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Indiana News - April 2019

Welcome to the April 2019 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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Highlights of IGS annual meeting in Fort Wayne

Thank you to the 200+ people who came to the Indiana Genealogical Society's conference in Fort Wayne with Blaine Bettinger. Among the highlights of the annual meeting portion of the conference:

- **Library Staff Educational Scholarships** (\$500) were given to Reann Poray of the Plainfield-Guilford Township Public Library (Hendricks County) and Diane Stepro of the Jeffersonville Township Public Library (Clark County). Each recipient received \$500 to be used for their education, and each recipient's library received \$500 to be used for genealogy resources.
- **Electronic Database Award** (\$500) was given to the Clay County Genealogical Society for their many contributions, including city directories, phone directories and yearbooks.
- **Elaine Spires Smith Family History Writing Award** (\$500) was given to Tina Lyons for her article in the June 2018 *Indiana Genealogist* about the James M. Shepherd family of Ohio County.
- **Grants** were given to: 1) Whitley County Genealogical Society (\$1,000) for restoration of the Concord Cemetery; 2) Boone County Genealogical Society (\$1,000) for preservation of the Poplar Grove Cemetery; 3) Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana (\$1,000) for work on their website; 4) Clay County Genealogical Society (\$500) for a digital projector; 5) Porter County Public Library System (\$500) for audio-visual equipment; 6) Kokomo-Howard County Public Library (\$1,000) for digitizing of Civil War and Grand Army of the Republic documents.



SAVE THE DATE: IGS 2020 conference in Terre Haute

Mark your calendars! The Indiana Genealogical Society's 2020 conference will be held on **Saturday, April 18, 2020** at the Vigo County Historical Museum in Terre Haute. Dr. Michael D. Lacopo will be the featured speaker.



Midwestern Roots 2019 conference in Indianapolis

Registration is open for the Indiana Historical Society's [Midwestern Roots 2019 Conference](#), which is July 19-20, 2019 at the Marriott East in Indianapolis. Several pre-conference activities will be held on July 18, including workshops at the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Historical Society.

Lynne Keasling receives IGS Award

At the Indiana Genealogical Society's conference, Lynne Keasling was presented with an award for **Distinguished County Genealogical Service**. She has worked tirelessly to advance the field of genealogy in Harrison County, authoring 35 books on topics such as birth, marriage, death and divorce records. She is also deeply involved with the Daughters of the American Revolution and the United States Daughters of 1812.



Malcolm Romine receives IGS Award

At the Indiana Genealogical Society's conference, Malcolm Romine was presented with an award for **Outstanding County Genealogical Contribution**. At 90 years old, he has written 10 books about Putnam County's small communities, so that their history would not be lost.

IGS digitizes 41 more Hendricks County probate packets

Thanks to volunteers, 41 more packets of Hendricks County probate records have been digitized and placed online in our free [database](#). The 41 files that were added span from 1834 through 1898:

Green, Jonathan N. (1898) – estate
Green, Stephen (1842) – guardianship of a minor
Green, William (1840) - guardianship of a minor
Gregg, George W. (1879) – estate
Gregg, Harvey (1834) – estate
Gregg, James M. (1869) – estate
Gregory, Ambrose J., Jr. (1837) - guardianship of a minor
Gregory, Andrew (1879) – estate
Gregory, William W. (1884) - guardianship of a minor
Griffith, Benjamin (1852) - estate
Grimes, John (1855) – estate
Gross, Elizabeth A. (1897) – estate
Gross, John (1881) - estate
Guthrie, Darius Elsworth & Cora Alma (1882) - guardianship of minors
Guthrie, Darius E. (1884) - guardianship of a minor
Hadley, Esther (1847) - guardianship of a minor
Hadley, Hannah Ellen (1884) - guardianship of a minor
Hadley, James T. (1872) – estate

Hadley, Joshua (1847) – estate
Hadley, Levi Everett (1864) - guardianship of a minor
Hadley, Martha (1866) - guardianship of a minor
Hadley, Mary E. (1887) – estate
Hadley, Milton E. (1887) – estate
Hadley, Rebecca (1882) – estate
Hadley, Simon (1843) – estate
Hadley, Thomas T. (1884) – estate
Hadley, William E. (1887) – estate
Hadley, Zilpha, Braselton S. & Marion (1873) - guardianship of minors
Haines, Cyrus F. (1884) – estate
Hale, Louisa Jane, Henry, Elwood, Phebe E. & John Albert (1865) - guardianship of minors
Hale, Stephen J. (1857) - guardianship of a minor
Hale, Stephen, Jr. (1857) – estate
Haley, Joseph S. (1866) - guardianship of a minor
Hall, John (1873) - estate
Hamilton, Edny (1887) – estate
Hamrick, John T. (1881) – estate
Hancock, George (1840) – estate
Hancock, John, Willie Etta, William H. & George W. (1871) - guardianship of minors
Hancock, Phoebe (1874) - guardianship of a minor
Hancock, Sarah (1847) – estate
Hanna, Ella, Horace L., Lucia E. & Florence (1882) - guardianship of minors
Hanna, John (1887) – estate
Hanna, John, Jr. (1882) – guardianship of a minor
Hanthorn, John M. & Lucy M. (1866) - guardianship of minors
Hardin, Jarvis (1849) – estate
Hardin, Stephen N. (1875) – estate

If you live in central Indiana and would like to help with this project, please contact project coordinator Ron Darrah (e-mail rdarrah@att.net)

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 recently digitized the yearbooks for Eel River-Perry Consolidated High School in Huntertown for [1959](#) and [1960](#). The digital images can be freely accessed at [Internet Archive](#).

DEKALB COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library recently digitized the yearbook for Waterloo High School for [1931](#). The digital images can be freely accessed at [Internet Archive](#).

GRANT COUNTY:

The remains of Fred Evert Freet of Marion, who was killed in the Pacific in 1943, were recently [identified](#) thanks to DNA analysis.

HENRY COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library recently digitized the yearbook for New Castle High School for [1952](#). The digital images can be freely accessed at [Internet Archive](#).

HUNTINGTON COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library recently digitized the yearbook for Huntington Catholic High School in Huntington for [1976](#). The digital images can be freely accessed at [Internet Archive](#).

JEFFERSON COUNTY:

The remains of Willard Irvin Lawson of Kentucky, who was killed on board the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor, were recently [identified](#) thanks to DNA analysis. Lawson was buried in Madison.

MARION COUNTY:

--Visitors to New Crown Cemetery on the southeast side of Indianapolis are [complaining](#) about its deteriorating condition.

--An Indianapolis newspaper has an [article](#) about the history of Greenlawn Cemetery, which was the city's first cemetery.

STEUBEN COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library recently digitized the yearbooks for Flint High School for [1956](#) and [1957](#). The digital images can be freely accessed at [Internet Archive](#).

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY:

--Some of the 14,000 tombstones at City Cemetery in South Bend are being [restored](#).

--The Allen County Public Library recently digitized the yearbooks for Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame for [1961](#), [1962](#) and [1963](#). The digital images can be freely accessed at [Internet Archive](#).

SULLIVAN COUNTY:

The Merom Public Library was recently [added](#) to the National Register of Historic Places. The library was built in 1917 as one of the original Carnegie libraries.

TIPPECANOE COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library recently digitized the yearbooks for West Lafayette High School for [1949](#) and [1951](#). The digital images can be freely accessed at [Internet Archive](#).

WAYNE COUNTY:

The Wayne County Genealogical Society, which has housed its collection in the basement of St. John Lutheran Church in Richmond for the past 30 years, is now looking for a new [home](#) after the church's recent closure.

WHITLEY COUNTY:

The Allen County Public Library recently digitized the yearbooks for Columbia City High School for [1920](#), [1922](#), [1923](#) and [1947](#). The digital images can be freely accessed at [Internet Archive](#).

IGS adds 15 new databases for members

We now have **2,317** 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:

- Indiana University, Bloomington - directories of students and faculty (1927).
- Purdue University, West Lafayette - directories of students and faculty (1924).
- Wabash College, Crawfordsville - students (1913).

County Records:

- Fulton County - Kewanna phone directory (1951).
- Johnson County - Whiteland phone directory (1952).
- Morgan County - tax list (1840).
- Pulaski County - Francesville phone directory (1951).
- Putnam County - tax list (1845).
- Shelby County - Marietta phone directory (1952).
- Union County - Short High School alumni (1876-1955).
- Wayne County - Hagerstown High School students (1945).
- Whitley County - Columbia City High School students & teachers (1945).

Legal terms explained: fee simple

In land records, you may see a notation that the property is being conveyed to the buyer in "fee simple". It means the buyer is receiving an absolute title to the land and they can do what they want to it (and any buildings that are on that land) for as long as they have the title.

Fee simple is in contrast to a leasehold, where the buyer only receives the right to use the land for a certain number of years, and even during that period there may be some conditions imposed on its use.



RESEARCH TIP: Indiana marriage returns (1882-1905)

When researching Indiana marriage records, April 1905 is

| IN THE COURT OF <i>Crawford</i> COUNTY, INDIANA. | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1. Full Name of Bride. 2. Maiden Name, if a Widow. 3. Date of Birth. 4. Occupation. | 1. Age next Birthday. 2. Race and Color. 3. Place of Birth. 4. Nationality. | 1. Father's Name. 2. Mother's Maiden Name. 3. No. of Bride's Marriages. | 1. Where and when Married. 2. Witnesses. 3. By which Certified, Name and Office. | 1. Date of Return of Marriage Certificate (Form 3). 2. Date of Return of Marriage Certificate. |
| <i>Mattie J. Trumbold</i> | <i>23</i> Years <i>White</i> | <i>Mr. Trumbold</i> | <i>at Mr. Trumbold's in Crawford Co. Ind. 1882</i> | <i>6/17/82</i> / <i>1882</i> |
| <i>Indiana</i> | <i>Indiana</i> | <i>Arvey My</i> | <i>J. S. Porter</i> | <i>8/17/82</i> / <i>1882</i> |
| <i>Elizabeth Agnes Blythe</i> | <i>22</i> Years <i>White</i> | <i>Philip Blythe</i> | <i>at Philip Blythe's in Crawford Co. Ind. 1882</i> | <i>1/14/82</i> / <i>1882</i> |

an important date - that's when the state began requiring marriage applications, which were kept separate from the marriage license books (which only recorded the names of the couple, the date of the marriage and the name of the official who performed the marriage). The

marriage applications asked detailed biographical information about the couple, including their birthdates, birthplaces and the names of their parents.

But what is not as widely known is that even before April 1905, there was some detailed biographical information being recorded about Indiana marriages. In March 1881, the Indiana legislature passed a law establishing a State Board of Health (Acts of 1881 regular session, Chapter XIX). This law gave the State Board of Health "supervision of the system of registration of births, deaths and marriages" and the responsibility of creating forms for this purpose.

This law also required each county's Clerk of the Circuit Court to give a monthly report to their county's board of health listing the names of the people who had gotten married, along with the date of these marriages. The State Board of Health implemented this requirement in May 1881 by distributing a Form 3 to the county clerks for them to report these "marriage returns." In November 1881 they distributed Circular F to the county clerks, containing instructions, and the recording began in January 1882.

The county clerks kept a separate set of books to record the information required by the State Board of Health. They referred to these books by varying names, including "marriage returns", "marriage supplements" and "marriage transcripts". But whatever their names, these records [see an [example](#)] always asked for:

- groom's name
- groom's residence
- groom's age at next birthday
- groom's color
- groom's occupation
- groom's birthplace
- groom's father
- groom's mother's maiden name
- groom's number of marriages
- bride's name
- bride's residence
- bride's age at next birthday
- bride's color
- bride's birthplace
- bride's father
- bride's mother's maiden name
- bride's number of marriages
- where the marriage took place
- name of official who performed the marriage
- date of the marriage

Some county clerks' books also asked for the names of the witnesses to the marriage.

WHERE TO FIND THE RECORDS:

--INDEXES: In the 1930's, workers from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) visited many courthouses in Indiana and indexed their marriage returns books. These WPA indexes are widely available.

--RECORDS: In the 1980's, FamilySearch microfilmed many counties' marriage returns books. Copies of the microfilm are available at the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis. Digital images from the microfilm are available online at:

- FamilySearch - Indiana Marriages, 1811-2007 (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1410397>). [FREE]
- Ancestry.com - Indiana, Marriages, 1810-2001 (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60282>). [SUBSCRIPTION REQUIRED]



