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## Indiana News - May 2016

Welcome to the May 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 an announcement of our 2017 conference speaker, an 1890's photo that was found, and an explanation of licenses for Indiana teachers.

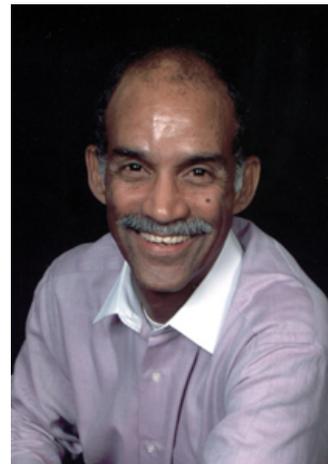
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### Tony Burroughs to speak at IGS 2017 conference

We are pleased to announce that Tony Burroughs will be the featured speaker at the Indiana Genealogical Society conference on **Saturday, April 8, 2017** at the Indianapolis Public Library.

Tony is a prolific author and national lecturer, perhaps best known for his primer *Black Roots*, which is now in its 5th printing. He has also appeared on many genealogy TV shows. He is a dynamic speaker who excels at making genealogy more accessible.

In the coming months we'll have more information about the 2017 conference, including registration details.



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### New IGS databases

Here are all the databases for IGS members that we've added since last month:

## [College Records](#)

- Indiana University, Bloomington - graduates (1927)
- Moores Hill College, Dearborn County - graduates (1900-1904) [NOTE: Moores Hill College later became part of the University of Evansville]
- Purdue University, West Lafayette - students (1890)

## [County Records](#)

- Blackford County - students & teachers in Montpelier schools, grades 1-12 (1936)
- Brown County - will books index (1845-1957)

## [Statewide Records](#)

- Coal miners who were injured in Indiana (1884-1888)
- Independent Order of Odd Fellows - members who died (1852-1859)
- Indiana Women's Prison, Indianapolis - prisoners who were pardoned (1878-1881)

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

- Wayne County - [Wayne County business & landowners directory](#) (1895)

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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.

### **JASPER COUNTY**

The Jasper County Public Library in Rensselaer has digitized the yearbooks of several area high schools:

- Rensselaer Central High School (1936-2014)
- DeMotte High School (1936-1970)
- Kankakee Valley High School (1971-2010)
- Covenant Christian High School (2002-2015)

The yearbooks are freely available to the public via the library's [portal](#) on Internet Archive.

### **JOHNSON COUNTY**

In our [April 2016](#) e-mail, we mentioned that the remains of Nancy Kerlin Barnett, whose 1831 grave lies in the middle of a road in Amity, were going to be re-buried at the site so that they would be better protected. An [article](#) gives an update on the project, which involves anthropologists from the University of Indianapolis and the assistance of the Johnson County Museum of History.

### **KNOX COUNTY**

An [article](#) in a Vincennes newspaper profiles the genealogy collection at the Bicknell-Vigo Township Public Library.

### **MARION COUNTY**

The Indianapolis Public Library recently [digitized](#) its collection of yearbooks for Beech Grove

High School in Indianapolis and added them to their free website, [Digital Indy](#). The yearbooks span 1947-2002. The yearbooks of 13 other Indianapolis high schools are already available on the site.

### **MORGAN COUNTY**

In our [April 2016](#) e-mail, we mentioned that the Morgan County Courthouse in Martinsville had tested positive for unhealthy levels of mold and radon gas. The Morgan County commissioners have now [hired](#) a company to remove the mold.

### **PORTER COUNTY**

A local chapter of the Sons of Union Veterans is trying to raise \$6,000 to get [grave markers](#) and flags for all 500 Civil War veterans who are buried in the county. Members of the group are also cleaning existing tombstones.

### **TIPPECANOE COUNTY**

- Lou Ann Clugh of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association (and also the IGS Northwest District Director) and Shane Weist (Fairfield Township board chair) were recently [recognized](#) by the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The duo helped raise \$50,000 for the restoration of Greenbush Cemetery in Lafayette.
- Students in a history class at William Henry Harrison High School in West Lafayette helped [restore](#) tombstones in nearby Pierce Cemetery as part of a class project.
- The owners of Grand View Cemetery in West Lafayette have [put the property](#) up for sale for \$159,000. The cemetery dates back to 1897 and includes over 4,000 burials.
- The Tippecanoe County Historical Association is trying to raise \$1,000 to [replace](#) a historical marker for a house in rural Shadeland that was a stop on the Underground Railroad.

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## **Registration open for Midwestern Roots 2016 conference**

The Indiana Historical Society's bi-annual genealogy and family history conference, [Midwestern Roots](#), will be held **July 15-16, 2016** at the Marriott East on the southeast side of Indianapolis. Speakers will include CeCe Moore ("The Genetic Genealogist"), Curt Witcher, Lisa Louise Cooke and Juliana Szucs.



The deadline for early registration is June 30, 2016.

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## **FOUND: Photo of Adams County woman (1890's)**

Shelley Cardiel ([cardiels@comcast.net](mailto:cardiels@comcast.net)) has found this photo, identified as being Mag ROHR and her husband, which was taken at the Moser Studio in Decatur, Adams County, Indiana. The photo appears to have been taken in the 1890's, with both appearing to be in their 40's or 50's at the time. It is not known if Rohr is her maiden name or her

married name.

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



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## Abandoned baby the focus of March 2016 quarterly

Attention IGS members: don't forget to access the March 2016 issue of *Indiana Genealogist*, our quarterly, in the IGS Records section of the Members-Only area. This issue includes information on Indiana Civil War veterans who were buried in McDonough County, Illinois, and the history of the Indiana Boys' School.

There is also a fascinating article by Amy Harbor unraveling the parentage of a baby boy abandoned at a Lafayette train station in 1887. The mother had left a note pinned to the baby's blanket which read, in part:

*Oh! What a sin it is to bring a darling baby into the world and not be able to take care of it [...] He is a sweet little one.*

Login to [IGS Records](#)

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## Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Illinois

The Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold their [national conference August 31-September 3, 2016](#) at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois. Speakers will include Cyndi Ingle (of "Cyndi's List"), Judy Russell ("The Legal Genealogist"), and John Philip Colletta.



The deadline for early bird registration is July 1, 2016.

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## Legal terms explained: Bench trial

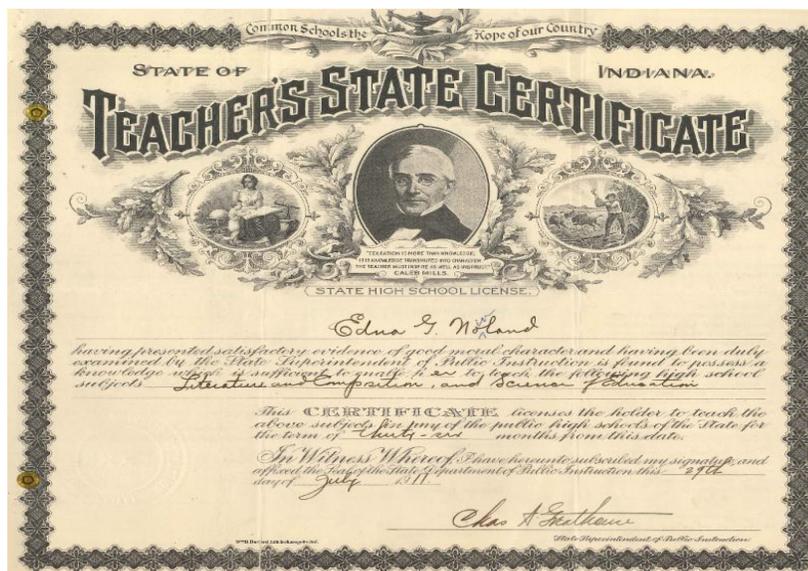
A court case is always presided over by a judge, but in some circumstances the judge may also be the person who actually decides the verdict (known as a "bench trial"). This is in contrast to a "jury trial," in which a panel of either 6 people or 12 people decides the verdict after hearing all the evidence and receiving instructions from the judge.



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## Research Tip: Licenses for Indiana teachers

Were any of your ancestors Indiana teachers? If so, they may have passed down their teaching certificate (pictured at right: a certificate issued by the state to Edna G. Nowland in 1911).

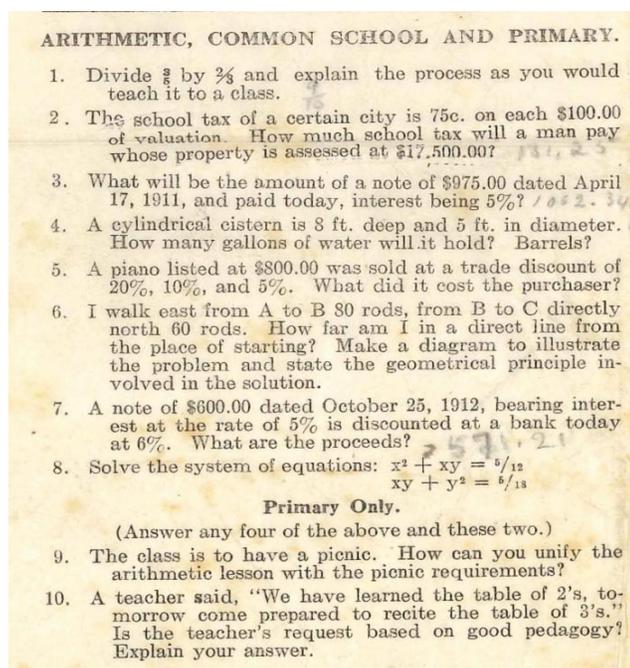


A teacher's certificate issued to Edna G. Nowland in 1911 by the state (certificate courtesy of the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library Archives). Download a full-sized [PDF](#)

Beginning in the mid-1800's, if someone wanted to be a teacher, they had to apply to get a teacher's license, which could be issued either by the county or the state.

If it was issued by the county, the license could only be used for teaching in that particular county - a move to another county meant they would have to apply for another license. If it was issued by the state, however, the license was good for teaching in any county. Testing for county licenses was offered by the county's school superintendent; for statewide licenses, the testing was available at the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Indianapolis and at the offices of school superintendents in select cities.

The process of getting a teacher's license involved an individual evaluation, as well as passing exams in various subjects. Think you could have passed those exams? Pictured at right are the questions from the Arithmetic exam in 1913.



The lower the average grade you received on the exams, the shorter the time that your license would last. In 1910, for example, licenses were issued for:

- 12 months - if your average grade was 85% or more, with none of the grades below 75%
- 24 months - if your average grade was 90% or more, with none of the grades below 80%
- 36 months - if your average grade was 95% or more, with

The questions asked in the Arithmetic exam in 1913 (document courtesy of the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library Archives). Download a full-sized [PDF](#)

none of the grades below 85%

In the certificate above, Edna G. Nowland's license in 1911 was issued for 36 months, and was for teaching 2 subjects (Literature and Composition, and the Science of Education) at the high school level. The back of the certificate (pictured at right) shows that she received a grade of 95% on the Literature and Composition exam and 91% on the Science of Education exam, plus 97% on her individual evaluation.

If records exist of the teacher's licenses that were issued on the county level, they will be found in the records of the county.

For the licenses that were issued on the state level, they will be found in the records of the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The annual reports of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (some of which have been digitized and are available for free online at sites like [Google Books](#)) used to regularly include the lists of those who had received their teacher licenses.

**For IGS members:** The [Statewide Records](#) section of our Members-Only area has information on teachers who received licenses from the state during 1867-1884 and 1906-1910.

The image shows the back of a 1911 teacher's certificate for Edna G. Nowland. The document is divided into several sections:

- Application No. 68**
- Name: Edna G. Nowland**
- City or Town: Indianapolis**
- County: Marion**
- STATE HIGH SCHOOL LICENSE**
- SCHEDULE OF SUCCESS ITEMS**
  - All Superintendents are required by law to use the following schedule in determining the success grade:
  - THE TEACHER** ..... 100%
    - A. Teaching Power** ..... 45%  
Many items enter into this, but the principal ones are preparation of lesson, skill in presentation, and results attained.
    - B. Government** ..... 35%  
The teacher's power in government is shown in the general spirit of the school, and in the attitude the pupils take toward their daily tasks, toward each other and toward the school property.
    - C. General Characteristics** ..... 20%  
Under this head the personality of the teacher, his professional and community interest, and all those qualities that make for the best citizenship should be considered.
- PER CENTS ON BRANCHES**
  - 1. Literature and Composition 95
  - 2. Algebra
  - 3. Geometry
  - 4. Commercial Arithmetic
  - 5. Botany
  - 6. Zoology
  - 7. Chemistry
  - 8. Physics
  - 9. Physical Geography
  - 10. Commercial Geography
  - 11. History and Civics
  - 12. Latin
  - 13. German
  - 14. French
  - 15. Spanish
  - 16. Bookkeeping
  - 17. Stenography
  - 18. Science of Education 91
  - Average Scholarship 93
  - Success 97
  - General Average 95
- Present address:**  
2118 N. Capitol  
Edna G. Nowland

The back of a 1911 teacher's certificate, showing the grades received on the two exams (certificate courtesy of the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library Archives). Download the full-sized [PDF](#)

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