

Genealogy Gems: News from the Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne
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April Workshops Bring Great Opportunities
by Curt B. Witcher

What an amazing convergence of enjoyable times this holiday weekend brings us; times of both great anticipation and great opportunity! As with every holiday weekend, I hope this weekend gave you some opportunities to spend enjoyable moments with family and friends, and that you used some of those opportunities to share family stories and heirlooms. The power of story in our lives--we see it in the eyes and smiles of family, and we know its meaning in our genealogical research. With the recent arrival of spring, may we all feel inspired to intentionally engage in activities that give us opportunities to pursue, preserve and present our families' stories. There are so many possibilities for enrichment in just the next month.

Have you enjoyed March Madness? How are your brackets doing as we head toward the final four? I was musing with family this past week about how "genealogy brackets" (ancestor charts) are just opposite of NCAA brackets. We work from a ourselves or a smaller number of ancestors to increasingly large numbers of ancestors, and the NCAA works from many very talented teams down to one. I think there are parallels, though. The teams that make it to the big dance have worked hard, consistently practiced, and benefitted from the advice of skilled players and coaches. I believe those of us who are most successful in finding and understanding our families' stories are the ones who engage in the pursuit often; who relentlessly look to find and evaluate all the records and documents they can; and who take advantage of every opportunity to learn more from individuals with all kinds of rich experiences.

There are a number of excellent learning opportunities in the Genealogy Center for the month of April. Please continue to note on your calendars that the Center is committed to doing two programs each week, one on Tuesday afternoons and one on Thursday evenings. The programs, largely virtual,

are listed further on in this ezine. They are well worth your time, either to watch live or to view via YouTube a few weeks later. This Thursday, April 4, 2024, our first Thursday of the month DNA program, will be in-person in the Genealogy Center's Discovery Center. It will begin at 6:30P.

On April 14, 2024 from 2P to 4:30P, both in-person in the Genealogy Center's Discovery Center and virtually via Zoom, we are offering a two-part program in collaboration with the Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society and the Congregation Achduth Vesholom. At 2P, Dr. Wendy Soltz will begin with her "Indiana Synagogue Mapping Project" program. She will show the digital map and its functionality, demonstrating what information one can glean from the data visualization platforms she uses to document the synagogues across the state of Indiana. Dr. Soltz is an Assistant Professor of History and Director of the Public History Program at Ball State University. She conceived of the Indiana Synagogue Mapping Project in 2018 while she was the Executive Director of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society. Over the course of five years and a grant from the National Parks Service, Dr. Soltz has made forty-five survey stops and has conducted archival research to reveal and document sixty-six purpose-built synagogues across the State of Indiana from 1865 to 2015.

At 3:30P, Greg Merrell will relate what he learned when he purchased the former Ligonier synagogue, Ahavath Shalom, from Indiana Landmarks and worked to convert this historic property into a home. Greg is an IT Director for an Illinois-based consulting firm. He and his wife, Stacey, had always wanted to live in non-conventional housing. With roots in Indiana but requiring a quicker commute into Chicago, Greg and Stacey moved north. Thus began a two-year project to convert Ahavath Shalom Synagogue into a home. This program is part two of this afternoon of education. If you are unable to attend in-person, register here to attend virtually. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sd-6vrzoqGNclKk5iXPDOOdxFhBnZ0Qfw#/registration>

Just a few days later, the Allen County Public Library and its Genealogy Center are hosting the Indiana Genealogical Society's 35th anniversary conference April 19-20, 2024. This single track, two-day conference titled "More to Discover: Researching Indiana Records & Repositories" will provide nine informative sessions to make all attending more informed about finding family stories in Hoosier records and repositories. This will be a great event for networking and taking advantage of the expertise of the librarians in the Genealogy Center. On Friday, April 19, 2024 there will be extended research hours in the Genealogy Center from 6P to 9P. What an opportunity this will be to advance your family history research efforts. Register for this conference online. www.indgensoc.org/conference2024.php

These April events will provide you with many great opportunities to enhance your family history endeavors!

The Family Tree Italian Genealogy Guide: A Review
by Logan Knight

Between the major immigration years of 1880 to 1920, roughly four million Italians arrived in the United States. These numbers exclude the millions more who immigrated to other countries like

Canada, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay. All told, the Italian diaspora is one of the largest migration stories in modern history.

For this reason, there is a good chance that you may have some Italian ancestry. Where does one start to trace Italian heritage? Fortunately, *The Family Tree Italian Genealogy Guide* by Melanie D. Holtz (Cincinnati: Family Tree Books, 2017), GC 929 H745fa, is available for both those that are just starting their family history journey and those who are looking for more advanced research tips.

The book is divided into many different sections: *Linking Your Family Tree to Italy*; *Getting to Know the Old Country*; *Tracing Your Family in Italy*; and *Advanced Sources and Strategies*. These titles represent straightforward descriptions of the contents of each section, but the details are where the magic happens.

The first section contains an excellent overview on how to jumpstart research, discussing the differences between primary and secondary sources and tips on U.S. sources for identifying the Italian immigrant. Naturalization records, fraternal organization records, and passenger lists can all be used for identifying the town of origin. Holtz includes a useful overview of Italian geography, together with information about how Italian archives are organized. The remainder of the book contains excellent sections on surnames; civil records; church records; census and taxation records; notarial records; and military records.

Within these chapters are a wealth of excellent tips. For example, Holtz discusses handwriting in several sections, providing examples of original records with English translations. The intricacies of handwriting have long been the bane of researchers. Adding the challenge of a foreign language separated by centuries, the task of translating can lead to despair. Yet all is not lost, since the book also contains a word list in the appendix to help one decipher some of the more common types of documents. Another appendix includes a list of addresses of archival repositories and a selected number of websites.

The book also has an in-depth historical context section. One fascinating fact that may surprise some researchers is the number of Italians that immigrated to South America. Nearly fifty percent of Uruguay alone has Italian ancestry. The largest Italian city in the world is not Rome (a little over two million in population) but Sao Paulo, Brazil, with over 12 million in population and, of those, at least one third have Italian ancestry. While these factoids are interesting on their own, it is worth noting that many emigrating Italians would stop in South America before journeying later to the United States. Thus, unravelling the exact path of emigration can be a tricky question for many family historians.

This book is an excellent guide for both beginners and advanced researchers who want to make progress on tracing their Italian ancestry.

Researching a Polish Library from Home: Wielkopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa
by Allison DePrey Singleton

Genealogical research has undergone a transformation with the arrival of digital libraries, which offer a treasure trove of historical documents accessible from the comfort of one's own home, even documents from other countries. Among these digital repositories is the Wielkopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa (WBC), a Polish digital library, available at <https://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra>. This digital library boasts a vast collection of materials that can be instrumental in discovering family histories.

For genealogists, WBC offers several useful features and collections. The library's collection of historical newspapers and periodicals, for instance, can provide invaluable insights into the daily lives and events that shaped our ancestors' experiences. These publications often contain obituaries, birth announcements, and other vital records crucial for piecing together family histories.

Additionally, WBC's collection of digitized books and manuscripts offers detailed information about specific individuals or families, providing genealogists with a deeper understanding of their ancestors' lives. Many of these documents are searchable, enabling researchers to locate quickly relevant information.

WBC also provides access to a variety of maps and atlases that can be indispensable for understanding the geographical context of ancestors' lives. These maps can show changes in borders, the locations of towns and villages, and even the layout of cemeteries, helping researchers pinpoint ancestral homelands and burial sites.

The WBC website offers an English translation option at the top of the page, indicated by PL | EN. This tool can aid in understanding the key terms on the pages before accessing the digitized documents. When searching the database, attempt to do your search first in English and then try it again using Polish search terms. Use keywords in Polish and follow the FamilySearch Polish Word List (https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Polish_Genealogical_Word_List). A translating tool such as Google Translate can help you better comprehend the records. Additionally, it's helpful to view the pages in both English and Polish using your browser's translation tool.

Digital libraries such as WBC offer a wealth of resources for genealogists, making it easier than ever to trace family histories. Whether you're searching for vital records, historical newspapers, or detailed manuscripts, these online repositories can provide you with the tools you need to uncover your family's story. Enjoy searching!

PERSI Gems: Fools

by Adam Barrone and Mike Hudson

It would be easy to conclude that a one-armed legless stunt pilot, called a Fabulous Flying Fool, lost his limbs in some horrific plane crash. Likewise, one might see a flower-covered mound of earth at the site of a Decoration Day ceremony and presume it was a fresh grave. A first-time visitor to a large repository like the National Archives might expect to succeed in their research with little or no preparation.

Nope.

The future pilot was run over by a train. The grave was faked by a town trying to impress a railroad magnate. The National Archives newbie struggled without a well-developed and prioritized research plan informed by careful study of catalogs and finding aids.

In our research, documents may reveal evidence of fools in history or in our own ancestry. Other times, our feeble attempts to solve a mystery leave us feeling like a fool.

My first visit to the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Department (it was a Department, not a Center in those days) occurred more years ago than I care to admit. I was young, clueless, overwhelmed, didn't have a plan, and didn't seek assistance. Rookie mistake. I found nothing that day. I got the lay of the land, however, saw many examples of available resources, and was brave enough to return another day to try again, with a plan.

Prepare. Persist. Prevent foolish hinderances to your search caused by erroneous assumptions or narrow thinking.

Preparation for a visit to the Genealogy Center should include a search of the Periodical Source Index (PERSI). Search the places and surnames of interest to you and create a list of the articles you'd like to read when you get here. You'll need the article title, the publication title, its call number, volume number, issue number, and date. If you can't find the article you seek, be sure to ask for assistance. We're here to help.

Try a PERSI search here:

<https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/>

Abraham Lincoln known as Spot Lincoln for foolish resolutions, news item, 1860
News of Yesteryear (Hancock Co., Hist. Soc., IL), Vol. 29, Issue 1 (Feb 2012)

Blowing fly plague, foolish scoundrels destroyed Birch Creek Reservoir embankment, 1855
Clay County (IN) Researcher, Vol. 37, Issue 2 (Apr 2015)

Capt. H. E. Forney fooled man-fearing horse by wearing dress and bonnet, note, 1888, NC
MCGS Tree Climbers (Martin Co. Gen. Soc., NC), Vol. 6, Issue 3 (Aug 2012)

Hoquiam residents fool railroad company and create fake graveyard, 1890
Family Tree-searcher (Grays Harbor Gen. Soc., WA), Vol. 16, Issue 3 (May 2005)

How not to make a fool of yourself at the National Archives
Virginia Tidewater Genealogy, Vol. 36, Issue 3 (Sep 2005)

Julia Wren, fool since marriage, census notation, 1881, Camberwell, London, Eng.
Woolwich & District (Eng.) Family History Society Journal, Issue 125 (Aug 2013)

Morris Raymer Dinger Daugherty, one-armed legless aviator, fabulous flying fool, 1895-1964
Goldenseal (Cultural Center, WV), Vol. 40, Issue 4 (Win 2014)

Richard Taylor called James Barroll a fool-ass-dolt-dunce, complaint issued, 1629
Herefordshire (Eng.) Family History Society Journal, Vol. 3, Issue 12 (Jan 1989)

Seven habits of highly frugal genealogists, be frugal, not foolish, resource list
Clay County (IN) Researcher, Vol. 36, Issue 3 (Jul 2014)

Vote for rascal or stark naked fool, election advice, Edgefield Advertiser excerpt, 1898
Quill (Old Edgefield Dist. Chap., SC Gen. Soc.), Vol. 33, Issue 4 (Jul 2017)

Preservation Tips: Preservation Terms Demystified—Archival Supplies
by Christina Clary

Selecting the right preservation supplies for your family records can seem intimidating, especially for those of us who struggled in high school Chemistry. Here are the terms and phrases you want to look for when buying archival quality supplies.

Acid free and Lignin free

High levels of acids in materials are the number one cause of deterioration of your family photographs and documents. Acid migration occurs when the excess acids in a material move to one with fewer acids. This is an elaborate way of saying it stains neighboring records. Lignin is an organic substance found in the wood pulp used to make most of the paper produced in the 19th and early 20th centuries. It increases acidity, which causes the paper to turn dark brown and become brittle. Acid free and lignin free are not interchangeable terms, so vendors should indicate both in their product description.

Alkaline & Buffered Materials

An alkaline is the opposite of an acid. A buffered material has an alkaline applied to it to neutralize the corrosive effects of acids. It won't undo any damage already done or completely stop deterioration, but it will slow down the rate of decay a considerable amount. They are excellent at preventing acid migration (staining) between materials. Buffered supplies are good for most items except for blueprints. The blue dye used in blueprints reacts poorly with buffers (alkaline). The pH range to look for in buffered products is 8.0 - 10.0. Vendors will say if a material has been buffered or not and provide the pH as well.

Another term you will see on many preservation supplies is "Passed P.A.T." This means the materials have undergone the Photographic Activity Test. It tests for any chemical interactions between a material and a photograph. If it has passed, then they are unlikely to cause any damage to the photograph. Not all materials have been tested, however, so just because it does not have this stamp of approval does not automatically mean that it is bad for your photographs. If it is acid free and lignin free, it should still be fine.

Most reputable archival vendors will have resources explaining what these terms mean. The main ones who provide supplies for personal collections are Gaylord Brothers, University Products, and Archival Products.

To sum up, you want to purchase supplies that are both acid free and lignin free. When possible, choose materials that are also buffered as an added layer of protection for your items. Vendors should note these in their product descriptions. If they don't, then try a different vendor.

History Tidbits: The Lost Dutchman's Goldmine
by Logan Knight

They say truth is stranger than fiction, but what if you don't know where truth ends and fiction begins? Such is the challenge when telling the story of one of America's great treasure troves, the Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine.

Any story of treasure attracts a wide variety of detail and misinformation. The Lost Dutchman's Gold Mine has over sixty variants, but most tell this story. High in Arizona's wonderfully-named Superstition Mountains lies a mine chock-full of gold. The local Apache knew of it and guarded its location fiercely. The Spaniards were the first Europeans in the area, moving north from Mexico. A certain Don Pedro de Peralta was the governor of Spanish New Mexico from 1610 to 1614 and the founder of Santa Fe. A descendant, Miguel Peralta, stumbled on the rich vein of gold and began mining it, keeping the whole operation under wraps. Miguel refused to write anything down and left himself directions in a complicated code on stones that still exist, known colloquially as the "Peralta Stones."

All good things must come to an end. Miguel had been noticed by the local Apache and was ambushed and killed in the middle of taking the gold out from the mountains. Of course, someone from the family survived the ambush (don't they always?), but was understandably reluctant to go back.

At this point the titular "Dutchman," Jacob Waltz, enters the tale. Funny enough, many Americans who believe they are of Dutch ancestry (think Pennsylvania Dutch) are actually the descendants of Germans. This is because a common nickname for Germans in America was "Dutch" from the word "Deutsche," which is the word Germans use to refer to themselves. Jacob and his partner, Jacob Weiser, discovered the mine with the help of one of the surviving Peraltas.

The two Jacobs carted much gold away but eventually were ambushed by the Apaches. Weiser was killed, and some stories say that he was killed by Waltz in a fit of greed. Waltz was broken by the affair and wasted away in Phoenix where he died, but not before telling his landlady the whole story. Beneath his death bed, she found a box of the purest gold.

The question arises: how do we know any of this is true? Well, much of the information comes from James Reavis, the so-called "Baron of Arizona," a truly exceptional conman and swindler. Reavis managed to plant various forged documents in a number of repositories, wrote anonymous letters to newspapers, and was able to convince railroads and senators that his claim to the "Peralta Grant" was legitimate. He raked in millions of dollars from people seeking to buy land from him. Eventually,

his scheme was exposed, and the whole swindle came crashing down. The Baron would spend the next few years in jail before dying in poverty.

Despite so much of the story coming from a fraud, it has inspired treasure hunters to swarm the Superstition Mountains, examining the Peralta Stones and tracing paths from the Weaver's Needle, a 1,000-foot rock column said to be a key way marker to the mine. The most famous of these was Adolph Ruth, a veterinarian from Washington, D.C. His son acquired a treasure map from a military officer whose life he had saved in the Mexican Revolution. An enthusiastic amateur treasure hunter, Adolph was determined to find the gold. Despite being sixty-five, he managed to convince a few ranchers to pack him deep into the mountains and leave him. He quickly disappeared. His son and family offered a large reward for his whereabouts and led expeditions into the mountains to find him, but nothing came of it. Adolph's remains were found a year later on top of Black Top Mesa. This incident, which happened at the height of the Great Depression in 1931, captured the nation's imagination, when endless numbers of people sympathized with the idea of suddenly striking it rich.

While Adolph is the most famous, many treasure hunters have disappeared forever into the state park that is named for the mine, their desire for gold leading only to a terrible death. Most recently, a group of three men disappeared in the summer of 2010.

Despite all of this tragedy, the idea of a treasure horde of gold, just waiting for the person who can decipher the clues, remains tantalizing. Whether the mine is real or not is almost immaterial. The story is so imbedded into the landscape of the American West that it is almost solid. Otherwise, why would so many risk life and limb in seeking it? The mine beckons adventurers with the two most dangerous words in the English language: What if?

Genealogy Center's April 2024 Programs

Join us for another month of free, virtual and in-person programs!

April 2, 2024, 2:30 p.m. ET "Ask the Experts: Planning a Research Visit" with Genealogy Center staff - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/10028954>

April 4, 2024, 6:30 p.m. ET "In-Person DNA and Genealogy Interest Group" with Sara Allen - live in the Genealogy Center's Discover Center.

April 9, 2024, 2:30 p.m. ET "Providing a Sense of Place: Enhancing Your Family History with the National Monuments Record of Wales" with Dr. Adam Coward - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/9988962>

April 10, 2024, 7 p.m. ET "Records the Clerk of the Allen Circuit and Superior Courts Holds and How Citizens Can Access This Material" with Allen County Clerk Christopher Nancarrow and Records Manager Andera Griffin - This hybrid program is in-person the Genealogy Center's Discovery Center or online via zoom at the following URL. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dZXms0euTFynEQ9v0csnjA#/registration

April 11, 2024, 6:30 p.m. ET "Growing Little Leaves: Children and Genealogy" with Emily Kowalski Shroeder - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/9988981>

April 14, 2024 from 2 p.m. ET "Indiana Synagogues and Ligonier Restoration" with Dr. Wendy Soltz and Greg Merrell - This hybrid program is in-person the Genealogy Center's Discovery Center or online via zoom at the following URL. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sd-6vrzoqGNclKk5iXPDOOdxFhBnZ0Qfw#/registration>

April 16, 2024, 2:30 p.m. ET "Researching Immigration: Passenger Lists" with Heather Pouliot Kisilywicz - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/9989251>

April 18, 2024, 6:30 p.m. ET "PERSI Explorer: Tracing Your Roots using the Periodical Source Index" with Allison DePrey Singleton - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/9989311>

April 19-20, 2024, "Indiana Genealogical Society 2024 Annual Conference" with numerous presenters over the three days. Details of this hybrid conference and the various presentations are in the next section of this ezine, "April 2024 Program Call-Outs." Register online at: www.indgensoc.org/conference2024.php

April 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m. ET "AAGSFW Research Tools & Tips: Deep Dive Louisiana" with Dr. Al Brothers - <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcO6urjkpHtbdFaVKyBtqKMkT3gEaTsCi>

April 23, 2024, 2:30 p.m. ET "DNA Relationships Explained: Known Relatives" with Sara Allen - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/9991678>

April 25, 2024, 6:30 p.m. ET "Using Tax Records to Solve Genealogical Puzzles" with Jennifer Dunn - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/9989105>

April 30, 2024, 2:30 p.m. ET "Doing History: Research and Interpretation" with Dr. David G. Vanderstel - <https://acpl.libnet.info/event/10328310>

Please register in advance for these engaging programs.

April 2024 Program Call-Outs

+++Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana+++

April 10, 2024, 7 p.m. ET, Chris Nancarrow and Andera Griffin will go over what types of records the Clerk of the Allen Circuit and Superior Courts holds and how citizens can access this material. Andera Griffin is the Records Manager for the Clerk of Allen Circuit & Superior Courts in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Andera has twenty-eight years of experience working for the Clerk's Office and eight years of experience specializing in retention of court records and genealogical research. Andera uses her experience to assist the public with locating hard to find documents that reconnect them to their heritage and family history. One interesting fact, Andera's first job was working with ACPL Genealogy Center. Chris Nancarrow serves as the Clerk of the Allen Circuit and Superior Courts. As Clerk of the Courts, Chris serves as a member of the Allen County Election

Board and the Allen County Commission on Public Records. He is also an appointed member of the Indiana Supreme Court's Protection Order, Records Access and Management, and Court Personnel committees. This hybrid program is available in-person in the Genealogy Center's Discovery Center and online via Zoom. If attending via Zoom, register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dZXms0euTFynEQ9v0csnjA#/registration

+++Northeast Indiana Jewish Genealogy Society+++

April 14, 2024, 2 p.m. "Indiana Synagogues and Ligonier Restoration" with Dr. Wendy Soltz and Greg Merrell - This hybrid program is in-person at the Genealogy Center's Discovery Center or online via zoom at the following URL. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sd-6vrz0qGNclKk5iXPDOOdxFhBnZ0Qfw#/registration> This afternoon of local history is paired with the Congregation Achduth Vesholom's 175th Anniversary celebration. At 2:00 p.m. Dr. Soltz will discuss her Indiana Synagogue Mapping Project. At 3:30, Greg Merrell will relate the story of how he and his wife purchased the former synagogue building in Ligonier, Indiana, the Ahavath Shalom Synagogue, and what they learned about the congregation and the community in the process.

+++Indiana Genealogical Society+++

The Indiana Genealogical Society 2024 Conference and Annual Meeting will be held April 19-20, 2024. Conference theme: "More to Discover: Researching Indiana Records & Repositories" It will be a hybrid meeting: virtual and in-person at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN. Register online: www.indgensoc.org/conference2024.php Only \$40 for members to attend both days, \$25 for a single day. See the website for all the details.

General Conference Schedule:

**Friday, 19 April 2024

8:30 AM (Eastern Standard Time) Registration Table opens

9:30 Welcome

9:45 Researching Indiana Territorial Records, Ron Darrah

An overview of Indiana's territorial records, as well as how to research and prepare an application for the IGS Territorial Guard.

10:45—Break

11:00 Researching with IARA, Jamie Webb

This presentation is a brief overview of the function and holdings of Indiana Archives and Records Administration with special emphasis on genealogical resources.

12:00 PM—Lunch on your own

1:15 Indiana Memory and Hoosier State Chronicles: Indiana State Library's Digital Programs for Researchers, Justin Clark and Emily McGuire

This presentation will unlock some of the many treasures discoverable through the Indiana Memory and Hoosier State Chronicles Digital Programs.

2:15—Break

2:30 Unlocking Hoosier Heritage: Navigating The Genealogy Center's Extensive Collection, Allison DePrey Singleton

Join us for an opportunity to learn about The Genealogy Center's extensive collection, known worldwide for its family and local history treasures. This program offers a glimpse into the vast resources available for your family history journey, with a focus on the treasure trove of Indiana-

specific collections, databases, and documents. Let us help you piece together your family's Indiana legacy and provide a window into the past of this remarkable state.

3:30—Break

3:45 Ask the Experts Q & A Session

4:45 Networking and research time

6-9 Extended research hours in The Genealogy Center.

**Saturday, 20 April 2024

8:30 AM (Eastern Standard Time) Registration Table opens

9:30 Welcome

9:45 Researching Indiana Fraternal Groups, Ron Darrah

A discussion of where records can be found for Indiana ancestors who were members of fraternal organizations. Coverage will include information on where to find data on fraternal organizations no longer in existence.

10:45—Break

11:00 School Daze: Important Family Information Resides in Educational Records, Lori Samuelson

Does the thought of researching your ancestor's school enrollment leave you dazed? School records are a valuable source of family information that is often overlooked. A brief history of education in the U.S., the type of information that is found in school records, and where to obtain those documents will be discussed. Several cases will be presented showing the importance of taking the time to acquire details about your ancestor's school days.

12:00—Lunch on your own

1:15 Indiana Genealogical Society Annual Conference (business meeting)

2:45—Break

3:00 An Introduction to the New Indiana Genealogical Society Website, Rhonda Stoffer

This presentation will offer an overview and introduction to the brand-new IGS website, explaining the new features and how to navigate and search for information.

4:00 —Break

4:15 Researching Indiana Church Records, Curt Sylvester

This presentation will discuss early Indiana church records and their associated congregations. Information will be provided on where records can be found including baptisms, marriages, deaths, etc. Where to find records of congregations no longer in existence also will be covered, as well as information on repositories of records for various denominations.

5:15 Closing

+++African American Genealogical Society of Fort Wayne+++

April 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m. ET "AAGSFW Research Tools & Tips: Deep Dive Louisiana" with Dr. Al Brothers - <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvcO6urjpkHtbdFaVKyBtqKMkT3gEaTsCi>
Dr. Brothers is the vice-president of the African American Genealogical Society of Fort Wayne and an extremely experienced genealogical researcher. He is a faculty member of the Midwest African American Genealogical Institute and devotes much time and expertise to helping researchers be successful in finding their families stories.

Staying Informed about Genealogy Center Programming

Do you want to know what we have planned? Are you interested in one of our events, but forget?
We offer email updates for The Genealogy Center's programming schedule. Don't miss out! Sign up
at <http://goo.gl/forms/THcVOwAabB>.

Genealogy Center Social Media

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GenealogyCenter/>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/genealogycenter/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ACPLGenealogy>
- Blog: <http://www.genealogycenter.org/Community/Blog.aspx>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/askacpl>