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Indiana News - May 2021

Welcome to the May 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 last month. 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.

9 Tips for Getting Started on Writing Your Family History

We've talked here before about the struggle that is making use of family history documents in a way that is conducive to sharing. Filing cabinets filled with obituaries, photographs, and loose records aren't the best conduit for introducing friends and family to your years of dedicated research, but refinement is a process that isn't always easy to get started. Thankfully, the wonderful people over at [familytreemagazine.com](#) have compiled a great list of tips to help you transform your amorphous research

into a sleek, concise format that will help your efforts reach future generations of family researchers.

We can't showcase every single tip and all the advice they've provided in their article on this topic, but just a glance at the tip headers illustrates a great framework to follow as you proceed.

1. Know your purpose
2. Make a plan
3. Say it with pictures
4. Get organized and utilize apps
5. Use prompts
6. Seek out help and inspiration
7. Begin in the middle
8. Write naturally
9. Take your time

For the full advice on how to get started with your own family history writing, see the rest of the tip [here](#).

Can You Claim a Coat of Arms Based on Your Last Name?

Heraldry is one of those aspects to family history that everyone secretly loves to brag about. Who wouldn't want a family coat of arms to whip out at cocktail parties? But while heraldry is cool, it's also very misunderstood as a whole. Anyone can buy something with a coat of arms on it, but only those of specific family lines can claim a coat of arms as their own.

Did you know that coat of arms are not assigned to a surname at large but to a specific bloodline that is inherited paternally? Accordingly to [familytreemagazine.com](#), this misconception colors a lot of people's understanding of heraldry at large.

"Think about how confusing it would be if everyone in the same family had the exact same arms. Instead, a person would be granted the right to bear a particular coat of arms, a right that passed down to his male descendants. In England and Scotland, an eldest daughter could inherit arms in the absence of male heirs; and wives and daughters could bear modified versions of the arms. A heraldic authority, such as [Britain's College of Arms](#), regulates the granting of arms.

Coats of arms aren't just pretty pictures. Their symbols can indicate profession, order of birth, rank, ancestry and more. Though the terms coat of arms and family crest are often used interchangeably, the former is just the shield and the latter is attached to the top of the shield (turn the page to see a breakdown of the parts in a heraldic achievement). When displaying the full arms isn't practical, just the crest might be used.

But what about all those coat of arms tchotchkes? Buyer beware if the seller of a heraldic trinket tells you it's your family's. How does he know? Did he trace your lineage? Because coats of arms are granted to individuals, not families, this claim is probably false. Even if the arms were granted to someone named Fred Smith, and you're a Smith, those aren't your arms unless you can prove you're a male-line descendant of Fred. Dozens of arms might be registered to people of the same surname, and your task is to discover which one—if any—is correct for your ancestral line."

The demystification of heraldry is a fascinating and important topic, and if you're interested in exploring the notion of heraldry in your family, we've found an article dedicated to exploring every aspect of heraldry and genealogy. To learn more about this process, click [here](#).

Colonial Genealogy Resources

Whether your Colonial ancestors threw tea into the Boston Harbor or quietly contributed to America's growth and independence, their story is woven into the fabric of our nation's founding and needs to be shared, and it's never been easier to begin your search for Colonial family history than now. [Familytreemagazine.com](#) has compiled a comprehensive list of every Colonial resource option available for every state as well as selected some suggested reading for aspects of Colonial history ranging from Character and Social Order in Connecticut to the Native American perspective in the early days of Colonial America.

Interested in more information? Visit their website [here](#).

Search New York Passenger Lists for Free

Have you ever struggled to track family lines from Europe to America? If you know your ancestor passed through Ellis Island, the search may have just become a little bit easier. A new feature of fully accessible (and free!) lists of Ellis Island ship's records have become publicly available. The Ellis Island website offers full coverage of New York's era as a major port of immigration from 1820 to 1957. "These records are going to open up opportunity for so many people who visit. I can't wait," says director of the American Family Immigration History Center at Ellis Island, Jackie Schalk.

The website also provides tips on researching immigration stories:

- Family stories passed down might not be true. Your ancestor may have arrived in a different year and/or port from what you thought. Explore about migration patterns for people of your ancestor's nationality or ethnicity, especially those who settled near your family in the United States.
- Research the immigrant thoroughly in US records to learn as much identifying information as you can. This also helps you learn when and where she arrived.
- Look especially for records such as naturalizations, passports and obituaries. But do keep in mind that your ancestor's memory may have been off when these later records were created.
- Trouble finding your ancestor on a passenger list? Search for people he might have traveled with, such as parents, husband or wife, children, in-laws and neighbors.
- Broaden your searches and use wildcards to allow for variation in arrival year, name spellings, and travelers' reported age. You even can leave out the name and search on other parameters.
- Many immigrants traveled back home (sometimes, more than once) to visit, retrieve family, or because they never intended to stay in the US. Check later, more-detailed passenger lists, in case your ancestor followed this pattern.

Discovering the path your ancestors took when coming to America can be such a momentous event in your family history research adventure. To access these amazing lists, visit [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/>.

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

(Submitted my 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)

GRANT COUNTY:

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.

Ron Darrah will join us on May 13 to present Military Research for Genealogists click [here to register](#).

May 27 will be a Sharing/Question time. Bring your questions and successes to share with the group. Register [here](#).

(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>

- 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/~inlcigs/> to confirm the event is continuing as scheduled.

- 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):

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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, 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.

(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:

DÉJÀ-LU

(n.) the feeling that you've already read something

Indiana Genealogical Society | www.IndianaAncestors.org

STAY CONNECTED

