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Indiana News - December 2020

Welcome to the December 2020 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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SAVE THE DATE: IGS Virtual 2021 Conference

Mark your calendars! The Indiana Genealogical Society's 2021 conference will be held on **Saturday, April 9-10, 2021** virtually. Lisa Louise Cooke will be the featured speaker.

Attendance is free thanks to our sponsor [Vivid-Pix.com](#)! Registration should open soon, so keep an eye out on our website, Facebook, and future newsletters.



Michigan State University's Massive Slave Database Welcomes Public Contributions

Enslaved.org, Michigan State University's searchable database dedicated to preserving and uncovering records detailing the lives of slaves and their descendants, has entered its second phase of development and invites the public to contribute their own research and data collections to enhance the ever-growing scholarship of slave relations and family history.

"This tool has helped us learn more about African Slavery than ever before. However, the database is by no means comprehensive. That is where we need those who have knowledge of ancestry to contribute to the project. We hope by doing this we can not only learn more, but also work toward bringing respect and dignity to those who were enslaved," said Dean Rehberger, director of [Matrix: The Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences at MSU](#).

To learn more about the amazing work being done by MSU, or to see how to contribute to their ever-growing catalogue of birth records, travel logs, and personal histories, [visit their website for more](#)

Uncertainty For Graves At Central State Hospital Site

The Indiana Medical History Museum's effort to honor psychiatric patients who died at Central State Hospital has recently undergone some setbacks after a recent Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department construction project exhumed some of the graves.

Museum Executive Director Sarah Halter said IMPD started as a partner in the effort to turn the land into a memorial garden but is now unsure what will happen next because IMPD has yet to guarantee the land will be publicly accessible, something the museum had fought for to ensure that the community would have full access to pay their respects and keep the memory of those who passed away at the facility alive.

In an interview with WFYI News' Taylor Bennett, Halter describes the situation thusly:

"We were looking for community partners to help with landscaping. And the mounted horse patrol was a partner. And they were kind of occupying the land, city-owned property, but the horse patrol was occupying the land. And we were working with them to ensure that this was going to remain open as a publicly accessible community greenspace. So, you know, landscaped and with a memorial for the patients and actually marking each of the graves.

So back in August, with their approval, we started the GPS works, we were using ground penetrating radar with the archaeologists at Ball State University, to actually locate the individual burials, and to determine the sort of the boundaries of the cemetery. And that's when everything sort of started to fall apart. So we're not sure what the future holds for this project. We're still working to identify these patients and to tell their story and to interpret the site. But we no longer have assurances from IMPD that this will be a publicly accessible site. And we don't have assurances that they will not continue to dig as they have been the last few weeks."

Since disturbing the graves, the IMPD has stopped communication with the museum and no more discussions have been had on the respectful re-internment of the graves or the future of the project at large.

[Learn more about the situation here.](#)

Open Positions and Upcoming Elections

The position of Central District director is open. If you live in Boone, Clinton, Hamilton, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Tipton Counties and would like to get involved contact president.indgensoc@gmail.com

Elections are underway for many IGS officer positions. Treasurer, corresponding secretary, recording secretary are up for grabs. Please contact president.indgensoc@gmail.com for information on how to get involved.

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 Society holds regular monthly programs on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August), at 7:00 PM. [Visit the website for more information](#)

- December 9, 2020 at 7:00 PM online. [Pre-register here.](#) Sara Allen will present Pre-1850 Census Records and Substitutes.
- January 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. online. [Pre-register here.](#) ACGSI Members will present Great Discoveries and Unique Ancestors.
- February 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. online. [Pre-register here.](#) Allison DePrey Singleton will present Go West, Young Man: Westward Migration in the Mid-1800s.
- March 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. online. [Pre-register here.](#) Sara Allen will present Researching Tennessee and Kentucky Ancestors.

GRANT COUNTY:

The Marion Public Library has a genealogy database of over 900,000 entries that index birth, death, and marriage records, obituaries, cemetery listings, orphan's home, funeral homes, and some court records. The Indiana Room is taking appointments for use of microfilm and other resources, emphasizing social distancing. Indiana History is also offering help via digital resources, including Talk with a Genealogist sessions via Zoom. You may sign up on the website under "Schedule Now". It is available for free at [here](#).

HUNTINGTON COUNTY:

The Huntington County Genealogy Society meets at 6:30 PM on the first Wednesday of most months in the Indiana Room at the Huntington City-Township Public Library, 255 West Park Drive, Huntington. The public is invited, and new members are always welcome. For more information, contact the Indiana Room at 260-356-0824. [Visit the library website to learn more.](#)

LA PORTE COUNTY:

Porter County Library and Lake County Libraries have reopened.

Northwest Indiana Genealogical Society is announcing [their new website](#). It is a new and improved site with a members-only side. They will be adding some of their publications to the members-only site, and new indexes to the databases/research side.

With extra time on the hands of the board members, they will be able to get more up on the site. Northwest Indiana Genealogical Society has been meeting on line at Google Meets. If anyone would like to join in on our meetings they can go to [their website](#) to find out how to join in.

- Saturday January 16th, 2021 at 10:00 AM: Google Meet Sharing Session-Share your genealogy projects, discoveries or stories since we last met.
- Saturday, February 20th, 2021 at 10:00 AM: Google Meet-Latino and Hispanic Genealogy: The Basics. Nicole Martinez-LeGrand Coordinator, Multicultural Collections at the Indiana Historical Society. Latino is one of the largest cultures in the United States and in the Western Hemisphere. Learn about Latino and Hispanic culture through genealogy in the United States and in Latin America. This course speaks to the history of colonization in Latin American countries to present day immigration to the United States.
- Saturday, March 20th, 2021 at 10:00 AM: Google Meet-"I Have a Civil War Ancestor... Now What?" Brian Rhinehart from Rhinehart Roots. Civil War soldiers often left a rich genealogical paper trail. Many of these records are tucked away at the National Archives in Washington DC. Learn what records are available for your ancestors only at the National Archives, what records are online already, and how to access all of them. These records may unlock some of the family stories that have been forgotten over time, as well as break down a brick wall or two!

If anyone would like to research at the Larry J. Clark Genealogy Center they can contact the Valparaiso Public Library to set up an appointment. Ask to speak to Chris Hough. The library is located at 103 Jefferson, Valparaiso, IN 219-462-0524.

NOBLE COUNTY:

We meet the 3rd Monday night of March, May, July, September, and November at 6:30 PM usually at the Noble County Public Library. Our Genealogy Room is located in the Noble County Public Library on East Main in Albion, IN. We maintain a wonderful collection of books, manuscripts, various indexes, census information, etc. in the Indiana Genealogy Room. [Visit here to learn more.](#)

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY:

In St. Joseph County, both the St. Joseph County Public Library (SJCP) and the Mishawaka Public Library have reopened to the public with some limitations on meetings. The South Bend Area Genealogical Society is taking a Winter Break in programming. Their events will resume in March. Visit their website for resources and their upcoming program information at <https://www.sbags.org/main.htm>

From the St. Joseph County Public Library

Local & Family History (LFH) Services at the St. Joseph County Library continues to offer help with learning more about your family and the South Bend community despite the closure of the library. The library has reopened and LFH staff are available to answer questions and offer research advice at local.history@sjcpl.org.

- The December Genealogy Discussion Group meeting at SJCP has been cancelled.
- January 7, 2021 at noon -Virtual Genealogy Discussion Group -St. Joseph County Public Library via Google meet
- February 4, 2021 at noon -Virtual Genealogy Discussion Group -St. Joseph County Public Library via Google meet

Word of the Month:

COIMETROPHILIA

(N.) 1. A special fondness and interest in cemeteries or graveyards; especially, in collecting epitaphs that are written on the tombstones. 2. A fascination with seeing gravestones and sarcophagi (plural of sarcophagus).

Indiana Genealogical Society | www.IndianaAncestors.org

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