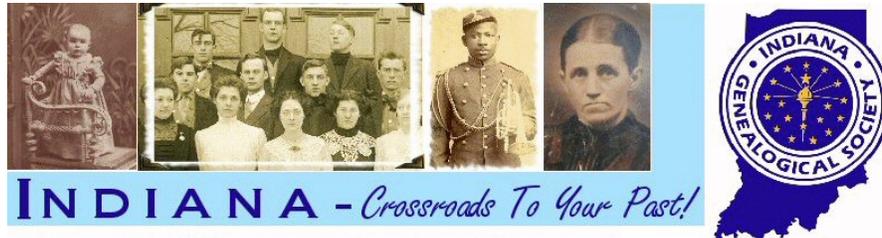


Indiana is at the crossroads to your genealogy past.



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Indiana News - September 2015

Welcome to the September 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.

In this issue, we've got news about Indianapolis and Vincennes resources to be digitized, a behind-the-scenes video tour of the Indiana State Archives, an explanation of the brief life of the Court of Common Pleas, and more.

Videos show storage at Indiana State Archives

WISH-TV personality Dick Wolfsie was recently given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Indiana State Archives in Indianapolis. There are actually 2 video clips on the news site (to see the second one, you must scroll down to the bottom of the page). The first video shows their collection of early gubernatorial papers, as well as a glimpse of Harrison County tax duplicates and Marion County deed books on the shelves. The second video shows the "temporary storage" area of the archives, including pallets of records waiting to be processed (pictured above).



[Watch the 2 videos on WISH-TV](#)

Early Vincennes records to be digitized

Vincennes University recently received a grant of almost \$10,000 from the Indiana State Library to digitize some early Knox County records and place them online for free viewing in the [Wabash Valley Visions and Voices](#) section of the [Indiana Memory](#) site. The project will include tax records for 1814-1823 and the records of the Knox County commissioners.



You may not think you have a connection to Knox County, but if your ancestors trace back to pre-statehood (1816), you will want to explore Knox County records - Vincennes was the center of Indiana Territory and Knox County was the county from which Indiana counties were subsequently formed.

The Knox County Public Library has a digitized collection, [Early Vincennes, 1732-1835](#), which includes court records.

[Read the press release from Vincennes University](#)

Ancestry.com to digitize Indianapolis newspaper



Ancestry.com recently announced a partnership with Gannett Co., whereby it will digitize 80 daily newspapers that belong to the Gannett publishing family. This will include the *Indianapolis Star*. When completed, these digitized issues should total 100 million pages, and will be made available via subscription to Newspapers.com, which is owned by Ancestry. Of significance is the date range of these issues that will be digitized - from the beginning of each newspaper's run up until 30 days ago.

[Read the press release \(via Eastman's newsletter\)](#)

Updates coming to Allen Co. Library

If you visit The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne this fall, you may notice some changes. That's because the space will be undergoing some construction beginning in November, to better reflect the needs of today's genealogists. Part of the area that had been used for microfilm readers will be re-purposed as an orientation area, and there will also be a dedicated area created for recording oral history interviews.



[Read the details from a Fort Wayne newspaper](#)

Ancestry.com adds Wills & Probate Records database

Those with a personal subscription to Ancestry.com, or free access through their local library, will want to investigate their new database, U.S. Wills and Probate Records, 1668-2005. It includes digitized court records from all 50 states, with varying years of coverage for each county. For Indiana, the database covers 1798-1999.

Thanks to Ancestry's partnership with FamilySearch, this database includes digital images of FamilySearch's large microfilm collection of will books, probate order books, fee books, docket books, estate inventories, etc.

NOTE: We've noticed Ancestry's index doesn't appear to be complete, so don't forget to also browse the digital images for the county you're interested in (pictured: a list of some of the record books that are included for Marion County).

Probate records - which include estates and guardianships - can provide the richest of details into the daily lives of our ancestors, as well as identify family relationships.

[Read the full press release \(via Dick Eastman's newsletter\)](#)

Browse this collection

To browse this image set, select from the options below.

County

Marion

Notes

- General Index, 1847-1931
- Guardian Docket, 1847-1882
- Guardian Docket, 1873-1886
- Guardian Docket, 1895-1909
- Guardian Docket, 1902-1922
- Guardian Docket, 1912-1931
- Guardian Docket, 1917-1926
- Inventory Record, Vol 1, 1875-1877
- Inventory Record, Vol 10, 1883-1888

County Roundup

Here are some genealogy-related 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.



EASTERN INDIANA

Do your genealogy interests involve Delaware, Hancock, Henry, Madison or Randolph counties? Amanda Clark is organizing a new group, the Blue River Valley Genealogy Society. An organizational meeting was recently held at the Madison County Historical Society in Anderson. For more information, contact her - e-mail BRVGS@att.net; phone (765) 520-8935. There is a website - www.brvg.info - which will be updated.

HENRY COUNTY

The second of 2 teenagers charged with committing over \$20,000 of vandalism to the Lewisville Cemetery in July 2014 has reached a [plea deal](#), according to a Muncie newspaper. Under the plea deal, the felony charge will be reduced to a misdemeanor. The other teenager that had been charged in the case had already been placed on probation and ordered to pay restitution to the cemetery and perform community service. 27 tombstones were damaged from the vandalism; the cemetery dates back to 1837 and includes Revolutionary War veterans.

MONROE COUNTY

Archives staff at Indiana University recently [posted](#) on their blog about their remarkable efforts to uncover the identity of "Miss Carrie," the first African-American student at IU, who enrolled in 1898. They were able to identify her as Carrie Parker, and even located her 99-year-old son.

PORTER COUNTY

2 cemeteries maintained by the city of Valparaiso got some much needed repairs this month. The city had authorized up to \$30,000 for repairs to 80 tombstones at Union Street Cemetery and 90 tombstones at Maplewood Cemetery (on South Sturdy Road). These tombstones - many of which date back to the 1800's - were leaning severely from the freezing and thawing of the ground over the years. A monument company came in and reset the bases of the tombstones with concrete, so they will last for many years to come (pictured above).

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

The Tippecanoe County Public Library in Lafayette recently [opened](#) a Family Memory Center, which will allow the public to digitize their family photos, slides and documents for free. There is even equipment to convert videotapes to digital media. And beginning in November, the public will be able to use the center to record oral histories, as audio equipment will be added. The center was created courtesy of a \$50,000 gift from the library's Friends organization.

WAYNE COUNTY

A Richmond newspaper details (in [part 1](#) and [part 2](#)) what some soldiers in Company B of the 19th Indiana Infantry lived through in September 1862.

FOUND: Photo of Terre Haute man (1900's)

Shelley Cardiel (cardiels@comcast.net) has found this photo, identified as being Donald THURMAN, which was taken at the H.T. Biel Studio in Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana. The photo appears to have been taken in the early 1900's, with Donald perhaps in his 20's at the time it was taken.



Through limited research, he was found in the 1900 census for Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana, at St. Anthony's Hospital. He's listed as being born February 1884 in Illinois, with his father born in Illinois and his mother born in Ohio. He's listed as an inmate at the hospital, yet he's also listed as attending school for 6 months out of the year.

This appears to be the same person as Joel Donald Thurman (born 2 February 1884 in Bismark, Vermilion County, Illinois; died 12 February 1944 in El Paso, El Paso County, Texas). His Social Security application gives his parents as Allen G. Thurman and Olissa A. Peters. He worked for the railroad and by the 1910 census he had married Ellen ? and moved to Argenta, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

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

[Download a full-size PDF of this photo](#)

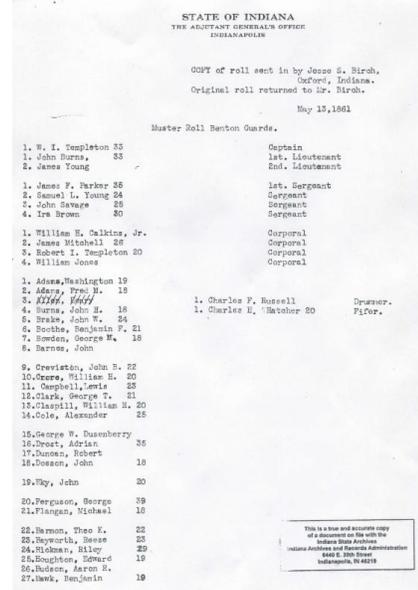
New IGS databases

Here are some of the databases for IGS members that

we've added in the past month, including rosters of several Indiana Legion units, which were formed to protect the state's borders during the Civil War:

[County Records](#)

- Benton County - roster of Benton Guards (1861).
- Delaware County - roster of Liberty Rangers (1861).
- Gibson County - roster of Oakland Rangers (1861).
- Knox County - index of 1860 mortality schedule.
- LaGrange County - centennial history of the town of LaGrange (1828-1928). Contains information on early residents & businesses.
- Monroe County - Bloomington High School students & teachers (1912); landowners (1856); residents of Monroe County Poor Asylum (1918-1920).
- Orange County - guardianship records (1848-1852).
- Pike County - property owners (1877).
- Ripley County - residents (1888).
- Union County - roster of Morton Scouts Cavalry (1863).
- Vermillion County - index of 1860 mortality schedule.
- Vigo County - roster of Terre Haute Guards (1863).
- Warren County - index of 1860 mortality schedule; history of churches (1827-1927).
- White County - roster of Monticello Rifles (1861).



[Military Records](#)

- Civil War - burials of Indiana veterans (1861-1904). Includes information on 17,500 veterans who either served in an Indiana regiment or were buried in an Indiana cemetery.

Not an IGS member? We also added a FREE database:

- Orange County - [will index \(1852-1892\)](#).

FOUND: Photo of Sullivan Co. woman (1890's)

Shelley Cardiel (cardiels@comcast.net) has found this photo, identified as being Abbie RICHEY, which was taken at the I.N. Cashner Studio in Sullivan, Sullivan County, Indiana. The photo appears to have been taken in the 1880's or 1890's, with Abbie perhaps in her 20's at the time it was taken.



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

[Download a full-size PDF of this photo](#)

FOUND: Photo of Sullivan Co. man (1900's)

Shelley Cardiel (cardiels@comcast.net) has found this photo, identified as being Fred Phillips of Farmersburg, Sullivan County, Indiana, which was taken at the I.N. Cashner Studio in Sullivan, Sullivan County, Indiana. The photo appears to have been taken in the early 1900's, with Fred perhaps in his teens at the time it was taken.

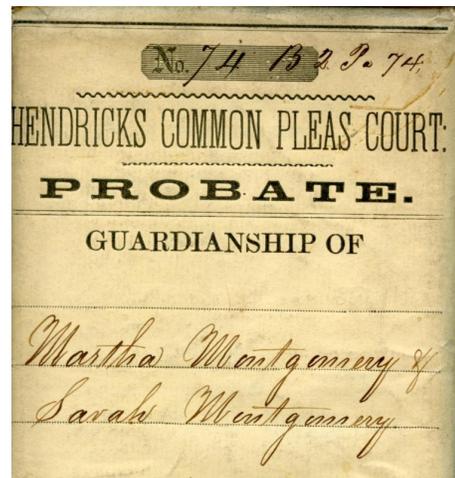


If you are a descendant of this family, or you know someone who might be, please contact her.

[Download a full-size PDF of this photo](#)

Research Tip: Court of Common Pleas

Today each Indiana county has multiple courts - typically one circuit court plus at least one superior court (and depending on how big the county's population/caseload is, they may have several superior courts). But back in the 1800's, most counties in Indiana only had the one circuit court to handle all their cases - civil, criminal and probate.



So in 1852 the Indiana legislature reached back into English law and passed a law creating a Court of Common Pleas in each county, which would take effect in January 1853. These courts - which would exist simultaneously with each county's circuit court - would be in session 4 times a year, with the length of each session based on the county's population.

In an effort to ease the burden on the circuit courts, these courts of common pleas would now be the only court to hear probate cases, as well as criminal cases that were not felonies (felonies were restricted to the circuit courts). But for most other kinds of civil cases, the courts of common pleas and circuit courts were given concurrent jurisdiction - meaning those cases could be heard in either court, with the clerk responsible for trying to keep the 2 caseloads roughly equal. The creation of another court meant that the county clerk had to keep a separate set of order books, docket books, fee books and loose papers for the Court of Common Pleas, in addition to the set of records that had already been established for the Circuit Court.

This court experiment only lasted 20 years - in March 1873, the Indiana legislature repealed its law, thus abolishing the Court of Common Pleas. It allowed any session that was currently underway to be completed, then the clerk was to transfer all the remaining cases to the Circuit Court. But the Court of Common Pleas set of records remained separate. So if you are researching court records from that period, you'll want to check the records from BOTH courts. In the 1980's, many Indiana counties had their early order books from both the circuit court and court of common pleas microfilmed - this microfilm is available at the Indiana State Library and can also be ordered through FamilySearch.

NOTE: 1853 is recognized as the beginning of the era of the Court of Common Pleas in Indiana; however, before 1853, there were a few counties where the legislature had already recognized the demand and created their own Court of Common Pleas - they were:

- Jefferson County (Madison) - established February 1851
- Marion County (Indianapolis) - established January 1849
- Tippecanoe County (Lafayette) - established January 1848

State & federal soldiers homes

If your ancestor served in the military, they may have spent some time in a soldiers home. These institutions were built after the Civil War by the federal government as well as by various state governments to care for ailing veterans. In Indiana, there was a national soldiers home in Marion, Grant County (today a hospital that is part of the Veterans Administration), and the state government built a state soldiers home in Lafayette, Tippecanoe County (pictured at right - today known as the Indiana Veterans' Home).



Amy Johnson Crow, CG has written some helpful articles about the records of [national homes](#) as well as [state soldiers homes](#).

For IGS members:

- Login to the [IGS Records](#) section of our Members-Only area to download the June 2014 issue of *Indiana Genealogist*, which includes an article by Meredith Thompson about Indiana's state and federal soldiers homes.
- Login to the [Military Records](#) section of our Members-Only area to view several databases about veterans who were living at the Indiana State Soldiers Home.

Legal terms explained: Replevin

Our August 2015 [issue](#) explained *trover*, where you sue someone to recover the monetary value of an item that they have taken from you. *Replevin* is a related legal term - only instead of suing to recover the monetary value of an item, you're suing to get back possession of the actual item. NOTE: *replevy* is the act of recovering the item through this legal process, but at one time it also meant when you bailed someone out of jail.



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