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Indiana News - November 2016

Welcome to the November 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:

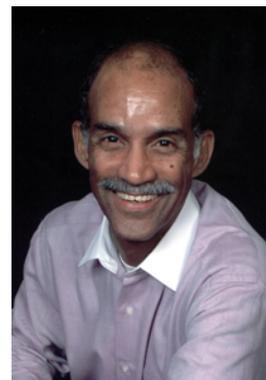
- Registration is open for our April 2017 conference in Indianapolis.
- More free Indiana databases from our giveaway of scanning kits.
- Learn about the federal tax assessment lists and how they differ from Indiana's property tax lists.

Registration open for IGS annual conference in Indianapolis

Registration is now open for the Indiana Genealogical Society's annual [conference](#) in downtown Indianapolis on **Saturday, April 8, 2017**. We're pleased to have genealogist and author Tony Burroughs as our featured speaker. He will be leading sessions on:

- Digital Research of African-Americans
- Off the Beaten Path: Unusual Sources for Research
- Freedmen's Bureau Research
- Creating Order Out of Chaos

There will also be sessions on researching Indianapolis Public School records (Ron Darrah) and Hidden Treasures in Midwestern Archives (Mauri Stotts Pratt).



The conference will be held at the central branch of the Indianapolis Public Library. There will be free parking in the library's parking garage. A box lunch will also be available for pre-purchase, with a choice of 3 entrees. Indiana Genealogical Society members can receive a \$10 discount on conference registration.

You can register for the conference [online](#), or by mailing the [registration form](#).

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 - continues to result in some fascinating free databases:



HENRY COUNTY (contributed by the Henry County Historical Society):

- [History of Grand Avenue Baptist Church, New Castle, Henry County, Indiana \(1951-1980\)](#) - This history includes the names of charter members, former members, and pastors, as well as a list of the current members (as of 1980).

HOWARD COUNTY (contributed by the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library):

- [Inaugural Playbill of Sipe Theatre, Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana \(1900\)](#) - This is the playbill for the Inaugural Opening of the Sipe Theatre on Wednesday, September 5, 1900. The theatre was at 123 East Sycamore Street in Kokomo, and was owned and managed by George W. Sipe. It was destroyed by fire in May 1967. This playbill includes names and photos of cast members, as well as ads from area businesses and a list of area residents who were sponsors.

CIVIL WAR (contributed by the Henry County Historical Society):

- [Grand Army of the Republic Annual Encampment in Indiana \(1931\)](#) - This is the program for the Indiana GAR's annual reunion ("encampment") that was held in New Castle in June 1931. The Grand Army of the Republic was a fraternal organization for Civil War veterans, formed in 1866. This program includes the names and photos of Indiana GAR officers and their auxiliaries, as well as historical information about New Castle.

Remember, applications for these scanning kits are accepted on a rolling basis.

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.

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.

ALLEN COUNTY

The Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana's [website](#) has added some free [databases](#), including divorce cases from the 1830's-1870's and a deed index from the 1870's.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

The Allen County Public Library's [website](#) has added a free [database](#) about the

Sharon Baptist Church in Hope. The database contains digital records of the church's meeting minutes from 1874 through 1927, and lists of Sunday school classes from the 1880's through 1934.

DUBOIS COUNTY

--The Allen County Public Library's [website](#) has added a free [database](#) about the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jasper. The database contains digital records about the church's history, including a list of members in 1974.

--The Indiana Historical Society recently named Bretzville teacher Lee Bilderback the [winner](#) of their 2016 Willard C. Heiss Family History/Genealogy Award.

Bilderback serves on the boards of the Dubois County Museum and the Dubois County Historical Society and has written two local history books detailing German immigrants in the area.



Excavation of a Native American burial ground at Strawtown Park in Hamilton County (photo courtesy of the *Indianapolis Star*)

HAMILTON COUNTY

An *Indianapolis Star* [article](#) details the troubled history of a Native American burial ground at Strawtown Park, and how archaeologists mishandled the human remains they found during excavation.

JOHNSON COUNTY

The grandchildren of Private Elmer D. Wall, an Army veteran who died in France in 1944, [received](#) his Purple Heart and other medals in a Veterans Day ceremony in Franklin.

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

The Allen County Public Library's [website](#) has added a free [database](#) about the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church in Claypool. The database contains digital records about the church's history, including baptism records and membership lists.

LAGRANGE COUNTY

The Allen County Public Library's [website](#) has added a free [database](#) about the Lima Presbyterian Church in Howe. The database contains digital records about the church's history, including members from 1833-1850.

MARION COUNTY

[Hoosier State Chronicles](#), the Indiana State Library's free site for digitized newspapers, recently added [issues](#) from the *Indianapolis Journal* for 1887-1888. They now have issues of this newspaper for 1872-1873, 1887-1897 and 1899-1904.

SWITZERLAND COUNTY

[Indexes](#) to Switzerland County's court order books from 1814-1837 are available for free searching on Tina Lyons' website, [Indiana's Gore](#). The website (which focuses on Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland counties) also contains a link to purchase abstracts of these records.

WAYNE COUNTY

[Hoosier State Chronicles](#), the Indiana State Library's free site for digitized newspapers, recently added:

- Scattered [issues](#) from the *Richmond Daily Palladium* for 1877, 1879, 1881-1885, 1888-1891, 1894-1895 and 1898.
- Scattered [issues](#) from the *Richmond Weekly Palladium* for 1837-1839, 1844-1875, 1880 and 1890.

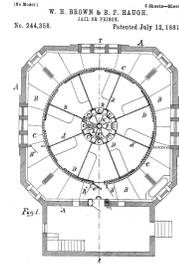
These issues were digitized with the support of the Wayne County Foundation, in cooperation with the Morrison-Reeves Library in Richmond.

Indiana invented the rotary jail

The Indiana State Library's Hoosier State Chronicles blog has a [post](#) about a

unique Indiana invention from the 1800's - the rotary jail. Patented in 1881, it was designed to move cells in a circular fashion when officials needed to interact with the inmate.

A 2015 [post](#) has more information on the history of the rotary jail, including its use in Montgomery County until 1967.



New IGS databases

We now have over 1,850 total databases. Here are all the databases for Indiana Genealogical Society members that we've added since last month:

College Records

- DePauw University, Greencastle - graduates (1931).
- Goshen College, Goshen - graduates (1910).
- University of Evansville, Evansville - graduates of Evansville College (1958). NOTE: Evansville College later changed its name to the University of Evansville.

County Records

- Clay County - students of Knightsville Grade School (1957) - grades 1 through 8.
- Floyd County - African-American members of the Grand Army of the Republic in New Albany (1903).
- Gibson County - history of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Fort Branch (1934); roster of Columbia Rifles (1863).
- Lawrence County - graduates & teachers of Heltonville High School (1962).
- Marshall County - students & teachers of Culver High School (1930).
- Monroe County - index to agricultural censuses (1850, 1860, 1870 & 1880); records of Day Funeral Home, Bloomington (1946-1949).
- Randolph County - history of W.E. Miller & Co. General Store in Winchester (1902).
- St. Joseph County - graduates of common schools (1928). NOTE: A common school went up to 8th grade.
- Vermillion County - alumni of Newport High School (1887-1964).

Statewide Records

- Coal miners who died in Indiana (1881).

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

- Owen County - [students and teachers at Spencer High School \(1921\)](#) - contributed by Randi Richardson.
- Union County - [students](#) and [teachers](#) at Brownsville High School (1948) - contributed by Wayne Klusman.
- Vigo County - [register of trained nurses \(1905-1961\)](#) - contributed by the Wabash Valley Genealogy Society.

Legal terms explained: Foreign will

The word "foreign" usually connotes that something is from outside the United States. However, when it comes to United States court records, "foreign" just means something that comes from another jurisdiction. So if you see the term "foreign will," it means that it was filed in another county or state besides the one you are looking at.



There are several reasons why a will might be filed in another jurisdiction, such as:

- The person might have lived in one jurisdiction and owned some property in another

jurisdiction.

- One of the people mentioned as beneficiaries in the will might live in another jurisdiction and the court might require a copy of the will to be filed there as evidence.

Research Tip: Federal tax assessment lists

By July 1862 the federal government already faced mounting debts from fighting the Civil War. As a result, Congress passed the Internal Revenue Act, which imposed federal taxes on an individual's income, as well as on the purchase of many products and services (including stamps that were required for court documents filed on the local level - see our [January 2014](#) e-mail for information on these revenue stamps).

If you've seen Indiana tax lists from the 1800's, they were based on how much property someone owned - usually real estate, but sometimes also personal property (such as livestock) if it reached a certain minimum value.

However, the federal taxes that were assessed during the Civil War focused on those who owned personal property such as a horse & wagon, or professionals such as doctors and lawyers who received a license from the state to practice their craft. As such, these federal assessment lists from the 1860's can give you insight into a different group of ancestors than those that were included on Indiana's property tax lists from the same period.

The National Archives has microfilmed these federal tax assessment lists (Indiana's portion covers 1862 through 1866) and the digital images are available at both Ancestry.com (subscription required) and FamilySearch (free):

- Ancestry.com [requires subscription to access]: [U.S. IRS Tax Assessment Lists, 1862-1918](#)
- FamilySearch [FREE] - [United States Internal Assessment Lists, 1862-1874](#)

For the FamilySearch database, you must browse the digital images - they are arranged by state and then by county. Ancestry.com's database does have a searchable index, but if you also want to browse the digital images, be aware that they are arranged by state and then Congressional District, not by county. We've got a [table](#) (PDF format) of Indiana's 92 counties and what Congressional District they were in from 1821 through 1911.

Also, if you have access to an Ancestry.com subscription, either at home or at your local library, you may want to compare the quality/legibility of the digital images on the two sites. Here is the same Johnson County 1862 list, as viewed on FamilySearch:

An 1862 federal tax assessment list for Johnson County, Indiana (image courtesy Ancestry.com) - see [full-sized PDF](#)

