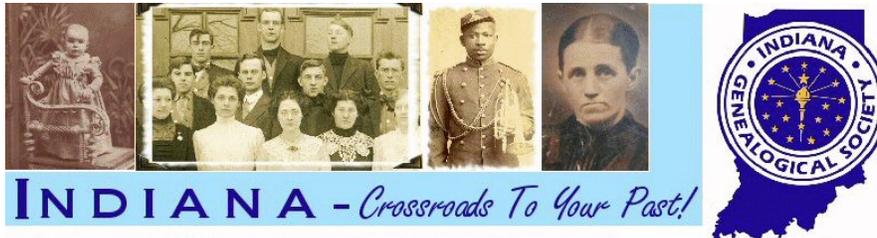


Indiana is at the crossroads to your genealogy past.



Visit Our Website

Indiana News - February 2016

Welcome to the February 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, read all about our April 16 conference in Fort Wayne, including how you can register. There's also information about another passing in the Indiana genealogy world, some Indiana Methodist Church records being added to Ancestry.com, and an explanation of the George Rogers Clark land grant in Indiana.

Registration open for IGS Conference in Fort Wayne



Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG

Registration is open for the Indiana Genealogical Society's annual [conference](#) on **Saturday, April 16** at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne.

We're fortunate to have not one but two featured speakers - professional researcher [Jeanne Larzalere Bloom, CG](#) and [Jen](#)

[Baldwin](#) of findmypast - presenting sessions on how to research women, do research in urban areas, and effectively use social media, among others. Read the [description](#) of all of the conference sessions. Baldwin's sessions are being sponsored by the Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana and the Doug and Joni Lehman Charitable Foundation.



Jen Baldwin

Registration for the conference is \$45, with Indiana Genealogical Society members receiving a \$10 discount if they register before **April 4, 2016**. For online registration, you can purchase an Indiana Genealogical Society membership and a discounted conference registration simultaneously (\$65 combined). Mail-in registrations are also welcome - download our [registration form](#).

IN MEMORIAM: Larry Clark

Northwest Indiana lost a genealogy and local history expert with the passing of Larry Clark on January 31. A fixture of the Porter County Public Library in Valparaiso for the past 25 years, he was our Indiana County Genealogist for Porter County. He was also active in the Sons of the American Revolution and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. An [article](#) in the *Northwest Times* notes his impact in the community, including how "he could drive past a house in town and say who lived there and who built it."



Larry J. Clark
(1958-2016)

You can read his full obituary and guestbook [here](#).

Update: Access to Indiana adoption records

A bill in the Indiana legislature to allow adoptees from 1941 to 1993 to get access to their own adoption records recently [passed](#) the House by a vote of 72-24. The Senate approved it in January by a vote of 43-5. It now awaits the signature or veto of Governor Mike Pence. The bill includes a measure that allows the biological parents to opt out of their information being disclosed. Similar bills were introduced in the legislature in 2011 and 2015, but failed to advance.

Update: Indiana State Archives

The budget that the Indiana legislature passed in the spring of 2015 included \$25 million to build a new facility for the Indiana State Archives. This appropriation was part of a larger \$53.5 million pool for various projects tied to celebrating Indiana's bicentennial. Now, an [article](#) in the *Indianapolis Star* reports that there is a problem with the funding for the new State Archives and other bicentennial projects. The bulk of the funding - \$50 million - was to come from leasing the state's network of cellphone towers. But according to a recent financial report, these cellphone towers may only bring in \$10 or \$12 million in income. The current session of the legislature is considering measures that could help with some of the shortfall in funding.

IGS grants expand to libraries and archives

At its January 30 board meeting, the Indiana Genealogical Society board voted to expand eligibility for its genealogy grants program to include

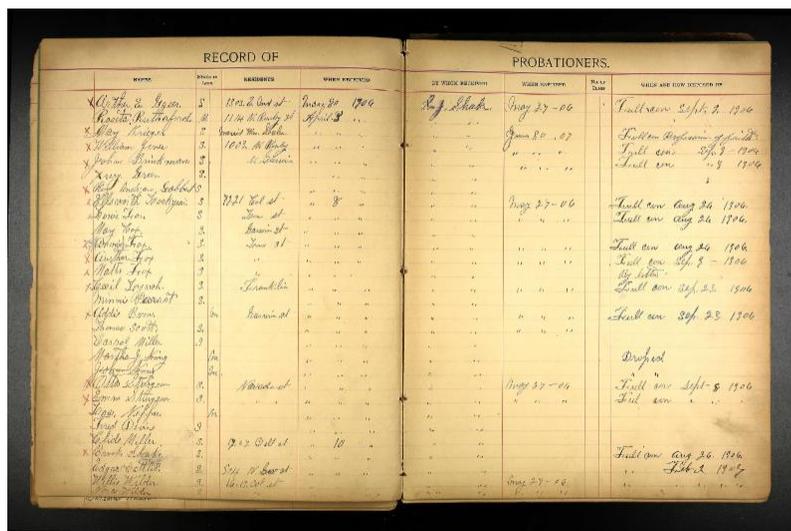
Indiana libraries and archives. This expansion was made in recognition of the role local libraries and archives can play in producing worthy genealogy projects, particularly in areas that are under-served by other organizations. To be eligible for these grants, an organization must have a non-profit status with the IRS.



The deadline to apply for grants is **December 31, 2016** - visit our [Grants](#) page to download the application form. Grants are \$1,000 each.

Ancestry.com adds Indiana Methodist Church records

The records of many of Indiana's United Methodist churches are housed at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana - specifically in the [Archives and Special Collections](#) of the Roy O. West Library.



Recently DePauw came to an agreement with Ancestry.com about sharing some of their vast collection of Methodist records.

The register of a Methodist Church in Evansville, showing members who were received in 1906 (see [full-sized PDF](#))

The database is available to those with a personal subscription to Ancestry.com, as well as those who have access through their local library's institutional subscription.

Ancestry.com's new database, [Indiana, United Methodist Church Records, 1837-1970](#), consists of digital images and an index. It includes churches in 71 of Indiana's 92 counties:

- ALLEN COUNTY - Fort Wayne, Harlan, Zanesville
- BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY - Hope
- BLACKFORD COUNTY - Montpelier
- BOONE COUNTY - Advance, Lebanon, Terhune
- CASS COUNTY - Lincoln, Logansport
- CLARK COUNTY - Bethlehem, Jeffersonville, Underwood
- CLAY COUNTY - Brazil, Clay County, Cory
- CLINTON COUNTY - Mulberry
- CRAWFORD COUNTY - Wickliffe
- DAVIESS COUNTY - Elnora, Washington
- DECATUR COUNTY - Greensburg
- DELAWARE COUNTY - Muncie
- ELKHART COUNTY - New Paris

FLOYD COUNTY - New Albany
FOUNTAIN COUNTY - Attica
FRANKLIN COUNTY - Bath, Brookville
FULTON COUNTY - DeLong, Fulton
GIBSON COUNTY - Princeton
GRANT COUNTY - Jalapa, Jonesboro, Marion
GREENE COUNTY - Linton
HAMILTON COUNTY - Strawtown
HANCOCK COUNTY - New Palestine, Pleasant Hill
HARRISON COUNTY - Ramsey
HENDRICKS COUNTY - Amo, Belleville, Brownsburg
HENRY COUNTY - New Castle
HOWARD COUNTY - Kokomo
HUNTINGTON COUNTY - Huntington, Majenica, Rock Creek
JACKSON COUNTY - Acme, Brownstown, Seymour
JASPER COUNTY - Barkley
JEFFERSON COUNTY - Canaan, Madison
JOHNSON COUNTY - Whiteland
KNOX COUNTY - Bruceville
KOSCIUSKO COUNTY - Silver Lake
LAGRANGE COUNTY - Howe, LaGrange
LAKE COUNTY - East Chicago, Gary, Hammond
LAPORTE COUNTY - Door Village, Michigan City
MADISON COUNTY - Anderson, Elwood
MARION COUNTY - Beech Grove, Indianapolis
MARSHALL COUNTY - Bourbon, Culver, Maxinkuckee, Plymouth
MIAMI COUNTY - Gilead, Macy
MONTGOMERY COUNTY - Crawfordsville, Darlington, Ladoga
MORGAN COUNTY - Mooresville, Morgantown
NEWTON COUNTY - Goodland, Mt. Ayr
NOBLE COUNTY - Kendallville, Rome City
OHIO COUNTY - Hartford
OWEN COUNTY - Spencer
PARKE COUNTY - Bloomingdale, Rockville, Tangier
PIKE COUNTY - Velpen, Winslow
PORTER COUNTY - Valparaiso
PUTNAM COUNTY - Bainbridge, Cloverdale, Morton, Putnamville
RANDOLPH COUNTY - Losantville, Ridgeville
RIPLEY COUNTY - Batesville, Delaware, Morris
SCOTT COUNTY - Austin
SHELBY COUNTY - Bengal, Pleasant View, Waldron
SPENCER COUNTY - Lamar
ST. JOSEPH COUNTY - Mishawaka
SULLIVAN COUNTY - Shelburn
SWITZERLAND COUNTY - Allensville
TIPPECANOE COUNTY - Dayton, West Lafayette
TIPTON COUNTY - Nevada
VANDERBURGH COUNTY - Evansville
VERMILLION COUNTY - Jonestown
VIGO COUNTY - Prairie Creek, Terre Haute
WABASH COUNTY - Disko, North Manchester, Wabash

WARREN COUNTY - West Lebanon, Williamsport
WARRICK COUNTY - Boonville, Pelzer
WASHINGTON COUNTY - Fredericksburg, Salem
WAYNE COUNTY - Dublin, Richmond, Webster
WELLS COUNTY - Bluffton, Mt. Zian, Ossian
WHITE COUNTY - Idaville
WHITLEY COUNTY - Larwill

FamilySearch updates Indiana marriage index

FamilySearch recently updated their database, [Indiana Marriages 1811-2007](#), adding 275,000 indexed entries that were previously only browseable digital images. Visit our [project page](#) to see a list of the 67 counties that are included in this database, and what years are covered for each county.

New IGS databases

Over 1,700 databases and still going! Here are all the databases for IGS members that we've added since last month:

College Records

- Central Normal College, Danville - graduates (1936).
- Indiana University, Bloomington - students (1854-1885).
- Moores Hill College, Dearborn County - students (1901-1905).

County Records

- Cass County - selected World War I rosters of residents (1917-1918).
 - Clay County - students & teachers at Brazil High School (1919).
 - Elkhart County - students & teachers at Nappanee High School (1940)
 - Greene County - students & teachers at Linton-Stockton High School (1946).
 - Montgomery County - students & teachers at Crawfordsville High School (1932).
 - Switzerland County - graduates of Vevay High School (1938).
-

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

The Fort Wayne Jewish Cemetery on Decatur Road was recently the [victim](#) of vandalism, with 55 tombstones knocked over. The private cemetery has a tall fence and a gate that is

kept locked.

HENRY COUNTY

The Mt. Summit Cemetery in New Castle was recently [vandalized](#). Eight headstones that date back to 1917 were knocked over by what appears to have been an SUV. The cemetery was founded in 1867 and contains over 2,000 burials.



Spencer County news: A front and side view of Abraham Lincoln's bench mallet (photo courtesy Indiana State Museum)

HOWARD COUNTY

Jonathan Russell was recently [appointed](#) as the Howard County Historian. This appointment was made by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Historical Bureau. Russell is past president of the Howard County Historical Society and is on the advisory board of the Russiaville Historical Society. He is also a member of the Howard County Genealogical Society.

MARION COUNTY

A box containing photos, a 1949 marriage license and other mementos belonging to the Albert W. Kohlstaedt family of Indianapolis was recently [purchased](#) for \$30 at an auction in Mooresville. The man who purchased the box did some genealogy detective work, enlisting the help of Indianapolis TV station WTHR. They were able to track down a daughter in Montana and send the box to her.

MIAMI COUNTY

Officials at the Miami County Courthouse in Peru are aiming to [put up a firewall](#) in the attic to create a barrier between their gas-fired furnaces and other appliances and the "stacks of old government documents" sitting next to them. The courthouse was given a citation in 2013 for violating state fire code with this fire hazard.

SPENCER COUNTY

(pictured above) A tool made by Abraham Lincoln during his time in Indiana is now on [display](#) at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. The 11-inch long bench mallet, used to make furniture, was crafted in 1829 and has the initials "A.L." It ended up being passed down through the family of Barnabas Carter, who was an early settler of the area and a neighbor of the Lincolns. The family is loaning the mallet to the Indiana State Museum to be displayed for 1 year.

VANDERBURGH COUNTY

Evansville community leaders gathered recently at the grave of Jacob C. Thompson (1852-1878) to [honor](#) one of the city's first African-American police officers. Thompson was a former slave from Kentucky and was one of the first African-Americans admitted to Indiana State Normal School in Terre Haute (today called Indiana State University). His 1878 death from tuberculosis was widely covered in area newspapers. He is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

FOUND: Photo of Madison County family (1900's)

Shelley Cardiel (cardiels@comcast.net) has found this photo, identified as being Lee STOKES, his wife Eva (DEAN) Stokes, and their infant daughter, Mary Adeline (Stokes) STOUT. It was taken in the early 1900's in Elwood, Madison County, Indiana.

Limited research has found that William Leonidus "Lee" Stokes (born February 1873; died 3 November 1935 in Madison County; buried in Elwood Cemetery) was the son of Andrew H. Stokes (1831-1904) and Mary Ann THOMPSON (born 1839). Lee Stokes married Eva Mae Dean (born 1872 or 1873 in Grant County, Indiana) - she was the daughter of Zachariah Thomas Dean (1850-1915) and Sarah Lucinda MYERS (born 1853 or 1854 in Rush County, Indiana).

Lee Stokes and Eva Mae Dean's daughter, Mary Adeline Stokes, was born in December 1899 in Elwood and married Edward Earl Asa Stout (1897-1935).

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



William Leonidus "Lee" Stokes and family (see [full-sized PDF](#))

TLC to air series on family reunions

"Long Lost Family", a series about reuniting long-lost family members, will debut on the television channel TLC on Sunday, March 6 at 10 pm Eastern. The series, which is being sponsored by Ancestry.com, is scheduled to last 8 episodes. Read the official [press release](#) via Dick Eastman's newsletter, including profiles of some of the stories that will be featured.

Legal terms explained: Writ of assistance

In 1800's and 1900's court records, you may see a reference to a *writ of assistance*. It means the court issued a written order to a law enforcement official to assist the court in enforcing a decree, particularly as it concerns the possession of someone's real estate.



However, in the 1700's, a writ of assistance had a different meaning - it was legal protection used by British officials to search the homes and businesses of American colonists for smuggled goods, without having to have a specific search warrant.

Research Tip: George Rogers Clark's land grant

In our [January 2016](#) issue, we talked about Revolutionary War pension applications and the different laws that governed who was eligible to apply. In addition to giving soldiers money, there were also

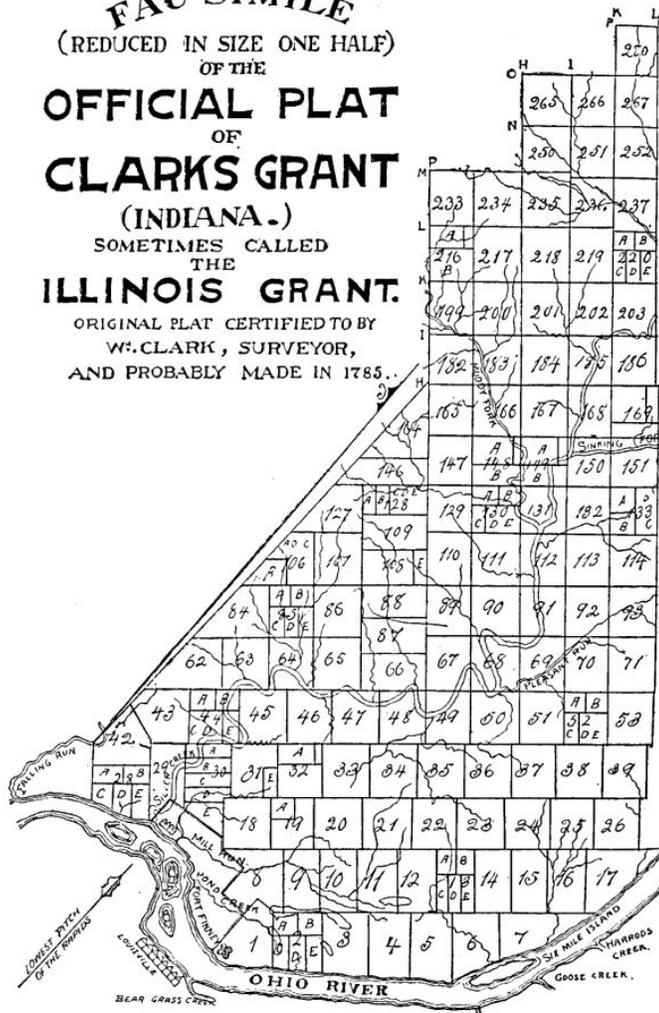
provisions at the end of the war to give soldiers free land ("bounty") in what would later become some of the Midwestern states.

One notable example of a bounty land grant involved Colonel George Rogers Clark, who had commanded the Virginia militia in the fight against the British in Illinois. In 1781, the Virginia legislature passed a law giving Clark and those in his regiment bounty land - 150,000 acres total.

This land was on the north side of the Ohio River, in what would later become Clarksville and Jeffersonville in Clark County, Indiana (some of this land was also in neighboring Floyd County and Scott County). Though Clark was given the largest piece - some 8,000 acres - his enlisted soldiers did receive grants of 100 to 200 acres each.

If you look at early maps of Indiana and how it was surveyed, you'll notice an area in southeastern Indiana referred to as "Clark's grant" or the "Illinois grant". It played a large role in the early settlement of the state. It is also one of the exceptions to the general rule that Indiana land was surveyed using the rectangular survey system (aka Congressional townships and ranges).

FAC SIMILE
(REDUCED IN SIZE ONE HALF)
OF THE
OFFICIAL PLAT
OF
CLARKS GRANT
(INDIANA.)
SOMETIMES CALLED
THE
ILLINOIS GRANT.
ORIGINAL PLAT CERTIFIED TO BY
W. CLARK, SURVEYOR,
AND PROBABLY MADE IN 1785..



*A plat map showing part of Clark's Grant
(courtesy of an 1896 book by William Hayden English)*

STAY CONNECTED:

