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Indiana News

19 NOVEMBER 2014

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Indiana - Crossroads To Your Past!



Welcome to the November 2014 edition of *Indiana News*! This e-mail is sent out every month and focuses on Indiana genealogy and history. It is sent to members of the Indiana Genealogical Society, as well as to the public who sign up to receive it.

[Find My Past Offers 15% Discount to IGS Members](#)

find my past logo



Members of the Indiana Genealogical Society now have another benefit - a 15% discount on [Find My Past](#). The discount can only be applied towards their World annual subscription, which includes the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), plus records for the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland and Australia. You can see a [list](#) of all the databases that are available with a World subscription.

To redeem this offer, IGS members should login to the IGS [Members-Only area](#) for instructions and the special offer code.

Ancestry.com to Digitize Indiana Vital Records

On October 23, the Indiana state government announced they had reached an [agreement](#) with Ancestry.com to digitize some of the birth records, marriage records and death records that exist on the state level. In Indiana, marriage records were kept by county clerks and may exist going back to each county's founding; births and deaths were kept by county health departments beginning in 1882. But by state law, copies of each county's marriage records were required to be sent to the state beginning in 1958; the state was also to receive copies of each county's birth records beginning in October 1907 and each county's death records beginning in January 1900.

The state's agreement with Ancestry.com references 75 years for privacy; therefore, the state's collection of Indiana birth records before 1940 (specifically October 1907 through 1940) and death records before 1940 (specifically January 1900 through 1940) will be digitized.

Also to be digitized is the state's collection of marriage records for 1958-2005

- this collection has already been [indexed](#) by the state and this index is available on the Indiana State Library's website.

The digitized records will begin go to online in 2015, with completion in time for the state's bicentennial in 2016. The records will be available exclusively on Ancestry for the first 3 years, then copies of the indexes and digital images will be given to the state. The Indiana State Archives will also receive a subscription to Ancestry, so in-person visitors to its facility will be able to access the collection.

"Once A Hoosier...Always A Hoosier" Blog Launched

screen capture of blog



The Indiana Genealogical Society has launched the "Once A Hoosier...Always A Hoosier" [blog](#) to compile information on ancestors who lived in Indiana for any part of their lives or were buried in Indiana. Several thousand entries have already been included, and they can be searched by surname or by county.

Want to contribute your information? There's an easy submission form - just click on the "Add Your Ancestor" tab.

IGS Donates Additional \$2,016 to War of 1812 Match Challenge

When the [Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana](#) in Fort Wayne heard about our challenge to raise \$1,816 and match that with \$2,016, they responded with \$1,816 of their own! In recognition of their incredible generosity, the Indiana Genealogical Society decided to donate an ADDITIONAL \$2,016 to the digitizing effort. Thanks to our efforts, 60,000 more pages of pension files will be digitized.

LEU Credits Approved for IGS Conference

Attention, Indiana librarians: LEU credits have been approved for The Legal Genealogist Judy Russell's 4 sessions at our April 2015 conference:

photo of Judy Russell



- Your First Trip to the Courthouse (1 LEU credit)
- "Disabled or Deceased in the Line of Duty": Military Pensions and the Civil War (1 LEU credit)
- Staying Out of Trouble: The Rights and Responsibilities of Today's Genealogists (1 LEU credit)
- Rogues, Rascals and Rapsallions: The Family Black Sheep (1 LEU credit)

The conference will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 on the campus of Indiana

State University in Terre Haute, with the [Wabash Valley Genealogy Society](#) as the local host.

Other sessions will focus on DNA testing, Vigo County history and digital records of the Wabash Valley. The LEU information for the other sessions will be updated when they are approved by the Indiana State Library.

For IGS members:

Your membership entitles you to a \$10 discount on conference registration. If registering online, make sure you use your Members Only login in order to receive the discounted price at checkout.

For more information - including the full conference schedule and how to register - please visit our [Conference](#) page.

War of 1812 in the News

--Among the pension files that have been digitized and put online already is an [obituary](#) for the 13-year-old son of William E. Gayle, who served in the Kentucky militia.

--The Ancestry.com blog has a [post](#) explaining about some of the quirks of service in the War of 1812, with links to their databases for doing War of 1812 research.

IGS Database Additions

Among the premium databases that we've added in the past month is an index of Brown County's insanity records for 1848-1941, courtesy of Randi Richardson. These records are housed at the Brown County Historical Society in Nashville, Indiana.

Other databases for members that we've added in the past month:

[College Records:](#)

- Moores Hill College - graduates (1909); students (1909)
- Notre Dame - graduates (1883); students (1856; 1859, 1870-1872)

- Taylor University - students (1939; 1942)

County Records:

- Clinton County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- DeKalb County - students of Butler High School (1916)
- Hamilton County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Howard County - 1860 mortality schedule index
- Pulaski County - students of Winamac High School (1914)
- Wabash County - students & teachers of Wabash High School (1933, 1934 & 1935); students & teachers of Chester High School in North Manchester (1947)
- Wells County - students & teachers of P.A. Allen High School in Bluffton (1937); alumni (1934-1937)

NOT AN IGS MEMBER? We also added:

--a free [index](#) of Orange County wills (1816-1852), courtesy of Randi Richardson.

--a free [directory](#) of businesses in the city of Tipton in 1930, courtesy of Wayne Klusman.

County Roundup

Here are some genealogical and local history news items from around the state. NOTE: Items on news sites often change or are removed without notice - we apologize if you encounter a link that no longer works.

HENRY COUNTY

A teen who was convicted of vandalizing the Lewisville Cemetery in July has been [ordered](#) to pay the cemetery \$12,000 in damages.

VIGO COUNTY

Last month the tombstone for a Maria Wissel who died in 1869 was [found](#) on a bridge in Clay County. Thanks to tips from researchers, the tombstone was [traced back](#) to Woodlawn Cemetery in Terre Haute.

WAYNE COUNTY

Street repairs in Richmond last month resulted in the [discovery](#) of a time capsule from 1926. The time capsule was created by the Sons of Union Veterans and included a well-preserved newspaper.

Civil War in the News

A Wisconsin soldier who died during the battle of Gettysburg was recently [given](#) the Medal of Honor in a White House ceremony. Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing was given the award thanks to 25 years of research by a historian and Congress granting an exemption to the usual 2-year deadline to nominate a soldier.

Research Tip: Illegitimate Children Law (1941)

In March 1941, the Indiana legislature passed a law for the support of children "born out of wedlock." The law provided a legal structure for the mother to establish paternity and to get the father to pay support for the child's maintenance and education, as well as the mother's medical

expenses in giving birth. It also said the father could be sent to county jail for up to a year if he did not pay the child support as ordered.

Under the 1941 law, the mother had to file a petition in court within 2 years of the child's birth and would be represented by the county prosecutor. A paternity hearing would be held (closed to the public) and entries would be made in a separate record book that would be kept confidential. The only thing that would be entered into public court records would be the financial terms of the judgement against the father. The law also directed the county clerk to send details of the child's birth to the county health department, so that their birth records could be updated.

This law was passed in a time before DNA testing existed, so paternity was to be established by producing witnesses that would testify to the relationship. The law said the alleged father was not compelled to testify.

The 1941 law replaced Indiana's bastardy laws, which dated back to 1852 and had been updated in 1935. The September 2013 issue of *Indiana Genealogist* includes an article about these bastardy laws - IGS members can login to the [IGS Records](#) section to access it.

Revolutionary War in the News

Dick Eastman's newsletter has a helpful [article](#) explaining about the various pension laws passed for Revolutionary War veterans, with links to resources to search for your ancestors.

Indianapolis Man Pardoned (1877)

In February 1876, Samuel S. Wade of Indianapolis was found guilty of grand larceny in Marion County Criminal Court and sentenced to 2 years at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City. Wade had been paid to steal wheat from a freight wagon. He was a native of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania - his sister had been shot during the battle of Gettysburg while baking bread for Union soldiers on Cemetery Hill. In January 1877, Governor Thomas A. Hendricks granted the request of the county prosecutor, judge and others to pardon him - they believed he "wasn't too bright" and had been coerced into the theft, and had been punished enough.

Source: *Biennial report of pardons, commutations and reprieves, and of remissions of fine and forfeitures granted by the Governor of Indiana, during the two years ending December 31, 1878* (Indianapolis: Indianapolis Journal Co., 1879).

Indiana Genealogy Grants Available

Tax-exempt organizations in Indiana are encouraged to apply for \$500 grants from the Indiana Genealogical Society. Grants are available either for cemetery restoration, or for development of a printed or electronic genealogy resource. If your organization is an IGS chapter, you're also eligible to apply for our chapter resource grant.

Last year we awarded grants to: a Tippecanoe County township trustee for

preservation of a Lafayette cemetery; the Monroe County Historical Society for an oral history project, and the South Bend Area Genealogical Society for a Lutheran church records project.

December 31, 2014 is the deadline to send in your grant application - to download an application form, or for more information, please visit <http://www.indgensoc.org/grants.php>

Ancestry.com Adds Native American Resources

For those with access to an Ancestry.com subscription, they have [added](#) several databases for Native American research, including the Dawes census rolls of 1896 and 1898.

Even if you don't have a subscription, you can read an [explanation](#) of the the importance of the Dawes Rolls in the Ancestry blog.

Legal Terms Explained: Vacation Entries

Today, Indiana courts are in session 52 weeks of the year (or close to it). But well into the 1900's, court sessions were actually only for a few weeks 3-4 times a year. For those times when the court was not in session, it was said to be on "vacation" - but that didn't mean that nothing was happening in the court. The clerk would still accept case filings, and sometimes a judge might issue a ruling even though court was not technically in session. These activities are known as "vacation entries" and appear in court records under that heading.

A VACATION entry should not be confused with VACATING a judgment - that's when a judge overturns a previous verdict (such as in an appeal).

Identity Theft in the 1940's

According to a Yahoo! Finance [story](#), thousands of American unknowingly committed identity theft in the 1940's, shortly after Social Security numbers were first issued. When a wallet manufacturer included a fake Social Security card, at least 5,000 people thought the card was their own and used that number on their paperwork. The problem? It was actually a Social Security number that already belonged to someone else - a secretary who worked for the wallet manufacturer. Even as late as 1977, her number was still being used by other people.

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