



INDIANA - *Crossroads To Your Past!*

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Indiana News - April 2021

Welcome to the April 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 | LAST CALL!

IGS Conference 2021:

It's your last chance to mark your calendars! The Indiana Genealogical Society's 2021 conference will be held on **Friday and Saturday, April 9-10, 2021** virtually. Lisa Louise Cooke will be the featured speaker Saturday, and Friday will showcase sessions led by Genealogy Librarians from the Allen County Public Library.

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.



How to Write Compelling Stories about Family History

Everyone has a family story to tell, but not everyone knows instinctively how to tell it. In Annette Gendler's book, *How to Write Compelling Stories from Family History*, the process of how to bring the past to life gets a little bit easier.

Gendler begins her book with the following words:

"This book is meant to help you tackle the often overwhelming project of "doing something" with your family history; the stories you grew up with that no one wrote down (or maybe someone did), the piles of family documents, the boxes of letters and photos, a heap of genealogical research, or a relative's handwritten memories. It could even be the history of another family you care about."

Storytelling and the sharing of family narratives is often times the first introduction many aspiring researchers have to the field of genealogy. It is, often times as well, the information we lead with when sharing our findings with others. Gendler's book is a great reference point for turning those anecdotes and musings into fully fledged memoirs, ensuring that the work you do today survives for the next generation of family researchers.

To find more great tips on how to turn your family history into a compelling narrative, as well as an interview with Annette Gendler herself, check out the article on her book [here](#).

Remember Their Names - Recording the Data of the Enslaved

When researching the enslaved or those involved in the slave trade, sometimes the biggest question that arises is "What do I do to help preserve this information I'm finding?" It's a common refrain when it comes to this particular topic, and while there is no one perfect answer or repository for all collective information on this kind of research, there are a few important ones to turn to first.

The Legal Genealogist recommends the following three resources:

"First, for individuals and groups who want to thoroughly explore the relationships between enslaver and enslaved and ensure that the results are preserved, consider the [Beyond Kin Project](#), brainchild of Alabama genealogists Donna Cox Baker and Frazine K. Taylor. The Project offers both a means to preserve individual data and a guide to methodology for this sort of research.

For those who have encountered records mentioning the enslaved and simply want to ensure that the data isn't lost, the [Slave Data Collection](#) of AfriGeneas, where the group's vision is to "find and document the last slaveholder and the first African in each family" and its goal to "encourage and support all African ancestored individuals and families to begin and continue researching their roots until all possible resources are exhausted and the results are published."

*Finally, for archives, groups, individuals and others with "historically significant" datasets, consider submitting to *Enslaved: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade* — a collaborative effort by Matrix: Center for Digital Humanities & Social Sciences at Michigan State University (MSU), in partnership with the MSU Department of History, the College of Arts and Humanities at the University of Maryland, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and scholars at multiple institutions of education, research, and public exhibition."*

Putting concrete histories to those who had theirs stripped from them is an incredibly important undertaking, and ultimately, the most important facet of it is in the doing, not the where. For more information on this topic, refer [here](#).

Project to Restore Grave Markers Nears Completion at Memorial Place

Any family researcher who has undergone the trials and tribulations of graveyard exploration has, at one point or another, come across a cemetery in disarray. Be it brambles, thorns, overgrown grass, or worse yet, vandalism, the sight of unkempt gravestones is a familiar one. Sometimes these graves never see a tending hand but others, like the stones housed in Memorial Place in Monroe, Michigan, find new life in the form of restoration projects.

More than 70 grave markers on the property were so severely damaged and neglected that they had been nearly covered over completely by dirt, grass, and the detritus that comes with playing host to the elements for over a hundred years. None were still standing and many were cracked, chipped, or worn down to the point that they were nigh on unreadable.

Thanks to Carter's Cemetery Preservation, and funded through a joint venture between the city and the Monroe County Museum Historical Commission's Historical Projects Fund, these stones are beginning to rise from the ashes of neglect.

"So many people are shocked to see these headstones popping up," said Jeff Green, Community Development Director for the City of Monroe. "One person was walking by and said to me 'It looks like a cemetery.' I said 'It is a cemetery.' For the people buried there, I think it's respectful for them (to) have their headstones upright, so that they're protected... It's much safer if they're upright than if they're lying flat, because you will lose all of that information on them if they lay there long enough and break enough. You'll lose all of that."

The preservation of cemeteries can be just as important as the maintenance of records and archives. They provide tangible connections to the past and a place of remembrance to those we've lost along the way. To learn more about the great work being done at Memorial Place, read the rest of the article [here](#).

Ireland's Diaspora - They Took the Boat

The story of emigration can be a murky one, began and ending with the common refrain, "They took the boat" when it comes to the histories of the Irish leaving their homeland. IrelandXO seeks to reclaim the lost narratives of the emigrant experience by searching for the memory of those who left their homeland in their descendants today.

"We invite you to share your ancestor's story with whatever clues you have (about where or who they were connected to) so that we can help you find your way home. With your help, sharing where they went and when they took that boat helps connect the dots for other researchers too."

While providing a connection to those who lost their ties to their homeland, the work IrelandXO is doing also provides a bevy of great resources on the Irish Emigrant story at large, collecting and hosting numerous narratives that are now accessible to the public. Most exciting of all for the discerning family researcher may be the sheer scope of these resources; not only are there narratives on emigration to America and Europe, but there are also several containing the stories of those who traveled to Canada, Africa, Asia... The list goes on and on. If you have struggled to gain traction in your research of the Irish Diaspora, or even looked for a repository to record your own family histories as it relates to this topic, this is definitely a resource to turn to.

You can access these records and learn more [here](#).

COUNTY ROUNDUP OF EVENTS

ALLEN COUNTY:

From the Genealogy Center

If you're still not comfortable being out and about, that is totally understandable. Know that you can still use our virtual services. Continue to email your questions to us at: Genealogy@ACPL.info. Feel free to call us as well with a quick question or useful piece of advice at: 260-421-1225. Our virtual programs will continue. Join The Genealogy Center every Tuesday at 2:30 PM EST and Thursday at 6:30 PM EST for free virtual programs. Register in advance in the Events section on the left side of The Genealogy Center website: www.GenealogyCenter.org. Be sure to register ahead of time.

- Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 6:30 PM: "Using Wanda's DNA Matches to Uncover Her Immigrant Roots" Follow along as we do a deep dive into Wanda's autosomal DNA matches. We will sort her matches into family groups using the AncestryDNA colored dots grouping function, and see if we can find clues through shared matches, common ancestor hints and ThruLines for filling out Wanda's tree. Wanda's family were all UK and Irish immigrants to New Zealand in the 1800s. Presented by Sara Allen. Register [here](#).
- Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 2:30 PM: "French-Canadian Migrations Out of Quebec: Francophones in North America" Follow the earliest French settlers as they move into and out of Acadia (modern day Nova Scotia) and Quebec and out throughout North America. Learn about online resources, family societies and books that will help you follow your ancestors' movements. Presented by Judy Muhn. Writer, speaker, blogger, presenter and researcher, Judy has been researching her family tree from the age of 12, specializing in French-Canadian, Acadian, Native American and Michigan research. Register [here](#).
- Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:30 PM: "Preview the IAAM Center for Family History" Preview the collections, programs and resources of the Center for Family History at the International African American Museum, scheduled to open in the summer of 2022. Learn about resources available at opening, and resources now available on the Center's website at cfh.iaamuseum.org! Presented by Toni Carrier. Toni is the Director of the Center for Family History at the International African American Museum under development in Charleston, South Carolina. Register [here](#).
- Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 2:30 PM: "Uncovering Family Histories with the Tenement Museum" Join the Tenement Museum for a conversation about how sources and records can tell us stories about migration and family history. The Tenement Museum researches and interprets the history of real families who lived in tenements at 97 and 103 Orchard Street on Manhattan's Lower East Side. On this program, Senior Director of Curatorial Affairs David Favalaro will share two family stories of migration through the records the museum uncovered over time. Using census records,

court documents, and oral histories, you'll hear about the stories we found in the archives, and what surprises we've discovered along the way. Presented by David Favaloro . David is Senior Director of Curatorial Affairs and Hebrew Technical Institute Research Fellow at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Register [here](#).

- Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 6:30 PM: "Over There - Civilian Service in WWI" Not everyone who served in WWI carried a gun. There were many ways that both men and women helped the troops cope with the difficulties of trench warfare. Learn about the larger non-combatant organizations that participated in WWI and where their records are located. Presented by Sarah A. V. Kirby. Sarah A. V. Kirby is the Genealogy and Local History Archives Librarian in the Huntington City-Township Public Library's Keefer Center. Register [here](#).
- Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 2:30 PM: "Using German Church Records: An Introduction" This program for beginners will explore the value of German church records and how to uncover, interpret, and read them. We will look at the major online sources and discuss some techniques for researching them. Presented by John Beatty. Register [here](#).
- Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 6:30 PM: "Finding Your Ancestors in Company Employee Magazines and Trade Magazines" Company employee magazines and trade magazines are packed with interesting facts about our ancestors. See many examples from these magazines and tips for locating them. Presented by Dennis Northcott. Dennis is a native St. Louisan who has been on the staff of the Missouri Historical Society library and archives since 1989. Register [here](#).
- Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 2:30 PM: "Preparing Your Family History for Publication: A Writing Workshop" Learn to write compelling stories about your ancestors and your research journey in this workshop focusing on good storytelling and essential writing skills. Presented by M. Teresa Baer. M. Teresa Baer, managing editor of the Indiana Historical Society Press, will discuss the basics of writing family history. Topics will include how to get started, the importance of audience and purpose, the building blocks of effective communication, considerations of genre and format, documentation, and illustrating your work. Register [here](#).

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)

GRANT COUNTY:

The Marion Public Library is pleased to host Curt Witcher from the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center on April 7, 2021. Curt will present "The Power of Story: The Importance of Telling Your Personal Story" via Zoom at 6:30 pm. The program is free and you can register [here](#).

The Marion Public Library Virtual Genealogy Club meets via Zoom on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6:30 pm. Register to attend at www.marion.lib.in.us and click on Schedule Now on the popup. Or call the Indiana Room at 765-668-2900 x1154 for more information.

(Submitted by Rhonda Stoffer, Grant 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 at <https://hepl.evanced.info/signup/Calendar>

- April 10, 2021 at 10 AM: "Taking a Closer Look at Census Records" Census records are the one resource that most genealogists research first. They are government records and easily accessible online at multiple websites. Besides placing your ancestor in a certain place at a certain time, there is a wealth of additional information to be found on that one record. Please join us as we take a closer look at census records and the information just waiting to be found on our ancestors.
- April 13, 2021 at 2 PM: "Genealogy Roundtable: Focus on Internet Sources" For those genealogists who know how to where to look, the Internet brings a multitude of resources to their fingertips. So many records and resources are available online, you just need to know how to find them. Attendees will share their success stories at finding online resources.
- May 8, 2021 at 10 AM: "Fantastic and Fun Filled World of the FamilySearch Wiki and Catalog" Registration begins 4/1/2021 at 8:00 AM. Have you ever wondered where professional genealogists go to begin their research? Do you need help creating a research plan or just need to know when a state began keeping birth records? Or do you want to know how to access millions of records that have yet to be digitized? All these questions can be answered with the FamilySearch Wiki and catalog. In this session professional genealogist, Amber Oldenburg, will show you how to navigate both and how they can help you be a better family history researcher.
- May 11, 2021 at 2 PM: "Genealogy Roundtable: Focus on Indiana Room Resources" Registration begins 4/1/2021 at 8:00 AM. Have you ever wondered what resources are in the Indiana Room at the Hamilton East Public Library? Join us for a virtual tour of the Indiana Room resources. This is your opportunity to discover a few unique resources housed in the Indiana Room. This is an informal virtual genealogy discussion group. You will need to register so you can receive an invite to the roundtable.
- May 18, 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.
- June 5, 2021 at 10 AM: "Searching for Elusive Ancestors" Registration begins 5/1/2021 at 8:00 AM. We all have elusive ancestors in our family trees. They are the ones who didn't leave a paper trail. Or did they? Learn how to search resources that might shed a clue or two about your elusive ancestor. Presenter: Nancy A. Massey.

Registration with email required for Zoom meeting invitation information for all virtual programs. Registration can be made online at the Hamilton East Public Library events page. For discussion groups, HEPL staff will work to ensure patron safety during virtual programs. It is understood that all participants in our Zoom meetings agree to the Zoom privacy policy [here](#) and that each participant will practice safe online behavior using the guidance at connectsafely.org.

(Submitted by Nancy Massey, Hamilton Co. ICG)

LA PORTE COUNTY:

The La Porte County Genealogical Society (LPCGS) has resumed meetings. Visit the society website at <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~inlncigs/> to confirm the event is continuing as scheduled.

- April 14, 2021 at 6 PM at the La Porte Public Library in Meeting Room B
- May 11 at 6 PM at the La Porte Public Library, Meeting Room B
- June 8 will be the Cemetery tour. Time and place to be determined

(Submitted by Harold Henderson, La Porte Co. ICG:)

LAKE AND PORTER COUNTY:

Northwest Indiana Genealogical Society is announcing their new website at www.nwigs.com. It is a new and improved site with a members-only side. They will be adding some of their publication to the members-only site, and new indexes to the databases/research side. With extra time on the hands of the board member, 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 www.nwigs.com to find out how to join in.

- Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM: Google Meet- "Writing Your Family Story" Join professional writer and editor Patrick Thornton for a lecture about transforming all the research that you've

compiled over the years into an engaging narrative for your family and future generations. This lecture will break down how to transform dense research into prose, with examples from Patrick's own family history, going back to the 1600s.

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.

(Submitted by Marlene Polster, Lake 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 at <http://genealogyindy.org/>

- 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. The Genealogical Society of Marion County Research Library is located at 9370 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46229. Visit their website at <http://genealogyindy.org/> for more information.

From the Indiana Chapter of Palatines to America

The Indiana Chapter, Palatines to America, will hold their 2021 Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 24, 2021 via Zoom. The featured speaker will be James Beidler, who is a well-known lecturer at regional and national conferences. He is the author of The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide and The Family Tree Historical Atlas of Germany as well as a number of other books. Living in Pennsylvania, he is quite active in organizations within the state and in publishing numerous articles about Pennsylvania research. He will give 4 presentations:

- Pennsylvania's Launching Pads into the Midwest
- Researching German Families in Pennsylvania
- Digging Pennsylvania Roots from Your Desktop
- Go with the Flow: Finding All the Newspapers You Need!

For a flyer with full details and a registration form see <https://inpalam.org/eventListings.php?nm=52#er4>

Questions: indianapalam@gmail.com

(Submitted by Darlene Anderson)

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:

REVERDIE

(n.) A poem celebrating the return of spring

STAY CONNECTED

