 1914-2014). There are also some "delayed births" dating back to 1864, for those who needed to get a court order declaring their date of birth.
- **Marriages 1936-2014** (digital images & index for 1936-1988; index only for 1989-2014).
- **Deaths 1912-2014** (digital images & index for 1912-1987; index only for 1988-2014).
- **Divorces 1918-2014** (digital images & index for 1918-1988; index only for 1989-2014).

Ancestry has a [blog post](#) showing some examples of the records, including the fact that Social Security numbers have been removed from the death records.

MOCAVO ADDS FREE ACCESS TO U.S. CENSUS

Last month, genealogy search engine [Mocavo](#) announced they had added

the indexes and digital images of the [1790-1940 censuses](#) to their free offerings. Mocavo was purchased by Findmypast in 2014.

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.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

[Garland Brook Cemetery](#) in Columbus has created a Remembering Veterans Fund to try and raise money to [put tombstones](#) on the unmarked graves of 62 veterans who are buried there. Many of these veterans are not survived by any family members.

CLARK COUNTY

Mt. Zion Cemetery in Henryville appears to have [mistakenly buried](#) two people in the same lot - 9-year-old Vicki Waggoner was buried there in 1965, and Vietnam veteran Michael Reliford was buried in the same lot in 2011. Waggoner's family recently filed a lawsuit in Clark County court to have Reliford's remains moved from the plot.

FLOYD COUNTY

The Indiana Room of the New Albany-Floyd County Public Library recently [received a collection of items](#) relating to the 1886 murder of Charles V. Hoover by Professor Ira G. Strunk, whose wife Myra Sullivan was allegedly having an affair with Hoover. Professor Strunk was later acquitted by reason of insanity.

HOWARD COUNTY

The Howard County courthouse in Kokomo recently received a [historic preservation award](#) from Indiana Landmarks. The courthouse was built in 1937 and was added to the National Register of Historical Places in 2008.

LAKE COUNTY

National Public Radio has an [article](#) about the history of a plaque in East Chicago that commemorates the sinking of the USS Maine during the Spanish-American War.

MADISON COUNTY

The genealogy community lost a great advocate with the passing of Beth Oljace on May 21st. She worked in the Indiana Room of the Anderson Public Library and created various indexes, earning her the Andrew Carnegie Award. Donations in her memory can be made to the [Madison County Historical Society](#) or the Anderson Public Library (111 E. 12th St., Anderson, IN 46016).

PIKE COUNTY

The Pike County Historical Society in Petersburg now has a Facebook [page](#) and a [blog](#).

WAYNE COUNTY

--A Richmond newspaper [article](#) recounts some of the veterans buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Centerville, ranging from the Revolutionary War through the War in Afghanistan. Duane and Angie Reed have been identifying and photographing veterans' graves.

--A Richmond newspaper [article](#) recounts Theodore Roosevelt's multiple visits to Richmond, including in 1916 when residents only saw his shoes.

WHITE COUNTY

A Lafayette newspaper [article](#) recounts the search for the remains of Air Force veteran Dean DuVall, who went missing in Vietnam in 1966. An excavation in Laos uncovered the likely crash site in 2014, but no human remains have ever been found.

CIVIL WAR IN THE NEWS

The New England Historical Genealogical Society has a blog [post](#) about some of the research treasures that can be found in the Civil War pension files when the applicants were the parents of the dead soldier.

WORLD WAR II IN THE NEWS

Privacy issues can make it difficult to find out information on World War II veterans. Amy Johnson Crow, CG has a helpful [blog post](#) explaining the details that can be found just by understanding the components that made up the veteran's military serial number.

NATIVE AMERICAN RESEARCH HELP

FamilySearch has a [blog post](#) with links to free resources for doing research on Native American ancestors, including what tribes were actually in your ancestor's area.

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN CANNOT INHERIT (1853)

In December 1853, the Indiana Supreme Court decided on a case, *Nossaman and others vs. Nossaman*, which had been appealed from Marion County's Court of Common Pleas. The case involved the estate of John Nossaman, who had died in July 1849, and who his lawful heirs were. The Supreme Court's decision included lots of juicy genealogy

details:

- John Nossaman married Abigail Wylie in 1809 in Monroe County, Virginia. They had one son, Adam Nossaman, and later separated.
- After the separation, John lived with Rica Meadows, with their neighbors believing them to be husband and wife. They moved to Marion County, Indiana around 1831.
- John and Rica had children together, including son Wellington Nossaman and daughter Sidney Belcher. Rica died in July 1848.
- Abigail (Wylie) Nossaman died in Virginia in 1848. There was no record found of a divorce between Abigail and John.
- The Marion County Clerk found no record of a marriage between John and Rica.

In the Indiana Supreme Court decision, John and Rica's children lost in their effort to be declared as lawful heirs to his estate - the court ruled that John and Rica were not considered to be common-law married, because they knew Abigail was alive and thus were engaging in adultery.

Source: *Reports of cases argued and determined in the Supreme Court of Judicature of the State of Indiana [...] volume IV (Indianapolis: Austin H. Brown, 1854).*

RESEARCH TIP: FACTORY ACCIDENT REPORTS

In March 1897, the Indiana legislature passed a law (Acts of 1897, Chapter 65) that put limits on how many hours women and children could work in factories. This law also created a Department of Factory Inspection, whose inspectors were tasked with enforcing this law. If an employee was involved in an accident, the owner of the manufacturing business was required to submit a written report to this department within 48 hours. These accidents were then summarized in the department's annual reports (many of which are available for free online through [Google Books](#) - part of "Annual reports of the Officers of State of the State of Indiana").

The annual reports include lots of details - the employee's name and age, the date of the accident, the injuries suffered (including whether it was serious or fatal), how much wages they lost and how much (if any) of their expenses were paid by their employer. The employer is usually not named, but elsewhere in the report there is a list of all the manufacturers in each town, so you can usually narrow it down.

| Number. | Date of Injury. | Name of City or Town and Person Injured. | Age. | Cause of Injury. | Nature of Injury. | Extent of Injury | | Wages Paid During Disability. | Benefit from Employer's Account. | Burial or Medical Expenses. | By Whom Paid. | Dependent Persons. | |
|---------|-----------------|--|------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | | | | | Time Lost, in Days. | Wages Lost. | | | | | | |
| 766 | Sept. 22 | Evansville—Continued. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Gresham, John | 18 | Cut-off saw | Loss of thumb | Se. | 18 | 35 00 | | 7 50 | Co. and Ins. Co. | 1 | |
| 299 | Feb. 20 | Hodgkins, Floyd | 22 | Shaper | Finger cut off | Se. | 17 | 50 00 | | | Company | | |
| 46 | Nov. 19 | Hogg, Julius | 17 | Double saw | Thumb cut | Se. | 11 | 21 00 | | 5 00 | Company | | |
| 222 | Feb. 18 | Koep, Philip | 20 | Car repairing | Finger mangled | Se. | 22 | 22 85 | 14 00 | | Company | | |
| 881 | July 25 | McAlpin, J. C. | 63 | Cup of table | Finger crushed | Se. | 12 | 38 00 | | 4 00 | Company | 1 | |
| 774 | Sept. 25 | May, Verale | 25 | Book slipped | Wrist sprained | Se. | 28 | | | | Company | | |
| 758 | Sept. 2 | Meyer, Otto, W. | 31 | Log rolled on back | Back crushed | Se. | 12 | | | | Company | 1 | |
| 509 | May 26 | Puckett, Wm. | 15 | Zip saw | First joint of finger off | Se. | 28 | 62 00 | | 45 00 | Company | 1 | |
| 738 | Sept. 19 | Rademaker, Chas. | 33 | Cut-off saw | Thumb fingers cut | Se. | 1 | 12 15 | | 10 00 | Company | | |
| 125 | Dec. 26 | Ross, James | 33 | Wood plate fall | Toe mangled | Se. | 11 | 17 25 | | 5 00 | Company | | |
| 186 | Jan. 21 | Ross, James | 38 | Press of cast iron | Head crushed | Se. | 15 | 21 80 | | | Company | | |
| 187 | Jan. 24 | Talbot, N. A. | 42 | Fall | Elbow and hip injured | Se. | 48 | 78 92 | 10 00 | | Company | | |
| 109 | Dec. 9 | Terry, Fred | 23 | Fall | Two ribs fractured | Se. | 3 | 16 98 | 5 00 | | Self | | |
| 332 | Mar. 22 | Winds, John | 63 | Piece from stay bolt | Head cut | Se. | 9 | 10 57 | 5 00 | | Company | | |
| 119 | Dec. 18 | Wintroy, Fortier | 47 | Car wheels fall | Leg sprained | Se. | 6 | 6 00 | | 35 00 | Ins. & Self | | |
| 376 | Apr. 5 | Tabor, William | 16 | Straw conveyor | Crushed | F. | | | | 50 10 | Employer | | |
| | | Fairmount. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 194 | Jan. 34 | Roe, Lawson | 27 | Engine | Thumb off and fingers crushed | Se. | 33 | 47 25 | 16 50 | | 40 00 | Employer | |
| | | Fontanet. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 532 | May 27 | Arthur, Frank | 38 | Powder explosion | Burned | F. | | | | 200 00 | Company | 3 | |
| 531 | May 27 | Riddle, Caleb | 40 | Powder explosion | Burned | F. | | | | 200 00 | Company | | |
| 534 | May 27 | Sault, Edward | 40 | Powder explosion | Burned | F. | | | | 200 00 | Company | | |
| 533 | May 27 | Stimson, Harry | 47 | Powder explosion | Burned | F. | | | | 200 00 | Company | 1 | |
| | | Fort Wayne. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 509 | June 17 | Barile, Frank | 35 | Fell on cartage | Knee on fractured | Se. | 65 | 95 00 | | 72 00 | | | |

Part of the 1903 annual report of the Department of Factory Inspection (see [full-size PDF](#))

And while you may think that it was only the bigger cities that had factories, a look at the 1903 annual report (see example above) shows that while many accidents were being reported from employers in large cities like Evansville and Fort Wayne, they were also coming from the smaller towns of Fairmount (Grant County) and Fontanet (Vigo County). They show that sometimes the employees were teenagers, like 15-year-old William Puckett in Evansville who had part of his finger cut off by a saw and missed 28 days of work as a result, or 16-year-old Carl Wilson, who was crushed to death by a straw conveyor.

These annual reports also give you a hint of what you might expect to find if you search area newspapers, such as the powder explosion in Fontanet on May 27, 1903 that killed four men and resulted in the company paying \$200 each for their burial expenses.

LEGAL TERMS EXPLAINED: GRASS WIDOW

Have you ever seen a female ancestor described as being a "grass widow", or a "widow of the grass"? It actually dates back to medieval times - back then it referred to a woman who had an illegitimate child; by the 1800's the connotation was less negative, either denoting someone whose husband had deserted or divorced her OR someone whose husband was away from home a lot because of his job.



The Oxford University Press blog has a [post](#) from 2009 explaining some of the origins of this phrase and dispelling some of the myths.