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Indiana News - March 2018

Welcome to the March 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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IGS seminar in Jeffersonville

The Indiana Genealogical Society's will hold a [Society Management Seminar](#) on **Friday, April 27, 2018** at [St. Paul's Episcopal Church](#) in Jeffersonville, as the lead-up to our conference.

This year's seminar will focus on lineage societies, with sessions on the Daughters of the American Revolution and Ron Darrah using the Society of Civil War Families of Indiana and the Territorial Guard Society of Indiana as examples of how local organizations can start their own lineage societies.



The seminar costs just \$5 per person. Register [online](#) or print out & mail in our [registration form](#).

IGS conference in New Albany

April 24 is the deadline to pre-register 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. After April 24, registration will be \$40 per person, regardless of Indiana Genealogical Society membership.

The theme of the conference 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



Attention, Indiana librarians: The conference sessions have been approved for LEU and TLEU credits.

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

Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Fort Wayne

Indiana will be host to a national conference as the Federation of Genealogical Societies will hold their annual conference **August 22-25, 2018** in Fort Wayne. The theme of the conference is "On The Three Rivers: Past, Present & Future."



You can now get a sneak peek of the [conference program](#), which will include these sessions sponsored by the Indiana Genealogical Society:

- Indiana Genealogy: The Crossroads to America - presented by Melissa Tennant, MLS
- Capturing Cubbyholes: Scanning the Other Stuff - presented by Ron Darrah
- Midwestern Treasures on Ancestry.com - presented by Juliana Szucs
- Mitten Roots: Family History Research in Michigan - presented by Kris Rzepczynski, MLIS
- Illinois Digital Resources - presented by Tina Beard, MLIS

Indiana State Library to hold extended hours for research

The [Indiana State Library](#) in Indianapolis will hold "Genealogy for Night Owls", an extended-hours research event, on Wednesday, April 18 from 4:30 to 8 pm.



This free event is your chance to get in extended hours of genealogy research. Orientation tours of the library will be given, and you can also have a one-on-one session with these experts: Daughters of the American Revolution; Indiana Chapter of Palatines to America; professional genealogist Betty Warren; Indiana African American Genealogy Group; Central Indiana DNA Interest Group.

[Registration](#) is required - the deadline to register is April 16.

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 Public Library has added free [digital images](#) to its website of the 1880 road tax list for Pleasant Township.

BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library has added free databases of [Bryant Cemetery](#), [Burnett-Bennell Cemetery](#), [Azalia Methodist Cemetery](#), [Bush Family Graveyard](#), [Carney Cemetery](#), [Carson Family Graveyard](#), [Carvin Family Graveyard](#), [Clemons Family Cemetery](#) and [Robertson Family Cemetery](#) to its website.

HAMILTON COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library has added free [digital images](#) to its website of minutes from the Hortonville Friends Meeting for 1941 through 2016.

HENRY COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library has added free databases of [Beech Grove Cemetery](#), [Bell Cemetery](#), [Berger Family Cemetery](#), [Bowers Cemetery](#), [Brookshire Duck Creek Wesleyan Methodist Cemetery](#), [Bucy Gravesite](#), [Bundy Cemetery](#), [Bunner Cemetery](#), [Christian Friends Cemetery \(Finch Cemetery\)](#), [Conway/Kessinger Cemetery](#), [Devon Universalist Church Cemetery](#), [Ebenezer Cemetery](#) and [Shepherd Cemetery](#) to its website.

LAGRANGE COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library has added free [digital images](#) to its website of service records for some of the soldiers who served in Company C of the 100th Indiana Infantry during the Civil War. The soldiers from this company were from LaGrange County.

LAKE COUNTY:

The Lake County Public Library recently [digitized](#) its collection of Crown Point High School yearbooks for 1916 through 2001 and put them on [Internet Archive](#), where they can be viewed for free. Yearbooks from other high schools in the area (including Griffith, Hobart and Merrillville) have also been digitized.

MARION COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library has added free [digital images](#) to its website of a November 1870 map of Indianapolis.

MORGAN COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library has added free [digital images](#) to its website of plot records for West Union Cemetery.

PULASKI COUNTY:

–The Allen County Public Library has added free [digital images](#) to its website of a directory of Star City United Methodist Church.

–The Allen County Public Library has added free [digital images](#) to its website of the 1949 and 1950 yearbooks of Star City High School.

PUTNAM COUNTY:

The Civil War monument at Forest Hill Cemetery in Greencastle will be [honored](#) with an award at the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology's preservation conference in April. The award will celebrate the restoration of the monument by the Heritage Preservation Society, which began the project in 2012 and completed it in 2017.

SULLIVAN COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library has added a free [database](#) to its website of Sullivan County obituaries for 1909-1916 and 2015-2016.

SWITZERLAND COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library has added free [digital images](#) to its website of a 1938 commencement for Vevay High School.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY:

An original hand-drawn 1841 map of Lafayette was recently [discovered](#) at a local business. The map was made at a time when Lafayette had less than 1,800 residents, and is believed to be the first mass-produced map of the area.

UNION COUNTY:

The Union County commissioners recently [approved](#) a plan to clean up the Burnside family cemetery on the south side of Liberty. The small cemetery is where 5 family members of Civil War General Ambrose Burnside are buried.

VANDEBURGH COUNTY:

–An Evansville newspaper [article](#) details the history of Vanderburgh County's Asylum for the Poor (later renamed the County Home), which existed in Evansville from 1838 until 1976.

–The Allen County Public Library has added free [digital images](#) to its website of a 1940-1941 directory of Evansville's public schools.

WABASH COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library has added a free [database](#) to its website of Citizens Cemetery.

WHITLEY COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library has added free [digital images](#) to its website of the 1941-1985 records of Eberhard Lutheran Church in Columbia Township.

IGS adds 10 new databases for members

We now have **2,127** 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:

College Records:

- Central Normal College, Danville - graduates (1937).

County Records:

- Henry County - graduates of Liberty Township common schools (1925). NOTE: A common school went up to 8th grade.
- Lake County - Hammond High School graduates (1934).
- Madison County - graduates of Boone Township and Monroe Township common schools (1918). NOTE: A common school went up to 8th grade.
- Marion County - divorce cases filed (1926). NOTE: The database now covers 1926-1932.
- Monroe County - index to county phone directory (1902).
- Montgomery County - Crawfordsville High School graduates (1931).
- Morgan County - Mooresville High School students (1914).
- Porter County - Valparaiso High School students (1911).
- Putnam County - Bainbridge High School graduates (1959).

Legal terms explained: Vacate

Vacate has two meanings in the legal world:

- To physically leave a space or otherwise surrender your occupancy - for example, a landlord can sue a tenant in court to get them to move out of their rental unit.
- To nullify or make void the judgment of another court - for example, Indiana's Supreme Court could vacate a ruling that was handed down by a county's circuit court or superior court.



RESEARCH TIP: Indiana's old age pension law

By the 1900's poverty was a significant problem for the elderly, and it grew exponentially worse with the crop failures of the 1920's, the stock market crash of 1929 and the Great Depression that followed. In 1921 the Fraternal Order of Eagles started to lobby nationwide for passage of "old age" pension laws, whereby the government would give money each month to qualified residents who were above a certain age. By 1932, 17 states had passed these laws, and over 100,000 elderly residents had been given pensions.

On February 23, 1933, the Indiana legislature passed House Bill 230 - the Old Age Pension Act (Acts of 1933, Chapter 36) - which went into effect on January 1, 1934. It said that a monthly pension of no more than \$15 could be awarded to someone if they were at least 70 years old, a United States citizen for at least 15 years and a resident of Indiana and their county for 15 years (allowing for a 3-year interruption in residence). Those who had income over \$1,000 were disqualified. Other criteria for disqualification were if they had a child or family member who could support them, were receiving aid from a charitable institution or had failed to provide for their spouse and minor children.

The old age pension was to be exempt from local and state taxes, and could not be garnished for payment of other debts. However, the pension was actually more like a loan - upon the person's death, the county government and state government were entitled to recover from their estate the total amount of the pension that had been paid to them, plus 3% interest.

County commissioners were responsible for paying out these pensions, with the 1933 law giving them the authority to raise taxes so that they would have enough funds. The state treasurer would then reimburse the county for 50% of the money they paid out. In 1934, the first year of the law's existence, counties were inundated with applications and many county governments had to take out loans to help them pay for all the pensions they had approved.

Indiana's old age pension law was short-lived thanks to federal law, which modified the concept of pensions for the elderly. In August 1935, Congress passed the Social Security Act, which provided benefits to retired employees age 65 and older. In March 1936, Indiana's legislature passed House Bill 564 - the Welfare Act of 1936 - which repealed the old age pension law and implemented the provisions of the Social Security Act.

The effects of Indiana's old age pension law lingered long after its repeal in 1936. In 1945, the Lake County government successfully appealed to the Indiana Supreme Court to recover their pension money from an estate. In 1947 the Indiana legislature passed a law (Acts of 1947, Chapter 144) which allowed the county government to put a lien on the dead's property in order to be repaid.

WHERE ARE THESE RECORDS?

- County commissioners were required to periodically report to the public about these pensions, especially if the amount of a pension was changed or someone was added or dropped from the pension roll.
- County auditors were to act as clerks for the county commissioners and keep copies of the pension applications, as well as records of how the money was dispensed.
- County circuit courts and county superior courts were to preside over cases brought by residents whose pension applications had been denied. They also presided over estates being probated, where the pension money would be recovered by the county government and state government.

FOR IGS MEMBERS: The [County Records](#) section of our [Members-Only](#) area has databases concerning the old age pension records of Hendricks County, Lawrence County and Newton County.

Indiana Genealogical Society | www.IndianaAncestors.org

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