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Indiana News - February 2021

Welcome to the February 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](#)! Links to register early are now available below.

For Friday, [register here.](#)

For Saturday, [register here.](#)



Both days will offer LEUs for attending librarians, so don't miss out on this opportunity! For more information, see our website [here](#) for more details.

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.](#)

FamilySearch Family History Library Launches New Webpage

FamilySearch International is pleased to announce the launch of a new webpage for its brick-and-mortar flagship, the Family History Library, located in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. The new [Family History](#)

[Library webpage](#) is a part of [FamilySearch.org](#) and will provide new online patron experiences and up-to-date information on the library's services and activities. The new webpage enables guests to better access existing site services, such as visitor information, collections and hours of operations, and introduces many new and expanded services accessible remotely to provide options to those looking to research while many organizations are closed due to pandemic complications.

Available in German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Chinese. Japanese and Italian languages (with many more to be added soon), the Family History Library "offers the largest collection of genealogical materials in one place, making it a premier destination for family history resources and genealogical expertise," according to David Rencher, the chief genealogy officer for FamilySearch and director of the Family History Library. "Its mission is constantly expanding to meet the evolving needs of guests throughout the world—and at no charge."

Find the new Family History Library webpage at [FamilySearch.org/Family-History-Library](#).

New Indiana Marriage Records and WWII Draft Cards Available

Dozens of new United States and international records added this week at [FamilySearch](#) are available for free access, and a couple of Indiana-centric ones offer a plethora of primary source opportunities for the industrious Hoosier researcher. If you've found yourself in need of marriage records or WWII draft cards, definitely take a look at the new records on [Indiana Marriages, 1811-2007](#) and [Indiana, World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1940-1947](#).

Also of interest are Iowa Marriages 1941–1951 and Montana County Voting Records 1884–1992, plus Germany, Bavaria City Records 1700–1940, Prussia Census Lists 1770–1934, Peru Piura Civil Registrations 1874–1996 and expanded collections for Austria, Brazil, England, Peru, S. Africa, Spain, Sweden and the US (CA, MD, MS, MT, SD, WA, and WI).

Search these new records and images by going to [FamilySearch](#) to search over 8 billion free names and record images.

Teaching a Friend to Find Records on FamilySearch

I'm sure you've all heard it before, that perennial question asked by all non-researchers or family members the moment they catch on that you spend your free time uncovering family histories. *"How do I get started researching too?"* As more and more people take the deep dive into uncovering their family history as their new quarantine hobby, navigating the resources can be an unexpected hurdle. It can be a little daunting to take the leap from self-taught to teacher, and Meder-Dempsey shows just how tricky it can be in her new blog post on the subject as she outlines step-by-step how to use FamilySearch to parse through old birth records in the search for the truth behind a Jewish family line.

While simply searching through a database can be difficult enough on its own, Meder-Dempsey also brings up a very good tip for reading old records written in foreign/antiquated script: "My father-in-law helped me in my early days and I learned to recognize letters that usually go together. When I'm really stuck on a word, I try to trace over the lines so that the letters will stand out for me. The more you work with the records the easier (yeah) it gets."

To read in depth on Cathy Meder-Dempsey's methods, check out her blog post on the subject [here](#).

100 Years Without the 1890 Census: Tips for Researching Through Record Loss

Historic fires are responsible for some of the most tragic losses. Thoughts immediately jump to the tragic Chicago fires, the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, and so many more, and while these are great examples of physical, human losses, occasionally we forget the toll flames take on the records and paper materials lost in the blaze, some of which can still be felt even centuries afterward.

A great example of such is the 1890 census records that fell victim to a fire reported in the late afternoon at the Commerce Building in Washington D.C on 10 January 1921. The population schedules of the 1890 census were stored in the basement of the building, and while the Commerce Building housed a fire proof vault where many of the Nation's census records were stored, the 1890 census records were stacked outside of it. The flames combined with the ensuing water barrage to contain them destroyed the records, causing lasting damage to genealogy research that persists to this day.

The loss of the 1890s census records creates a real problem for family researchers, but all hope is not

lost. LegacyTree outlines several steps to break through the genealogy "brick wall."

1. Check to see if the county where your ancestor lived was part of the 1890 census schedules acquired by the National Archives. These remaining schedules can be examined online at FamilySearch.org. For a list of the remaining schedules please see the above mentioned article at the FamilySearch Wiki.
2. Check to see if the county or counties where your ancestors might have lived kept birth marriages and deaths between 1880 and 1900. The best place to learn when these records began is by exploring the Family Search Wiki page for the specific County. Each county in the United States is represented and each county page provides information on the availability of these vital records.
3. Depending on the age of the ancestor you are researching and if they might have served in the Civil War, you can check the 1890 Veterans schedule which is searchable online for free at FamilySearch.org.
4. If your ancestor lived in Manhattan it is worth examining the New York City Police Census of 1890 which is searchable online at FamilySearch.org.
5. Check to see if the state your ancestor lived in held State censuses between 1880 and 1900. Some of the states to consider are Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, and New York among others.
6. Some states have undergone a reconstruction of the 1890 census and it could be worth searching for these reconstructions online. Many can be found at FamilySearch.org.

These are just a few of the many great tips they offer. To learn more about the tumultuous history of the lost census records of 1890 and learn more helpful advice for working around their loss, [click here](#).

COUNTY ROUNDUP OF EVENTS

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 at <https://www.acgsi.org/>.

- 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.
- May 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. online. [Pre-register here](#). John Beatty will present Writing Your Family History: A Primer for Doing a Book or Article.

(Submitted by Margery Graham, Allen Co. ICG)

BOONE COUNTY:

As many counties are Boone County Genealogy has been struggling with Covid-19. We had to cancel all meetings after February 2020 for the remainder of the year. Also put on hold was our Cemetery Restoration Project. We did lose a board member Nikki Barton to cancer in November. We sent out a survey to our membership on the question of in person meetings the majority stated they would not attend. So the board recently met to discuss 2021. We are currently working on setting up virtual meetings for at least the next few months plus some webinars/virtual programs to assist our membership with research. We have lots of ideas just working out the kinks.

The Boone County Genealogical Society normally meets at the Lebanon Public Library in the top floor meeting room at 6:30 PM on Tuesday evening. They have a new website that you can visit at <https://bcgsin.org/> and learn more about their activities and research. The Society normally meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month except July and December. The Society now has a Facebook page that is available [here](#).

Although we won't be meeting as a group, please watch our Facebook page, our website (<https://bcgsin.org/>), and newsletter for ideas to further your research. If you have a genealogy question or research problem please send an email to info@bcgsin.org.

(Submitted by Teresa Price, Boone Co. ICG)

HAMILTON COUNTY:

From Hamilton East Public Library

The Library has reopened with considerations for social distancing and the safety of all. Visit the Hamilton East Public Library website calendar of events to see more detail and register for the virtual classes [here](#).

- February 9, 2021 at 2 PM: "Genealogy Roundtable: Focus on Finding Family History in Unlikely Places" As genealogists, we want to know where we can find our families. Sure there are the basic sources, such as census records and vital records. Are there any unusual sources? Attendees will share any unlikely source where they found unexpected invaluable family information. Discussion on unlikely sources, such as body transit records, occupational records, and fraternity membership records will reveal new resources to search. What unlikely resource has your family's information? Registration for this virtual roundtable is required so you can be sent an invite to join the session. This is an informal genealogy discussion group. We focus on a different topic each month.
- February 13, 2021 at 10 AM: "Exploring Unusual Resources for Family Information" What unlikely or unusual resource provided invaluable information on your ancestor? Join us as we explore the uncommon sources beyond the census records and vital records. Registration for this virtual genealogy class is required so you can be sent an invite to join the session.
- February 16, 2021 at 7 PM: "As I Recall Storytelling Guild" Everybody has a story to tell! Listen, learn, and share your family stories. It is a chance to recall a moment from your life, try out a new story with an audience, or just listen to some good family stories. All are welcome! This month's guild will meet virtually via Zoom. The meeting is limited to 15 individuals. To participate, please send an email to our host Ellen at ellen@storytellingarts.org and she will send you a Zoom invitation.
- March 9, 2021 at 2 PM: "Genealogy Roundtable: Focus on Your Irish Ancestor" Attendees will discuss how and where they found information on their Irish ancestors. How, when, where, and why did your Irish ancestor come to America? Please join us and share your Irish ancestor's story. Registration for this virtual roundtable is required so you can be sent an invite to join the session. This is an informal genealogy discussion group. We focus on a different topic each month.

(Submitted by Nancy Massey, Hamilton Co. ICG)

MARION COUNTY:

The Genealogical Society of Marion County Research Library has reopened. The GSMC Library will be open on Wednesdays from 11 AM - 4 PM & 2nd Saturdays from 11 AM - 3 PM and by appointment for research & genealogical assistance. GSMC Programs on second Saturday each month from 1 PM to 3 PM at our Library. Registration is available on their website [here](#).

- Saturday, February 13, 2021 at 1 PM: "Family Search wiki & catalog" Amber Oldenburg will discuss the genealogical website Family Search wiki and catalog and a new feature that debuted a year ago.
- Saturday, March 13, 2021 at 1 PM: "Those Darn Brick Walls" Panel discussion addressing your brick walls of genealogical research! Watch your email for your invitation to register.
- Saturday, April 3, 2021 at 1 PM: "DNA" DNA topics by Darlene Anderson.
- Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 1 PM: "The Genealogy Do-Over: A Year of Learning from My Mistakes" Thomas MacEntee will present a virtual educational seminar on the topic.
- Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 1 PM: "Cemetery Symbolism" Jeannie Regan-Dinius, with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, will discuss Cemetery Symbolism via Zoom.
- Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 1 PM: "People of Faith: History and Ancestry Through the Lens of the Catholic Church in Indiana" Julie K Motyka, Archivist for the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, will speak on the sacramental records (baptisms, marriages, deaths) which are of great interest to genealogists, tips on other resources and information that can be gleaned from the parish histories to aid you in your family history.

(Submitted by Darlene Anderson)

PUTNAM COUNTY:

The Time Travelin' Genealogy Guild meets the first Wednesday night of the month, and every 4th Saturday. We also meet random Saturdays at 10 AM geared toward newbies, research tips, follow up and random acts of genealogical kindness. You can write about anything, but there will be some prompts to plan for.

Wabash Valley Genealogical Society

For more information on upcoming activities, visit our website: www.inwvgs.org and go into the section marked "WVGS Events and Registrations". The events listed below are "Members Only" and you must pre-register.

- Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6 PM: "Its Not all on line: Researching in Archives" Melissa Barker is a Certified Archives Manager and Public Historian currently working at the Houston County, Tennessee Archives. "Statistics say that there is less than 10% of all the world's genealogical records are online". As genealogists, we are living in a time when there are huge amounts of genealogy records being put online on a daily basis. Unfortunately, we have been lulled into thinking that "everything is online". When in reality, the majority of all genealogy records are sitting in repositories waiting to be discovered by the genealogist. This presentation will show why you need to contact or visit an archive and seek out those records that are not online.
- March 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM: "The Early Northwest Territory" with Jim Swift. This presentation reviews the transformation of the old Northwest Territory from a wilderness occupied by native inhabitants to a tamed land of farms, towns, roads and colleges.
- April 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM: "Mason and Dixon's Survey: Genealogical Implications of Changing Boundaries" by Jacob Eubanks.

(Submitted by Maggie Champion, Putnam Co. ICG)

VANDERBURGH COUNTY:

Tri-State Genealogical Society

Focus on family tree research for Southwest Indiana, Southeast Illinois & Western Kentucky. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May & June. Monthly meetings are 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM in the Bayard Room on the 2nd floor of Willard Library, 21 First Avenue, Evansville, IN 47710. Visit their website [here](#).

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:

LUSTRE

(N.) A period of 5 years. It derives from 'lustrum', the Latin name of a purificatory ritual in Ancient Rome that marked the end of the Roman census, held every 5 years. It literally means 'washing' or 'cleaning'.

Indiana Genealogical Society | www.IndianaAncestors.org

STAY CONNECTED

