



INDIANA - *Crossroads To Your Past!*

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Indiana News - July 2018

Welcome to the July 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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Federation of Genealogical Societies August 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](#) 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



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.



August 2018 newsletter available for IGS members

The August 2018 issue of IGS Newsletter, our bi-monthly newsletter for members of the Indiana Genealogical Society, is now available for download in the [IGS Records](#) section of our Members-Only area.

Indiana State Library to hold Genealogy Fair

The Indiana State Library in Indianapolis will hold their annual Indiana Genealogy and Local History Fair on **Saturday, October 27, 2018** from 10 am to 3:30 pm. The theme is "Digging Up the Dead," with a focus on how to research deaths.

Local genealogy and history organizations will have information and vendor tables, and there will be speakers:

- Lisa Alzo will present sessions on "Murder, Mayhem and Town Tragedy" and "Cause of Death: Using Coroner's Records for Genealogy."
- Amie Bowser Tennant will present a session on "Trolling Virtual Cemeteries and Using Cemetery Records."
- Sarah Halter, executive director of the Indiana Medical History Museum, will give a brown bag lunch session on "What Killed Your Ancestors?"



Attendance is free, and no registration is required. Indiana librarians can receive LEU credits for attending (librarians please contact crward@library.in.gov in advance).

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 mystery of who [murdered](#) April Tinsley in Fort Wayne in 1988 was finally solved thanks to the [work](#) of DNA detective CeCe Moore, who is well known in genealogy for her DNA profiling.

BOONE COUNTY:

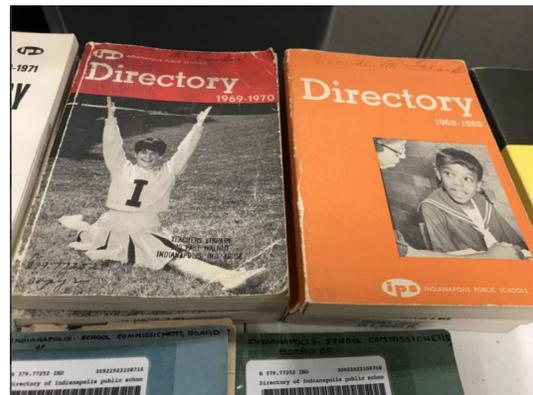
An [Eagle Scout project](#) to restore the Thorntown Colored Cemetery has been [awarded](#) a \$15,000 Heritage Support Grant from the Indiana Historical Society. The grant will help pay for a survey of the site and a fence and historic marker. The cemetery was the only place for African-American burials in the county.

DELAWARE COUNTY:

A Muncie newspaper has an [article](#) about a forgotten part of history - the village of West Muncie, which was platted in 1892 on an artificial lake.

JASPER COUNTY:

Internet Archive has [digitized](#) the annual catalogs of Saint Joseph's College in Rensselaer from 1900 through 2016 when it closed. Annual catalogs include a list of students as well as an explanation of the



various courses.

MARION COUNTY:

The contents of Indianapolis Public Schools' archives have now been digitized and placed online at <http://www.digitalindy.org/cdm/ips>. The digitization of 430,000 pages of photos, yearbooks, school directories and more (see photo above) was a 3-year effort in partnership with Easterseals Crossroads and the Indianapolis Public Library. It was the result of a grant from Lilly Endowment.

UNION COUNTY:

A church in Liberty recently [celebrated](#) its 200th anniversary, making it one of the oldest in the county. The Salem Friends Church built its first meeting house in 1807 and was formally organized in 1818.

IGS adds 15 new databases for members

We now have **2,182** 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 University, Bloomington - graduates (1924).

County Records:

- Madison County - graduates of Pipecreek Township common schools (1918). NOTE: A common school went up to 8th grade.
 - Marion County - divorce cases filed (1933-1934). NOTE: This database now covers 1926 through 1934.
 - Monroe County - students grades 1-12 in Smithville schools (1947); teachers at Smithville High School (1947).
 - Morgan County - Eminence High School graduates (1955).
 - Newton County - Brook High School graduates (1919).
 - Parke County - students grades 1-12 in Tangier schools (1931); teachers at Tangier High School (1931).
 - Porter County - Valparaiso High School students (1918).
 - Pulaski County - students at Delaware School, Beaver Township (1903). NOTE: Delaware School was District #3.
 - Putnam County - Belle Union High School graduates (1951).
 - Scott County - Austin phone directory (1952).
 - Shelby County - students & teachers at Shelbyville High School (1934).
 - Sullivan County - Merom High School graduates (1945).
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Legal terms explained: Messuage

In old deed records, it may say that the buyer has purchased the right to the messuage. Messuage is a derivation of an old French term. It means the buyer is being given the dwelling house as well as any outbuildings (such as barns) that are around it.



RESEARCH TIP: Indianapolis as a divorce mill

In the December 2013 issue of our quarterly *Indiana Genealogist* (which members of the Indiana Genealogical Society can access in the [IGS Records](#) section of the Members-Only area), we included an article about Indiana's divorce laws before 1940.

The article noted that in the latter half of the 1800's, Indiana developed a national reputation

ENTRY DOCKET No. 21.

Attorney's No. and Date of Case Proceeding.	PARTIES, PROCEEDINGS AND KIND OF ACTION.	Nature of Complaint, Date of Filing and of Process	When Process Returned.
Jas. D. Whill No. 15865	Mary Jane Parker vs George W. Parker	Filed April 23 - 1907 Sum to May 8 - 1907	
		Divorce	
1907 Apr. 26.	Resp. of ans. (C. N.)	175 - 366	Not for pay. \$10.00
" 30.	Resp. of x compl. R. to ans.	175 - 373	
" June 11.	Resp. of ans. to a compl. (C. N.) Sub. to et. v. c. under judicial	175 - 489	
" " 14.	Resp. for jfff. divorce granted. Custody of children awarded. Money, debts, etc. awarded. Mother, father given to Child. (Grand mother, father and 4 young \$250 x child on Monday each week for support of children)		

as being a divorce "mill" - a place that drew people from all over the country in search of a quick, uncontested divorce.

Indianapolis in particular became a divorce destination - partly because of its easy access by train beginning in the 1840's and also because it had judges who did not always enforce the state laws requiring residency in the county and state before filing. One startling statistic was that in 1858, some 2/3 of the divorce cases that were filed in Marion County

were filed by people who lived outside Indiana.

For many Indiana counties in the early 1900's, their population was small enough that they only had one court and one judge, who may not have been receptive to granting divorces. By contrast, in that same time period, Marion County had 5 Superior Court judges and 1 Circuit Court judge.

RESOURCES FOR MARION COUNTY DIVORCE CASES:

There have been 3 courts in Marion County's history - the Circuit Court (in existence from 1822 until today), the Court of Common Pleas (in existence from 1853 through 1873) and the Superior Court (in existence from 1871 until today). All 3 of the courts had jurisdiction over divorce cases.

--FamilySearch has 25 rolls of microfilm of the Marion County Circuit Court's [entry dockets](#) for 1864 through 1915 and 100 rolls of microfilm of its [order books](#) for 1822 through 1909. A few of these rolls have been digitized, but the digital images are restricted (meaning you must be at a Family History Center or FamilySearch Affiliate Library to view them).

--Various issues of Indianapolis newspapers have been digitized by [Hoosier State Chronicles](#) (which is free), [Newspapers.com](#) (requires a subscription) and [NewspaperArchive](#) (requires a subscription). The Indianapolis newspapers had daily listings of what cases had been filed in court.

FOR INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS: The [County Records](#) section of the Members-Only area has an index of divorce cases that were filed in Marion County from 1926 through 1934, as listed in the Indianapolis newspapers. This index has over 18,000 entries. More years will be added over time.

Indiana Genealogical Society | www.IndianaAncestors.org

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