

# Family History Resources in the Indiana State Library

by

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Those of us dedicated to assisting genealogy researchers are aware that interest in family history research continues to grow. Because no single library can house all sources needed by genealogists, it is important for librarians to be aware of other pertinent collections that exist, particularly within their own states. The purpose of this article is to acquaint people with sources in the Indiana State Library that are of concern to family historians.

The Indiana Division, Genealogy Section, is the primary place for people to begin their research. This section is responsible for assisting individuals in their efforts to establish family connections by providing and preserving needed sources within the scope of the collection.

Although materials and records concerning Indiana and Indiana families are of major concern, the collection also includes information for other states. Special emphasis is given to states bordering Indiana as well as states in the eastern and southern United States.

In 1949, the Genealogy Department of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, the Eugene Haslet Darrach Memorial, was transferred to the Indiana State Library where it continues to be housed and maintained.

Numerous unpublished and published books, microforms, and manuscripts are available in the Genealogy Section. These include: compiled family histories; Bible records; family charts and group sheets; available U.S. federal population censuses for Indiana through 1920, the entire U.S. through 1880, and various states for 1900 and 1910; county courthouse and vital record sources for Indiana and other states; various church records; local histories; military information; passenger arrival lists; cemetery inscriptions; research guides; bibliographies; heraldry references; and name origin sources.

With regard to county courthouse information, the Genealogy Section does not house the original records. These are in the custody of the appropriate county officials. The genealogy collection, however, does include copies of, indexes to, or abstracts of many of these records spanning various years, but usually dating prior to 1920. A partial listing of Indiana county holdings appears in *Indiana Sources for Genealogical Research in the Indiana State Library* by Carolynne L. (Wendel) Miller (Indiana Historical Society, 1984). This compilation is available from the Society at 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Materials in the Genealogy Section are for reference use only and do not circulate. While most of the book collection is shelved in closed stacks, many of the most frequently requested sources may be found on the open shelves in the section's Reading Room. These items include the Work Project Administration (WPA) indexes to Indiana county records, statewide census indexes, Indiana county histories, various bibliographies, printed passenger list indexes, selected current periodicals, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) *FamilySearch* CDs, the pamphlet collection, and several special index files which are described at the end of this article. In addition, the microfilm and microfiche holdings are also filed in the Reading Room, thus making much of the genealogy collection directly accessible by researchers.

To determine specific resources available, people must check the section's card catalog as well as the online catalog. Access to the State Library's online catalog is also available to users with computer modems. A brochure providing information about the online catalog is available upon request.

Although unable to undertake extensive research or compile genealogies for people, staff do provide assistance in the use of the collection and make suggestions for research strategy. Because priority is given to those users visiting the section, only limited reference assistance may be obtained by telephone and correspondence. Although there is no charge for the limited research assistance, there is a cost for photocopies requested.

People who are not able to visit the Genealogy Section, but who wish extensive research undertaken in the collection, can request a list of people who are available for genealogical research on a fee basis. These individuals are not employed by the Indiana State Library and the library assumes no responsibility for their work.

Besides assisting researchers, staff may be available to provide consultant

services to librarians with genealogy and local history collections. Although the staff may be unable to visit a library, it is possible that many questions may be answered by telephone or letter.

In addition to the Genealogy Section, much information pertinent to family history research is available in other areas of the Indiana Division. The Indiana Division collects information bearing on the history of the State of Indiana in all subject areas. Many different items in the collection may be of use to people performing genealogical research. Information includes history of schools, churches, fraternal organizations, clubs, sports, etc. These sources may add to the information already collected which pertains directly to family origins. Most of the materials are for reference use only but some items may circulate if a second copy, in good condition, is owned.

The library subscribes to about 250 current newspapers in addition to maintaining historic newspapers for research. Most parts of the state are represented by at least one newspaper. The library participated in the U. S. Newspaper Project along with the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana University, Bloomington, in an effort to microfilm and catalog existing newspapers in the state. The microfilming project included only those issues published prior to 1950. The holdings of various libraries throughout the state can be found in the OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) catalog and librarians are urged to check the holdings for specific dates and formats before requesting inter-library loan of microfilm. Many older titles in the collection may be represented by one issue only rather than an entire run of the newspaper. Newspaper Section staff can assist in locating specific titles and dates. In earlier times, papers were not arranged by topic as they are now, obituaries, marriage notices, and other bits of information useful to researchers may have been scattered throughout the issue. A limited amount of research can be done by staff in response to phone or letter inquiries, and interlibrary loan of newspapers on microfilm is recommended for extensive searching. Although some indexes do exist in the Genealogy and Newspaper Sections, most newspapers are not indexed and access to the information contained in the papers is not readily available except through extensive searching.

The library's Manuscript Section contains unpublished items such as personal papers and journals. Usually patrons come in to perform their own research using primary sources, and that can be time consuming. The handling of original documents with care slows the research process. Some manuscript items may be copied, taking into consideration their condition. One segment of this collection which is especially of interest for family history is the civil war

letters. Many collections of letters from soldiers to their families back home are included. The manuscripts will not be of use to everyone performing research due to the specific nature of the collections. If family papers were donated to the library, then it can be worth the researcher's time to study these for information about his/her family.

The collection includes maps and atlases for the State of Indiana. These are used by many people to locate towns which no longer exist and other features which have been altered such those areas where highways have been constructed. Many places of birth or death listed in vital records no longer exist. Cemetery locations also may be found on various maps in the collection. Early atlases may show land ownership, and genealogists can locate some family members on these maps. Geological survey maps for the entire state are included in the collection and cemetery locations may be found on these also.

State documents are not usually viewed as materials to support family research, however, these can be useful in specific cases. For example, Department of Education reports may be used to locate information about local schools which no longer exist. If an ancestor served in state office, various guides to public officials may be consulted to find out years of service and specific offices held.

Yearbooks of colleges and universities throughout the state and some high school yearbooks, mostly from central Indiana, are collected. Researchers can check these for pictures of ancestors to add to their collected information.

Clipping files hold items too small to be cataloged for the regular shelves. A large number of these files fall into the biographical section and include information on many people throughout the state. The files are arranged alphabetically by name and may include newspaper articles, obituaries, etc. There are files including information about specific groups of people, examples include artists, inventors, and authors. Staff can assist researchers who come in to use any of these collections and make other suggestions as necessary. Many of the indexes can be checked and the results relayed to the patron or librarian via telephone or letter. Only a limited amount of research can be performed by staff, so patrons are encouraged to come in to the State Library to make the best use of all sources available in the building.

People undertaking genealogy research in the Indiana State Library and Historical Building should be aware that important sources exist, not only in the Genealogy Section, but also in other organizations in the building.

While visiting the State Library and Historical Building, researchers may also set aside time to check collections in the Indiana Historical Society and the State Archives. The Indiana Historical Society is a private membership organization housed on the third floor of the building. The William Henry Smith Library collects historical materials about Indiana including books, manuscripts, and photographs. They also publish materials including *Traces of Indiana History* and *The Hoosier Genealogist*. Specific genealogy sources and family histories are not collected.

The State Archives is responsible for collecting and preserving the records of state government. Included are military records of people from Indiana who served in various wars, pension information, and the agricultural census. A handout listing specific sources of interest to genealogists has been compiled by the State Archives.

The State Library is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. The Genealogy Section is the only area of the Indiana State Library which has extended hours. The current hours are: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; and 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturdays. Evening hours are made possible by grant funding obtained from the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library, while Saturday hours are maintained through grant funding received from the Indiana Historical Society. Since the Indiana State Library is closed on state holidays, people planning a visit should call ahead to avoid disappointment.

### **Selected Bibliography of Published Guides to Collections in the Indiana State Library**

- Miller, Carolynne L. (Wendel). *Aids for Genealogical Searching in Indiana: A Bibliography*. Detroit: The Detroit Society for Genealogical Research, Inc., 1962, rev. 1970.
- Miller, John W. *Indiana Newspaper Bibliography: Historical Accounts of all Indiana Newspapers Published from 1804 to 1980 and Locational Information for all Available Copies, both Original and Microfilm*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1982.
- Pumroy, Eric. *A Guide to Manuscript Collections of the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana State Library*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1986.
- Snider, Mary J. "Genealogical Resources at the Indiana State Library." *Indiana*

*Genealogist* 1 (December 1989): 10-12.

Turner, Ann. *Guide to Indiana Civil War Manuscripts*. Indianapolis: Indiana Civil War Centennial Commission, 1965.

"Indexes and Abstracts of Indiana Newspapers at the Indiana State Library."  
*The Hoosier Genealogist* 36 (March 1996): 1-28.

## Special Index Files Available

### Indiana Division, Indiana State Library

*Indianapolis Newspaper Index* -- Subject/name index to Indianapolis newspapers ca. 1898 to 1990. Alphabetic by name or topic, a brief description of the article is included on the card along with the name of the paper, date, page and column numbers.

*Indianapolis Star/News on CD* -- Full text on-line searching of these two papers beginning in October 1993. The CD lags about two months behind the current publishing date and the source is updated every month.

*Picture Index* -- Subject/name index to photographs and pictures. The collection includes photographs, drawings, and items clipped from newspapers. Negatives are available for many items.

*Biography Index* -- Name index to a large number of resources about Hoosiers, not indexed through standard sources. Periodicals and some books containing information about Indiana people are scanned and information indexed. Many obituaries are included.

*Manuscript Index* -- Subject/name index to manuscript collections. Includes all collections giving brief description, collection number and approximate size of collection.

*Supplementary Index* -- Subject index to local periodicals, books and other miscellaneous sources not indexed in standard indexes; also used as a catch-file for difficult-to-locate information.

*Post Office Index* -- Alphabetical card file listing dates of establishment of Indiana post offices. Useful in locating towns which may no longer exist. Gives date of establishment, closure, and name changes.

### **Genealogy Section, Indiana State Library**

*Index to Indiana Marriages through 1850* -- Statewide index alphabetically arranged by both bride and groom; gives names of both parties, county of marriage and date. Information was obtained from microfilm and book sources in the Genealogy Section including the Quaker marriages given in *Abstracts of the Records of the Society of Friends in Indiana* (6 vols.) compiled by Willard Heiss and early Knox County sources including the marriages of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church at Vincennes dating from 1749. Due to fire or no records available prior to 1850, the index does not include listings for Clay, Jasper, Madison, Newton, Noble, Starke and part of Sullivan Counties.

*Indiana Marriage Index, 1958-87* -- Compiled by the Indiana State Board of Health; separate bride and groom indexes; gives names of both parties, county of marriage and marriage date. Published in book form through 1965; 1966-87 records produced on microfilm.

*Index to Indiana Enrollments of Soldiers, Their Widows, and Orphans, 1886, 1890, 1894* -- Indexed from the original enrollment books in the State Archives, at this time only the 1886 listings are indexed; an 1890 or 1894 book was substituted for a missing 1886 listing. Arrangement is alphabetic by name and gives year of enrollment list, county and township of residence.

*Indiana Mortality Records Index* -- Arranged alphabetically by name; locates year, county and page number of the mortality schedules taken by the federal marshals during the census years of 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880. The microfilmed mortality schedules are also located in the Genealogy Section. Schedules list those who died in the calendar year preceding the census.

*Index to Blacks, Indians, Chinese, Mulattoes in the Indiana 1880 Census* -- Arranged alphabetically by name; gives county, township, and microfilm census page number.

*Heraldry File* -- Indexes illustrations of coats-of-arms found in various sources in the Genealogy Section; alphabetically arranged by name; gives call number of the book and brief title citation.

*Indiana Cemetery Locator File* -- An on-going file that identifies the location (county and township) of Indiana cemeteries gleaned from sources in the

Genealogy Section. Arranged a) by name of cemetery with cross references to variant names, if known and b) by county; gives the call number for the reference used. These references may include names of persons buried in the cemeteries.

*Index of Members' Names in the Lineage Books of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution* -- Alphabetical listing of the members whose lineages have been published in the *DAR Lineage Books*; identifies the volume and page where the lineage appears.

*Indiana Bible Records Index* -- Compiled by the Indiana DAR; indexes the various Bible and family record books submitted annually by the Indiana DAR; copies of these books are also in the Genealogy Section.

*County History Indexes* -- Name/firm indexes to Indiana county histories and atlases. Alphabetic by name; gives page number where name appears in the source indexed. Available in book and microfiche format, there are some sources indexed for all of Indiana's ninety-two counties.