

Indiana is at the crossroads to your genealogy past.



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Indiana News - October 2016

Welcome to the October 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 news relating to Indiana genealogy and history. Past issues going back to 2010 are available for [download](#) in PDF format.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- See the first Indiana databases generated from our giving away of scanning kits
- Read about the New York City marriage indexes that are now online
- Discover how you can view older versions of websites, even if they no longer exist.

Free databases from IGS scanning kits now online

Our ongoing [Genealogy Digitization Project](#) - a project to give scanning kits worth \$500 to qualified Indiana non-profit groups - has already resulted in the first databases for the public. The Paoli Public Library in Orange County contributed these databases after receiving their scanning kit:

- [Directory of Lynn Public School, Stampers Creek Township, Orange County, Indiana \(1923\)](#). This souvenir lists students and school officials. Stampers Creek Township is in the eastern part of Orange County, east of Paoli.
- [Members of Phi Beta Psi Sorority in Indiana \(1933\)](#). This service-oriented sorority was founded in Columbus, Ohio in 1904. In 1933, it had 17 chapters in Indiana: Arcadia, Anderson, Aurora, Batesville, Columbus, Corydon, Fairmount, Indianapolis, Kokomo, Lafayette, Lawrenceburg, Orleans, Paoli, Scottsburg, South Bend, Terre Haute and Tipton. This 1933 directory includes group photos of each chapter and information about the births, marriages and deaths of its members.

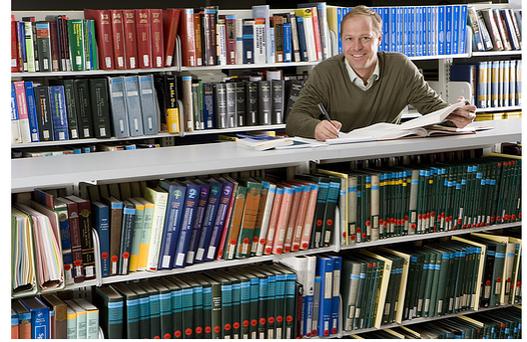


The IGS board recently approved an additional \$10,000 to fund this project. Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.

Applications accepted for Library Staff Educational Scholarship

The Indiana Genealogical Society is now accepting applications for our Library Staff Educational Scholarship. This scholarship is open to employees of Indiana libraries, and it includes:

- \$500 cash for the employee, to be used towards their expenses of attending a major genealogy conference, seminar or class.
- \$500 cash for the sponsoring library, to be used for the acquisition of genealogy resources.
- A complimentary registration to the IGS annual conference in April (a \$40 value).
- A complimentary 12-month membership to IGS (a \$30 value).



The deadline to apply is **December 31, 2016** - for details, and to download the application form, please visit our [Library Staff Educational Scholarship](#) page.

The recipient will be announced at the Indiana Genealogical Society's annual conference in Indianapolis on April 8, 2017.

County Roundup

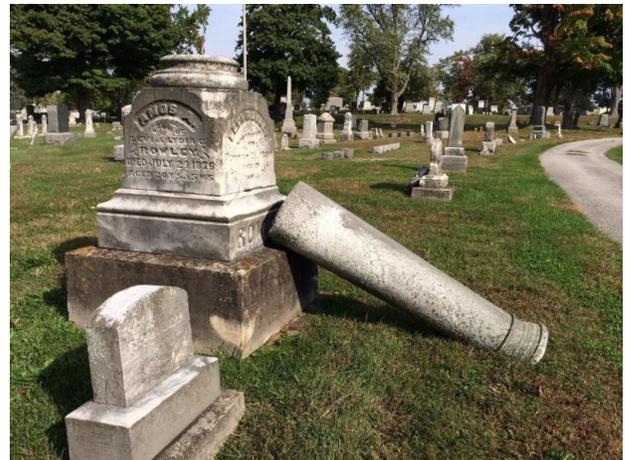
Here are some genealogy and history-related news items from around the state. NOTE: Items on other websites often change or are removed without notice - we apologize if you encounter a link that no longer works.

ELKHART COUNTY

The city of Elkhart has [added](#) signs at its 3 cemeteries - Grace Lawn, Prairie Street and Rice - thanks to a partnership between the city government and the Elkhart County Genealogical Society. The signs were produced by the Indiana Historical Bureau, as part of the state's Cemetery Heritage Initiative. The city's street department also created section maps for each cemetery, to help guide visitors.

MARION COUNTY

--The Indianapolis Public Library has [received](#) a \$3.1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment to digitize over 1 million pages from their collection of records of the Indianapolis Public Schools, Indianapolis Fire Department and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. The digitizing is being done to mark the city's bicentennial in 2020.



A toppled tombstone at Maplewood Cemetery in Valparaiso (image courtesy of The Northwest Indiana Times)

--An Indianapolis couple who purchased a dresser secondhand [discovered medals](#) belonging to a World War II soldier inside its drawers. Thanks to publicizing of the story, family members of the soldier came forward to claim the medals.

MIAMI COUNTY

The Miami County Cemetery Board recently erected a [memorial](#) for an unknown cemetery near Waupecong. This pioneer cemetery was marked (but not named) on early maps of the county, and fragments of tombstones from the 1850's have been found over the years.

PORTER COUNTY

Maplewood Cemetery in Valparaiso (pictured above) was recently [vandalized](#), with 7 tombstones dating from the 1800's toppled. This cemetery is the burial place for many Civil War veterans and is maintained by the city government. In response, the [Porter County Museum](#) Foundation [announced](#) it is creating a Cemetery Preservation Committee to help with the cemeteries in the county.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

--Plans are underway to [move](#) a one-room schoolhouse in Wabash Township to a site in West Lafayette that will become a new park. The Morris School (aka Wabash Township District School #5) sits on land that was

recently sold to a hospital for development. The West Lafayette Parks Foundation is accepting donations to help with the expenses of the move, which is estimated at \$80,000.

—A retired geography teacher [helped create](#) a detailed map of Tippecanoe County to celebrate the state's bicentennial. The map is a mix of both geography and history and includes a timeline of interesting events, such as the first school opening (1827) and first streetcar (1883). Organizations can borrow the map for presentations - contact largemapoftippecanoeco@gmail.com

VANDEBURGH COUNTY

An [article](#) in the *Evansville Courier & Press* discusses the history of a World War I memorial for 103 area soldiers who died, including the controversy surrounding the listing of the African-American soldiers, Otis E. Stone and Lee Green, as "colored".

Apply for a \$1,000 IGS Grant

Are you an Indiana non-profit organization (e.g. libraries, archives and genealogical/historical groups) with a genealogy-related project? We encourage you to apply for one of our \$1,000 grants. The categories are cemetery restoration or resource development (printed or electronic format). You are welcome to apply for more than one project, and in more than one category.

Applications must be received by **December 31, 2016** - to download the grant application form and see a list of previous winners, please visit our [Grants](#) page.



New IGS databases

We have reached "8 for 92" status - a minimum of 8 databases for each of Indiana's 92 counties.

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

[College Records](#)

- Ball State Teachers College, Muncie - graduates (1941). NOTE: Ball State Teachers College later changed its name to Ball State University.
- Indiana University, Bloomington - graduates (1906).
- Oakland City College, Gibson County - graduates (1960). NOTE: Oakland City College later changed its name to Oakland City University.

[County Records](#)

- Daviess County - Washington High School students & teachers (1935) - grades 9 through 12.
- Fayette County - docket book index for Connersville Township's Justice of the Peace (1823).
- Fountain County - history of Osborn Prairie Christian Church, Van Buren Township (1838-1938).
- Harrison County - index to deed book (1813-1817).
- Jay County - history of New Corydon (1821-1971).
- Marshall County - Culver High school students & teachers (1928) - grades 7 through 12.
- Montgomery County - Crawfordsville High School students & teachers (1924) - grades 7 through 12.
- Morgan County - Mooresville High School students (1911) - grades 9 through 12.
- Newton County - old age pensions granted (1934-1936).
- Noble County - Ligonier High School graduates (1944),
- Porter County - Valparaiso High School students (1915) - grade 12 only.
- Vermillion County - members of Free and Accepted Masons Lodge 584, Cayuga (1912).

[Statewide Records](#)

- Coal miners killed in Indiana (1890)

Honor a genealogist with an IGS Award

We know the world is full of people who deserve public praise and recognition for the great work they are doing in Indiana genealogy. Help IGS honor them by nominating them for one of our service awards! We have awards to honor IGS members and non-members alike. Recipients will be recognized during the annual meeting portion of the Indiana Genealogical Society conference, which will be held at the Indianapolis Public Library on April 8, 2017.



Nominations must be received by **January 15, 2017** - to download the nomination form and see a list of previous winners, please visit our [Service Awards](#) page.

New York City marriage index online

A searchable marriage index for New York City for the years 1950 through 1995 is now available for free online at www.nycmarriageindex.com. This index, which consists of 3.1 million entries, was compiled by the New York City Clerk's office and was previously only accessible to researchers who visited the New York City Municipal Archives. The fact that it is now available online is the result of a Freedom of Information lawsuit that was filed by the non-profit group [Reclaim the Records](#).



- Read the [press release](#) about the 1950-1995 marriage index (via Dick Eastman's newsletter)

In April 2016, Reclaim the Records was also successful in their lawsuit to get a copy of the New York City marriage index for 1908-1929, which is on 48 rolls of microfilm. This microfilm has been digitized and placed [online](#) for free at Internet Archive. Currently you have to browse the images of the index; in future the index will be transcribed and made searchable.

- Read the [press release](#) about the 1908-1929 marriage index (via Dick Eastman's newsletter)

Legal terms explained: Quiet title

Just like when purchasing a car, when you purchase a piece of land, you are given the title to it. When you go to sell that land, the title is transferred to the new owner. If you have a mortgage, the mortgage company actually holds the title to your land until the mortgage has been paid off. There are also businesses called title companies that will research the history of who has bought and sold a particular piece of land going back to the beginning, to determine if the title to it is "clear".



There are instances after the purchase (sometimes decades later!) when the landowner may file a lawsuit to "quiet title" on the land. This civil lawsuit involves the landowner as plaintiff and some or all of the previous owners (and their heirs) as the defendants. If the lawsuit is successful, the judge will issue a decree that states the plaintiff is the rightful owner of the land.

A quiet title lawsuit may happen because:

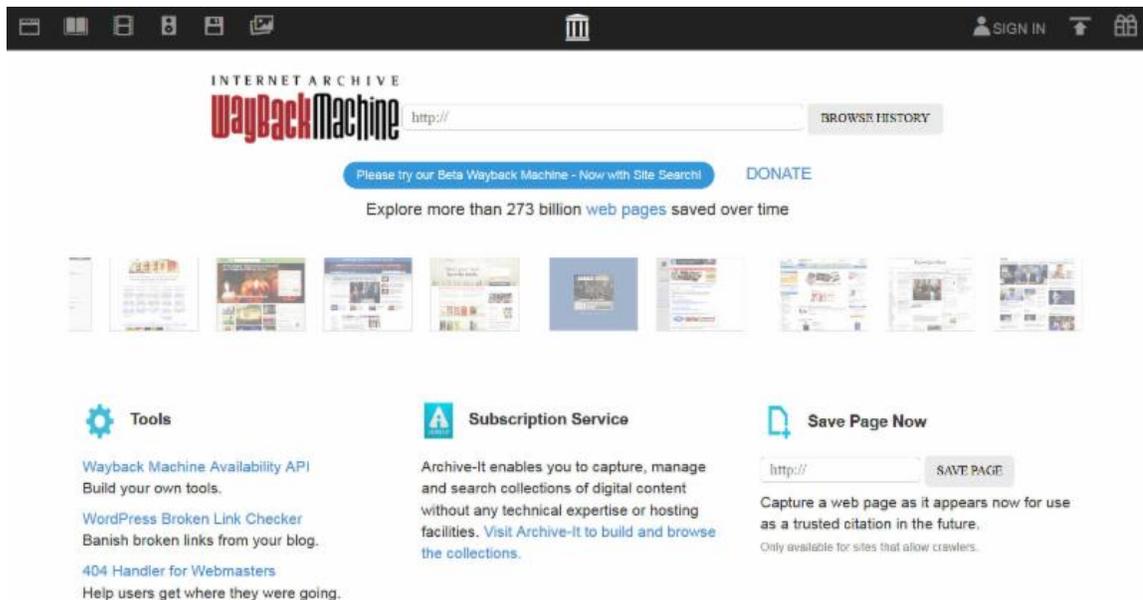
- A clerical error was discovered in the wording of the deed - for example, the proper legal description may be "the northeast quarter" but it was recorded as "the northwest quarter". This error may have happened back in the 1800's, and all subsequent deeds for this land continued the error in the wording.
- The land was mortgaged, and the mortgage was recorded at the courthouse as required. However, years later, when the mortgage was paid off, it did not get marked as "released" in courthouse records. This leads to legal uncertainty about who is the rightful owner - and therefore, who has the right to sell it.

Quiet title lawsuits can have a lengthy list of defendants, and the effort to prove ownership can generate documents full of details, such as the previous owners' spouses and children and affidavits from out-of-state residents.

Research Tip: Viewing older versions of websites

If the website you want to visit is temporarily unavailable, Google and other major search engines have a "cached" option in their search results, that allows you to visit the site as it appeared when it was last "crawled" by the search engine's software. The site is not live, and sometimes the "crawled" version of it can be several weeks or months old. But what happens when you want to visit a website that has moved/deleted the page with the information you were interested in, or the website no longer exists at all? That's where the "Wayback Machine" feature on [Internet Archive](#) comes in.

Internet Archive is well-known as being a free website for digitized books. What is less known is that since 1996, their search engine has been crawling the web, visiting over 270 million websites. When their search engine returns to the same website, instead of deleting the previous version from its servers, it saves them all. These archived versions of websites now take up over 100 terabytes on their servers.

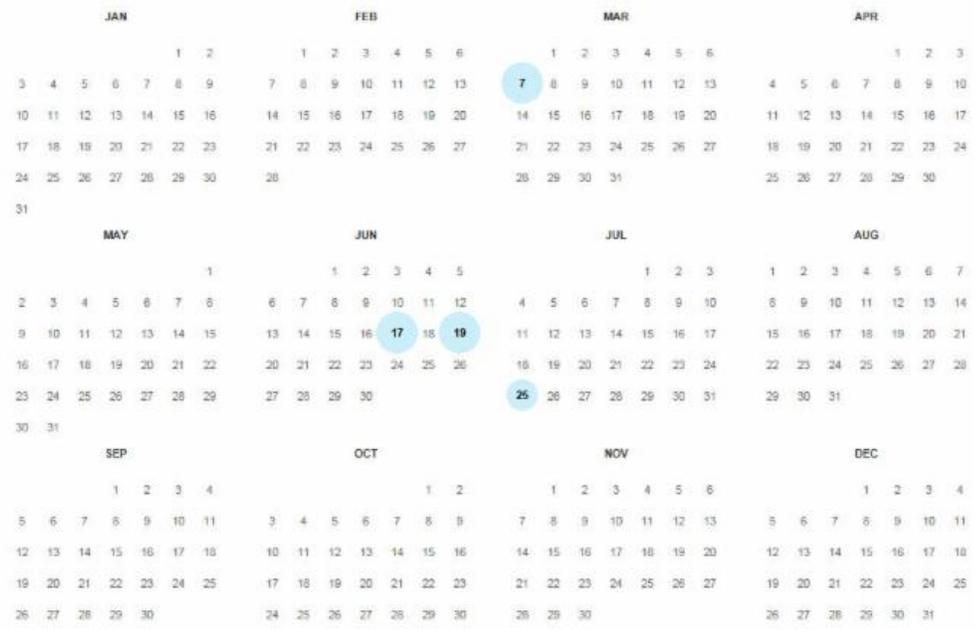


The main page of Internet Archive's Wayback Machine
(see [full-sized PDF](#))

The Wayback Machine can be accessed by clicking on the Wayback Machine logo at the top of Internet Archive's home page, or by going directly to <https://archive.org/web/>

Once there, you simply enter the address of the website you want to see an older version of. In the example below, we entered the address of the Tri-State Genealogical Society in Evansville back when it was on Rootsweb, and were shown a calendar showing available dates we could view from the years 2008 through 2016. We selected the calendar for 2010 and there were blue dots over some days, indicating which dates had "crawls" that we could view:

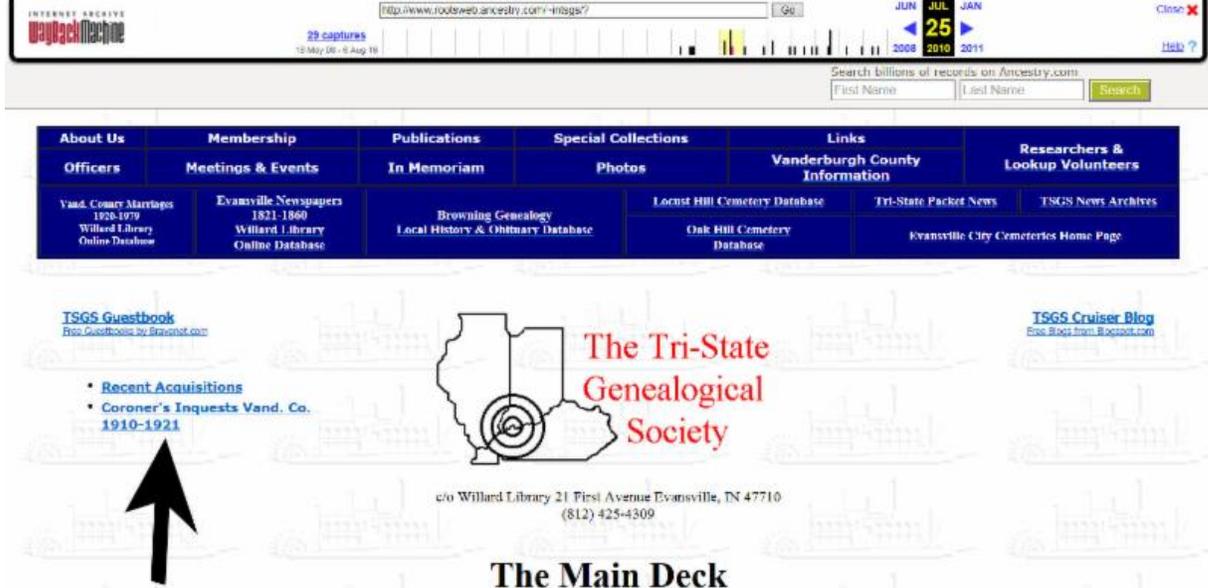
PLEASE DONATE TODAY. Your generosity preserves knowledge for future generations. Thank you.



2010 dates available for the Tri-State Genealogical Society's old website (see [full-sized PDF](#))

Sometimes the dots on the calendar will be in a color other than blue - this means there was an error when the search engine tried to crawl the site. Only the blue dots indicate a successful crawl by the search engine, so those are the only ones you should choose from.

We clicked on the blue dot over July 25, 2010, and were shown what the Tri-State Genealogical Society's website looked like on that date, with a banner from the Wayback Machine across the top of the page:



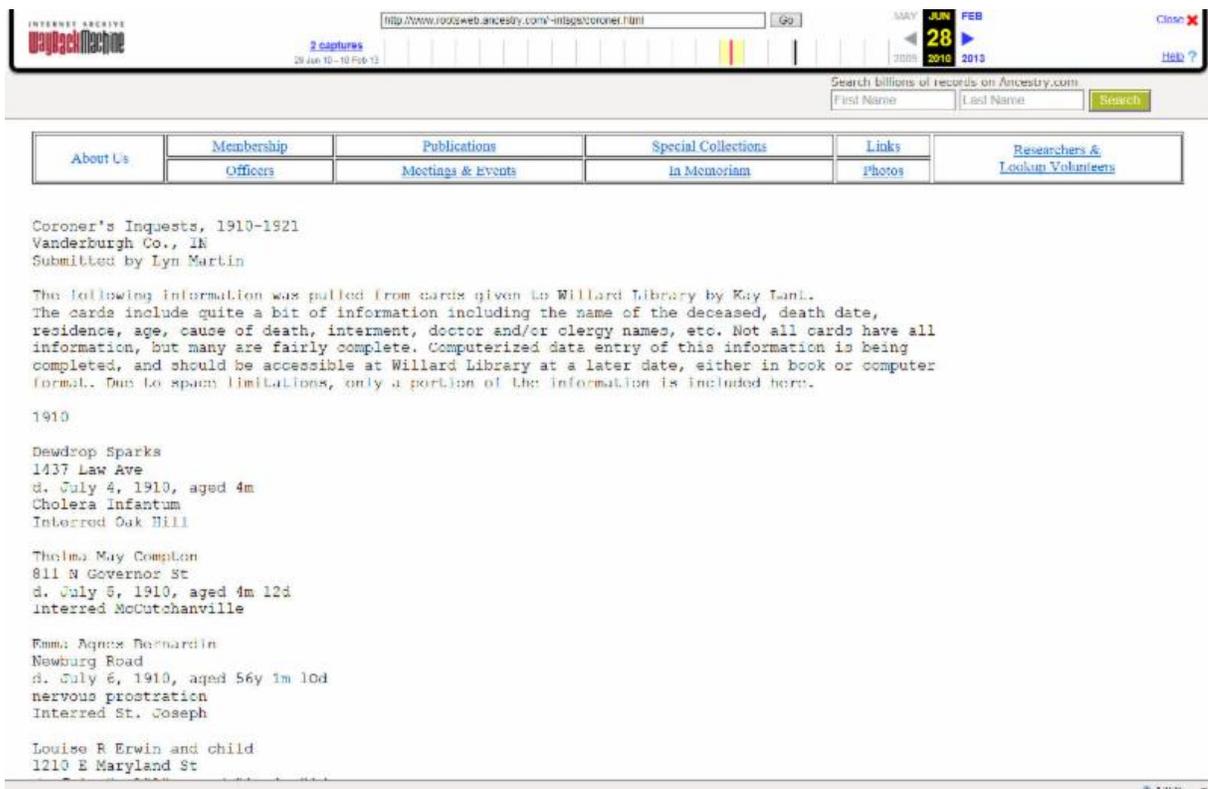
The Main Deck

The Tri-State Genealogical Society (TSGS) has been serving Southwest Indiana, Southeast Illinois, and Western Kentucky researchers for over 30 years. We hope you will enjoy your excursion on our homepage and find the information quite useful, and that if you are not already a member, you will consider coming aboard TSGS to take full advantage of Membership Benefits which includes our quarterly publication, *The Packet*. TSGS was formed in 1977, and meets monthly at Willard Library, in Evansville, Indiana.

Willard Library is a designated *FamilySearch Center* and an affiliate of the Genealogical Society of Utah's Research and Library System! Microfilm can now be ordered from the Family History Library in Utah and then read at Willard Library. Contact Willard Library for [more information](#).

The July 25, 2010 capture of the Tri-State Genealogical Society website
(see [full-sized PDF](#))

The best part of the Wayback Machine is that it doesn't just archive the main page of a website, it also archives all the other pages that are linked to it (so long as they aren't generated by searching a database, or require a subscription or password to access). So we were able to click on the link for Vanderburgh County coroner's inquests 1910-1921 (as marked by the big black arrow) and it showed us a plain text version of the record abstracts:



(see [full-sized PDF](#))

This is a great resource if you have a bookmark in your browser that no longer works, or you printed something from a genealogy site years ago and now you want to go back and see the rest of what was there, but the page has been deleted or otherwise moved.

NOTE: The Wayback Machine is now doing beta-testing on its search feature. The beta version (which works with Firefox and Chrome, but not Internet Explorer) allows you to enter a search word from an archived website - you don't have to know the website's address. However, this search word MUST appear on the website's main page - it can't appear just on a page that's linked from the main page. In the example below, we entered "Bloomington Indiana court records" as our search term and were shown this list of archived websites to choose from:

The screenshot shows the Wayback Machine beta search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with icons for home, search, and sign in. The main heading is "INTERNET ARCHIVE WayBack Machine BETA". Below this, it says "Explore more than 273 billion web pages saved over time". A search bar contains the text "bloomington indiana 'court records'". The results are listed as follows:

Website	Pages	Images	PDFs	Other	Captures
www.state.in.us indiana (in) indianapolis	864,410	125,185	2,645	463	7,301,465 web captures from 1998 to 2016
www.monroehistory.org monroe county history center	1,270	1,297	0	0	11,530 web captures from 2005 to 2016
www.wdia.com national credit information network	25,755	1,144	1	0	108,756 web captures from 1996 to 2016
www.searchdetective.net search detective reverse phone lookup	273	107	0	0	8,483 web captures from 2002 to 2011
www.xzqgo.com 新战线网游社区	34	32	0	0	

Beta search results for "Bloomington Indiana court records"
(see [full-sized PDF](#))

