



INDIANA - *Crossroads To Your Past!*

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Indiana News - April 2018

Welcome to the April 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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- SAVE THE DATE: IGS 2019 conference with DNA expert Blaine Bettinger
- Highlights of IGS annual meeting.
- Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Fort Wayne.
- IGS adds 16 new databases for members.
- The legal term "demurrer" is explained.
- RESEARCH TIP: Masonic groups in Indiana.

SAVE THE DATE: IGS 2019 conference with DNA expert

Mark your calendars! DNA expert Blaine Bettinger will be the featured speaker at the Indiana Genealogical Society's annual conference on **Saturday, April 13, 2019** at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. Bettinger is author of *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*, and "The Genetic Genealogist" blog.



Highlights of IGS annual meeting

Thank you to everyone who came to the Indiana Genealogical Society's conference in New Albany with Jane Wilcox. Among the highlights of our annual meeting:

- **Library Staff Educational Scholarships** (\$500) were given to Janet Winrotte of the Culver-Union Township Public Library (Marshall County) and Teresa Biddle Douglas of the Harrison County Public Library. Each recipient received \$500 to be used towards furthering their education, and each library received an additional \$500 to purchase genealogy resources.
- **Electronic Database Award** (\$500) was given to the Bloomfield-Eastern Greene County Public Library for their many contributions, including city directories and poor house censuses.
- **Elaine Spires Smith Family History Writing Award** (\$500) was given to Barb LaFara for her article in the March 2017 quarterly about documenting the family oral history of David L. and Jennie



Osborne of Indianapolis and Minneapolis.

- **Outstanding County Genealogical Contribution** (\$500) was given to Diana Brumfield of Putnam County for her work with the Putnam County Public Library.
- **Distinguished County Genealogical Service** (\$500) was given to Mike Lewman of Parke County for his work preserving the Hixon Cemetery and many other pioneer cemeteries in Parke County.
- **Grants** (\$1,000 each) were given to: 1) Jefferson County Genealogical Society for restoration of the Congregation of Israelites Cemetery; 2) Porter County Public Library System for preservation of Porter County professional licenses; 3) Lawrence County Historical & Genealogical Society for adding to their newspaper microfilm collection; 4) Martin County Historical Society for preservation of courthouse documents; 5) Syracuse-Wawasee Historical Museum for digitizing their Miles' news collection; 6) Wabash Valley Genealogy Society for their Vigo County bicentennial history & genealogical hotspot event; 7) South Bend Area Genealogical Society for their Hispanic genealogy workshop; 8) Genealogical Society of Marion County for replacement of their library's HVAC unit; 9) Monroe County History Center for preservation of probate records.

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."



The [conference schedule](#) includes 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 Beaird, MLIS

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.

CLAY COUNTY:

The Clay County Genealogy Library has an [article](#) detailing the history of the Bank of Poland.

HOWARD COUNTY:

-The Hollingsworth family farm outside Russiaville was recently [honored](#) with a Hoosier Homestead award from the Indiana Department of Agriculture for over 150 years of continuous ownership.

-The Schafer/Gingerich family farm near Kokomo was recently [honored](#) with a Hoosier Homestead award from the Indiana Department of Agriculture for over 150 years of continuous ownership.

LAPORTE COUNTY:

-The St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Michigan City was recently [vandalized](#), with more than 50 tombstones damaged or knocked over.

-The Allen County Public Library has added free databases of [Apostolic Cemetery](#), [B'Nae Zion Jewish Cemetery](#), [Beatty's Corner Cemetery](#) and [Faith United Methodist Cemetery](#) (aka German Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery or Zion United Brethren Cemetery) to its website.

MIAMI COUNTY:

The Kendall family farm near Wawpecong was recently [honored](#) with a Hoosier Homestead award from the Indiana Department of Agriculture for over 150 years of continuous ownership.

TIPTON COUNTY:

The Leisure family farm was recently [honored](#) with a Hoosier Homestead award from the Indiana Department of Agriculture for over 150 years of continuous ownership.

IGS adds 16 new databases for members

We now have **2,143** 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:

- Indiana Institute of Technology, Fort Wayne - graduates of Indiana Technical College (1951). NOTE: Indiana Technical College later changed its name to Indiana Institute of Technology.
- Oakland City College, Gibson County - graduates (1956).
- St. Mary's College, Notre Dame - directory of students (1930).
- Valparaiso University, Valparaiso - graduates (1906).
- Wabash College, Crawfordsville - graduates (1964).

County Records:

- Hancock County - students & teachers in grades 1-12 in Charlottesville schools (1955).
- Harrison County - 1844 tax list.
- Jay County - students & teachers in grades 1-12 in Madison schools (1948).
- Lawrence County - students & teachers in grades 8-12 at Mitchell High School (1943).
- Monroe County - affidavits of soldiers exemptions from property tax (1938-1939); Civilian Conservation Corps certificates (1939-1941).
- Spencer County - 1846 tax list.

Statewide Records:

- Indiana School for the Deaf, Indianapolis - graduates (1927).

Legal terms explained: Demurrer

Demurrer is an old French term that translates as "to delay or wait." A demurrer is a plea filed by a defendant in a civil or criminal court case which admits the truth of what the plaintiff alleges they did, but asserts that the allegation is not enough for the case to proceed. In essence, a demurrer is a motion to dismiss the case.



RESEARCH TIP: Masonic groups in Indiana



Have you ever seen this square and compass symbol on your ancestor's tombstone? Did your family pass down a ceremonial apron? These are signs that your ancestor belonged to a Masonic organization. Masonic groups are among the oldest of the fraternal organizations, with its American founding in Virginia in 1753. George Washington was among their most famous members.

Members of Masonic groups are often referred to as Freemasons, because the largest group is the Free & Accepted Masons (abbreviated F. & A.M.). However, there are several other groups besides the Freemasons, including:

- Royal Arch Masons
- Scottish Rite
- Knights Templar

Masonic groups also have several "auxiliaries", for relatives of the male members. Among them are:

- Order of the Eastern Star (abbreviated O.E.S.) - for adult female relatives.
- Job's Daughters - for female children.
- DeMolay - for male children.

Like other fraternal organizations, Masonic groups practiced benevolence. The Grand Lodge of Indiana - the umbrella group for Indiana Freemasons - established the Indiana Masonic Home in Franklin as a residence for aging members, their widows and orphans. They also established their own high school nearby to educate children whose parents could not care for them.

RESOURCES FOR MASONIC RECORDS:

Masonic groups sent delegates annually to a statewide convention. The minutes of those conventions were published annually and included a list of officers of each lodge, as well as a list of those members who had died since the previous convention. Here is an [example](#) of a list of members who had died in 1877.

[Google Books](#) has digitized some of the Grand Lodge of Indiana's convention minutes:

--*Proceedings of a grand communication of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, begun and held in the Masonic Hall, in the city of Indianapolis, on Monday the 22nd of May, A.D. 1848* (Indianapolis: John D. Defrees, 1848).

<https://books.google.com/books?id=HBTxAAAAMAAJ>

--*Proceedings of the sixtieth annual meeting of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Indiana, held in Grand Masonic Hall, Indianapolis, May 22 and 23, A.D. 1877* (Indianapolis: Indianapolis Journal Co., 1877)

<https://books.google.com/books?id=ygvTAAAAMAAJ>

--*Proceedings of the sixty-first annual meeting of the M.W. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the state of Indiana, held in Grand Masonic Hall, Indianapolis, May 28 and 29, A.D. 1878* (Indianapolis: Indianapolis Journal Co., 1878)

<https://books.google.com/books?id=2wvTAAAAMAAJ>

The [Masonic Library and Museum of Indiana](#) is part of the Indiana Freemasons' Hall in downtown Indianapolis. It is open to the public and has the records of Indiana Freemasons. You can also contact the [Grand Lodge of Indiana](#) for [genealogy requests](#).

FOR INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS: The [Statewide Records](#) section of our Members-Only area includes many databases of deaths of Indiana Freemasons, as well as databases about the Indiana Masonic Home and the Indiana Masonic Home High School.

Indiana Genealogical Society | www.IndianaAncestors.org

STAY CONNECTED

