

# ISL GENEALOGY COLLECTION

*Open for Exploration*

The ISL Genealogy Collection has developed over time to become one of the largest collections of family history information in the Midwest. The collection includes approximately 50,000 print items (family histories, indexes to records, how-to books, cemetery transcriptions, genealogical journals, periodicals, and more) as well as microfilmed Federal Census records, Indiana county records, passenger lists and military pension information. The emphasis of the collection is on Indiana and bordering states, as well as eastern and southern states from which people emigrated; however, all states are represented in the collection. Resources for Native American and African American family history research are also available.

Although most materials may only be used within the Indiana State Library, collection experts will help you begin your research and locate the best resources to discover your family's genealogy. Printed collections, electronic resources, and the Genealogy Reference Desk are located on the first floor. The Genealogy microfilm and microfiche collections and printed census indexes are located on the second floor alongside Indiana newspapers on microfilm.

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## GENEALOGY COLLECTION

### Indiana State Library

315 West Ohio Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Phone: 317-232-3689

### Genealogy Homepage

[www.IN.gov/library/genealogy.htm](http://www.IN.gov/library/genealogy.htm)



### Ask-A-Librarian

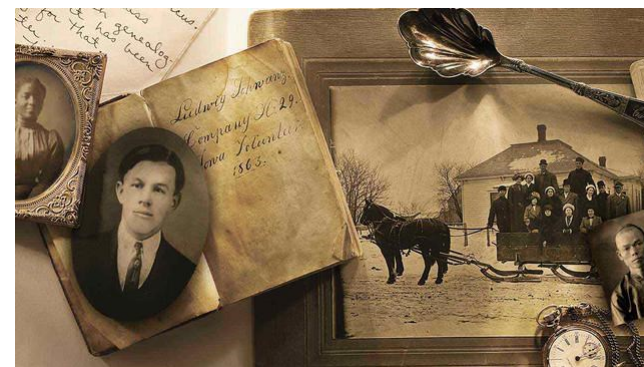
[www.IN.gov/library/ask.htm](http://www.IN.gov/library/ask.htm)



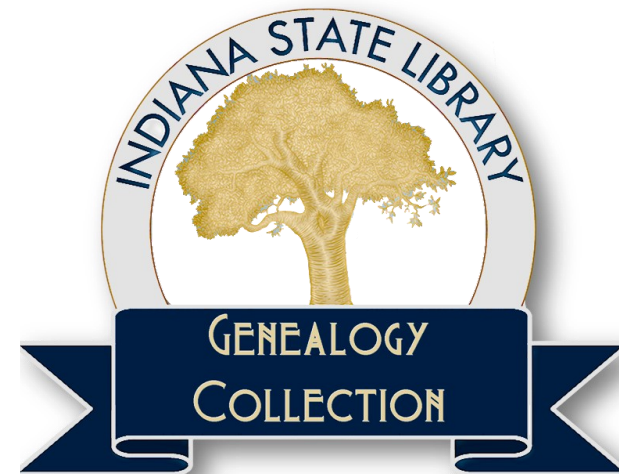
### Indiana Digital Archives

[www.indianadigitalarchives.org](http://www.indianadigitalarchives.org)

[WWW.IN.GOV/LIBRARY](http://WWW.IN.GOV/LIBRARY)



## BEGINNING YOUR RESEARCH



[WWW.IN.GOV/LIBRARY](http://WWW.IN.GOV/LIBRARY)

## Begin Your Research with Family

Begin by talking to family members, especially those who are older or have an interest in your family and its history. They will most likely have useful information that will be helpful as you begin your research. See if they have documents, such as birth certificates, marriage licenses, military discharge papers, letters or diaries and make copies of the documents for your files.

Have you interviewed your relatives? Talk to your parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Fill out a Family Group sheet and write down the dates of important life events: births, deaths, and marriages. For your convenience, copies of Family Group sheets are available at the Genealogy Collection's Reference Desk on the first floor of the library.

## Record Sets to Research

United States Federal Census, vital records (birth, marriage, and death), church records, bible records, military records, city directories, newspapers, cemeteries, county histories, obituaries, wills and probate records, land and deed records, taxation records, immigration and naturalization records, gazetteers, periodicals, maps and atlases.

## Federal Census Records

Census records are one of the most valuable tools available to family history researchers. We suggest starting with the latest census available to the public, 1940, and working your way back. Remember, little of the 1890 census exists today; most was destroyed by a fire.

There are many clues in the census records, which differ from decade to decade. Beginning with the 1850 census, members of the household are named. Other information may include birth month and year, proof of property ownership, proof of naturalization and arrival date in America.

Federal Census records on microfilm are available for all existing states from 1790-1880 and 1930. A chart listing the library's census records by year and state is available on our

website. Census records for every state are available online via **Ancestry Library Edition** and **HeritageQuest** subscription databases. These databases are available for free on any computer in the library.

## Indiana County Resources and Records

Most information of genealogical value is arranged by county. If you are searching for Indiana county materials, you could start by browsing through the books on our shelves or check the online *Indiana County Research Guides* at: <http://www.in.gov/library/countyrecords.htm>. The guides provide an overview of county information and resources available at the Indiana State Library as well as free resources from around the Internet.

An alternate starting point is the WPA Indexes, also known as "the red books." These are birth, death and marriage indexes for most Indiana counties. Indiana began recording births and deaths in 1882; marriages were recorded from the formation of each county.

Keep in mind that many people born before 1907 do not have original birth records because recording a birth was only voluntary until 1907. You may need to check other records, such as the Federal Census or church records to verify birth. The Genealogy Collection does not have actual birth and death certificates; those are available from the local county health departments. The Indiana State Department of Health also has death records beginning in 1900 and birth records beginning in 1907.

## Microforms & Indiana Collections

All microfilm/microfiche are located on the second floor, which is also home to the Indiana Collection that includes county histories, city directories, biographies, and Indiana newspapers. The Genealogy Collection microfilms include marriage records, census records, deeds, will and probate records, county histories and select church, immigration, and military records.

## Websites



**ISL Genealogy Homepage:** <http://www.in.gov/library/genealogy.htm>

**Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet:** [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com) Cyndi's List is free for everyone to use and it is meant to be your starting point when researching online.

**Family Search:** [www.FamilySearch.org](http://www.FamilySearch.org)

**Family History for Beginners Wiki:** [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_for\\_Beginners](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_for_Beginners)

**Family Search Learning Center:**

<https://familysearch.org/ask/landing?search=getting%20started&show=lessons&message=true>

**Find-A-Grave:** [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)

**Hoosier Chronicles, Indiana's Digital Historic Newspaper:** <https://newspapers.library.in.gov/>

## Books for Beginners

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors: Special Strategies for Uncovering Hard-to-Find Information about Your Female Lineage* (929 C287g 1998)

Croom, Emily Anne. *Unpuzzling Your Past: A Basic Guide to Genealogy* (929 C948u 2010)

Crowe, Elizabeth Powell. *Genealogy Online* (929 C953g 2008)

Dowell, David R. *Crash Course in Genealogy*. (929 D746c 2011)

Everton, George. *Handybook for Genealogists* (929 E93h 10 2002)

Hinckley, Kathleen W. *Your Guide to the Federal Census for Genealogists, Researchers, and Family Historians* (929.11 H659Y 2002)

Jacobson, Judy. *A Field Guide for Genealogists* (929 J165f 2001)

Pfeiffer, Laura Szucs. *Hidden Sources: Family History in Unlikely Places* (929 P526h 2000)

Rising, Marsha Hoffman. *The Family Tree Problem Solver* (929 R595f 2011)

Sturdevant, Katherine Scott. *Bringing Your Family History to Life through Social History* (929 S935B 2000)

Szucs, Loretto Dennis. *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* (929 S7248 2006)