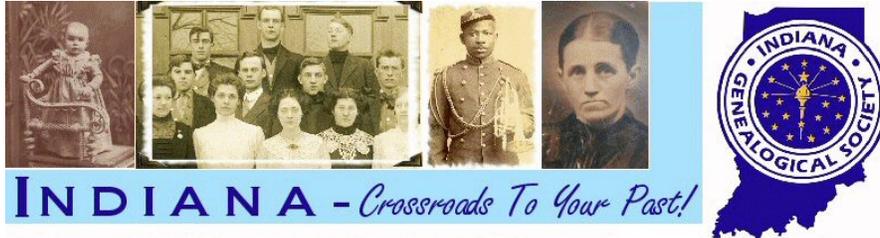INDIANA - *Crossroads To Your Past!*

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Indiana News - November 2015

Welcome to the November 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 of a change to our membership structure, $1,000 genealogy grants available, and an explanation of the superior courts in Indiana counties.

IGS members approve bylaws proposals

Results of the voting for the proposed changes to the IGS bylaws were announced at the October 31 board meeting. All 4 proposals were approved by more than the necessary 2/3 margin.

Two of the proposals - concerning the switch from a calendar-year membership to a 12-month membership and the elimination of joint memberships - require changes to be made to the Standing Rules before they can go into effect. These proposed changes to the Standing Rules will be voted on at the January 30, 2016 board meeting (weather permitting). If the board votes to approve them, the membership changes will then be put into effect in February 2016.

Memberships renewed before February 2016 will still be subject to the calendar-year provision (meaning they will expire on December 31, 2016). Members whose memberships are expiring at the end of 2015 will be receiving an e-mail renewal reminder in the next few days.

IGS members can read more about the voting results in the December 2015 issue of the *IGS Newsletter*.

Purchase an IGS Extended Membership

Not a member of the Indiana Genealogical Society in 2015? Until December 31st, you can purchase an extended membership at the regular price ($30 for individuals, $35 for joint membership). This membership will be activated within 72 hours of receipt and will not expire until December 31, 2016.

Visit the Membership page

New IGS databases

1,650 databases and counting! Here are all the databases for IGS members that we've added since last month:

College Records

- Huntington College - students & faculty (1922).
- Manchester College - students (1914-1922)
- Moores Hill College - students (1871-1884).
- University of Indianapolis - students of Indiana Central University (1913-1917).
- University of Evansville - students of Evansville College (1920-1922).

County Records

- Boone County - alumni of Zionsville High School (1888-1937).
- DeKalb County - students & teachers at Auburn High School (1930).
- Jasper County - students at Fair Oaks School (1884).
- LaGrange County - index to 1870 mortality schedule.
- Owen County - index to insanity records (1881-1899).
- Perry County - index to 1870 mortality schedule.
- Porter County - students at Valparaiso High School (1921).
- Steuben County - index to 1870 mortality schedule.
- Wayne County - students at Hagerstown High School (1921).

Statewide Records

- Indiana School for the Blind - students (1847-1891).

Not an IGS member? We also added some **FREE** databases:

- Hancock County - **students** and **teachers** in grades 1 through 12 at Charlottesville schools (1953). Courtesy of Wayne Klusman.
- Henry County - **directory of residents** (1962). Courtesy of Wayne Klusman.
- Owen County - **index to wills** (1823-1933). Courtesy of Randi Richardson.

Apply for a $1,000 IGS Grant

Indiana non-profit organizations are encouraged to apply to IGS for a
$1,000 grant to help fund their genealogy-related projects.

Organizations can apply in the categories of cemetery restoration or resource development - you are welcome to apply in more than one category or for more than one project. And for organizations that are an IGS Chapter, they can also apply in the Chapter Resource category.

Applications must be received by **December 31, 2015** to be considered - visit our **Grants** page to download the application form and to see a list of previous winners.

Hancock County Genealogist Appointed

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Paul McNeil of Greenfield as the Indiana County Genealogist for Hancock County.

Paul was appointed by the IGS board at the October 31 meeting. He is in charge of the Indiana/Hancock History Room at the Hancock County Public Library in Greenfield. He received his Masters of Library Science from Indiana University, specializing in archives and records management. He also holds a B.A. in History from Ball State University.

This past April, Paul received an IGS Library Staff Educational Scholarship, which enabled him to attend a Genealogy Library Services course through the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also the project director for a digitization grant at his library, in which a number of their microfilmed newspapers will be digitized and added to the Hoosier State Chronicles website run by the Indiana State Library.

If you have any questions about Hancock County research, please contact Paul at **pmcneil@hcplibrary.org**

Nominate a genealogist for an IGS Award

We all know someone who's deserving of recognition and praise for their genealogy work. Now you can ensure they receive the credit they're due, by nominating them for one of our service awards. We have awards to honor IGS members and non-members alike. They will be recognized at our annual conference in April 2016, which will be held at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne.
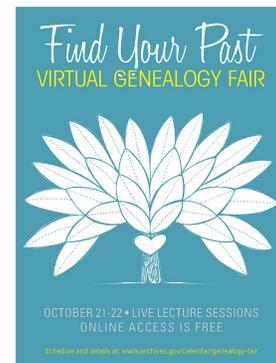
Nominations must be received by **January 15, 2016** to be considered - visit our **Service Awards** page to download the nomination form and to see a list of previous winners.

National Archives' Webinar Available

If you missed out on the live sessions of the National Archives' "Virtual Genealogy Fair" that were held on October 21-22, they have now made them available via YouTube. Links to the YouTube videos, as well as the handouts for each session, are available on their **Virtual Genealogy Fair page**.

County Roundup

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

DELAWARE COUNTY
The **Delaware County Historical Society** in Muncie recently received a grant from the George and Frances Ball Foundation, which will enable them to hire an executive director and expand their outreach. The society previously was run entirely by volunteers.

GIBSON COUNTY
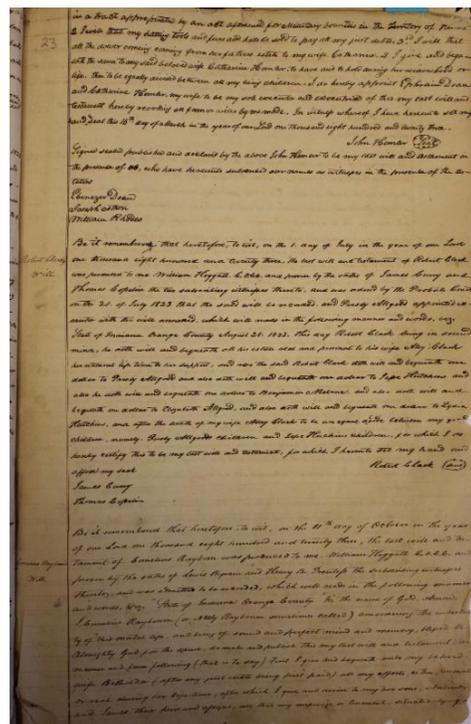Artifacts from Lyles Station, the community that was founded in the 1840's by freed African-American slaves, will be on **display** in Washington, DC in 2016. The Smithsonian Institution is opening a new museum, the National Museum of African American History and Culture, and it will include some photos, farming tools and quilt loaned by Lyles Station as examples of pioneer living.

A sample image from the Orange County will book.

ORANGE COUNTY
In our County Records section we have a free **database** of Orange County will records from 1816 through 1852, which was contributed by Randi Richardson. Recently we added digital images from the original will book, which is in a fragile condition. These images are also courtesy of Randi, who shared copies with the Orange County Clerk.

STEUBEN COUNTY
Issues of two Angola newspaper*s* have been digitized and are now available to those with a subscription to Newspapers.com. Issues of *The Steuben Republican* from 1860 to 1964, and *The Angola Herald* from 1910 to 1963, were digitized thanks to a partnership between Ancestry.com and the Indiana State Library's Hoosier State Chronicles program. NOTE: Indiana residents can access these newspapers for free - go to the INSPIRE site (**http://inspire.in.gov**) and underneath the Hoosier State Chronicles icon, click on the link that says "Search additional Indiana newspapers in Newspapers.com".

WAYNE COUNTY

A Richmond newspaper has an **article** about what was making headlines in their town back in November 1887, including some young criminals.

Legal terms explained: Executor de son tort

In probate records, an executor is the person named in the will of the deceased to carry out their wishes. If there is no will, the court will appoint someone as administrator of the estate, to pay off any debts and then distribute any assets to their legal heirs.

However, sometimes someone will take it upon themselves to distribute the deceased's property, without ever having been appointed administrator or named executor in their will. This person is known in legal terms as an executor "de son tort" - a French phrase that translates as "of his own wrong".

Research Tip: Superior Courts

When researching court records, it's important to know the structure of the courts, so you can check every available resource for the time period you're interested in. In Indiana, the Circuit Court is the main court in most counties, but our **September 2015** issue explained about the brief existence of the Court of Common Pleas, and our **October 2015** issue talked about the era of Criminal Circuit Courts.

Superior Courts are a "newer" addition to the court structure in Indiana, established as a way to take some of the case loads from the circuit courts. Despite the connotation of the word "superior," these courts were actually given the same jurisdiction as the circuit courts. That means for almost any kind of case - from a criminal case to a divorce case - you would need to check the records of both the circuit court and the superior court for that time period.

In the 1800's, a few of the most populous counties established a superior court, including Marion County (Indianapolis) in 1871, Tippecanoe County (Lafayette) in 1875, Allen County (Fort Wayne), Vanderburgh County (Evansville) in 1877 and Vigo County (Terre Haute) in 1881. Through the 1900's, smaller counties began to add them as well. As of 2015, there are only 16 of Indiana's 92 counties that DON'T have a Superior Court - Benton, Brown, Crawford, Fountain, Franklin, Martin, Owen, Parke, Perry, Pike, Spencer, Starke, Tipton, Union, Vermillion and Warren counties.

Here are all 76 of the counties that have a superior court and when each was created:

- Adams County - January 1985
- Allen County - August 1877
- Bartholomew County - March 1955
- Blackford County - July 2000
- Boone County - January 1967

- Carroll County - July 1988
- Cass County - existed from March 1877 until April 1881; re-established in July 1977
- Clark County - July 1981
- Clay County - January 1982
- Clinton County - July 1990
- Daviess County - January 1988
- Dearborn County - July 2000
- Decatur County - July 1992
- DeKalb County - July 1977
- Delaware County - March 1909 (from 1909-1929, it existed only as a merged court with Grant County)
- Dubois County - July 1980
- Elkhart County - January 1907
- Fayette County - January 1987
- Floyd County - January 1978
- Fulton County - July 1993
- Gibson County - January 1985
- Grant County - February 1897 (from 1909-1929, it existed only as a merged court with Delaware County)
- Greene County - January 1989
- Hamilton County - January 1965
- Hancock County - September 1965
- Harrison County - July 1992
- Hendricks County - August 1963
- Henry County - September 1965
- Howard County - existed from February 1897 until March 1909; re-established in April 1953
- Huntington County - July 1988
- Jackson County - January 1988
- Jasper County - July 1981
- Jay County - January 1988
- Jefferson County - July 1992
- Jennings County - January 1997
- Johnson County - January 1961
- Knox County - February 1925
- Kosciusko County - March 1969
- LaGrange County - January 1988
- Lake County - March 1895 (from March 1895 through March 1907, it existed only as a merged court with LaPorte and Porter counties)
- LaPorte County - March 1895 (from March 1895 through March 1907, it existed only as a merged court with Lake and Porter counties; from March 1907 through February 1931, it existed only as a merged court with Porter County)
- Lawrence County - January 1974
- Madison County - February 1895
- Marion County - February 1871
- Marshall County - April 1973
- Miami County - July 1977
- Monroe County - March 1965
- Montgomery County - January 1991
- Morgan County - April 1961
- Newton County - July 1980

- Noble County - January 1982
- Ohio County - July 1981 (it exists only as a merged court with Switzerland County)
- Orange County - July 2000
- Porter County - March 1895 (from March 1895 through March 1907, it existed only as a merged court with Lake and LaPorte counties; from March 1907 through February 1931, it existed only as a merged court with LaPorte County)
- Posey County - July 1995
- Pulaski County - July 1993
- Putnam County - July 1996
- Randolph County - January 1988
- Ripley County - July 1995
- Rush County - July 2000
- Scott County - July 1992
- Shelby County - existed from March 1911 until January 1913; re-established in July 1961
- Steuben County - July 1986
- St. Joseph County - January 1907
- Sullivan County - January 1989
- Switzerland County - July 1981 (it exists as a merged court with Ohio County)
- Tippecanoe County - August 1875
- Vanderburgh County - March 1877
- Vigo County - April 1881
- Wabash County - July 1995
- Warrick County - January 1977
- Washington County - July 1986
- Wayne County - existed from March 1877 until February 1879; re-established in January 1952
- Wells County - July 1986
- White County - July 1984
- Whitley County - January 1985

STAY CONNECTED: