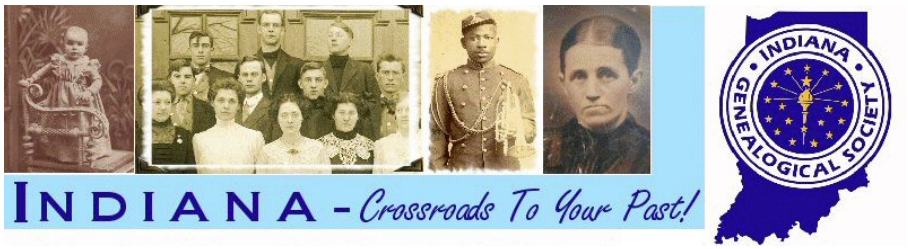
Indiana is at the crossroads to your genealogy past.



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Indiana News - January 2016

Welcome to the January 2016 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, learn about Indiana marriage indexes being added to Ancestry.com, what is an emancipated minor, and where to find out if your Indiana ancestor applied for a Revolutionary War pension.

Update: Access to Indiana adoption records

In our **December 2015** issue, we told you of a lobbying effort in the Indiana legislature to allow adoptees from 1941 to 1993 to get access to their own adoption records, including their original birth certificates. A bill was considered during last year's legislative session, and has been revived for this year's session. Senate Bill 91 recently **passed** the Senate by a vote of 43-5, and now moves to the House for consideration.

Ancestry.com adds Indiana marriage indexes

As part of a partnership agreement with the state of Indiana, Ancestry.com recently added some marriage databases that were originally compiled by entities of Indiana government. These databases are still available for free on the State of Indiana's website.

--Indiana marriage index 1993-2015 (contains 1.8 million entries):

- Ancestry.com **database** [subscription required]
- Indiana Supreme Court **database** [FREE]

--Indiana marriage index 1806-1861 (contains 317,000 entries, mostly before 1850):

- Ancestry.com **database** [subscription required]
- Indiana State Library **database** [FREE]

NOTE: As of this writing, the Indiana State Library's Indiana marriage index **1958-2012** has not been added to Ancestry.com.

New IGS databases

1,695 databases and counting! Here are all the databases for IGS members that we've added since last month:

College Records

- Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis - Nursing School graduates (1910-1968).

County Records

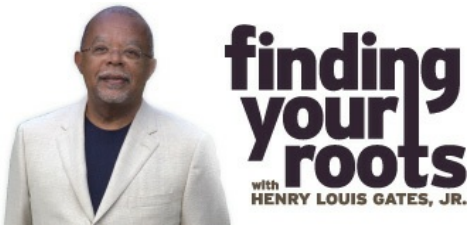
- Benton County - index to 1870 mortality schedule.
- Carroll County - students & teachers at Delphi High School (1935); alumni of Delphi High School (1933-1934).
- Huntington County - students & teachers (1928).
- Porter County - students at Valparaiso High School (1920).
- Starke County - students & teachers at Hamlet High School (1948).

Military Records

- Revolutionary War - veterans living in Indiana who received pensions (1818).

New episodes of "Finding Your Roots" available online

Episodes from the new season of "Finding Your Roots" on PBS are now available **online** at the PBS website for free streaming. Season 3 airs on Tuesdays at 8 pm from January 19 through February 23, 2016.



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.

ALLEN COUNTY

Thanks to the research **efforts** of genealogy staff at the Allen County Public Library, the county coroner was

able to track down family members of James Beavers, a Vietnam veteran who had died recently without any known next-of-kin.

CLARK COUNTY
Eastern Cemetery in Jeffersonville is **struggling** to keep up with all its responsibilities, because of the lack of people willing to serve on its board. The cemetery has over 10,000 burials.

Examples of some of the early Vanderburgh County court records that were recently discovered. (photo courtesy WEHT)

FLOYD COUNTY
Two Greenville cemeteries - Buttontown Cemetery and Green Lawn Cemetery - were **vandalized** in December. Several headstones were toppled at each cemetery.

LAKE COUNTY
Hoosier State Chronicles - the Indiana State Library's free website of digitized Indiana newspapers - has added 774 issues of the *Lake County Times* (aka the *Hammond Times*) from 1920 through 1922. In the future, they plan to add more issues of it, going back to 1906.

LAWRENCE COUNTY
Hoosier State Chronicles - the Indiana State Library's free website of digitized Indiana newspapers - has added issues from the *Bedford Independent* that span 1856 through 1857.

MONROE COUNTY
Hoosier State Chronicles - the Indiana State Library's free website of digitized Indiana newspapers - has added issues of various Bloomington newspapers:

- *Bloomington Courier* - 1881 through 1895
- *Bloomington Daily Telephone* - 1932
- Bloomington *Hawkeye* - 1881
- *Bloomington Post* - 1835-1839
- *Bloomington Progress* - 1869-1900 (aka *Republican Progress*)
- *Bloomington Republican* - 1827
- *Bloomington Telephone* - 1879 through 1893

They've also added some Smithville newspapers, including the *Smithville News* from 1908 through 1914.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
Hoosier State Chronicles - the Indiana State Library's free website of digitized Indiana newspapers - has added issues from the *New Richmond Record* that span from 1900 through 1915.

STEUBEN COUNTY
Hoosier State Chronicles - the Indiana State Library's free website of digitized Indiana newspapers - has added scattered issues from the *Orland Echo* (1891) and *Orland Zenith* (spanning 1900 through 1923).

SULLIVAN COUNTY
--Center Ridge Cemetery in Sullivan **received** a $1,500 grant from Indiana Landmarks in

December. The grant will help the cemetery in its application to be added to the National Register of Historic Places. The cemetery contains 25,000 burials.
--**Hoosier State Chronicles** - the Indiana State Library's free website of digitized Indiana newspapers - has added issues from the *Sullivan Daily Times* that span 1945 through 1949.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY
An **article** in the *Lafayette Journal & Courier* discusses the charitable efforts of John Purdue, well before he founded Purdue University in 1869.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY
In December, while searching through storage offsite, staff from the Vanderburgh County Clerk's office **discovered** some courthouse records dating back to the formation of the county in 1818. The records include some land sales and election records. The Vanderburgh County Historical Society has donated money to help with the preservation of these records.

WAYNE COUNTY
An **article** in Richmond's *Palladium-Item* discusses the contents of an 1863 letter from someone in the 69th Indiana Infantry, which was formed in Richmond.

Legal terms explained: Emancipated minor

The age at which a minor (a child) legally becomes an adult in the eyes of the law may vary from state to state - it's often 18, but certain activities (such as signing a mortgage) may require court approval until they reach 21.

The term "emancipated minor" has different connotations:

- A child under 18 can petition the court to have themselves declared emancipated from their parents - meaning they would be responsible for themselves and able to make their own decisions without parental interference.
- A parent - particularly one who is involved in a divorce case - can petition the court to stop paying child support, arguing that their under-18 child now has their own income from a job or may have recently gotten married.

Research Tip: Revolutionary War pension applications

When you are researching an Indiana ancestor, you may not think of the Revolutionary War - the Northwest Territory which Indiana would be formed from was not even created until 1787, some 4 years after the end of the Revolutionary War, and no battles were fought in the area. But that doesn't mean that those who settled Indiana were not Revolutionary War veterans. And as with the Civil War, whether the application was approved or not, there can be lots of details and genealogy proof provided in the application file.

Beginning with the Continental Congress during the war, a series of laws were passed concerning who was eligible to apply for a military pension for their Revolutionary War service:

- **August 26, 1776** - half pay for life for officers and enlisted men who were disabled.
- **May 15, 1778** - half pay for 7 years for officers who were in service at the end of the war (enlisted men who were in service at the end of the war got a $80 bonus instead of a pension). This law was amended on October 21, 1780 to half pay for life, but was amended again on March 22, 1783 to full pay for 5 years.
- **August 27, 1780** - half pay for 7 years to widows & orphans of officers who were in service at the end of the war.
- **April 10, 1806** - existing laws were extended to include veterans of state units and militia service.
- **March 18, 1818** - pension for life if you had served for at least 9 months, or had been in service at the end of the war. NOTE: This marked the first time that eligibility was expanded to include those who had suffered no disability or death, and it resulted in a large number of pension applications.
- **May 15, 1828** - full pay for life to officers and enlisted men who had served until the end of the war.
- **June 7, 1832** - full pay for life to officers & enlisted men who had served at least 2 years. If you had served between 6 months and 2 years, you would get less than full pay. Also, any last payment that was due to the pensioner at the time of their death could be collected by his widow or orphans. NOTE: This produced the most pension applications out of all the laws.
- **July 4, 1836** - using the eligibility of the 1832 law, a widow who had married the veteran before the end of his service could now apply to receive all of his pension.
- **July 7, 1838** - if a widow had married the veteran before January 1, 1794, they could receive a pension for 5 years.
- **July 29, 1848** - full pension for life for a widow if they were married before January 2, 1800.
- **February 3, 1853 & February 28, 1855** - all restrictions on marriage dates were removed for widows.
- **March 9, 1878** - widows of soldiers who had served a minimum of 14 days, or been involved in any engagement, were eligible for life pensions. NOTE: This law was passed over 100 years after the beginning of the Revolutionary War; as such, it pertained mostly to younger women who had married much older veterans.

The Revolutionary War pension application files have been microfilmed by the National Archives. Their microfilm series M804 totals 2,680 reels. This microfilm has been digitized by Ancestry.com and is available to subscribers in their database, **U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900**. The digital images are also available to subscribers of Fold3.com. And if you're visiting southern Indiana, the New Albany-Floyd County Public Library has all 2,680 reels for in-person visits.

For IGS members: The **Military Records** section of the IGS Members-Only area includes databases about Indiana residents who received pensions in 1818, 1828 and 1835, as well as those who were denied pensions in 1839.