

IN-GENious!

MORTALITY SCHEDULES

by Annette Harper

You like cemeteries? You like reading tombstones? In short, do you like to see as much of dead people as you can? Browsing a mortality schedule can be as enjoyable as walking through a cemetery, with no grass stains to worry about.

Mortality schedules, those non-population census schedules that list deaths in the census year, have been underutilized by most researchers. There are many reasons for this including

- ignorance of their existence;
- lack of availability online;
- difficulty in determining which individuals might be listed.

Overcoming these obstacles will provide you with a source of death data that you might otherwise lack.

Mortality schedules exist!

Mortality schedules are particularly valuable as official records of death before Indiana required death registration in 1900. They are also useful when no gravestone or obituary can be located, or to document children who were born and died between census years. The fact that they only document deaths in the twelve months preceding the census date and that many deaths likely went unreported, limit their usefulness, but the value of a find makes them well worth searching.

For the state of Indiana, mortality schedules were completed along with the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 population censuses. Mortality schedules contain an entry for each person who died in the census year. For each of the above census years, the official census date was June

1st, so the 1850 schedules, for example, include deaths between 1 June 1849 and 31 May 1850.

The data included for each person is similar to that which appears on the population schedules for living individuals, and includes the name, sex, age, color, marital status (blank implying single), place of birth, month of death, occupation, cause of death, and number of days ill. The 1870 schedules added the family number from the related population schedule entry and an indicator for whether the person's parents were foreign born. The 1880 schedules had individual fields for the birthplaces of the mother and father, and added length of residency, the name of the attending physician, the township of residence and a field for notes. See an example on page 100.

Mortality schedules are becoming more readily available online.

Many county genealogical societies, libraries, or INGenWeb sites have transcribed the mortality schedules for their counties. See the table on page 99 for a partial list. The Ancestry.com website has an index to the 1850 and 1860 mortality schedules for Indiana. Note, however, that this index may not be exhaustive, since I have failed to find entries that I know exist in the schedules.

The most exciting web-related news is that FamilySearch has the entire 1850 mortality schedule images online at <http://labs.familysearch.org>. To browse the images by county, click Record Search, Sign In, and then select the 1850 United States Census (Mortality Schedule), from the "Browse Images in a Collection" column.

MORTALITY SCHEDULES (continued)

There is also an index, but it is not currently complete.

For other census years, an index and the microfilm images are available at the Indiana State Library. The index is called *Indiana Mortality Records Index* and is available in the Genealogy Division. Microfilm containing the images is available in the Microforms Area. The schedules are also available at some local libraries.

Knowing when to search the schedules is determined on a case-by-case basis.

If you already have a death date for an individual and it is in one of the appropriate date ranges, then you can search an index or browse the images to find that person's cause of

death. In the more likely case that you do not know a specific death date, you must look at the other information you have to determine if the individual *might* have died in a census year. For example, say that a member of the family was on one census, but not on the next and their age was not appropriate for leaving the family due to marriage. In this case, a search would be beneficial.

Because the mortality schedules are not large for most counties, I recommend browsing the entire listings in counties where you have an interest. In this way, you may pick up children whose existence was previously unknown or make other serendipitous discoveries.

| Mortality Schedule Indices/Transcriptions | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County | 1850 | 1860 | 1870 | 1880 | URL |
| All | √ | √ | | | http://www.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3530 |
| Allen | √ | √ | √ | √ | http://www.acgsi.org/records.htm |
| Crawford | | | √ | | http://home.att.net/~Local_History/1870Mortality.htm |
| Grant | √ | √ | | | http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ingrant/mortsche.htm?cj=1&o_xid=0002499312&o_lid=0002499312 |
| Henry | √ | | | | http://www.hcgs.net/1850mortality.html |
| Howard | √ | √ | √ | √ | http://www.kokomo.lib.in.us/glhs/databases.html |
| Morgan | √ | | | | http://www.scican.net/~morglib/genasist/mort1850.html |
| Orange | √ | | | | http://www.usgenet.org/usa/in/county/orange/1850_ms.htm |
| Parke | √ | √ | | | http://ftp.rootsweb.ancestry.com/pub/usgenweb/in/parke/vitals/ |
| Tippecanoe | √ | | | | http://ftp.rootsweb.ancestry.com/pub/usgenweb/in/tippecanoe/vitals/1850mort.txt |
| Wells | √ | | | | http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~inwells/cen/1850mort.html?cj=1&o_xid=0002499312&o_lid=0002499312 |

“Genealogists don’t die, they just find themselves on the mortality schedules.”

MORTALITY SCHEDULES (continued)

| SCHEDULE 3. — Persons who Died during the Year ending 1st June, 1850, in <i>20th Dist</i> in the County of <i>Jefferson</i> State of <i>Indiana</i> , enumerated by me, <i>Ass't Marshal</i> | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| NAME OF EVERY PERSON WHO DIED during the Year ending 1st June, 1850, whose usual Place of Abode at the Time of his Death was in this Family. | DESCRIPTION. | | | | | PLACE OF BIRTH. Naming the State, Territory, or Country. | The Month in which the Person died. | PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, OR TRADE. | DISEASE, OR CAUSE OF DEATH. | Number of DAYS ILL. | |
| | Age. | Sex. | White, black, or colour. | Free or Slave. | Married or widowed. | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | |
| <i>James Boya</i> | <i>39</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Ohio</i> | <i>Aug</i> | <i>Farmer</i> | <i>Measles</i> | <i>42</i> | <i>1</i> |
| <i>Mary E. Raymond</i> | <i>12</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>Indiana</i> | <i>June</i> | | <i>Cholera</i> | <i>24</i> | <i>2</i> |
| <i>James E. Raymond</i> | <i>12</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>Feb</i> | | <i>Fits</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>John W. Stick</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>Aug</i> | | <i>Flux</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>Mama N. M. Whitson</i> | <i>1/2</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>"</i> | | <i>Measles</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Marissa Smith</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Ohio</i> | <i>July</i> | | <i>Whooping Cough</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>Thomas Edwin</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Ohio</i> | <i>June</i> | | <i>Measles</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>Oliver Crawford</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Indiana</i> | <i>Sept</i> | | <i>Consumption</i> | <i>C</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Margaret Seiler</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>Ohio</i> | <i>Sept</i> | | <i>Influenza</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>9</i> |
| <i>Rebecca J. South</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>Indiana</i> | <i>Dec</i> | | | <i>1</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>John Mitchell</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Ohio</i> | <i>April</i> | | <i>Croup</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>11</i> |
| <i>Frederica Henry</i> | <i>7 1/2</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>Kentucky</i> | <i>"</i> | | <i>Whooping Cough</i> | <i>C</i> | <i>12</i> |
| <i>Adam M. E. Carr</i> | <i>52</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Scotland</i> | <i>July</i> | <i>Tailor</i> | <i>Consumption</i> | <i>C</i> | <i>13</i> |
| <i>Barbara M. Carr</i> | <i>5 1/2</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>Indiana</i> | <i>Aug</i> | | <i>Whooping Cough</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>14</i> |
| <i>James Kelly</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>Feb</i> | <i>Farmer</i> | <i>Whooping Cough</i> | <i>16</i> | <i>15</i> |
| <i>Lucinda Connelly</i> | <i>4 1/2</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>July</i> | | <i>Influenza</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Eliza J. Knight</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>"</i> | | | <i>10</i> | <i>17</i> |
| <i>Agnes Glen</i> | <i>48</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>Scotland</i> | <i>Oct</i> | | <i>Whooping Cough</i> | <i>C</i> | <i>18</i> |
| <i>Susan E. Vanisdel</i> | <i>5 1/2</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>Indiana</i> | <i>Aug</i> | | <i>Flux</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>19</i> |
| <i>James S. Risk</i> | <i>11</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>"</i> | | <i>Whooping Cough</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>20</i> |
| <i>John Stephenson</i> | <i>7 1/2</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>July</i> | | <i>"</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>21</i> |
| <i>Margaret E. Carr</i> | <i>7 1/2</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>Sept</i> | | <i>Flux</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>22</i> |
| <i>Thomas C. Bray</i> | <i>1/2</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>Feb</i> | | | <i>2</i> | <i>23</i> |
| <i>Anderson Hatfield</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>Aug</i> | | <i>Whooping Cough</i> | <i>C</i> | <i>24</i> |
| <i>Rachel S. Merrin</i> | <i>11</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>Nov</i> | | <i>Croup</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>25</i> |
| <i>Bliss Frazier</i> | <i>7 1/2</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Ohio</i> | <i>Feb</i> | | | <i>C</i> | <i>26</i> |
| <i>Nancy Eccles</i> | <i>46</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>July</i> | | <i>Flux</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>27</i> |
| <i>Rebecca Eccles</i> | <i>14</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>Indiana</i> | | | <i>"</i> | <i>5</i> | <i>28</i> |
| <i>John Cline</i> | <i>70</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Kentucky</i> | <i>July</i> | <i>Farmer</i> | <i>"</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>29</i> |
| <i>John W. Hill</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Indiana</i> | <i>Oct</i> | | <i>Flux</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>30</i> |
| <i>Sybilton Barber</i> | <i>57</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Connecticut</i> | <i>April</i> | <i>Farmer</i> | <i>Whooping Cough</i> | <i>12</i> | <i>31</i> |
| <i>William J. McCarty</i> | <i>53</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Indiana</i> | <i>Oct</i> | <i>"</i> | <i>Flux</i> | <i>13</i> | <i>32</i> |
| <i>Rebecca Jones</i> | <i>84</i> | <i>F</i> | | | | <i>"</i> | <i>Sept</i> | | <i>"</i> | <i>C</i> | <i>33</i> |
| <i>Andrew J. P. Lamb</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>M</i> | | | | <i>Indiana</i> | <i>May</i> | | <i>Whooping Cough</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>34</i> |
| | | | | | | | | | | | <i>35</i> |

Example 1850 Mortality Schedule from FamilySearch

Note the large number of child deaths.