

Contacting Your Indiana Legislators: Made Easy

The faithful volunteers of the Indiana State Archives have mounted a personal campaign to bring attention to precious documents in a leaky facility. Steve Towne, President of the Friends of the State Archives penned a memo encouraging volunteers to contact their state legislators and share the information on the condition of Indiana's Archive with their friends and any genealogy organization they could think of. We even added a handy "How to Find Your Legislator" link (<http://district.iga.in.gov/DistrictLookup/>) or (<http://www.state.in.us/legislative/2345.htm>)

- The Indiana State Archives protects and preserves important and irreplaceable records of all branches of state government, as well as local governments. Included are Indiana's state constitutions, legislative bills, governor's records, and Indiana Supreme Court case files.
- The State Archives are currently housed in an old factory warehouse with a long history of roof leaks. Important state records have been damaged by rain and melted snow.
- It is unlikely that the warehouse building would survive a tornado or near-tornado-strength wind storm. The State Archives' documentary treasures would be destroyed, striking a serious blow to effective state governance.
- The warehouse building's heating and air conditioning system is terrible, allowing large fluctuations in heat and humidity levels that are very bad for old records.



*State Nursing Board records are covered with plastic to protect them from inclement weather **inside** the Indiana State Archives building.*

- The conditions in which the Indiana State Archives are currently housed are the worst among the fifty state archives in the country.
- The Indiana State Archives need a new building in which the state's documentary treasures may be preserved safely for years to come, and where citizens, schoolchildren, and researchers may visit to learn about Indiana.
- By doing nothing, we simply wait for a disaster to strike to wipe out records upon which state government is based.

What more can we say?

The Best State Website – Again

The “Best State Website” list honors America’s leading genealogy research websites. The seventy-five sites listed represent the go-to bookmarks for browsing America’s past, state by state. The Indiana Digital Archives joined Indiana State Library: Genealogy Collection as one of only two honorees from the State of Indiana. Family Tree Magazine also named the Digital Archives a “Best Website of 2012,” which encompasses genealogy and history-related sites from all sources public or private, subscription or free as well as a Best State Website in 2010 and 2011.

“The efforts of the State Archives’ volunteers continue to be recognized nationally as they work to put hundreds of thousands of records on-line,” said Jim Corridan, Indiana State Archivist. “It’s great to see the progress Indiana has made in allowing thousands of people to connect to their Hoosier heritage.”

Friends of the Indiana State Archives volunteers have spent the last 17 years creating indexes for many of the state’s records that are now available within the Digital Archives. Researchers can browse these indexes to many of the most popular Indiana State Archives collections, including death, institution, military and naturalization records, among others.

About the Indiana Digital Archives

The Indiana Digital Archives is operated by the State Archives Division of the Indiana Commission on Public Records. The result of a cooperative partnership made possible by a grant from the Library of Congress and administered by the Washington State Archives, the Digital Archives has more than 2.8 million searchable records online. Other partners include the states of Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana and Oregon.

From before statehood in 1816 and on through to its approaching bicentennial, Indiana has been home to thousands of settlers and immigrants. The Digital Archives enables Hoosiers and citizens worldwide to browse the vast collection historical and vital records housed at the State Archives.

About Family Tree Magazine

Family Tree Magazine, America’s #1 family history magazine, is the first mass-market, beginner-friendly genealogy magazine. It covers all areas of potential interest to family history enthusiasts, reaching beyond strict genealogy research to include historical travel, family reunions, scrapbooking, oral history, ethnic heritage, memoirs and other ways that families connect with their pasts. Family Tree Magazine strives to give readers all the resources they need to discover, preserve and celebrate their family histories, and to provide engaging, easy-to-understand instruction that empowers readers to take the next step in the quest for their pasts.



More Naturalization Records!

No. 1 ORIGINAL 1

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 Department of Commerce and Labor
 BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION
 DIVISION OF NATURALIZATION

DECLARATION OF INTENTION
 (Valid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

I, Joseph Gerloff, aged 28 years,
 occupation clothing merchant, do declare on oath that my personal
 description is: Color White, complexion light, height 5 feet 1/2 inches,
 weight 185 pounds, color of hair dark auburn, color of eyes blue
 other visible distinctive marks none

I was born in Province of Courland, Russia, on the 15 day of April, anno Domini 1882; I now reside at The Town of Corydon, State of Indiana.
 I emigrated to the United States of America from Province of Courland, Russia
 on the vessel Saxon, as best as I can remember; my last foreign residence was Province of Courland, Russia.

It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to Nicholas II, Emperor of all the Russias, of which I am now a subject; I arrived at the port of Boston, in the State of Massachusetts, on or about the first day of November, anno Domini 1904. I am not an anarchist; I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
 SO HELP ME GOD.

Joseph Gerloff
 Subscribed and sworn to affirmed before me this twenty eighth day of September, anno Domini 1910.

Charles H. Winter
 Clerk of the Court.

By _____ Clerk.

other popular Indiana State Archives collections at indianadigitalarchives.org. The naturalization databases provide great insight into Hoosier immigration at the county level. Friends of the Indiana State Archives volunteers have been hard at work for nearly two decades creating indices for many of the state's records. From before statehood in 1816 and on through to its approaching bicentennial, Indiana has been home to thousands of settlers and immigrants. The Digital Archives enables Hoosiers and citizens worldwide to view the vast collection of historical and vital records housed at the State Archives.

The Harrison County Naturalization Index records were indexed by Fred J. Engelking. The index was edited by Mary Etta Boren and Dale Armstrong.

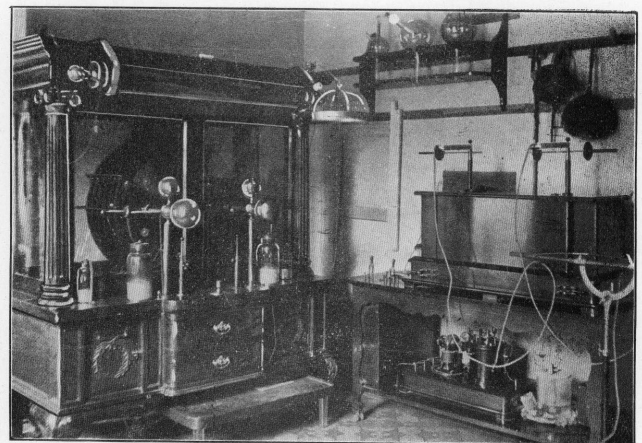
About the Indiana State Archives

The Indiana State Archives collects records of historical value from all branches of Indiana state and local government, including governmental history, census and naturalization records for families, selected medical, military and criminal records, records of land ownership, maps, blueprints and photographs. Visit archives.icpr.IN.gov for a detailed listing of these resources, including links to online exhibits and electronic indices of select records.

Harrison County recently became the 40th Indiana county to have its naturalization records added to and made available through the Indiana Digital Archives. Four naturalization books containing nearly 1,000 entries and spanning the era from 1830 to 1926 were indexed as a part of this project. Harrison County Circuit Court Judge Thomas J. Wilson ordered the discontinuance of Harrison County naturalization proceedings on September 27, 1927.

“With the enormous effort of the State Archives volunteers, people across the world can now access primary-source records about their ancestors from Harrison County,” said Jim Corridan, Director & State Archivist of the Indiana Commission on Public Records. “There are now more than two-million records available to search on the Indiana Digital Archives at no cost. These records provide access to incredible pieces of family history.

Researchers can view many Indiana county naturalization databases along with indices to many



STATIC MACHINE AND X-RAY COIL.

The Static Machine and X-Ray Coil was pictured in The Christian Hospital and Training School for Nurses, Valparaiso. The school was established in 1905. How modern!



Archives volunteer Virginia Terpening, greets school children visiting the State House on December 11, 2012



Fourth grade students from Heritage Christian School, Indianapolis, pose in front of the State Archives exhibit on Statehood Day. Those smiling faces mean they have just played the State House matching game at the Archives booth and they won!

FISA Annual Meeting – April 9, Noon

The 2013 Annual Meeting and Lunch will be held on April 9th at noon at the Indiana State Library. Our speaker is Curt B. Witcher, the Department Manager for the Historical Genealogy Department and Senior Manager of Special Collections of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN. He is also a member of the Genealogy Committee of the American Library Association. "Living and Local: History in Our Hands" is the topic and Witcher will discuss the challenges ahead of us in preserving living memory and local history and assess how we are meeting those challenges.

Lunch will cost \$15.00. Reservations are required. There is metered street parking or garage/lots in the area. Please contact Barb Wood at b.wood@att.net or 317-313-6561 by April 4 for lunch reservations. Individuals may attend the talk at no cost.



The Archives' Black History Exhibit in the State House



Who is that masked man? It's Archives volunteer Raymond Horn who is cleaning records from the Indiana Supreme Court Appeals, D series. And yes, that is a small vacuum cleaner he's using. These 1870-1900 records really are that dirty. "D" means they were stored in a drawer.

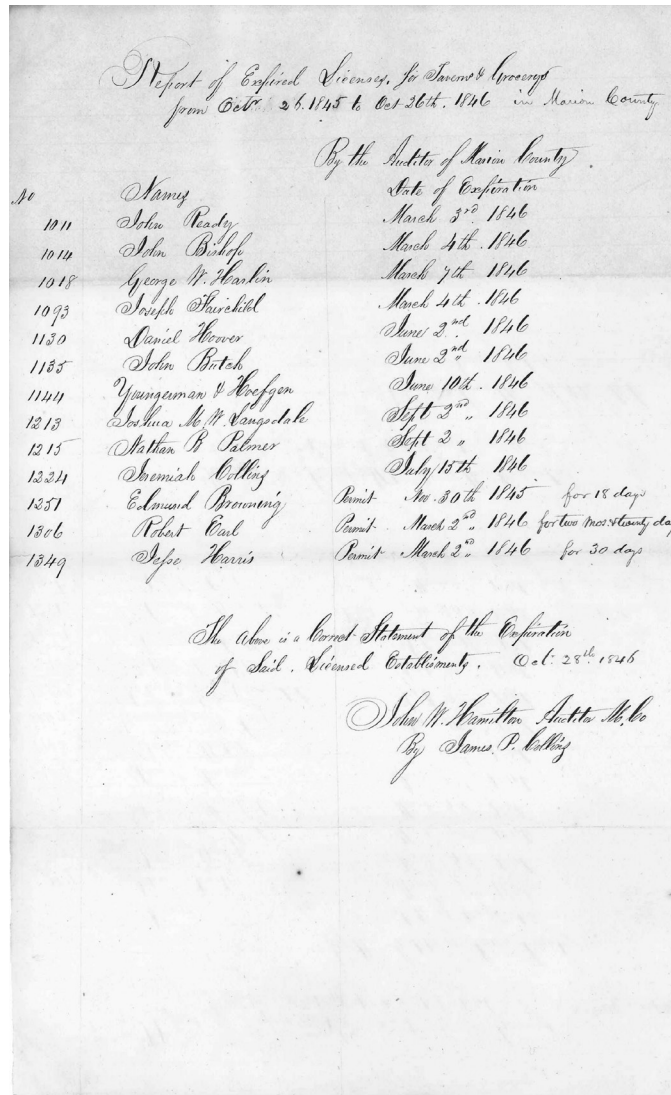
Marion County Court Record Index now available.

The nationally-recognized Indiana Digital Archives (www.digitalarchives.IN.gov) has made available new materials for historians, researchers and residents interested in Indiana's heritage. The Marion County Court Record Index includes nearly 130,000 court records created between 1822 and 1930. Aside from case files, the database includes bonds and licenses issued, summonses, subpoenas, jury lists, and coroner's inquests.

This index encompasses most of the records transferred to the Indiana State Archives during the early 1960's by the Marion County Clerk. It includes the first session of the Marion County Circuit Court on September 26, 1822, the 1829 establishment of a probate court, the courts of common pleas, and the 1871 establishment of the Superior Court of Marion County.

"The inclusion of the Marion County Court records into the Indiana Digital Archives creates one of the best resources for legal research and genealogy in the state," said Jim Corridan, Indiana State Archivist. "This database brings to life the stories of thousands of Hoosiers and the legal conflicts faced by our ancestors."

While not all of the Marion County Court documents have survived, Marion County court



order books and complete record books are available at the State Archives for further research. Marion County court documents created after 1930 are not included in this database.

The Marion County Courts Index records were indexed by Indiana State Archives volunteer Mary Etta Boren who began working on the project in 2005.

Researchers can view the Marion County Court Record Index and many other popular Indiana State Archives collections through the Indiana Digital Archives. Friends of the Indiana State Archives volunteers have been hard at work for nearly two decades creating indices for many of the state's records. From before

statehood in 1816 and on through to its approaching bicentennial, Indiana has been home to millions of settlers and immigrants. The Digital Archives enables Hoosiers and citizens worldwide to view the vast collection of historical and vital records housed at the State Archives.

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Tape is Evil

“I think tape removal is the worst job I do here in the Conservation Lab. The finished results are never as satisfying as are other treatments” stated Elizabeth Hague.

“I recently had to remove adhesive labels from photographs on inmate cards. The labels contained information that was found elsewhere on the card. They were stuck directly over the faces of the subjects of the photos” (see “before” photo).

“I used a heated palette knife to slowly separate the label and adhesive from the photo. Although the photos are relatively recent (1980s), they were fragile enough that the labels peeled off the top layer of the photo in some places. I then had to try recovering that top layer from the label.”

Recovering the fragile top layer of the photo is not easy and the adhesive is often stronger than the paper. Many times the photo layer is mangled or torn in the process. If the tiny piece can be recovered, it would still have adhesive on it and trying to place it is like working with fly paper; humorous in old silent movies but not in the lab.

The paste is applied to the back of the recovered piece and put it in position while trying to match hairlines, nose parts, or eyebrows so the person doesn’t end up looking like a Martian. Sometimes the little piece will roll up once it has paste on it, causing more frustration.

The repaired photograph will never be as good as new. Sometimes you have to settle for it being better than nothing. (See “after” photo.)

The lesson is that you should avoid pressure sensitive/self-stick tape. Never apply tape over information. Try to tape on the back, if you must, where there is no information (provided it’s blank). Keep in mind that over time the tape adhesive will seep into the paper and stain it. It will also cause the paper to become extremely brittle wherever it touches the paper.

It’s frustrating enough to remove tape adhesive from sound paper, but trying to remove it from fragile, brittle paper that shatters and breaks into tiny pieces is a nightmare. Then all those (sometime sticky) pieces must be re-assembled.

You can see, our conservation lab did a pretty good job here!

To follow our tweets visit <http://twitter.com/indianaarchives> and visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Indiana-State-Archives/314341008346> (Indiana-State-Archives)

Don’t forget to renew your Friends of the Indiana State Archives membership!

Consider Volunteering at the Indiana State Archives (volunteers@fisa-in.org)



Before



After