

WHITEWATER VALLEY GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Box 941

Connersville, IN 47331

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Individual membership dues are \$9 annually payable in June of each year.

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month except December.

Meetings will be September 16, October 21 and November 18.

Website: www.wvgen@verizon.net

COMING EVENTS

October 10 & 11 – Franklin County Pioneer Reunion at Brookville. Reservations are Due September 30 - \$10 per couple or per Person.

October 18 – Shelby County Genealogical Society seminar at Old Town Hall, 54 W. Broadway, 2nd Floor 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost \$12.00

April 25, 2009 – 20th Anniversary Conference of IGS at Marriott Center East, 7202 E. 21st Street, Indianapolis.

WELCOME

Welcome Bash Pickering who recently became a member of IGS. She gave a very interesting program at the June meeting about growing up in Connersville and being black.

NEW ON THE WEB

The Indiana Genealogical Society (<http://www.indgensoc.org>) recently added a new feature to its website – it's own collection of searchable databases. These databases located at <http://indgensoc.org/membersonly/> allow you to search for your Indiana connections from home and are available to IGS members as a benefit of membership. The databases are searchable by first and last name and include the ability to search by soundex.

The databases cover everything from military records (Civil War, Mexican War, Spanish-American War) to church records and records for various schools (including Indiana University). A few databases are available without being an

IGS member in order to reveal the type of data available and the method needed to search for information.

IGS will add more databases on a continuing basis. Come discover if your ancestors were part of the emigration through the area regarded as the crossroads of America. All that is required to access this website data is the purchase of a membership, either on line or through the postal mail.

The Indiana Genealogical Society was established in 1989 to encourage interest in the history of Indiana, to safeguard historic documentation of early settlers and to publish literature that will be of assistance to Indiana researchers. Membership is open to everyone with payment of annual dues - \$30 for individual or \$35 for joint membership. Mail address is Indiana Genealogical Society, Inc. P. O. Box 10507, Fort Wayne, In 46852-0507.

NEW LAW

Effective July 1, 2008 permits are required before you can probe in a cemetery.

Over the past several years, it has come to the attention of the DHPA that cemetery preservationists would need an archaeological plan in order to probe in the cemetery to find fallen tombstones. When a tombstone breaks, it falls to the ground, eventually being covered by leaves and dirt. After generations, there is little above ground evidence of the location of the tombstone. Without probing, the preservationist cannot find the downed piece, clean it, and then fix it. The archeology permit is geared for scientific investigation being conducted by qualified professional archaeologists. Most cemetery restorationists do not fall into this category, nor do they have the expertise or knowledge to formulate an archaeology plan. For this reason, the DHPA is starting the process to create a non-scientific investigation permit to be applied for by those working to restore cemeteries.

CEMETERY COMMISSION

Steve LaFollette has just been approved by the

commissioners as the newest member of the Fayette County Cemetery Commission. Other members are Darryll Morehead, Don Squires, Paulette Hayes and Pat Summan.

CITY CEMETERY

Work continues at City Cemetery. Bases are being put under stones, stones are being straightened and cleaned.

There are still many stones that will require repair by John Walters and his crew when they come back this winter.

PARKING AT STATE LIBRARY

You can no longer park in the government garage across from the State Library. You can park at the Indiana Historical Society (remember they are closed on Monday). Parking is also available on the street for 25 cents for 20 minutes with a maximum of 2 hours which means you have to watch your time and go feed the meter or you can park at the parking garage at Illinois and Ohio Streets.

QUERY

Eliz Gorrell married Daniel Teagarten and their daughter Susanna was Joseph Whitelocks' first wife...then she died and he married my Abigail Gorrell August 8, 1830. Lambert is from the first wife Susanna and Joseph W. I would love info.

psball@mchsi.com

(Note: The list of Whitelock burials at Old Parrot Cemetery have already been sent)

INDIANA MARRIAGE RECORDS

It was reported at the annual IGS meeting in April that close to 1,000 volunteers are working on the marriage indexing. 3 counties are almost finished and should be online by fall. They are Sullivan, Decatur and Franklin. 510,000 records have been indexed.

Also reported was that The Cemetery Index, vol. 4 is due out soon.

1915 REIFEL HISTORY REPRINT

To purchase a copy of this reprinted history

book, contact Julie Schlesselman, Whitewater Valley Community Library District, 919 Main Street, Brookville, In 47012. Phone 765-647-4031, Julie@svcl.org. This 1475 page book is \$75.00 plus \$8.60 shipping.

FROM THE FILES

Connersville News August 22, 1878

Longwood Items

An increase in our population is expected soon.

Santford Smith will soon commence a permanent business in our village.

Payne & Ellis, the champion threshers, were in this neighborhood last week.

John Martin, who has been living in Illinois for the past eight months, has returned home.

There is considerable amount of sickness in this community at this time.

Perry Noble of Madison county was visiting relatives here last week.

Professor Fred Greissing of Bedford is back to Glenwood for a week's stay.

The Glenwood Coronet Band will be blowing sweet music at Shortridge's grove the same day that this paper appears to the public.

Sant Caldwell of Harrisburg was in this neighborhood last week hauling drinks for Payne & Ellis engine.

Two of our boys rode eight miles to hear "Daley's speech, and say that they were well paid.

Charles Ellman is contemplating a trip West.

Holbert Howe, an accomplished telegraph operator of Cincinnati, is home for a short visit.

Little Bertie, daughter of Joseph and Mary Hawkins, departed this life Friday evening, August 16 and was buried the following day at Wiley Chapel cemetery, funeral services conducted by Rev. John Doddridge. The bereaved parents have the sympathies of the entire community.

UNUSUAL LAWS

Unusual Indiana Laws of 1915

Section 9. In all cases of death from cholera, bubonic plague, leprosy, typhus fever, smallpox, diphtheria, membranous croup, scarlet fever, and cerebro-spinal fever, the funeral shall be strictly private, and the burial shall be made according to the rules of the state board of health. No public or church funeral shall be held or any person permitted to enter the house containing the remains except the relatives of the deceased, the minister and the undertaker and his (their) assistants, unless by permission of the health officer. Buried human remains shall not be disinterred nor removed without the permission from the state board of health.

GENEALOGY RESEARCH TIPS

From: 101 Best Genealogy Research Tips

6. Get Context

I admit it. I've come home from a trip to the archives or library on several occasions and discovered that I only have half a census household or part of a newspaper story, because I was in too much of a rush and didn't read the whole thing before I hit print and packed up for the day. To avoid this, discover new information you didn't notice at the time and to increase the chance that you'll fully understand the record you're using, always print and/or copy the pages before and after the one you think you will need. Also, if there's a title page, introduction, header or footnotes, make sure you get these too. It will help you make sense of the record later when it's no longer fresh in your mind.

7. Disputes Can Be Revealing

Any time an ancestor had a dispute with his neighbor, or his government, it left a paper trail. So, be thankful for unlucky and quarrelsome ancestors! Many kinds of records are worth searching for evidence of such quarrels, the most common being land records, civil court records, probate court records, government correspondence and criminal court records. In land records you can find long, drawn-out struggles between neighbors over boundaries and ownership, and sometimes complaints to land-issuing departments of government over the quality of the land, lack of, or poorly done, surveys or difficulty in obtaining documentation of title. Sometimes these records will include

testimonials from other neighbors and relatives supporting the claims of the disputants, and detailed accounts of relationships between the various parties.

Civil court records include lawsuits over unpaid accounts (if you have merchant ancestors, you'll definitely want to check for these).

If any of your ancestors died intestate, meaning without a will, or their heirs contested the will, the probate court will have documentation of the process involved in settling the estate, possibly including inventories of the estate, list of creditors and heirs and statement from anyone applying to administer the estate as to their relationship with the deceased.

Government correspondence is another wonderful source of information about your ancestors' grievances. I've found letters complaining about damage done to crops by the militia during an uprising, lack of government support for new settlements (such as proper roads, mills, schools, etc), late or unpaid wages or pensions and incompetent civil servants (drunken ferrymen, lazy surveyors).

And, of course, there's always the criminal court, where you may find your ancestors accused of a wide variety of offenses, giving testimony as witnesses or sitting on a jury.

8. Don't Count on Indexes

Indexes are wonderful. They can make the search for information so much easier and quicker. However, it's wise not to rely on them too heavily. Many books and records don't have indexes or worse, there is an index, but it doesn't cover the entire book or record set. Some indexes to records only include the information thought to be key. For example, published transcripts of marriage records often only have indexes to the brides and grooms. The parents, witnesses and ministers aren't included. And, of course indexes can have errors. If you haven't stumbled upon an incorrectly indexed record in an online database yet, you haven't been searching long! So the moral of the story is, sometimes you have to actually read the book or record itself, page by page, line by line, to find the information you need.

9. Color Your Progress

A fun and easy way to track your progress over Time is to use a new color of pen to add

information to your genealogy chart each time you start a new research session. For example, when I start a new project, I always start by sketching a chart of the information I'm beginning with in pencil. Then, in my first session at the archives/library, I add new information with a blue pen. In my next session, I'll use a red pen. Long-term projects end up looking like a kaleidoscope, and very pretty and satisfying to see how much progress I've made since the first tentative information was penciled in. But, even more importantly, it's a simple way to quickly identify how and when I discovered a piece of information (not that it replaces my research logs, but it does help me identify which logs to check!).

10. Ask The Postmaster

If you're looking for living relatives or people who died less than a generation ago, try asking the local postmaster. Small town postmasters often know a lot about the residents of their town, sometimes to the point of knowing to which "grandma" to deliver a young child's letter when the address is less than specific. If you ask nicely, they will frequently redirect a letter to a former resident's new address or a deceased resident's living relatives.

NAMES OF OLD TIME ILLNESSES

Chills and fever, remittent fever, or intermittent fever was what we now call Malaria.

Cholera 1849 marked the last great epidemic, actually a pandemic, of this dreaded and quick-acting disease, which killed thousands in Indiana that fateful year.

Cholera Infantum – would be called Dysentery today.

Consumption – Tuberculosis

Croup – Diphtheria – Laryngitis, diphtheria or strep throat.

Dropsy – not a cause of death in itself, the word means only edema or an accumulation of fluid beneath the skin. It is merely a symptom of some other more serious disease – heart, liver, kidney etc which caused the eventual death.

Fevers – see Chills

Fits – Sudden attack or seizure of muscle activity

Gravel – What the old timers called cystitis or pyelo-cystitis because it felt like they had sand in their urinary bladder.

King's Evil – Supposedly could be cured by a King's touch. Later it was called Scrofula, which is Tuberculosis of the lymph glands of the neck and is unknown today.

Lung Fever – pneumonia

Milk Sick – This was a serious thing during pioneering days when the settlers allowed their cows to roam and graze in the woods. It was caused by drinking the milk of cows that had eaten White Snakeroot, a plant that still grows in our woods. Abraham Lincoln's mother, Nancy (Hanks) Lincoln, died of milk sick in 1818.

Phthisis—This was applied to any wasting lung disease, but more especially to what was then called consumption.

Quinzey – Tonsillitis

White Swelling – Tuberculosis of the bone.

HINT

No records found is a clue in itself.

ON A GRAVE IN MASSACHUSETTS

Under the sod and under the trees
Lives the body of Jonathan Pease
He is not here, there's only the pod
Pease shelled out and went to God.

MURPHY'S LAWS FOR GENEALOGISTS

Copies of old newspapers have holes occurring only on the surnames.

The keeper of the vital records you need has just been insulted by another genealogist.

The one document that would supply the missing link in your dead-end line has been lost due to fire, flood or war.

The will you need is in the safe on board the Titanic.

