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Indiana News - January 2021

Welcome to the January 2021 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. Not a member? [Click here to join!](#)

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

IGS Conference 2021:

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.



RootsTech 2021:

For the first time ever, the world's largest family celebration event will be entirely virtual and completely free. Don't miss out on the opportunity to engage with fellow family historians and learn the latest news and researching tricks -- all from the comfort of your computer. [Click here to register now.](#)

Home access to Ancestry through libraries extended until March 31, 2021

Despite in-person contact being a no-go still, there are some silver linings for those of us stuck at home as we continue on with our family research.

It has been announced that access to Ancestry.com has been extended through March 31, 2021 via United States and British libraries. This means that you will continue to be able to access Ancestry.com and its myriad resources at home with the use of your library card.

If you aren't certain your local library offers Ancestry.com services, be sure to check to get in on this extended remote access event.

David Rumsey Historical Map Collection Updates

The need for maps of a certain age, be they rural, city, or otherwise, is a constant for the hard-boiled family detective. How many of us can relate to the struggle of hopelessly googling for a city plan from some long gone year or of desperately searching for a map of a town that just doesn't seem to exist anymore?

Thankfully, David Rumsey is here to put an end to those researching woes.

According to Rumsey's bio (as written on his website), he began "building a collection of North and South American historical maps and related cartographic materials in 1980. Eventually the collection expanded to include historical maps of the entire world, from the 16th to the 21st centuries. His collection, with more than 150,000 maps, is one of the largest private map collections in the United States. In 1995, Rumsey began the task of making his collection public by building the online David Rumsey Historical Map Collection, www.davidrumsey.com. Currently the online web site has over 89,000 high resolution images of maps and related images from his collection. The site is free to the public and is updated monthly."

Free to the public and available to us under a Creative Commons BY-NC-SA 3.0 license, thanks to Rumsey's hard work and dogged determination to share his work with the world we are able to "copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format" and "remix, transform, and build upon the material" as long as we (1) give credit, link to the license and mention any changes we made, (2) use the items for non-commercial purposes and (3) allow anyone else to use our work based on the materials on the same terms."

If you've ever struggled to make progress in a search due to a lack of period topography or visual aid, Rumsey's website is an invaluable tool and one resource you should definitely check out -- even if it's just for fun!

[See Rumsey's amazing collection here.](#)

Counting Down to 1925 in the Public Domain

Public Domain Day has come and passed! Many genealogists look forward to this yearly event and the treasure trove of new resources it opens up, and at long last we can reap the benefits of copyrighted material published in 1925.

For those unaware of how this works, on January 1, 2021, copyrighted works from 1925 will enter the US public domain where they will be free for all to use and build upon. These works include books such as F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, Ernest Hemingway's *In Our Time*, and Franz Kafka's *The Trial* (in the original German), silent films featuring Harold Lloyd and Buster Keaton, and music ranging from the jazz standard *Sweet Georgia Brown* to songs by Gertrude "Ma" Rainey, W.C. Handy, and Fats Waller. Even Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf* becomes public domain in 2021.

As well as these classics, a plethora of genealogy books published in 1925 will also become public domain.

You can read more in an article by Jennifer Jenkins in the Duke University's Center for the Study of the Public Domain web site at: <https://web.law.duke.edu/cspd/publicdomainday/2021/>.

Confederate Records Available Online

Records on Confederate soldiers are far less prevalent than those of Union troops, and many are scattered among multiple websites, many requiring subscriptions to access. GopherRecords.com seeks to streamline the search for such records by compiling charts of records available online with direct links to their hosting websites.

For those seeking out resources on Confederate soldiers and their families, this is a great boon.

[Learn more about this amazing resource here.](#)

Allen County Genealogy Events and Program Calendar

ALLEN COUNTY:

The Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library has another month planned of free, virtual programs that you won't want to miss.

- January 7, 2021, 6:30P, "How to Organize Your Autosomal DNA Matches at Ancestry.com" with Sara Allen - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4780860>
- January 12, 2021, 2:30P, "The Times of Our Lives: Writing Our Stories" with Curt Witcher - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4780967>
- January 14, 2021, 6:30P, "Finding Descendants of the Enslaved Laborers who built the University of Virginia, 1817-1865" with Dr. Shelley Murphy - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4780902>
- January 19, 2021, 2:30P, "Strategic Searching on Findmypast" with Jen Baldwin - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4780913>
- January 21, 2021, 6:30P, "Critical Connections: Putting the Pieces & Strategies Together" with Curt Witcher - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4780968>
- January 26, 2021, 2:30P, "Start With What You Know: Beginning Genealogy" with Allison DePrey Singleton - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4782676>
- January 28, 2021, 6:30P, "Tracking Your Illinois Ancestors" with Sara Allen - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/4782745>

Please register in advance for each program.

ONLINE CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Interested in virtual conferences both near and far? ConferenceKeeper.com has a virtual calendar of exceptional genealogy events available for all of your family research needs. [Click here to view it now.](#)

Word of the Month:

OSSUARY

(N.) An ossuary is a chest, box, building, well, or site made to serve as the final resting place of human skeletal remains. They are frequently used where burial space is scarce. A body is first buried in a temporary grave, then after some years the skeletal remains are removed and placed in an ossuary..

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