

Indiana is at the crossroads to your genealogy past.



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Indiana News - June 2016

Welcome to the June 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](#) for viewing in PDF format.

In this issue, take a closer look at Ancestry.com's new Indiana vital records databases, news items from around Indiana, and where you can find Indiana city directories online.

Ancestry.com adds Indiana vital records databases

Do you have a personal subscription to Ancestry.com, or does your local library have a subscription to Ancestry Library Edition that you can access for free? On June 1, Ancestry.com [added 17 million](#) Indiana vital records, a result of its October 2014 agreement (see our [November 2014](#) e-mail blast) to partner with the Indiana government (see the state's official [press release](#)).

Part of this agreement is that for the first 3 years, these databases will only be available on Ancestry.com; after the 3-year period, the state government can make them freely available on other websites.

PLACE OF BIRTH		INDIANA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH	
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS		CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH	
County of <i>Hendricks</i>	Township of <i>Brown</i>	City of _____	Registered No. <i>19055</i>
FULL NAME OF CHILD <i>John Noble Patterson</i>			
Sex of Child <i>Male</i>	Age at last Birthday <i>29</i>	Color of Race <i>white</i>	Birthplace <i>Ind.</i>
Father's Name <i>John Patterson</i>	Mother's Name <i>Ethel Garner</i>	Father's Residence <i>Brown Sp.</i>	Mother's Residence <i>Brown Sp.</i>
Occupation <i>Farmer</i>	Occupation <i>Housewife</i>	Number of children born to this mother, including present birth <i>1</i>	Number of children, of this mother, now living, including present birth <i>1</i>
CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN OR MIDWIFE			
I hereby certify that I attended the birth of this child, who was <i>born alive</i> at <i>8:30 P.M.</i> on the date above stated.			
Signature: <i>T. G. Smith</i>			
Given name added from a supplemental report _____, 19____			
Address: <i>Brown Sp.</i>			
Filed <i>July 4, 1917</i> <i>B. G. Scammon</i>			

A 1917 birth record on Ancestry.com

Here is what is now available to those who have a subscription to Ancestry.com:

- [Indiana, Birth Certificates, 1907-1940](#) - index + digital images; covers all 92 counties for October 1907 through December 1940.
- [Indiana, Marriage Certificates, 1958-2005](#) - index + digital images; covers all 92 counties for January 1958 through December 2005 (for 1958-1960, it may not be comprehensive). NOTE: For privacy reasons, all Social Security numbers have been whited out.
- [Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011](#) - index + digital images; covers all 92 counties for October 1899 through December 2011 (for October-December 1899, it is scattered).

ABOUT INDIANA VITAL RECORDS:

- **Birth and deaths** were required to be recorded by the county health departments beginning January 1, 1882, by virtue of an 1881 Indiana law. These records are still kept there.
- **Marriage records** were required to be recorded by the county clerks as soon as the county was officially formed. These records are still kept there. For marriages before 1882, the marriage record only included the name of the people getting married, the name of the official who performed the marriage, and the date of the marriage. Beginning in 1882, Indiana law required a "supplemental" marriage record to also be kept, which would list the names of parents, the age of the bride or groom at their next birthday, and their occupation, among others. And beginning in May 1905, the law required a marriage "application" to be kept, which included even more biographical details.

Even though Indiana birth, marriage and death records are still kept to this day on the county level, the state health department also got involved:

- A law required the county health departments to send copies of their birth records to the state health department beginning October 1, 1907. 1940 is the end date of the Ancestry.com birth records database because of the state's 75-year privacy agreement. So for an Indiana birth that occurred from **January 1882 through September 1907**, or **January 1941 to the present**, you would need to contact the county health department in the county where the birth occurred.
- A law required the county health departments to send copies of their death records to the state health department beginning January 1, 1900. So for an Indiana death that occurred from **January 1882 through December 1899**, or **January 2012 to the present**, you would need to contact the county health department in the county where the death occurred.
- A law required the county clerks to send information from their marriage records to the state health department beginning January 1, 1958. So for an Indiana marriage that occurred **before January 1958, or after December 2005**, you would need to contact the county clerk in the county where the marriage license was issued.

Even for a marriage that you find in Ancestry.com's database, you may want to contact the county clerk to request a copy of the actual record. You may also want to consult FamilySearch's [Indiana marriages 1811-2007](#), which is free but only covers 68 of Indiana's 92 counties. The Indiana State Library's website also has an Indiana marriage index for [1958-2013](#), which is free.

Ancestry.com's digitizing appears to have been done from existing microfilm (some of which was done back in the 1980's), so some of the digital images are difficult to read. There are also some errors in the indexing, which may make it difficult for you to find the person you are looking for. Amy Johnson Crow's [blog post](#) has some suggestions for how to get around some of these challenges.

Stamp celebrates Indiana bicentennial

On June 7, the U.S. Postal Service [issued](#) a first-class stamp that celebrates 2016 as the 200th anniversary of Indiana's statehood. The stamp is a photo of a sunset over a cornfield in Milford, Kosciusko County and was taken by Michael Matti.

The stamp is now available for purchase.



New IGS databases

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

[College Records](#)

- Franklin College, Franklin - students (1934)

[County Records](#)

- Cass County - students & teachers at Logansport High School (1936)
- Clark County - members of Jeffersonville lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows(1837-1912)
- Fountain County - history (1826-1926)
- Hendricks County - students & teachers in Plainfield schools (1931)
- Henry County - students & teachers at Middletown High School (1914)
- Monroe County - records of Day Funeral Home, Bloomington (1919-1946)
- Sullivan County - students & teachers at Sullivan High School (1941)

[Statewide Records](#)

- Coal miners who were injured in Indiana (1890)
- Independent Order of Odd Fellows - members who died (1860-1869)
- Indiana School for the Deaf, Indianapolis - students who died (1849-1914)
- Indiana State Prison North, Michigan City - prisoners who were sentenced there (1861)

Not an IGS member? We also added some FREE databases, courtesy of Wayne Klusman:

- Huntington County - [Huntington business directory \(1930\)](#)
- Madison County - [Elwood business directory \(1930\)](#)

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.

GIBSON COUNTY

The Oakland City Columbia Township Public Library has received a \$470 digitization sub-grant from the Indiana State Library to digitize a Justice of the Peace docket book for Oakland City. The docket book dates from 1893 through 1896. The library will partner with [Wabash Valley Visions and Voices Digital Memory Project](#).

HANCOCK COUNTY

The Hancock County Public Library in Greenfield has completed its [digitizing](#) of the *Evening Republican* (1894-1896), the *Evening Star* (1905-1906) and the *Greenfield Republican* (1889-1895; 1910-1915). The digital images from these newspapers are expected to be added to the [Hoosier State Chronicles](#) site in July 2016, where they will be accessible for free. The digitizing was the result of a \$6,502 grant from the Indiana State Library in 2015.

HARRISON COUNTY

Officers from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources recently [discovered](#) that the grave of Nancy C. Brown (1834-1881) in Old Cliff Cemetery, Evans Landing has been disturbed and her remains completely removed. The [entry](#) on Find A Grave includes a photo of what the grave looked like before it was disturbed.



The Harrison County grave of Nancy C. Brown (1834-1881) has been completely dug up.

HOWARD COUNTY

The Howard County Historical Society is trying to [raise](#) \$1 million to replace the original slate roof on the Seiberling Mansion in Kokomo. The building is 125 years old and is listed on the National

JOHNSON COUNTY

An update on the grave "in the middle of the road" that we mentioned in our [April 2016](#) and [May 2016](#) e-mails - when anthropologists recently dug up the remains of Nancy Kerlin Barnett's 1831 grave, they [discovered](#) the remains of 6 additional people. The Johnson County Commissioners have approved spending money for DNA testing to help identify the remains.

LAWRENCE COUNTY

The Lawrence County Museum of History's Edward L. Hutton Research Library has received a \$1,591 digitization sub-grant from the Indiana State Library to digitize the archives of the Second Baptist Church in Bedford and other records from the African-American community.

MARION COUNTY

Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis (IUPUI) has received a \$9,504 digitization sub-grant from the Indiana State Library to digitize the photos and other records of the Bethel AME Church in Indianapolis. The church is 180 years old and is the oldest African-American church in Indianapolis.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

--The Crawfordsville District Public Library has [finished](#) digitizing issues of the *Crawfordsville Daily Journal* (1890-1894), *Crawfordsville Weekly Journal* (1853-1902) and *Crawfordsville Review* (1853-1899). The digital images of these newspapers have been added to the [Hoosier State Chronicles](#) site, where they can be accessed for free. The digitizing was the result of a \$15,938 grant from the Indiana State Library in 2015.

--The World War II dogtags of Elmer V. Sneath, who lived in Waveland, were [found](#) in Australia and recently returned to his family.

SHELBY COUNTY

The Shelby County Public Library in Shelbyville is now a FamilySearch Affiliate Library, meaning the public can rent microfilm directly from FamilySearch and have it sent to the library for viewing.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

--The Mishawaka Penn Harris Public Library has received a \$9,000 technology sub-grant from the Indiana State Library to purchase a digital microfilm scanner for the public to use. Staff will also be using it to help index local newspapers.

--The South Bend Area Genealogical Society has a new [blog](#).

VIGO COUNTY

The Vigo County Public Library in Terre Haute has received a \$14,500 digitization sub-grant from the Indiana State Library to digitize 31 reels of microfilm of Terre Haute newspapers. These newspapers date from 1914 through 1919.

WAYNE COUNTY

On June 12 a fire [gutted](#) the Whitewater United Methodist Church in Wayne Township. The church was built in 1806 and is believed to be one of the oldest Methodist churches in Indiana.

Indiana: the destination for marriages and divorces

A recent [post](#) on our blog talked about Indiana's popularity in the 1800's as a place to get divorced, especially by people from other states.

And in the 1900's, at least one Indiana city - Crown Point in Lake County - was a [popular destination](#) for people from other states to come and get married, thanks to its no-waiting period.



FOUND: Photo of Floyd County & Jefferson County family (1900's)

Shelley Cardiel (cardiels@comcast.net) has found this photo, identified as being Agnes WEHRLE and Dora KOHLER, which was taken at Meade, Kansas or Topeka, Kansas sometime between the 1880's and early 1900's.

Limited research has found that Agnes Wehrle (born 1886 in Indiana; died 1984 in Meade County, Kansas; married Roy F. TODD) was the daughter of Frank Wehrle (1850-1917) and Anna C. Cain (1852-1943).

Frank's father, John P. Wehrle (1843-1925), was the son of German immigrants John Wehrle (born 1814) and Catherine Haag (1820-1909). The family was in the 1850 census in New Albany, Floyd County, Indiana, and the 1870 census in Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana. By 1900 many descendants of John and Catherine Wehrle had immigrated to Meade County, Kansas.



Agnes Wehrle and Dora Kohler

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.

Legal terms explained: Ancillary administrator

When someone dies without leaving a will, the court in the area where they lived will appoint someone to be the administrator of their estate. But if the deceased had some assets in a different state than the one in which they lived, an **ancillary administrator** (sometimes referred to as a subordinate administrator) will also be appointed in that other state, to administer those specific assets.



For example, if someone lived in Indiana and also owned land in Nebraska, a primary administrator would be appointed in an Indiana court and an ancillary administrator would be appointed in a Nebraska court.

Research Tip: City directories online

Directories are a great way to place an ancestor in between the 10 years of the federal census. Depending on the directory, you may find out: name; street address, post office or rural route; occupation; spouse's name & marital status; children's names.

Directories were published more frequently for cities, but sometimes you can also find a directory for a smaller town or even an

entire county (although it may not be comprehensive for the population at that time).

Thanks to the movement towards digitizing, there are numerous city directories for Indiana that have been scanned and are online, many of them free to the public. These online directories don't stop at 1923, either - some of them go well into the 1900's.

We've put together a listing of over 1,500 Indiana city directories that can be viewed online. NOTE: If a subscription to a website is required in order to access a particular directory, we've indicated this in our listing.

- [Online city directories for Indiana \(PDF\)](#)

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R F D PATRONS

1089

Love Harry J (Opal), Eaton R F D 2
Love Mary, Eaton, Ind—3¼a
Love Omer (Edith) (Lucille 8), Summitville R F D 1—h 48a
Love Ora M (May) (Margaret 12, Glen 9), Eaton R F D 2
Love Richmond (Jane) (Flossie 20, Marion 12, Raymond 6, Elva 10), Eaton R F D 1
Love Samuel (Ollie D) (Robt), Muncie R F D 2—j 1½a
Love Wm P (Alma) (Lucinda 8), Eaton R F D 2
Loveless Henry (Elizabeth) (Fred Estele 18), Yorktown R F D 1—w 4¼a
Lovet Elizabeth M et al, Gaston, Ind—26a
Love Ephraim (Daisy D) (Lavonia, Fred, Helen), Muncie R F D 2
Lowe Geo A (Nora) (Virgie, Dorothy), Muncie R F D 5
Lowe Geo R (Sophia L), Albany, Ind—j 79a
Lowe John (Eliza) (Harry E 15), Albany R F D 2
Lowery Hoyt (Veda), Yorktown R F D 1
Lowrey Arlie C (Myrtle P) (Horace, Arthur), Muncie R F D 7—j 2½a
Lowman Burton S (Kate), Muncie R F D 4—h 53a
Lowman Lewis (Stella) (Opal 8), Albany R F D 2
Loyd Chas F (Emma E) (Joseph, Ralph), Albany R F D 1—h 50¼a
Lucas Lemuel (Anna) (Anna, John, Louella, Lucille), Muncie R F D 3
Luce Edward Reason (Opal)
Luce Espy (Lila), Selma
Luce Francis M (Martha P), Selma R F D 3—h 100a, j 120a

A page from a 1919 Delaware County directory

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STAY CONNECTED:

