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Indiana News - August 2021

Welcome to the August 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 2022 Conference

IGS Conference 2022:

Thank you for attending our 2021 conference. As you know, the conference was generously sponsored by both Visit Fort Wayne, and by Vivid-Pix. I hope that you will support Visit Fort Wayne by attending our 2022 conference at the Allen County Public Library on April 2, 2022. Our main speaker will be David Lambert with the New England Historic Genealogical Society. David is an expert on New England research, and his topics for this conference will be Great Migration Immigrants to New England 1620-40, Using New England Probate Records, Discovering Land Records in New England, and Using New England Court Records in Your Family History.



Friday speakers and the possibility of virtual accessibility will be announced later, so be sure to keep checking social media and the enews for more information as it becomes available.

8 Tips for Finding Ancestors Prior to 1850

If you've succeeded in tracing your family history back to 1850 you may have encountered a few hurdles when it comes to digging back even deeper. According to FamilyTree.com, some of these questions

might sound familiar: "Where are all the names? Gone are federal census records that list everyone by name and age, replaced by enumerations naming only heads-of-household. Outside of New England, birth and death records become virtually non-existent. Grave markers may be lost or unreadable. Documents have been lost to disasters and the ravages of time.

"On top of all this, your ancestor could've moved around in search of land or opportunity, leaving behind only faint, scattered clues. Compared to relatively prolific paper trails of later years, pre-1850 records can seem few and impersonal: more like a fossil record than an archival one. Yet the truth is that you can find your ancestors even without birth, death and every-name census records. You just need to know what documents likely do exist—and to be willing to dig for them."

The good folks at FamilyTree.com have compiled a nifty list of tips to guide you along as you take the plunge into the dark and murky waters of genealogy prior to 1850.

1. Study the Region
2. Make the Most of Census Marks
3. Seek Vital Records and Substitutes
4. Follow the Money
5. Track the Land
6. Explore Military Service
7. Read Between the Lines
8. Pull it All Together

Each tip includes a bevy of resources to help you tackle the search ahead, so be sure to read over the tips in full [here](#).

How to Get Your Ancestor's FindAGrave Memorial Transferred to You

Sometimes, the best words for articulating the importance of a specific resource comes from a person with first-hand experience using it. Some of you may have run into the issue of having a stranger claim the FindAGrave memorial of a personal loved one and the ensuing struggle of how to regain possession of it. It can be a devastating and painful discovery. If this has ever happened to you, take comfort; there is recourse to be had, and it comes courtesy of Amy Johnson Crow.

Her account reads as follows:

"I'm going to go ahead and be honest with you all, this week's blog post had me a bit emotional. But, it may not be why you think.

Many people have had the experience of losing a loved one and then discovering that a complete stranger created their [FindAGrave](#) memorial, often before the funeral even took place. What's a person to do?

First, you can absolutely request that the memorial be transferred to you, BUT, if you take over the memorial, you can edit info about the grave, but you cannot delete photos that others have added.

And the emotion? Grief is hard enough as it is, but when you don't have control over what's being put online about your family member, or ancestor, it can hurt, and make you a bit angry.

I talk more about this in the post, and how problematic this can be, as well as sharing my own story with someone taking my Dad's photo from his online obituary and posting it on his FindAGrave memorial that I created, without my permission, without my permission.

People sometimes have the best intentions, and we have to remind them that we're all here, feeling the same things, and that we remember that we all process loss differently. It's nuts to think of these issues that have come up in genealogy because of the internet.

But! To not end on a downer, this post shows you how to request memorial transfers and the removal of images from other users. I also show what to do if the person who made the memorial isn't accepting messages or doesn't transfer it to you like they should, and I encourage you to do so."

[Read the post here](#)

Preparing the Victorian Home for a Funeral

Oftentimes when we're performing our family history research we focus on how our ancestors lived. How they died, though, and how their immediate family grieved isn't always a main priority. It's said that death and taxes are the two absolutes we have to look forward to in life, so it's a little odd how little we consider the permeating longevity of it as a notion. Our ancestors mourned just the same as we do today, and when we take the time to dig a little deeper into how they might have gone about it, we get that much

closer to the shared humanity that unites us all.

Our Victorian ancestors mourned with a public intensity that few can match today. Women went through a complicated and long process of visibly mourning through their garments, and when a family suffered a loss, the house itself dressed up too in solidarity. Many families held funerals and viewings within their own homes, housing the body of the deceased until it took the trip to its final resting place. Wreaths and colored, draping crepe adorned the front door to warn passersby that a death had taken place inside and to soften their voices so as not to disturb the mourners within. According to BillionGraves.com, “(b)lack crepe with a black ribbon meant the deceased had lived a long life. Black crepe with a white ribbon indicated a middle-aged or unmarried adult had passed on. And white crepe with white ribbon was used when mourning children.”

One of my favorite things about Victorian culture, flower language, even found itself utilized during funerals. Even at funerals, flowers were a way for Victorian friends, family, and neighbors to say they cared without having to speak the words out loud. Each bloom was a symbol of a particular emotion.

Here are some of the meanings behind flowers that were gifted at funerals:

- Red Rose: romantic love
- Tulips: friendship and loyalty
- Lilies: the deceased was pure and innocent
- Deep, dark crimson rose: mourning
- Pink carnations: I'll never forget you
- Marigold: grieving
- Zinnia: lasting affection

While it's still common to give flowers at funerals today, I wonder just how much flower meanings come into play when choosing arrangements?

To read more about the myriad ways our Victorian ancestors remembered their lost loved ones, click [here](#).

New Zealand's National Library Signs 'Historic' Agreement to Donate 600,000 Books to Online Archive

New Zealand's National Library will donate 600,000 books that it was planning to cull from its overseas collection to a United States-based internet archive that will make digital copies of the works freely available online.

National Librarian Rachel Esson announced the “historic” agreement on Monday, saying books left at the end of the library’s review process would be donated to the Internet Archive, a digital library with the self-stated mission of universal access to all knowledge.

“This is a great outcome for us,” Esson said.

The agreement comes after months of controversy and uncertainty regarding the cull of the books, mostly written by non-Kiwi authors.

You can read all the details in an article by Andre Chumko published in the *Stuff.co.nz* web site [here](#).

COUNTY ROUNDUP OF EVENTS

>> Allen County *(submitted by Margery Graham, Allen Co. ICG:)*

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/>. The programs listed below are to be online, so be sure to visit the website to register. After pre-registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the program online.

- September 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM: Curt Sylvester will present Colonial Research (part 1).
- October 13, 2021 at 7:00 PM: Curt Sylvester will present Colonial Research (part 2).
- November 10, 2021 at 7:00 PM: Martine Copeland will present French Migration to Allen County

with Emphasis on Alsace.

- December 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM: Kelli Bergheimer will present Family Tree Maker for Moderate Users.

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.

From the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society

We hold quarterly, public programs to discuss and promote Jewish genealogy, as well as several more intimate events just for our members. Our purpose is to present educational programs relevant to Jewish genealogy, to support our members in their pursuit of their family histories, to collaborate with other organizations on areas of Jewish genealogical interests, and to protect, preserve and share Jewish genealogical records from the region of Northeast Indiana. Visit <https://neindianajgs.org/> for more information.

>> Grant County *(submitted by Rhonda Stoffer, Grant Co. ICG:)*

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.

The Marion Public Library Virtual Genealogy Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to attend. You can contact the Indiana Room at mplih@marion.lib.in.us for more information.

>> 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 at <http://www.huntingtonpub.lib.in.us/calendar/> to learn more.

Any adult interested in genealogy or local history is invited to our monthly club. Meeting in the Joan B. Keefer Genealogy and Local History Center, each session brings together hobbyists and professionals for discussion, learning, and research.

September: Carole Hacker will share "Family History and Family Stories"

October: Jeannine Regan-Dinius will speak on cemetery rules and regulations.

>> 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 <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~innccgs/> to learn more.

>> Elkhart County *(submitted by Patricia Johnson:)*

The Elkhart County Genealogical Society has suspended its meetings for the time being. Details on when meetings will resume and upcoming programs will be available on the society's webpage: www.elkhartcogensoc.org.

>> Howard County *(submitted by Cindy Stover, Howard Co. ICG:)*

The Howard County Society isn't meeting yet. The Library is open regular hours, but masks are required. No other new information. Normally, the Howard County Genealogical Society meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Library, 220 N. Union St., Kokomo, Indiana 46901. Visit the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library website to learn more at <http://www.KHCPL.org>.

>> La Porte County (submitted by Harold Henderson, La Porte Co. ICG:)

The La Porte County Genealogical Society (LPCGS) has resumed meetings. Visit the society website at <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~inlcigs/> to confirm the event is continuing as scheduled. On May 11, the La Porte County Genealogical Society met in the library meeting room, which is large enough to accommodate everyone with social distancing and masks for all (except the speaker!).

Susan Webster gave a detailed and well illustrated account of the life of Naomi Anderson (1843-1899), an African-American woman who was born in Michigan City, Indiana. She was a vigorous advocate for suffrage, temperance, civil rights, advocating equal rights for all genders and races in the 1870s.

As county genealogist I responded to an email from a researcher hoping to visit and research in La Porte, St. Joseph, and Porter counties, and listed likely places to visit and potential research helpers. It's easy for us locals to forget all the odd places where materials can wind up: in St. Joseph, the county archives are important, and in Porter the library holds many actual old record books deaccessioned from the courthouse, while in La Porte researchers can benefit from the work of the late lamented Fern Eddy Schultz at the county historical society.

>> Henry County (submitted by Kaye Ford, East Central District Director)

The Indiana Room at the New Castle-Henry County Public Library is open for research. You may also contact the Indiana Room genealogist, Kathie Ward, at kathie@nchcpl.org or 765-529-0362, ext. 1368. Kathie is at the Indiana Room on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, between 9am and 5pm.

The Clarence H. Smith Genealogy Library is open by appointment only at the Henry County Historical Society. Please contact Henry County Genealogist, Kaye Ford, at henrycountymuseum@gmail.com or 765-529-4028 to schedule an appointment or request research. Research is \$15 per surname, payable by cash, check, or PayPal (at HenryCountyMuseum.org by clicking the 'donate' button).

Recently, Keith Buckley, co-author of *Indiana Stonecarver: The Story of Thomas R. Reding*, spoke at the historical society's 134th annual meeting. This is a truly wonderful genealogical tale and demonstrates how records continually pop up to help a story grow. Mr. Buckley will be returning to the historical society in the fall to present about Civil War pension widows.

The historical society also welcomed Susan Idlet, the 2nd-great-granddaughter of Thaddeus Coffin who was the architect of the General William Grose home, which houses Henry County's museum, and the creator of a one-of-a-kind desk. One fascinating aspect of this desk is Coffin included his paternal lineage on the front of a drawer...in Morse code! We love to have descendants visit us.

>> Wayne County (submitted by Kaye Ford, East Central District Director)

Wayne County Genealogical Society: Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month (except December and January), at 10:00 AM in the lower level of the First Friends Church at 2010 Chester Blvd, Richmond, Indiana. You are welcome to join our Facebook Group to keep up to date on what the society is doing. Meetings are open to all persons who wish to attend. Visit the website at <http://www.waynet.org/nonprofit/wcgs.htm> for more information.

>> Hendricks County (submitted by Janet Mobley:)

At the Danville Public Library:

- August 9th at 1 PM: "Publishing Your Family History" presented by Ron Darrah. Turn all that collected data into a readable family history without breaking the bank. Ron Darrah has been a genealogical researcher for over 30 years and a lecturer since 1996.

>> Marion County (submitted by Darlene Anderson:)

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 the second Saturday each month from 1 PM to 3 PM at our Library. Registration is available on their website at <http://genealogyindy.org/>

- August 14, 2021: "Researching the Dark Side of Family History" with emphasis on Irvington families. Presented by Steve Barnett, GSMC Board Member

- September 11, 2021: "Indiana Medical History Museum" presented by Sara Halter, Executive Director, IMHM
- October 9, 2021: "Crispus Attucks Museum" with Robert Chester, Museum Curator
- November 13, 2021: "To Infamy and Beyond: Family History and World War Two" at 1:00 PM presented by Ron Darrah, GSMC Board. At 3 PM: "Civil War Records at the National Archives" with Brian Rhinehart.
- December 11, 2021: Annual Luncheon and Show and Tell or Tell A Story – Details Later

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.

>> Morgan County *(submitted by Janice Kistler, Morgan Co. ICG:)*

The Morgan County Public Library has a YouTube [channel](#). Upcoming topics on the Morgan County Public Library's YouTube channel:

- August – Recording More than Just Parents (Using a Family Group Sheet)
- September – Finding Your Family History at Your Local Library

The Morgan County History and Genealogy Association made a \$3000.00 donation to the Morgan County History Center and Museum. The museum will have a sneak preview opening on June 3rd from 6 to 8 PM.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will happen on June 12th starting at 11 AM with the museum being open afterwards from noon to 2 PM. Regular hours for the museum are being finalized. The museum has memorabilia, documents, tools, collectibles, telephones and many other items representing the county's history. The museum is located at 127 S Main St in Martinsville, IN.

>> Fayette County *(submitted by Patricia Summan, Fayette Co. ICG:)*

Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month except December at 7:00 PM at the Fayette County Museum, 200 W. 5th Street, Connersville, IN.

>> Brown County *(from the Brown Co. Historical Society website:)*

The Brown County Historical Society Archives collection is open and available for researchers on Tuesdays and Fridays from 11:00-4:00 PM, as well as other times by appointment. Local history and genealogy volunteers are available during this time to assist you in your research. The Archives are located on the 2nd floor of the Brown County History Center, 90 E. Gould Street, Nashville, IN 47448.

>> Crawford County *(submitted by Anne Hager, Crawford Co. ICG:)*

There's not much going on in Crawford County right now. Here's the following from the Crawford County Historical & Genealogical Society:

In addition, the Crawford County Public Library's genealogy department is still open to patrons. The current hours for the library are: Tuesday-Wed-Thurs: 10-5:30, Friday: 10-4, Saturday 10-2.

>> Dearborn County *(submitted by Cassie Blankenhorn, Dearborn Co. ICG:)*

Lawrenceburg Main Public Library has reopened. The North Dearborn Branch is open with hours Monday and Wednesday (Noon to 7 PM), Tuesday and Thursday (10 AM to 5 PM), and Saturday (10 AM to 2 PM).

We request patron's wear a mask but are not requiring it. We do have new ones available to borrow while you're here, if needed. There will be a time limit of 30 minutes, hopefully enough time to find materials and check out. If you need to use a computer, that must be done by appointment only by calling our main number at 812-537-2775. Please check our website at <https://www.lpld.lib.in.us/locations-hours> or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LawrenceburgPublicLibraryDistrict> for updates.

>> Floyd County *(submitted by Susan Covey, FOGS Media Chair:)*

The Falls of the Ohio Genealogical Society (FOGS) is a newly formed 501(c)3 dedicated to collecting,

preserving, and making available genealogy material especially for Floyd, Clark, and Harrison Counties in southern Indiana. FOGS hosts a program of genealogy or history the first Thursday of each month, currently via Zoom. Please visit fallsgenealogy.org for information about upcoming presentations and the First Families of Floyd, Clark and Harrison Counties Legacy Project.

>> Harrison County *(submitted by Lynne Keasling, Harrison Co. ICG:)*

Just finished "Exciting Times in Old Harrison County 1906-1910." Interesting and quirky news items from the Corydon Democrat and the Corydon Republican PLUS interesting Statewide Stats trivia. Buggy accidents, robberies, Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves, snakes in the house, people lost and found, the speed limit for automobiles in Corydon in 1906 was 6 MPH and all sorts of interesting items. Fun reading and almost like peeking back into the windows of life in the early 1900's. Selling for \$22.00 each. Spiral bound, All name Indexed. Contact me for a copy.

RESEARCH CLUE: I am working on a new database of Harrison County Divorces-ca 1900-1910 for another book and in the early 1900's the State Vitals reported that there was one divorce for every 8 marriages in the STATE ! SO--if you suddenly "lose" someone, consider that they may have divorced and have left the State or are living with someone else but still might report themselves as "married" . I am astonished at the number of divorces being requested. That book is still in embryo stage but most interesting to work on!

>> Lawrence County

from the Lawrence Co. Historical & Genealogical Society website:

We love all our visitors at the Lawrence County Museum! During this very unusual time in our country's history, we find ourselves without a regular Friday volunteer on the front desk, so if you would like to come in to tour the gallery or use the library on a Friday, please call a staff member at 812-278-8575, and we will happily come down to let you in.

The Lawrence Historical and Genealogical Society meeting is normally held the second Monday of each month in the Meeting Room, Lawrence County Museum of History, 929 15th Street, Bedford, Indiana 47421. Sadly, due to COVID these are on hold. Their website is <http://www.lawrencecountyhistory.org>

>> Monroe County *(submitted by Penny Mathiesen, South Central District:)*

The Monroe County History Center, located at 202 East Sixth Street, Bloomington, IN 47401, is at present open to the public only by appointment. The Research Library is accepting questions and requests by email (library@monroehistory.org) or telephone (812-332-2517). Please call or check our website at www.monroehistory.org for changes in services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Research Library is still accepting inquiries and applications to our First Family Program, eligible to anyone who is a direct descendant of a Monroe County resident who settled here before 31 December 1849.

All Monroe County Court records (1818 through 1960) held in the Research Library have been indexed, and the up-to-date index is available online at: www.monroehistory.org under Library—Indexes and Resources. Updated Divorce and Probate indexes for the same time period are also available there.

>> Greene County *(submitted by Diane Anderson, Greene Co. ICG:)*

I am excited to tell you that on October 6th, my library's genealogy volunteer and myself went live with a Facebook genealogy group. It is called "[Greene County Genealogy \(Indiana\)](#)" and has already gained 42 new members since then. The aim of the group is to help point members in the right direction, provide helpful information and build community by encouraging members to network & help each other. You must join the group (answer some questions) to see the details in the Facebook group.

>> Knox County *(submitted by Brian Spangle, Knox Co. ICG:)*

The Northwest Territory Genealogical Society meets on the third Monday of the month (March through December) at 7 PM at the McGrady-Brockman House in Vincennes and can be contacted through the Knox County Public Library. Visit the library website at <http://www.kcpl.lib.in.us> for more information.

>> Pike County

Genealogy Society meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the history center (formerly Pike County Public Library) 1008 Main St., Petersburg, Indiana. The history center is open on Monday,

Thursday & Saturday from 9 AM till 4 PM. The address for the Pike County Indiana Genealogical Society, Inc., is P.O. Box 83, Petersburg, Indiana 47567.

>> Spencer County

Spencer County Historical Society has meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Spencer County Public Library, 210 Walnut St. Rockport, Indiana 47635. Membership is open to all and dues are \$20.00 per year. For more information, contact Raymond Dawson at rdawson@psci.net

>> Sullivan County

Sullivan County Historical Society & Museum, Membership dues are \$25.00 per year. Send payment and mailing address to: Sullivan County Historical Society, 10 S. Court St. Sullivan, Indiana. Publications are available for purchase from the society.

>> 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 at <http://tri-stategenealogicalsociety.weebly.com/>

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.](#)

Call for IGS Journal, Newsletter, and Social Media Submissions

The IGS has recently filled the positions of Social Media Editor and *Indiana Genealogist* Editor. We invite your contributions to all our publication outlets.

The *Indiana Genealogist* is a quarterly online journal that publishes abstracts or transcriptions of genealogical records, articles on Indiana-related resources, and historical studies of people or groups related to Indiana genealogy. For the September 2021 edition, the theme is Civil War families. If you have an article or something interesting to share, please contact the **Editor: Joy Neighbors.**

The *IGS Newsletter* is a bimonthly online publication that includes upcoming events, forthcoming publications, research tips, resources of interest to Indiana genealogists, and queries.
Editor: Jennifer Alford.

The IGS has several social media outlets that publish announcements, time-sensitive information, and other items of genealogical interest. **Social Media Director: Jon-Marie Pearson.**

Submission guidelines and more information on all these publications can be found on the IGS web site under "Publications."

Word of the Month:

SLEUTH, SLEUTH-HOUNDS

(n.) The word SLEUTH originally meant a traceable trail of footprints left by a person or animal. Because hunters' SLEUTH-HOUNDS were so adept at following animals' tracks, the word eventually came to be used of a detective in the late 1800s.

STAY CONNECTED

