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Indiana News - October 2018

Welcome to the October 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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- Allen County cemetery indexed + other county news.
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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.



30 Hendricks County probate packets digitized

Thanks to volunteers, 30 more packets of Hendricks County probate records have been digitized and placed online in our free [database](#). The 30 files that were added span from 1838 through 1896:

Almond, James (1872) - estate
Alred, Martitia (1881) - estate
Anderson, Lucinda, Benjamin W. & Eli H. (1876) - guardianship of minors
Appleby, Milton (1859) - estate
Applegate, Mary M. & William F. (1875) - guardianship of minors
Arbuckle, Francis M. (1879) - estate
Arbuckle, Mary (1883) - guardianship of unsound mind
Arbuckle, Mary (1884) - estate
Arbuckle, Washington M., Hester Emeline & Matthew Howard (1872) - guardianship of minors
Archer, Lillie May & Laura Etta (1882) - guardianship of minors

Armstrong, Benjamin (1855) - estate
Armstrong, Eli & William (1839) - guardianship of minors
Armstrong, Sarah (1855) - estate
Armstrong, Susan (1882) - trusteeship
Arnold, Eliza C. (1875) - estate
Arnold, John F. (1880) - estate
Arnold, John W. & George W. (1858) - guardianship of minors
Arnold, Richard (1856) - estate
Arnold, William J. & Guelma O. (1868) - guardianship of minors
Asher, Allen D. (1866) - guardianship of minor
Askren, Martha Ann (1838) - guardianship of a minor
Askren, Sarah (1838) - guardianship of a minor
Atkinson, John (1896) - estate
Atkinson, Orrie Bell (1867) - guardianship of a minor
Atkinson, Sarah Jane (1880) - estate
Ayers, Gardiner Benjamin (1878) - guardianship of a minor
Ayers, Ellery F. (1880) - guardianship of a minor
Ayers, Ellery Fenton, Leander N., Corbina B., Gertrude & Jesse W. (1879) - guardianship of minors
Ayers, Leander (1880) - guardianship of a minor
Ayers, Mary (1879) - estate

If you live in central Indiana and would like to help with this project, please contact volunteer coordinator Darlene Anderson (e-mail mdagenealogy@gmail.com)

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 an [index](#) of Bullard Family Cemetery to its website.

DELAWARE COUNTY:

An [article](#) in a Muncie newspaper discusses the history of the early cemeteries in the area and unmarked graves that were discovered in the early 1900's.

HENDRICKS COUNTY:

Two libraries in Hendricks County are hosting a series of "sorting days", where volunteers can stop by and help the Indiana Genealogical Society sort Hendricks County probate records from the 1800's in preparation for them to be digitized:

- From 10 am to 4 pm on Friday, November 2; Friday, November 9; Friday, November 16, and Friday, November 30, the sorting days will be held at Plainfield library, in their McMillan A meeting room (located on the 2nd floor).
- From 10 am to 4 pm on Wednesday, December 5 and Wednesday, December 12, the sorting days will be held at Danville library, in their program room on the ground floor.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY:

An [article](#) in a Lafayette newspapers discusses the story of David Stocking, who was hung in 1856. The skull from Stocking's autopsy is among the items in the collection of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association.

IGS adds 17 new databases for members

We now have **2,227** total databases for members, including at least 10 databases for each of the 92 counties in Indiana.

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

College Records:

- DePauw University, Greencastle - graduates (1933).
- Indiana Institute of Technology, Fort Wayne - Indiana Technical College graduates (1955).
NOTE: Indiana Technical College later changed its name to Indiana Institute of Technology.
- Manchester College, North Manchester - graduates (1908).
- University of Evansville, Evansville - Evansville College directory of students and faculty (1946).
NOTE: Evansville College later changed its name to University of Evansville.

County Records:

- Blackford County - index to 1870 mortality schedule.
- Brown County - index to 1870 mortality schedule.
- Decatur County - index to 1870 mortality schedule.
- Elkhart County - Nappanee High School students & teachers (1926).
- Franklin County - index to 1870 mortality schedule.
- Huntington County - plat book (1968).
- Jasper County - index to 1870 mortality schedule.
- Monroe County - directory of members of Masonic lodges in Bloomington (1920).
- Noble County - Kendallville High School's students & teachers (1924).
- Washington County - Salem High School alumni (1878-1950).

Legal terms explained: Blind tiger

In criminal cases, you may find someone listed as being charged under a "blind tiger" law. A blind tiger is a place that sells alcohol illegally - also known as a "speakeasy" during the Prohibition era. Although blind tiger laws were the most popular during the 1920's and early 1930's, Indiana's blind tiger law was passed in 1907.



RESEARCH TIP: Indiana's poor farms

DATE OF RECEPTION.	NAME OF PAUPER.			NATIVITY.	Age.	Sex.	OCCUPATION OR TRADE.	CAUSE OF ADMISSION.
	Day.	Month.	Year.					
170	11	Aug	1880	Smith, John	Irish	40	wood chopper	Sick
175	20	Nov	1887	Arnold, Belle	American	22	female domestic	Prognant
"	12	Dec	"	Anderson, A	Irish	62	wood laborer	Sick
"	12	Nov	1888	Arnold, Belle	American	22	female domestic	Prognant
202	15	June	1888	Albright, Rebecca	"	58	" housewife	Incurable
203	21	Dec	"	Anderson, Alex	Irish	67	" laborer	Institute
210	11	July	1887	Austerman, Mrs	German	47	F	Incurable
212	29	"	"	August, Friedrich	"	30	M Laborer	"

In your research, have you come across an Indiana ancestor who lived in a county home, poor farm, infirmary or asylum? These are all terms for the same thing - institutions operated by the county governments that housed the area's poorest residents.

The idea of institutions for the poor was not a new one - England had "workhouses" for their poor, where the residents were referred to as "inmates" and they were expected to work to help defray the cost of keeping them there.

When Indiana officially became a state in 1816, its constitution called for farms to be built to house residents "who, by reason of age, infirmity or other misfortunes, may have a claim upon the aid and beneficence of society" and that they could be employed within them so that they would lose "the degrading sense of dependence." (Article IX, Section 4).

Knox County was the first county to build a poor asylum, after a law was passed in 1821 (Acts of 1820, Chapter 45). The law allowed residents to be committed there if two justices of the peace ordered it, and the overseers of the poor farm were to bind out poor children to apprenticeships that would last until the male children turned 21, or female children turned 18.

An 1830 law authorized a poor asylum in Harrison County, Jefferson County and Wayne County, to house those who had been deemed "paupers" or a "permanent charge" on the government. An 1833 law authorized a poor asylum to be built jointly to house those in Fayette County, Franklin County and Union County. When Indiana's second (and last) constitution was passed in 1851, gave the responsibility for the asylums to "county boards" (which later became known as county commissioners).

By the end of the 1800's, almost every county in Indiana had a poor farm/asylum/infirmary/home. Pictured above is a register from the Allen County Asylum in Fort Wayne. According to a 2016 [article](#) by Indiana Landmarks, only about a dozen of these poor farms remain today.

WHERE TO FIND THE RECORDS:

- County Commissioners office - They had the responsibility of admitting qualified residents, and reimbursing any expenses.
- County Auditor's office - They were the official repository for the county commissioners records.
- Indiana State Archives or Indiana State Library.
- Libraries, museums and other local repositories.

FOR INDIANA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS: The [County Records](#) section of our Members-Only area has a database of residents of the Monroe County poor asylum from 1918 through 1920.

Indiana Genealogical Society | www.IndianaAncestors.org

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