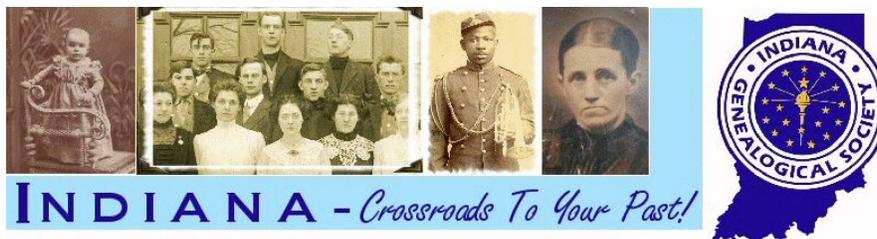


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## Indiana News - April 2016

Welcome to the April 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, we've got some tidbits from our annual conference in Fort Wayne, news of a remake of the "Roots" miniseries, and an explanation of why land sales in Indiana were sometimes called "school land" sales.

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## SAVE THE DATE: 2017 IGS Conference

Many thanks to all who attended our April 16 conference at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. Save the date for next year's conference - **Saturday, April 8, 2017** at the [Indianapolis Public Library](#).

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## Indiana vital records coming to Ancestry.com

A look at the "Coming Soon" section of Ancestry.com (pictured at right) shows that in the coming months, they are scheduled to add some birth, marriage and death records from Indiana.

This may be related to the state government's announcement in October 2014 that they had come to an agreement with Ancestry.com to digitize & index their collection of birth and death records older than 75 years,

as well as their marriage index for 1958-2012 (see our [November 2014](#) e-mail for details).

As we noted in our [January 2016](#) e-mail, Ancestry.com has recently added some of the state government's collection of Indiana marriage indexes.

## Coming Soon

### UK Parish Records

*April 2016*

Our collection of UK parish registers continues to grow, with new records coming in April.

### German Vital Records

*April-June 2016*

Look for new collections to continue to be added to the Ancestry collection of German births, marriages, and deaths for several locations.

### Probate Records

*May 2016*

We'll be adding new probate records from Colorado and Wisconsin.

### U.S. Vital Records

*Summer 2016*

Birth, marriage, and death records from Arizona and Indiana!

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## IGS awards \$8,000 in grants

At the annual meeting portion of our April 16 conference in Fort Wayne, we announced the winners of our \$1,000 grants. Grants were awarded in these categories:



### Cemetery Preservation

- Genealogy Club of Montgomery County - for their project on Hurd Cemetery.

### Chapter Resource

- Wabash Valley Genealogy Society - for their project to create a video library.

### Resource Development

- Kosciusko County Historical Society - for their project on Kosciusko County schools 1835-1975.
- Lawrence County Historical & Genealogical Society - for the purchase of 8 reels of hard-to-find microfilm to add to their newspaper collection.
- Monroe County History Center - for creation of a guide book about Monroe County cemeteries.
- Whitley County Historical Society - for a book about Whitley County World War I veterans.

### Bicentennial Grants

- Genealogy Club of Montgomery County - for an index of Franklin Township cemeteries.
- Wabash Valley Genealogy Society - for their education outreach program, which includes webinars.

All Indiana tax-exempt organizations - including societies, libraries and archives - are invited to [apply](#) for one of our \$1,000 grants. The deadline to apply is **December 31, 2016**; grants will be

## Indiana State Library adds book scanner

Researchers who visit the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis to use their Genealogy Division collection now have access to a book scanner (pictured at right) for their copying needs. The scanner is courtesy of the Indiana State Library Foundation and there is no cost to use it - simply bring a flash drive with you to store the digital images on.



*Indiana State Library's book scanner (photo courtesy of Ron Darrah)*

Our thanks to Ron Darrah for passing on this bit of good news.

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## IGS honors & awards

At the annual meeting of our April 16 conference in Fort Wayne, we recognized the service of two Indiana residents:

- **Outstanding County Genealogical Contribution** - to Carlene Willings of Elkhart County
- **Distinguished County Genealogical Service** - to Dr. Loran Ralph Braught of Vigo County

We also announced some publication awards:

- **Electronic Database Award** (\$500 cash) - to Sue Caldwell for her various databases about Jasper County
- **Elaine Spires Smith Family History Writing Award** (\$500 cash) - to Kathy Gunter Sullivan for her article, "Eliza Jane Henry of Putnam County, Indiana: Documenting Her Heritage," which appeared in the December 2015 issue of *Indiana Genealogist*.

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## Genealogy on TV

A remake of the "Roots" miniseries, based on Alex Haley's 1976 book detailing his family's African ancestors, will begin airing on Monday, May 30 at 9 pm Eastern. The miniseries - whose cast includes Forest Whitaker and Laurence Fishburne - will be broadcast simultaneously on the History Channel, A&E, and Lifetime.



For more information, visit the official [website](#) on the History Channel.

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## 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

- Evansville College - graduates (1927) [NOTE: Evansville College later became the University of Evansville]
- Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne - graduates (1975)

### County Records

- Elkhart County - alumni of Nappanee High School 1939)
- Johnson County - students & teachers at Alva Neal High School, Franklin (1938)
- Spencer County - students in Dale schools, grades 1 through 12 (1949)
- Vigo County - students & teachers at Garfield High School, Terre Haute (1953)
- Warrick County - selected residents (1880); history of the county (1813-1880)

### Statewide Records

- Indiana State Prison, Jeffersonville - prisoners who died (1846-1894)

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

- Civil War - [Roster of 72nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry](#)
- Clay County - [Brazil business directory](#) (1930)
- Henry County - [New Castle business directory](#) (1930)
- Montgomery County - [Crawfordsville business directory](#) (1930)
- Wabash County - [Wabash business directory](#) (1930)

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## IGS awards 2 library staff scholarships

We awarded our 2016 Library Staff Educational Scholarship to **Deana Juday**, of the Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library in Mishawaka, and **Janice Kistler**, of the Morgan County Public Library in Martinsville. The scholarships are \$500 each and are to help defray the costs of attending a major genealogy conference. Both winners will be using their scholarship money to attend the Midwestern Roots Family History & Genealogy Conference in Indianapolis this July.

[Applications](#) are now being accepted for next year's scholarship.

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## 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.

### DEARBORN COUNTY

Local historian Chris McHenry will be [honored](#) for her work during the annual dinner of the Dearborn County Historical Society in May. McHenry is the former Dearborn County Historian and has also been involved with the Lawrenceburg library, among others.

### DELAWARE COUNTY

Thousands of books at Ball State University's Bracken Library in Muncie suffered [water damage](#) after a pipe burst recently. Thankfully, the flooding did not affect the library's archives and special collections.



*The grave of Nancy Kerlin Barnett (1793-1831) sits in the middle of a Johnson County road (photo courtesy The Indy Channel)*

### HANCOCK COUNTY

--Scrap metal thieves have been [targeting](#) Park Cemetery in Greenfield, stealing at least 19 metal urns. The cemetery gates are closed after sunset, meaning the thefts of the urns (which weigh several hundred pounds each) have been occurring during daylight hours. The cemetery is now calling for [extra security](#).

--Visitors to the Hancock County Courthouse in Greenfield can now only enter through one door and must pass through a metal detector. The [security measures](#) were implemented recently, making Boone County the only courthouse in central Indiana that still does not have security measures.

### HOWARD COUNTY

This month, the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library, in conjunction with the Howard County Historical Society, has been [digitizing](#) letters, photos and historical records loaned by area residents. The digitizing is part of a project called "Howard County My Home," in honor of Indiana's bicentennial, and the digital images will be added to the library's [Howard County, Indiana Memory Project](#) so the public can freely access them.

### JOHNSON COUNTY

County government officials are spending \$10,000 to [protect](#) the grave of Nancy Kerlin Barnett (pictured above), which lies in the middle of County Road 400 South. She was buried there in 1831, when the area was a cemetery, and the road was later built around her grave. An [entry](#) on Find A Grave has more information about her and her family.

### LAPORTE COUNTY

A recent string of vandalism at area cemeteries, including at Greenwood Cemetery in Michigan City, has led a group, Citizens Concerned with Cemetery Vandalism, to [lobby](#) the state legislature for tougher penalties for those convicted of vandalism.

### MORGAN COUNTY

--After several years of water leaks, high levels of mold and radon gas have recently been [detected](#) inside the Morgan County Courthouse in Martinsville. The testing revealed mold was present in some areas - including the courthouse attic - at a level 120 times higher than what is considered acceptable. The courthouse dates back to 1859, and the health concerns have led to at least [5 courthouse employees](#) - including those who work in the microfilm department in the basement - moving outside the building to work.

--The Morgan County Public Library in Martinsville, led by Janice Kistler, is the recipient of a \$500 Seton Shields Genealogy Grant from Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak. The grant will be used towards the purchase of a wand scanner, to help answer requests for information.

### **RANDOLPH COUNTY**

The Randolph County Infirmary in Winchester (which was built in 1899 and was the county home/poor asylum) was recently purchased by ghost hunters, who are now [conducting tours](#) at night. Visitors report paranormal experiences in the building, which is said to be haunted.

### **WAYNE COUNTY**

A Richmond newspaper from 1883 [recounts](#) a fight that erupted between Jesse Artis' wife and Mrs. White, the woman he allegedly abandoned his wife for. The fight led to a visit to the local police court.

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## **Knox County Genealogist appointed**

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Brian Spangle of Vincennes as the Indiana County Genealogist for Knox County. Brian was appointed by the IGS board at the January meeting. He works at the McGrady-Brockman House, the Knox County Public Library's history/genealogy center.



If you have any questions about Knox County research, please contact him at [bspangle@kcpl.lib.in.us](mailto:bspangle@kcpl.lib.in.us)

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## **Monroe County Genealogist appointed**

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Emily Noffke of Bloomington as the Indiana County Genealogist for Monroe County. Emily was appointed by the IGS board at the January meeting. She is the manager of the research library at the Monroe County History Center, and recently received her Master's in History and Master's in Library Science from Indiana University.

If you have any questions about Monroe County research, please contact her at [mchclibrary@gmail.com](mailto:mchclibrary@gmail.com)

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## **Legal terms explained: Pro confesso**

"Pro confesso" is Latin that translates to "as though confessed". It means a judgment is issued in favor of the plaintiff by default, because the defendant has not appeared in court or otherwise responded to the case against them.



In a divorce case, if the defendant does not appear, the divorce decree may be issued with the notation "pro confesso".

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## Research Tip: Land sales in Section 16

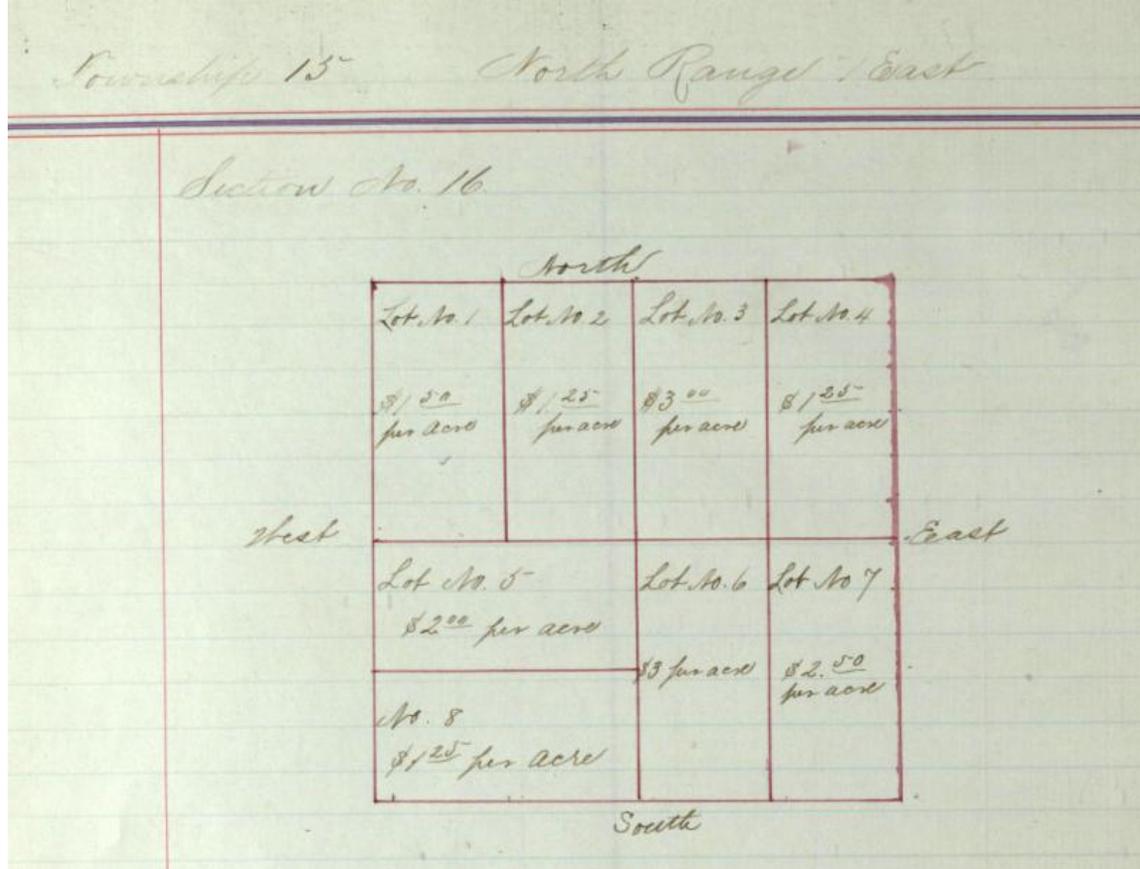
Indiana land is based on the rectangular survey system, whereby a grid is made up of Congressional Townships (running east & west) and Ranges (running north & south). Each Congressional Township is further divided into 36 numbered sections, equal in size (see the section numbering illustration at right).

In 1785, as the Northwest Territory was being opened to development, Congress passed a law preventing Section 16 of every Congressional Township from being sold - it was to be reserved for the use of schools. When Indiana was officially admitted as a state in 1816, it followed that law.

Then in 1828, Congress passed a law specifically allowing Indiana to sell its Section 16 lands, thereby opening up more land to development.

The 1828 law said that the proceeds of these Section 16 land sales could be used by the township trustee to help build and maintain the schools in that area, thus providing a source of revenue in an era before property taxes were fully implemented. The buyers did not have to provide all the money up front; they could pay in annual installments, plus interest (mandated by the state at 6%). Failure to pay in the time allotted would result in the county seizing the land. Indiana law also required the township trustees to keep special receipt books for these "school land" purchases.

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36



Section 16 consisted of 640 acres. The township trustee would divide Section 16 into smaller lots for individual sale. Certain lots in the section might have better conditions than others, and thus could command different prices. As an example, a Hendricks County receipt book shows that lots in Congressional Township 15 North, Range 1 East were for sale in 1830 from \$1.25 per acre all the way up to \$3 per acre, depending on their location within the section.

So if you see a notation on a deed that it is "school lands", check the legal description to see if it is in Section 16. You may also want to check to see if any township trustee records survived for that area, as it can provide more detail on the purchase.

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