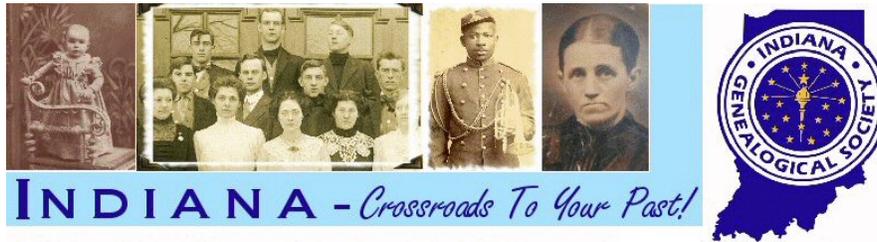


Indiana is at the crossroads to your genealogy past.



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Indiana News - August 2017

Welcome to the August 2017 edition of Indiana News! This e-mail is sent once a month and focuses on news relating to Indiana genealogy and history. You are receiving this e-mail either because you signed up on our website to receive it or as a benefit of your membership in the Indiana Genealogical Society.

Past issues of this e-mail going back to 2010 are available for [download](#) in PDF format.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- IGS appoints Indiana County Genealogists for Boone, Hendricks and Kosciusko counties.
- IGS adds 31 more free databases from scanning kits.
- IGS adds 35 more Hendricks County probate packets.
- Two Harrison County cemeteries vandalized and other county news.
- IGS adds Indiana State Prison database + 16 others for IGS members.
- Indiana Historical Society to hold DNA workshop.
- The legal term "mechanic's lien" is explained.
- RESEARCH TIP: Absentee estates.

Boone County Genealogist appointed

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Teresa Price of Thorntown as the Indiana County Genealogist (ICG) for Boone County. She was appointed by the IGS board at the August meeting. Teresa has been doing genealogy research for over 40 years, specializing in the records of the county recorder. She is currently the president of the Boone County Genealogical Society.

If you have questions about Boone County research, please contact her at boonecogen@outlook.com

31 free databases from IGS scanning kits added

Here are the 31 free databases we've added this month from our [Indiana Genealogy Digitization Project](#) - a project to give portable scanning kits worth \$500 to qualified Indiana non-profit groups:

MORAVIAN SEMINARY FOR YOUNG LADIES (contributed by Yellow Trail Research)

Center, Hope, Indiana):

- [Students and Faculty at Moravian Seminary for Young Ladies, Bartholomew County, Indiana \(1875\)](#)

UNION CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (contributed by Sullivan County Public Library):

- [Students and Faculty at Union Christian College, Merom \(1897\)](#)

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY (contributed by Yellow Trail Research Center, Hope, Indiana):

- [Directory of Members of Hope Methodist Episcopal Church, Bartholomew County, Indiana \(1919\)](#)
- [Directory of Members of Hope Methodist Episcopal Church, Bartholomew County, Indiana \(1926\)](#)
- [Directory of Members of Hope Methodist Episcopal Church, Bartholomew County, Indiana \(1930\)](#)
- [History of Masonic Lodge No. 150, Hope, Bartholomew County, Indiana \(1853-1953\)](#)
- [History of Petersville United Methodist Church, Bartholomew County, Indiana \(1868-1968\)](#)

GREENE COUNTY (contributed by Bloomfield-Eastern Greene County Public Library):

- [Deceased World War I Veterans from Greene County, Indiana \(1989\)](#)
- [Deceased World War II Veterans from Greene County, Indiana \(1989\)](#)
- [Graduates of Bloomfield Normal School, Greene County, Indiana \(1881\)](#)
- [Graduates of Newberry High School, Greene County, Indiana \(1916\)](#)

MARION COUNTY (contributed by Samuel Bryan Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Beech Grove, Indiana):

- [City Directory of Beech Grove, Marion County, Indiana \(1928\)](#)
- [City Directory of Beech Grove, Marion County, Indiana \(1929\)](#)
- [City Directory of Beech Grove, Marion County, Indiana \(1931\)](#)
- [City Directory of Beech Grove, Marion County, Indiana \(1932\)](#)
- [City Directory of Beech Grove, Marion County, Indiana \(1935\)](#)
- [City Directory of Beech Grove, Marion County, Indiana \(1936\)](#)

HENRY COUNTY (contributed by East Central Indiana Genealogy Alliance):

- [Index of Probate Complete Book, Henry County, Indiana \(1836-1844\)](#)
- [Index of Probate Court Books, Henry County, Indiana \(1822-1839\)](#)
- [Index of Probate Court Hearings, Henry County, Indiana \(1830-1861\)](#)
- [Index of Probate Order Book, Henry County, Indiana \(1826-1852\)](#)
- [Index of Probate Order Book, Henry County, Indiana \(1835-1839\)](#)
- [Index of Will Book, Henry County, Indiana \(1823-1838\)](#)
- [Index of Will Book 1, Henry County, Indiana \(1891-1912\)](#)
- [Index of Will Book 2, Henry County, Indiana \(1912-1949\)](#)

PARKE COUNTY (contributed by Parke County Historical County):

- [Burial Registry of Hixon Cemetery, Wabash Township, Parke County, Indiana](#)
- [Graduates of Montezuma High School, Parke County, Indiana \(1879-1981\)](#)

SULLIVAN COUNTY (contributed by Sullivan County Public Library):

- [Civil War Soldiers of Sullivan County, Indiana](#)
- [History of Farmersburg, Sullivan County, Indiana \(1853-1953\)](#)
- [History of Sullivan, Sullivan County, Indiana \(1853-1953\)](#)
- [History of Sullivan, Sullivan County, Indiana \(1899\)](#)

Hendricks County Genealogist appointed

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Steve Smith of Clayton as the Indiana County Genealogist (ICG) for Hendricks



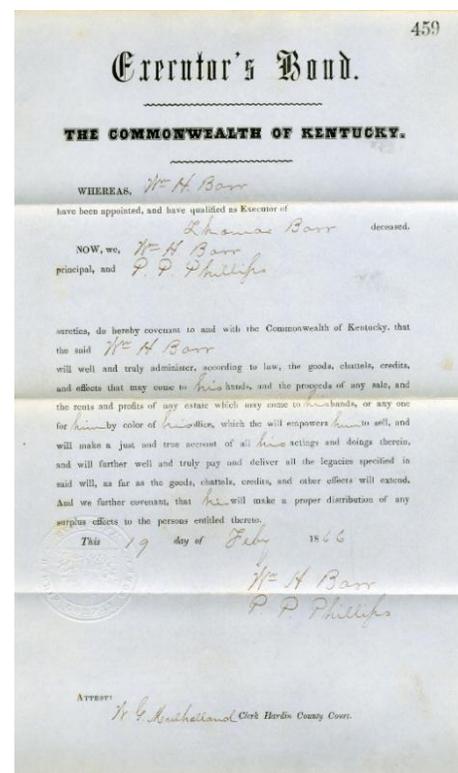
County. He was appointed by the IGS board at the August meeting. Steve works at the Danville Public Library helping people with their family history. He coordinated the digitizing and indexing of Central Normal College records for the Hendricks County Heritage Project.

If you have questions about Hendricks County research, please contact him at hendrickscountygenealogist@gmail.com

35 Hendricks County probate packets digitized

Thanks to volunteers at the Allen County Public Library, 35 more probate packets for Hendricks County have been digitized and placed online in our free [database](#). The 35 files that were added span 1844 through 1901 (as well as some stray packets from 1913, 1917 1919, 1929 and 1930):

- Barnhill, James (1844) - estate
- Barr, Thomas (1867) - estate
- Barron, John Q. (1886) - estate
- Barron, Rebecca E., Moses J., Susan E., Mary A., Harriett A. & Martha C. (1856) - guardianship of minors
- Bartholomew, Levi W. (1871) - estate
- Barton, Dora E. (1930) - estate
- Barton, Ralph (1888) - estate
- Bateman, James (1899) - guardianship of minor
- Bateman, Margaret L.A. (1894) - guardianship of unsound mind
- Baugh, Alva M. (1929) - estate
- Baxter, Charles W. (1868) - guardianship of minor
- Baxter, Nancy (1865) - estate
- Bean, James (1892) - estate
- Beard, Clarissa (1869) - estate
- Beard, Elisha D. (1919) - estate
- Bedford, Catharine (1895) - estate
- Beekman, Joseph W. (1885) - estate
- Beeson, Ezra (1868) - estate
- Bell, James J. (1887) - estate
- Bell, James J., Julia I. & Allen (1861) - guardianship of minors
- Bell, Mary (1862) - estate
- Bell, Robert Fay (1913) - guardianship of minor
- Bell, Samuel W. (1899) - estate
- Bell, Sarah (1888) - estate
- Benbow, Charles Dewayne (1930) - guardianship of minor
- Benbow, Leland W. (1917) - guardianship of minor
- Bennett, Joseph T. (1883) - estate
- Bennifiel, Paulina Ann, Peter M.P. & Francis M.G. (1871) - guardianship of minors
- Berremen, Adelia M. & Araminta B. (1864) - guardianship of minors
- Berremen, Jesse (1864) - estate
- Bez, Jacob (1901) - estate
- Biddle, John (1885) - estate
- Bird, Larkin (1847) - estate
- Bishop, John (1864) - estate



An 1862 executor's bond from Hardin County, Kentucky for the estate of Thomas Barr

- Bishop, Rachel (1865) - estate

DNA workshop in Indianapolis

The Indiana Historical Society (IHS) will hold a workshop, "Genealogy 301: Adding DNA to Your Genealogy Toolkit," at the Eugene and Marilyn Glick History Center on Saturday, September 30 from 10 am to 12:30 pm.

The workshop will be presented by the Central Indiana DNA Interest Group and will focus on what DNA testing is, how it can help you discover your family history, and what to do with your results. The workshop is \$15 for IHS members, \$20 for non-members.



Register [online](#).

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 (ACGSI) will hold a seminar about DNA testing on Saturday, October 7 at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. CeCe Moore will be the featured speaker. Pre-registration is \$40 for ACGSI members, \$70 for non-members, and a box lunch is available for \$10. For more information, visit www.acgsi.org/event.php



Thieves vandalized 40 tombstones in Cold Friday Cemetery and Greenbrier Cemetery in Harrison County (photo courtesy of WDRB)

HARRISON COUNTY

At least 40 tombstones in Cold Friday Cemetery and Greenbrier Cemetery in Scott Township were recently [vandalized](#). The cemeteries are in the Harrison-Crawford State Forest and date back to when the area was first settled.

HENDRICKS COUNTY

Old letters and photos were recently [found](#) in the attic of an Avon home, and the homeowner is seeking to find family to return them to. The family mementos belong to George Gaw, who served in World War II and died in December 2015.

JOHNSON COUNTY

A newspaper has a [profile](#) of the Johnson County Museum of History's genealogy library and photos of some of their collection.

MARION COUNTY

--Newspapers.com recently added more digitized issues of *Indianapolis News*, so that it now includes the full span of when the newspaper was published - 1869 through 1999. A subscription is required to access these issues.

--The Central Indiana DNA Interest Group will hold a free workshop at the Indiana State Library on

Saturday, September 16 from 11:30 am to 3:30 pm. Topics will include the various types of tests available and the companies that offer them, how to understand your test results, and more. The deadline to pre-register is September 13. For more information, see www.in.gov/library/events.htm

TIPPECANOE COUNTY

A Lafayette newspaper [recounts](#) the history behind the Potawatomi's "Trail of Tears" march through the area in 1838, en route to Kansas.

WAYNE COUNTY

Back in our [June 2016](#) e-mail, we told you about a fire that gutted the Whitewater United Methodist Church in Wayne Township, which had been built in 1806. The church had to be torn down, but a [memorial](#) has now been erected, including the original bell from the building.

WHITE COUNTY

In our [July 2017](#) e-mail, we told you about how the remains of Max Harris, a Korean War soldier from Monticello, had finally been identified and were being brought home for burial. A Lafayette newspaper now has an [article](#) detailing his life and his family's long search for information.

Kosciusko County Genealogist appointed

The Indiana Genealogical Society welcomes Peggy Biltz of Pierceton as the Indiana County Genealogist (ICG) for Kosciusko County. She was appointed by the IGS board at the August meeting. Peggy volunteers with the Kosciusko County Historical Society and has been doing genealogy research for over 30 years.

If you have questions about Kosciusko County research, please contact her at maggie66@mchsi.com

New IGS databases

We have **2,038** total databases, including at least 8 databases for each of Indiana's 92 counties.

Here are all the premium databases (accessible only to IGS members) that we've added since last month:

College Records

- Franklin College, Franklin - graduates (1942).
- Tri-State College, Angola - graduates (1939). NOTE: Tri-State College later became Trine University.
- University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame - graduates (1939).

County Records

- Delaware County - Beech Grove School students (1899). NOTE: Beech Grove School was District No. 4 in Harrison Township.
- LaGrange County - Indiana Legion rosters: LaGrange County Sharpshooters (1861); volunteers (1861-1863); Wolcottville Guards (1863).
- LaPorte County - Indiana Legion rosters: LaPorte Cavalry Company (1861-1863); Union Guards (1863); Westville Volunteers (1861-1863).
- Morgan County - Mooresville High School students (1917).
- Orange County - Kingdom School students (1916). NOTE: Kingdom School was District No. 2 in Northwest Township.
- Posey County - tax list (1842).
- Putnam County - Clinton Center High School alumni (1906-1947); Bainbridge High School graduates (1955).

Statewide Records

- Indiana State Prison North, Michigan City - prisoners who died (1860-1898).

Legal terms explained: Mechanic's lien



A lien is a legal hold that a creditor can place on someone's property (whether it be personal property, like a car, or actual real estate) in order to get paid for a debt. A mechanic's lien (also known as a contractor's lien) is a specific kind of lien that a contractor can place on someone's property in order to get paid for the work they performed.

For example, if a roofing company worked on the roof of a house and then didn't get paid for it, they can go to court and get a lien placed on the homeowner for that debt. The lien means that the roofing company will get priority among the creditors when it comes to being paid.

The term "mechanic" can be misleading - if the contractor performs work on a car, the lien may actually be called a garageman's lien instead of a mechanic's lien.

Research Tip: Absentee estates

When it comes to probate records, many researchers know to look for:

1. Estate cases - for people who have died.
2. Guardianship cases - for adults or children who need someone to take care of their legal interests.

However, you may not know that there is a special category of estate cases, for people who may not be dead but whose whereabouts were unknown. These estates were known as "absentee estates."

The early history of the United States presented many opportunities for families to lose touch, whether it was get-rich opportunities like the gold rush in the West, problems in finding and notifying soldiers' next-of-kin or just sporadic postal service. These lost people often left behind assets (like land or cash), but also some debts that needed to be paid (like IOUs, property taxes or mortgages).

That's why state governments passed "absentee" laws, to spell out how and when a court could act as if the lost person was dead and thus distribute their assets and pay off their creditors. The settling of the lost person's estate was irrevocable - if they were to return later, their assets would not be returned to them.

In Indiana, the first absentee law was passed in March 1859 (Acts of 1859, Chapter 4). Under the 1859 law, a person could be declared absentee if they had been missing from their usual residence for at least 10 years and their family had established to the court that they needed the "use and proceeds" of their property, or that this property was suffering "for want of proper care." The 10-year requirement was reduced to 5 years in March 1861 (Acts of 1861, Chapter 52).

The 1861 law remained in effect until March 1913 (Acts of 1913, Chapter 326), when a 3-year condition was added. The 1913 law stated that the heirs to the absentee's estate had to get a bond promising they would pay back all the money in full (plus interest) if the absentee were to return within 3 years of their estate being settled.

In March 1921 (Acts of 1921, Chapter 101), a law was passed that said if the heir to an estate was themselves an absentee for the requisite 5 years, that estate could be closed after 2 years and the absentee heir treated as if they were dead - meaning their share of the estate would pass to any of their children or other legal heirs.

One example of this 1921 law was the Hendricks County estate of Adaline J. Goin, who died in June 1922. Her heirs included her sons Thomas and Callup. But according to the estate's administrator, George Huber, the family hadn't heard from Thomas and Callup Goin since 1885. So in 1925 (as referenced in this court news column from a June 1925 newspaper) Huber filed to have Thomas and Callup declared absentee:

George Huber has qualified as administrator of the estate of Thomas Goin, absentee. Bond, \$1,500. He also qualified as administrator of the estate of Callup Goin, absentee. Bond \$1,500.

A Hendricks County court news column in a June 1925 newspaper
(see [full-sized PDF](#))

A notice of administration was then published in the newspaper, noting it was for someone absentee:

Geo. W. Piersol, Atty.
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed by the Judge of the Circuit Court of Hendricks County, State of Indiana, Administrator of the estate of Callup Goin, Absentee, late of Hendricks County.
Said estate is supposed to be solvent.
GEORGE HUBER,
June 5, 1925. Administrator.
6-11-25.

A notice of administration from a Hendricks County newspaper in 1925
(see [full-sized PDF](#))

According to a court docket book - which noted it was for an "absentee" rather than a decedent - their estates were settled with their date of "absentee" (not death) listed as 1885:

APPLICATION FOR ADMINISTRATION ON ABSENTEE.

State of Indiana Marshall County,

ss

Sanford A. Joyce

vs

Frederick O. Rice

In the Marshall Circuit Court.
To Frederick O. Rice. Greeting:

You are hereby notified that the above named plaintiff has this day filed in the office of the clerk of said Court his certain complaint or petition alleging therein among other things that you, the said defendant, on or about the 15th day of March, 1893, being then a resident of Center township, Marshall County, Indiana, and the same being your usual place of residence, went to parts unknown and have continuously since said date remained absent and unheard from, leaving property in said county without having made any provision for its control and management that by reason thereof, said property is suffering waste for want of proper care, and praying that your estate may be adjudged by said court subject to administration and an administrator thereof duly appointed.

Now, therefore, you the said Frederick O. Rice, defendant and absentee, as aforesaid, are hereby notified that said complaint and the matters therein alleged will come up for hearing and determination in said court at the courthouse in the City of Plymouth, Marshall County, Indiana on Monday, March 8th, 1909, or as soon thereafter as such hearing can be had.

Witness the clerk and seal of said
(seal) court at Plymouth, Indiana,
this 25th day of January,
1909.

J. C. WHITESELL,

28w5 Clerk Marshall Circuit Court.
Charles Kellison, Atty.

A notice from a Marshall County newspaper in 1909 for
Frederick O. Rice
(see [full-sized PDF](#))

NOTE: In February 1945 - the height of World War II - Indiana passed a law (Acts of 1945, Chapter 35) that allowed for soldiers that had been declared prisoners of war or missing in action to be declared absentee and a conservator appointed to oversee their property. This absentee status could then be revoked with a letter from the soldier.

STAY CONNECTED:

