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Indiana News - January 2018

Welcome to the January 2018 edition of Indiana News! This e-mail is sent once a month and focuses on news and resources relating to genealogy research in Indiana. You are receiving this e-mail either because you signed up on our website to receive it or because you are a member of the Indiana Genealogical Society.

MISSED AN ISSUE? Past issues of this e-mail going back to 2010 are available for [download](#) as PDF files.

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- December 2017 quarterly available for IGS members.
- Registration open for IGS April 2018 conference in southern Indiana.
- IGS adds 16 new databases from scanning kits.
- Elkhart County receives grant for digitizing records + other county news.
- IGS adds 15 new databases for members.
- The legal term "quantum meruit" is explained.
- RESEARCH TIP: Indiana birth certificates 1907-1940.

IGS Members: December 2017 quarterly available

The December 2017 issue of *Indiana Genealogist*, our quarterly journal for members of the Indiana Genealogical Society, is now available for download in the [IGS Records](#) section of our Members-Only area.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- David Joseph Riley documents the life of James Kittleman (1787-1855), an early settler of Indianapolis.
- Barb LaFara examines how to use online resources to map the historic locations your ancestor lived in.
- Pensions granted to Indiana veterans in March 1890.
- Students at Indiana Medical College in LaPorte 1845-1846.
- Members of the Athenian Society of Indiana University in 1830.
- Brief records from Allen, Cass, Dearborn, Knox, Marion, Montgomery, Putnam and Wayne counties.

April 2018 conference in southern Indiana

Registration is open for the Indiana Genealogical Society's annual [conference](#), to be held on **Saturday, April 28, 2018** on the campus of Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Indiana.

The theme is "From Albany to New Albany," and Jane E. Wilcox from the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society will be the featured speaker. There will be sessions on:

- New York city and state vital records
- New York emigration/immigration and migration
- Sources for female ancestors

- Kentucky vital records law
- Kentucky Civil War ancestors
- Sons of the American Revolution
- Allen County Public Library's collections and access

Pre-registration is \$30 for Indiana Genealogical Society members, \$35 for non-members. Register [online](#) or print out & mail in our [registration form](#).



Free databases from IGS scanning kits

We recently added **16** free databases that were created by the recipients of our [Indiana Genealogy Digitization Project](#) - an ongoing project to give portable scanning kits worth \$500 to qualified non-profit groups in Indiana:

CIVIL WAR (contributed by General Van Rensselaer Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution):

- [Grand Army of the Republic's Annual Encampment in Indiana \(1917\)](#)
- [Grand Army of the Republic Members Who Died In Indiana \(1916\)](#)
- [Grand Army of the Republic Officers In Indiana \(1923\)](#)
- [Grand Army of the Republic Officers In Indiana \(1925\)](#)

CLAY COUNTY (contributed by Clay County Genealogical Society):

- [City Directory of Brazil, Clay County, Indiana \(1904\)](#)
- [Directory of Landowners in Clay County, Indiana \(1904\)](#)

FOUNTAIN COUNTY (contributed by Covington-Veedersburg Public Library):

- [Yearbook of Covington High School, Fountain County, Indiana \(1939\)](#)

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

- [Yearbook of Charlottesville Schools, Hancock County, Indiana \(1950\)](#)

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

- [Yearbook of New Castle High School, Henry County, Indiana \(1933\)](#)

LAKE COUNTY (contributed by Whiting-Robertsdale Historical Society):

- [Members of American Legion Auxiliary, Whiting, Lake County, Indiana \(1938\)](#)

MORGAN COUNTY (contributed by Ten O'Clock Treaty Line Museum):

- [Yearbook of Martinsville High School, Morgan County, Indiana \(1909\)](#)

ORANGE COUNTY (contributed by the Paoli Public Library):

- [Members of Newton Stewart Homecoming Association, Orange County, Indiana \(1943\)](#)
- [Members of Newton Stewart Homecoming Association, Orange County, Indiana \(1945\)](#)

PARKE COUNTY (contributed by Parke County Historical Society):

- [Yearbook of Montezuma High School, Parke County, Indiana \(1929\)](#)
 - [Yearbook of Montezuma High School, Parke County, Indiana \(1930\)](#)
 - [Yearbook of Montezuma High School, Parke County, Indiana \(1939\)](#)
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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.

ALLEN COUNTY:

The [Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana](#) (ACGSI) will hold a day-long [seminar](#) on Wednesday, May 9 at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. James Beidler will be the featured speaker, with sessions that focus on German research. Pre-registration is \$20 for ACGSI members, \$35 for non-members.

DAVISS COUNTY:

The Daviess County Historical Society has been [awarded](#) a Heritage Support Grant of \$50,000 from the Indiana Historical Society. The money will be used to create a community research center within its museum.

DELAWARE COUNTY:

–[Newspapers.com](#) has updated its collection of digitized issues of *The Star Press* (Muncie). The collection now spans 1900 through 2017. This collection can only be accessed if you have a subscription.

–A Muncie newspaper has an [article](#) detailing the history of schools in Muncie.

ELKHART COUNTY:

The Elkhart County Historical Society has been [awarded](#) a Heritage Support Grant of \$37,000 from the Indiana Historical Society. The money will be used to begin digitizing their collection.

LAKE COUNTY:

[Newspapers.com](#) has updated its collection of digitized issues of *The Times* (Munster). The collection now spans 1906 through 2017. This collection can only be accessed if you have a subscription.

NOBLE COUNTY:

A newspaper [article](#) talks about various events in Kendallville's history that were preserved in a scrapbook. This scrapbook will be donated to the Kendallville library.

SCOTT COUNTY:

The [Scott County Genealogical Society of Indiana](#) has published a substitute to the missing 1890 census for Scott County. It was compiled from information on residents that was published in 1890 newspapers, tax duplicates, enumeration books, etc. The book can be purchased for \$15 + \$3 shipping (Indiana residents must add \$1.05 for sales tax). To order, contact them by phone at (812) 752-3388.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY:

The [South Bend Area Genealogical Society](#) will hold their 20th annual [Spring Conference](#) on Saturday, March 3 from 10 am to 4 pm at the St. Joseph County Public Library in South Bend. Richard Hill will be the featured speaker, with sessions on DNA testing. Pre-registration is \$12, and a box lunch is an additional \$6.

SWITZERLAND COUNTY:

The Switzerland County Historical Society has been [awarded](#) a Heritage Support Grant of \$50,000 from the Indiana Historical Society. The money will be used to create a conservation room in their Life on the Ohio River History Museum in Vevay. This conservation room will be used to preserve documents and other artifacts, and will include climate-controlled storage.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY:

[Newspapers.com](#) has updated its collection of digitized issues of *The Journal and Courier* (Lafayette). The collection now spans 1920 through 1972. This collection can only be accessed if you have a subscription.

TIPTON COUNTY:

The Tipton County Historical Society has been [awarded](#) a Heritage Support Grant of \$17,465 from the Indiana Historical Society. The money will be used for archival storage of 10,000 artifacts, as well as equipment to begin digitizing their collection of historical documents.

WAYNE COUNTY:

[Newspapers.com](#) has updated its collection of digitized issues of *The Palladium-Item* (Richmond). The collection now spans 1877 through 2017. This collection can only be accessed if you have a subscription.

IGS seeks District Directors for central Indiana

Want to become involved in the Indiana Genealogical Society? We're seeking nominations for District Directors in central Indiana. District Directors represent the interests of their part of the state, coordinate with Indiana County Genealogists and others in their area and attend quarterly board meetings to report on activities. The 3-year term will begin in April 2018.

Do you live in these areas, or know someone who does? Contact IGS President Rhonda Stoffer (president.indgensoc@gmail.com).

- **West Central District** - Clay, Fountain, Montgomery, Owen, Parke, Putnam, Vermillion, and Vigo counties.
- **Central District** - Boone, Clinton, Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, and Tipton counties.
- **East Central District** - Delaware, Hancock, Henry, Madison, Randolph, Rush, Shelby, and Wayne counties.

IGS adds 15 new databases for members

We now have **2,101** total databases for members, including at least 9 databases for each of Indiana's 92 counties.

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

County Records:

- Cass County - Logansport High School students & teachers (1925).
- Grant County - Rigdon Methodist Church history (1857-1957).
- Jefferson County - Hanover phone directory (1951).
- Kosciusko County - Clay Township District School 6 students (1901).
- Lawrence County - students & teachers grades 1-12 in Oolitic schools (1950).
- Madison County - Anderson High School graduates (1955).
- Porter County - Valparaiso High School students (1910).
- Putnam County - Cloverdale High School graduates (1959).
- Rushville County - Rushville High School seniors (1933).
- Switzerland County - Vevay phone directory (1956).
- Tippecanoe County - Battle Ground High School students & teachers (1924); alumni (1896-1923).

Personnel changes at IGS

- **Mike Lewman** has resigned as West Central District Director and chair of the Grants program - we wish him all the best.
- **Maggie Champion** has been appointed as interim West Central District Director.
- **Randi Richardson** and **Sue Caldwell** have been appointed as co-chairs of the Grants program.
- **Paul Singleton** has been appointed as Publicity chair.

Legal terms explained: Quantum Meruit

Quantum meruit is a Latin phrase that translates to "as much as they deserved." It is the principle in civil law that when you sue someone for services rendered, and your oral or written agreement did not specify an amount, the court can determine what is a reasonable amount for those services.



RESEARCH TIP: Indiana birth certificates 1907-1940

In 2014, Indiana's government announced it had reached an agreement with Ancestry.com to digitize the state health department's collection of Indiana vital records. In 2016, the state's collection of birth certificates from October 1907 through December 1940 were put online at Ancestry.com, under the title [Indiana, Birth Certificates, 1907-1940](#). This database can currently only be accessed by subscription because of a 3-year exclusivity agreement.

You may be wondering about the dates of this collection. The state has a privacy law that only allows birth records to be made public if they are at least 75 years old - hence the 1940 cutoff date. And this collection only starts in October 1907 because that's the date that the state began requiring county health departments to begin sending to the state health department a copy of any birth certificate they were recording. County health departments actually have birth certificates going back to January 1882 (in theory, anyway - doctors and midwives did not always comply with the law in those first few years).

Are you getting every bit of information from these birth certificates? The form asked if the birth was legitimate or not - and even if the birth was not legitimate, sometimes you could still learn the identity of the father. In an [example](#) from 1908, the illegitimate birth named the 20-year-old father - currently an inmate at the Indiana Boys' School in Plainfield.

The form asked what number in the birth order the child was and how many of these children were still living. This can be helpful when trying to pin down the existence of children who may have been born and died in between the 10 years of the census. In an [example](#) from 1908, Horace Thompson was the 13th child born to his mother, Linnie B. Owens, and all 13 were still alive - a fact all the more amazing in a time of high mortality rates for infants.

The form asked if it was a single birth or a twin or triplet - and if it was a twin or triplet, what number in the birth order the child was. In 1908, there are examples of certificates for the [oldest-born](#) twin and the

[youngest-born](#) twin.

Birth certificates could be amended afterward, too, especially if errors were discovered. In an [example](#), a birth from 1907 was amended in 1923 because the mother found that her daughter's name had been listed as Herman Rosa Merkley instead of Alma Rosina Merkley.

Sometimes amendments needed to be made in order for the child to prove their identity, such as to get a marriage license or apply for Social Security benefits. In an [example](#), a birth from 1907 where no first name was listed was amended in 1951 to include the child's first and middle name.

As with other records, sometimes it included more information than what the form asked for. The form asked if the child was born alive or not, and in an [example](#) from 1908, when noting it was a stillbirth, the doctor also included the detail that the child had been born at 8 months gestation.

These birth certificates are indexed; however, indexing is always dependent on how someone interprets handwriting. Doctors' handwriting is not known for being particularly easy to read, and the quality of these digital images (which were generated from microfilm) can vary in legibility, too. So don't just check the index, browse the digital images too.

To browse the digital images, go to the "Browse this collection" section on the right side of the database and under "Registration year", select the year and then from the dropdown menu, select the roll number. TIP: From 1907 until 1918, the rolls of microfilm were arranged by the name of the county and then grouped together by the month (they are not in strict chronological order, however - an October 31 birth is not necessarily found after an October 30 birth). From 1919 until 1940, the rolls of microfilm appear to be grouped chronologically by the month of birth and then the name of the county.

Indiana Genealogical Society | www.IndianaAncestors.org

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