

# ANCESTORS

B A R T H O L O M E W C O U N T Y G E N E A L O G I C A L S O C I E T Y , I N C

**BCGS 2016 Board Members**

- President: Marcus Speer
- Vice Pres: Heather McDonald
- Secretary: Becky Speaker
- Treasurer: Toni Whiteside
- Membership: Robert Hobbs
- Genealogist: Donna Kuhlman
- Genealogist: Karen Loy
- Newsletter Editor: Kim Ray



ISSN: 1933-5164

[CONTACT US](#)

(see back page)



# Happy 200th Anniversary, INDIANA!

To commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the State of Indiana, the US Postal Service will be issuing this new stamp in 2016

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

2016 Calendar -by Heather McDonald	2
Annual Report -by Marcus Speer	3-5
Highlights -by Marcus Speer	6
Carved in Stone -by Donna Kuhlman	8
Indiana Bicentennial -by Becky Speaker	9
Courthouses S.K.I.L.L.S. for Members	10
FTM & Ancestry -by Becky Speaker	11



*Editor's Note: Many thanks to all BCGS Board Members for their time and articles to make Ancestors the "Voice of BCGS" ! As a courtesy, and to insure the personal communication with each of you, their columns are not edited. Hope you enjoy !*



-by Heather  
McDonald

## BCGS Meetings for 2016

*Please note: All meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. Unless otherwise noted, meetings take place at the Bartholomew County Public Library*

**Saturday, January 23**—Join us for our first meeting of the year! Phyllis Codling McLaughlin of “Twisted Roots Genealogy” will be presenting the first portion of **DNA 101**. This presentation will explain the different kinds of DNA tests, what each test can reveal based on what the tester is hoping to discover, as well as an overview of the three major testing companies and their procedures. This session will be followed in October by a return visit from Phyllis to work with those who have obtained test results.

**Saturday, February 20**—Join us for a S.K.I.L.L.S. (*Sharing Knowledge In Light Learning Sessions*) meeting as we review **Newspapers.com**

**Saturday, March 26**—Allison DePrey Singleton returns for a presentation on the **Federal Census 1790-1940**. Allison presented the popular “Facebooking Your Past” session a couple of years ago, and she will be teaching us all about the various censuses and their formats over the years. She will share the data to be found and the tricks needed to get the most out of your research.

**Saturday, May 21**—The first of our summer “field trips”, join us as we make an excursion to the **Brown County History Center**. We will be touring their archives and their new building, with an optional (\$2 fee) visit to their Pioneer Village. If you would like more information on what the archives contain, visit <http://www.browncountyhistorycenter.org/historical-archives.html>

**Saturday, July 23**—We will conclude our summertime field trips with a visit to the **Edinburgh Wright-Hageman Public Library**. This library has an extensive genealogy collection. We will follow the meeting with lunch together. More details about this trip will be available in a later edition of the newsletter.

**Friday, September 16–Sunday, September 18**—BCGS will once again participate in the annual **History Days** held at the library. Please lend a hand working the booth and join us as we celebrate all the wonderful things genealogy has given us. We will also be presenting a **Genealogy 101 workshop** during the weekend—please join us as you may learn a new skill.

**Saturday, October 22**—Phyllis Codling McLaughlin will be returning for the second part of **DNA 101**. This session will be a S.K.I.L.L.S. session, which means it is open to members only. Phyllis will be reviewing DNA results with the members who have already completed testing.

**Saturday, November 12**—Our final meeting of 2016 will include a presentation by Ron Darrah on **Populating Hoosierland**. Learn how and when our ancestors arrived in the state of Indiana and see what footprints they left behind.

## Annual Report

Our Bartholomew County Genealogical Society has had another great year – a year of celebration.

How special it has been for us to focus on our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by reflecting on our past 25 years and looking ahead to many more years as a Society. We are certainly indebted to many board members and an active membership who have been willing to cast a vision for BCGS's present and future.

## Officers and Board Members

I am delighted that all of our officers agreed to serve another year in the same capacity as in 2015. Heather, McDonald, Vice-President, Becky Speaker, Secretary, and Toni Whiteside, Treasurer. Each officer serves in important positions for the benefit of the entire BCGS membership. Our Vice-President secures speakers and assists in scheduling programs for the upcoming year(s). She has also assisted the BCGS President in his absence. Our Secretary is our record keeper. She records minutes for all of our board meetings and also provides a synopsis of each program which are published in *Ancestors*. Our Treasurer reports to the board concerning all BCGS accounts and also receives membership dues.

Along with the BCGS officers, the board is composed of directors. The BCGS board continues to be served well by our two genealogists, Donna Kuhlman and Karen Loy, who assist with the 30 plus queries that come to the Society throughout the year. Queries often come by e-mail, but also arrive by word of mouth or snail mail. Both Donna and Karen are more than capable in assisting with such queries. Both plan to continue to serve as our BCGS genealogists in 2016.

For the past several years, the BCGS Membership List has been overseen by our Membership Chair, Fran Land. Fran is stepping down as our Membership Chair. She has done an excellent job of completing many tasks and more! Her responsibilities have included maintaining a membership list including an e-mail list and assisting at Programs by providing attendance recordkeeping and nametag distribution & collection.

# Presidential Proclamation

-by Marcus Speer

Fran reported that in 2015 we had 83 members (lifetime & annual) including 16 new members. Fran was aware of one member who had passed away in 2015. Bob Hobbs has agreed to take over the role of Membership Chair in 2016. We welcome his service on the board.

Our BCGS Editor Kim Ray will continue to compile, edit, and submit our quarterly newsletter, *Ancestors*. She assists with providing a full-color e-newsletter for our membership, sister organizations, and libraries. These newsletters can also be found posted on the BCGS website: [www.barthgen.org](http://www.barthgen.org). Kim will continue as our BCGS Editor in 2016.

In July 2013, Reference Librarian Annette Blount began attending our board meetings as a "library liaison." The board continues to appreciate her presence and input at our monthly meetings and her continuing work in the Indiana room. She keeps the board updated on library news and announces new publications. She is also helpful in preparing the Indiana Room when needed by BCGS for programs/sessions.

As you can tell, BCGS has a wonderful group of active and effective officers and directors who have faithfully met on the third Tuesday of every month (except December) throughout 2015. For a fifth year, I will have the privilege of serving alongside these BCGS board members as the BCGS President. While this will be my final year as BCGS President, I look forward to serving a great Society in 2016.

## Programs

During 2015, BCGS hosted six programs and two S.K.I.L.L.S. meetings for BCGS members. Our first program was on Saturday, January 24 in the Red Room of the Bartholomew County Library. Our presenter was Tamara Hemmerlein. She provided an excellent program concerning the Preservation of Family History, specifically the preservation and proper archiving of documents and photographs. Tamara inspired some of our board members to investigate purchasing archival materials that could be made



# Presidential Proclamation (cont)

available to BCGS members and friends. Our total attendance was 46 (22 members & 24 guests).

We were happy to offer another S.K.I.L.L.S (Sharing Knowledge in Light Learning Session) meeting on February 28. Our Vice-President, Heather McDonald shared details about planning a trip to the Genealogy Center at the Allen County Public Library. Another excellent crowd of 22 members gathered in the Indiana Room to learn and share. We gained two new members at this meeting!

In March (28), BCGS was delighted to welcome Helen Wildermuth of Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration before an audience of 27 members and 27 guests! Helen provided details about her work at Sandhill Cemetery and other cemeteries that she has helped to restore. Her work is driven by true dedication and commitment to cemeteries needing repairs. Helen provided many helpful hints about how everyone can play a part in cemetery restoration(s).

Unlike most of our BCGS programs, our May program was conducted on a Monday – Memorial Day, May 25. Thirteen members and seven guests visited the Kansas Cemetery located within Camp Atterbury. Memorial Day is the only day that access is granted for families, genealogists, etc to visit cemeteries within Camp Atterbury. Donna Kuhlman offered demonstrations about cleaning, reading, etc gravestones.

The BCGS annual luncheon occurred on July 18 with a program at the Bartholomew County Historical Society with lunch preceding the program at Zaharakos (the “Greeks”) on Washington Street. Julie Hughes, assisted by Anna Barnett, shared information about their current facility ahead of the opening of the new facility on Washington Street. The current library housed upstairs will be moved downstairs making it much roomier. Eventually the current facility will only have the first level open to the public. They are hoping to digitize all ma-

terials. There is the potential that space will be provided for organizations like BCGS to house materials at the Historical Society. Our Membership Chair, Fran Land reported that there were 11 at the luncheon and a total of 14 members and one guest attending the program.

For our September Program, BCGS participated in History Days at the Library. From our 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter *Ancestors*: “... BCGS was able to be a part of the History Days: “Steps Through Time” at the Bartholomew County Library on September 18-19. With the help of Marcus & Jennifer Speer, Judy Alexander, Carolyn Wheeler, Karen Loy, Jane Johnson, Toni Whiteside, Bob Hobbs, & Becky Speaker, BCGS was well represented for all the children and adults who passed through the Indiana Room.”

While we normally close out our Programs in November, BCGS’s final 2015 Program was on October 24. It was led by Jason Hatton, Library Director at Bartholomew County Library. Twenty-four attendees (20 members and 4 guests) learned much about the genealogical resources that are available at and through the public library. As always, Jason provided an excellent and informative program for all.

The Fall BCGS SKILLS meeting was held in the Indiana Room on Saturday, November 21. The number of those attending was approximately 20 members – remember that SKILLS is offered for our members only. We are always open to receiving new members at these sessions. In accordance with our By-Laws, we had our annual meeting at this session. The slate of officers was presented by Judy Alexander, Nominating/Election Chair, and the slate was approved by members present (details can be found in the section concerning officers & directors).

## Updates & Donations

BCGS continues to maintain and update our BCGS website ([www.barthgen.org](http://www.barthgen.org)) and the BCGS Facebook page. For those on Facebook, you can find us at the following link:

# Presidential Proclamation

(cont)

PAGE 5

<https://www.facebook.com/BartholomewCountyGenealogicalSociety>

Consistent with the mission to increase local genealogical research resources, the BCGS board was able to contribute in the following ways in 2015. Here is the list:

**\*\*BCGS assisted in the movement of the "Mary Ellen Sweet Grossman Files" & the "Coffman Files" from the Bartholomew County Clerk's Office to the Bartholomew County Public Library. A collection of books was also transferred.**

**\*\*BCGS continues work on an Obituary Index at Bartholomew County Library.**

**\*\*BCGS posted flags and additional War of 1812 Gravestone Markers for Veterans**

**\*\*BCGS donated the 4-H Indiana Heritage Grand Champion Trophy for the Bartholomew County 4-H Fair. 2015 winner: Sophie Krueger**

**\*\*BCGS offered assistance to John McDonald, Clay Township Trustee in organizing records for Sandhill and Sharon Cemeteries.**

**\*\*BCGS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book sale. Discounted books were made available throughout the year in observance and celebration of**

*BCGS's Silver Anniversary.*

*\*\*BCGS board led by Becky Speaker assisted with the publication of the books: Bartholomew County, IN War of 1812 Veterans.*

## Looking ahead to 2016

As the BCGS board looks ahead to 2016, all are excited to note that we will be observing Indiana's Bicentennial. We will be preparing for Indiana's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday on December 11, 2016 through a series of articles in our quarterly *Ancestors*. Some of our programs will even have a Indiana "flavor." Along with our bi-monthly programs, the BCGS board will again be offering two SKILLS and our annual luncheon.

As we have in the past, so in the future, we will continue to pose the following question: "Additional BCGS projects?" every time the board meets on a third Tuesday at 4:45 p.m. at the Bartholomew County Library. Any time a BCGS member has a question or contribution, they should contact a BCGS officer and/or director. On behalf of the BCGS board, thank you for being a member of BCGS.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*Christine Taylor*

*David Blount*



**YOUR Society at WORK**

What did BCGS do this Quarter ?



BCGS donated 5 of our latest book, "War of 1812" to: Bartholomew County Public Library; Bartholomew County Historical Society; Allen Co Genealogical Library; Yellow Trail Museum; and the Indiana State Library

# Highlights

-by Marcus Speer

## BCGS Program

Saturday, October 24, 2015

Guests and members were welcomed by Marcus Speer, BCGS President. Marcus shared that BCGS's books and archival materials were available for purchase. One BCGS publication of importance is the War of 1812 book.

Library Director Jason Hatton led the program by reviewing and explaining genealogy databases available at the Bartholomew County Public Library. He began by reminding everyone to bookmark the library's web page: [www.mybcpl.org](http://www.mybcpl.org). He then encouraged everyone to visit the website to find additional genealogical resources that are available. He reminded us that the library can be contacted with genealogical questions and that anyone can set up an appointment with a librarian for genealogical assistance at the library. He also reminded us that there are links to the genealogy print collection including the Mary Ellen Grossman Files. While sharing his information, Jason walked us through many of the steps he was speaking about including the library's website, the online site for Bartholomew County cemetery, and the databases that are available at the library.

**Ancestry.....** In regards to the available databases, Jason began with the Ancestry.com library edition (with world edition included). Of all the databases available at the library, Ancestry.com is the one database that is only available at the library. He then walked us through the tabs at the top of the home page including: "Learning center," "Charts and forms," "New Collections," "Search," etc.

**Heritage quest.....** Heritage Quest is another database available through the library. Jason noted that it is quite similar to ancestry in many ways, but one major difference is the number of city directories available, which can be very beneficial.

**Fold 3.....** He highlighted the newest addition Fold3, collection of original US military records, including many from the US National Archives. Although we have access to Fold3, the library is still in the learning stage with it, and many of the librarians have not had much success with it so far. However, they are continuing to learn more about it.

**Newspapers.com.....** Newspapers.com is a site that BCPL does not have access to at this time, but they will soon! They have entered into an agreement where all microfiche copies of "The Evening Republican/The Republic" will be sent to newspapers.com for digitization. Afterwards, these will be available on newspapers.com for research and review. The very exciting aspect to this is that the site is keyword searchable, which should make research so much simpler.

Jason concluded by reviewing how to access these sites on the mybcpl.org website. To login, use your library card number followed by your pin. If you have not set up a pin, the temporary pin is "changeme".



# New Books

## New Genealogy Books at the Bartholomew County Library

-from Annette Blount, BC Librarian

Bartholomew County, IN: War of 1812 Veterans.

Speaker, Rebecca  
Ref Ind 973.52 Bar also; Ind 973.52 Bar

Marriages of Johnston County, North Carolina 1762-1868.

Holcolmb, Brent H.  
Reference Genealogy 929.3756 Hol

The Hill and the Folks That Dwell There.

Sanford, Wayne L.  
Ref Ind 977.224 San

The Folks on Luke's Hill.

Sanford, Wayne L.  
Ref Ind 977.224 San

How to Archive Family Photos.

May-Levenick, Denise  
Genealogy 745.593 May

How to Archive Family Keepsakes.

May-Levenick, Denise  
Genealogy 929.1072 May

Family Photo Detective.

Taylor, Maureen A.  
Genealogy 929.1072 Tay

How to Use Evernote for Genealogy.

Scott, Kerry  
Genealogy 929.1072 Sco

History of Fentress County, Tennessee.

Hogue, Albert  
Genealogy 929.3768 Hog

Common People: In Pursuit of My Ancestors.

Light, Alison  
Genealogy 929.1 Lig



## NEW RESEARCH CENTER in HOPE

-by Kim Ray

The Yellow Trail Museum in Hope has expanded and is making room for a genealogy Research Center. This project is still in the early stages, no formal name nor a date on opening to the public has been decided at this time. However, materials are being inventoried, indexed and organized with the public in mind.

*The collection includes BOOKS, PAPERS, MAGAZINES, FAMILY FILES, PICTURES, DOCUMENTS, REFERENCE and RESEARCH MATERIALS, FAMILY BIBLES, etc. with a focus on Hope, but also including Bartholomew & other Indiana counties, as well as other states.*

If you would like to support this project by donating genealogy material, please contact  
Kim Ray (812-546-5990)



# CARVED IN STONE

-BY DONNA KUHLMAN

## QUERY:

*Hello my name is Katie and I am re-searching my lineage. I would love any information you have on the Ruddick family. My lineage starts with Nancy Ruddick daughter of Jesse S. Ruddick a former Indiana Justice of the Peace and Representative. Thank you very much.*

Jesse Ruddick's mother was also a wild card. Ann Bedsaul Ruddick's Findagrave profile includes a lot of well-researched data about her, although it does give her date of death as 1807, which is almost certainly in error; she is believed to have died in Bartholomew or Jackson Co., Indiana, in the 1820s. She has no marked grave.

Jesse's father, Solomon Ruddick, is almost certainly buried in Jackson Co., Indiana, on what was then his own land. His grave also is not marked, so the exact location is lost to history.

See Jesse Ruddick's Findagrave Memorial #68971726, which includes links to his wife and parents, and several of their children, including Nancy Ruddick Marr.

These entries used to have links to sat. maps, but they seem to be missing now. Liberty Cemetery is readily accessed, but the Ruddick-Sullivan graves are very difficult to get to. I've been to both.

As an additional note, the name "Jesse Seyn Ruddick" is a misnomer, a corruption of Jesse Ruddick, *Senior*.

I am attaching a genealogy report for Descendants of Solomon Ruddick, which has as much data as I've been able to collect on this family. It's a big print-out, 22 pages, but has a lot of good data in it. Let me know if you have trouble opening it.

## Descendants of Solomon Ruddick

*[Editor's Note: Donna's wonderful detailed genealogy has been shortened to show the first generation for purposes of this Newsletter.]*

SOLOMON RUDDICK was born Abt. 1753 in Warrington, PA, and died Bet. Apr - May 1824 in Jackson Co., IN. He married ANN BEDSAUL 26 Sep 1778 in Montgomery Co., VA. She was born Abt. 1758, and died Aft. 1823 in Bartholomew Co., IN.

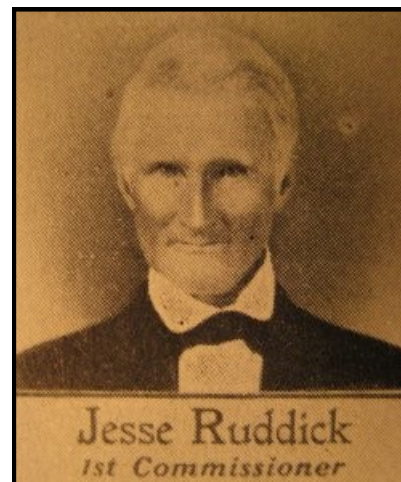
Children of SOLOMON RUDDICK and ANN BEDSAUL are:

i. ELISHA<sup>3</sup> RUDDICK, b. 1779.

ii. WILLIAM RUDDICK, b. 07 Oct 1781.

## Response:

Jesse Ruddick was indeed prominent in the affairs of early Bartholomew Co. government....but he was human, also. He was divorced from his first wife, Catharine, on Mar. 28, 1842, in Bartholomew Co. The divorce documentation includes allegations of infidelity, and names several correspondent women. When we researched them, we found they were all widows ... we suppose he simply got carried away with his duties as overseer of the poor and disenfranchised...?) In any case, Catharine Baker Ruddick is buried in the established and well-tended Liberty Cemetery, with numerous family members around her; while Jesse sleeps in a lonesome grave in the woods across the county, in Wayne Township, near a stepson and a neighbor lady.



iii. JESSE RUDDICK, b. 04 May 1784, Chestnut Creek, Grayson Co., VA; d. 23 May 1870, Bartholomew Co., IN.

iv. MARY RUDDICK, b. 07 Apr 1787, Chestnut Creek, Grayson Co., VA; d. 18 May 1855, Washington (Mahaska) Co., Iowa Territory.

v. ANN RUDDICK, b. Abt. 1789.





In 2016, we will celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the state of Indiana. The Indiana Bicentennial Commission is striving to “leave a legacy – celebrate, make memories, and help prepare Indiana for the next 100 years of progress and change.”

The four themes are: Historical Celebration, Youth & Education, Community Involvement, and Nature Conservation. There are several major events, such as the Bicentennial Torch, which will come through Hartsville and Columbus in the fall and the opening celebration of the new Bicentennial Plaza on the west side of the statehouse in Sept 2016. A black-tie Bicentennial Birthday Party Gala will be held on December 10, 2016 at the Coliseum, followed the next day with an inspirational service. The new Statehouse Education & Welcome Center will facilitate visitors to the statehouse, as well as “encourage more use of the Indiana State Library and Indiana Historical Bureau.”

And even better for genealogists – a new Indiana State Archives Solution! If you’ve visited the current archives on the east side of Indianapolis, then you know why we need a new building! Funding has been approved for a building downtown (perhaps near the IUPUI campus), with ground-breaking planned for 2016.

But if you want to visit in the next couple of years, the current Indiana State Archives has some great collections. The “Friends of Indiana State Archives” website has links to a newsletter, to other important Indiana History websites and also to articles that describe some of the major collections, such as the Indiana Territorial Records, Civil War Records and also the Correctional Records. [<http://www.fisa-in.org/news/articles/>] In the next newsletters, different Indiana resources will be highlighted to help you with your genealogy research, starting with the Indiana Digital Archives.

#### Indiana Bicentennial – Indiana Digital Archives

On Oct. 1, 2013, the Indiana State Archives celebrated its centennial. While there are many, many records stored in the 100,000 cubic feet of space on the east side of Indianapolis, some collections are now available online through the Indiana Digital Archives, which was named as one of the Best State Websites for several years by Family Tree Magazine. The online collections include several military records, naturalization records, land records, prisoner records and Marion County court records. [<https://secure.in.gov/apps/iara/search/>]

The online military collections include indexes for the Mexican War, the Indiana Veteran’s Home (Lafayette, IN) and of the World War I Gold Star and Book of Merit Recipients (which could

have more details in the files such as original correspondence and even photographs. Expected in 2016 are more than 200,000 Hoosier Civil War records, the new National Guard and Early Military Records Databases.

Naturalization records are an important part of genealogical research – and they are now being added to the Indiana Digital Archives as each county’s records are scanned and indexed. Some records are still located in the specific county, but new records are being added to the Digital Archives each month. The collection background describes the process and explains why so many started with a declaration of intent, but may not have completed the naturalization process: “In Indiana, one could purchase land, own a business, and vote with a declaration of intention.” [<http://www.in.gov/iara/2941.htm>]

Another type of record available online are Court Records. The Indiana Supreme Court Records (<http://www.in.gov/iara/2813.htm>) involve cases dealing with land, railroads, criminal appeals and various legal disputes. The first phase, from 1817-1872, has been completed with the second phase underway, completely through 1880 and adding records every day. Make sure to check out the tips for searching the database to aid your search.

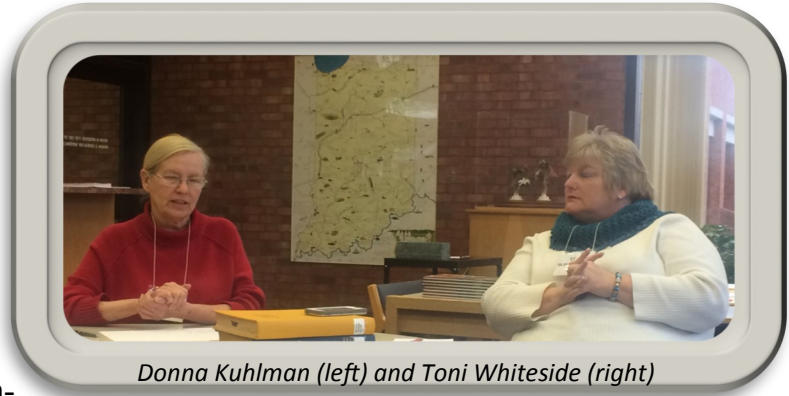
Land records from the Fort Wayne (1823-1852) and the LaPorte-Winamac (1833-1855) Land Offices are already online, with the Vincennes and Crawfordsville-Terre Haute Land Office records soon to be added to the Digital Archives. The following website provides information about the land records in Indiana: [<http://www.in.gov/iara/2595.htm>] According to this website, the US Government began selling public land in the southeastern part of Indiana in 1801 through the Land Office in Cincinnati, OH. Two Land Offices opened before Indiana became a state, one in Vincennes in 1807 and one in Jeffersonville in 1808. The Vincennes office sold land in many of the southern counties, while the Jeffersonville office covered land in present day counties from Washington to as far north as Bartholomew. Four more Land Office were opened over time, until the last office, in Indianapolis, was closed in 1876. These land records usually include the date of the purchase, the legal description, the number of acres, the purchaser’s name and occasionally, their previous residence. Only land purchased through these federal land office is online, but the State Archives also has records of the sale of land owned by the state of Indiana, as well as other miscellaneous records such as the Registers’ and Receivers’ Records, Tract Books, and Plats. An additional online resource is a list of Indian land pulled from the LaPorte-Winamac Land Office records.

## Courthouse Records S.K.I.L.L.S. Session led by Donna Kuhlman and Toni Whiteside -by Becky Speaker

Donna led off the session, focusing on local resources in Bartholomew County. Some key tips for using these resources:

- Divorce Records – good to check instead of assuming a death – divorces did happen more often than you might think
- Guardianships – usually located in probate records While we tend to think about this as the custody and care of the child, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they were more about the custody and care of the child's assets. Widowed mothers were not trusted to take care of the assets!
- Child Indentures (found in the Recorder's office Miscellaneous Books) – could be the apprenticeship of a young teenager to a skilled craftsman like a blacksmith, but it could also be the legal adoption or foster child setup
- Tax Records – Found in the courthouse attic, but now in the Bartholomew County Archives. Starting in 1842, every adult male had to pay a poll tax every year even if they didn't own property, so this could help narrow down the date of death to a year instead of a decade
- Deed records – Recorder's office – Identification of lands bought and sold. All heirs of deceased landowners had to sign for the sale of estate lands, even if the heirs weren't going to receive any of the proceeds (insolvent estates.) These records are sometimes better documentation of kinship than wills and probate, and also may give clues to the location of heirs who had moved to other states.

In general, Bartholomew County's Courthouse (and Government Annex) records are well cared for with good help and access, but this may not be true everywhere. Donna told a story about one of her first courthouse experiences in Switzerland County, IN. She was told to go into the courthouse basement to rooms with dirt floors – and a sign on the door, "Bob, don't lock me in." She had her mom sit at the door to make sure Bob didn't lock her in!



*Donna Kuhlman (left) and Toni Whiteside (right)*

Toni provided tips for traveling to visit courthouse records in other counties.

- Check for a local society, maybe on facebook, to learn about the records in the county, maybe setting up a meeting to visit.
- But still call ahead and talk to each of the offices about specific records – records may have been moved or available in multiple locations.
- Prepare a list of what you are looking for before you get there to make the most of your time – Toni cleaned up the locations on her database and exported a checklist to help her
- Start in current records first, as time may help you grow trust and then you can access the older, more fragile records
- Keep a research log – including of what you don't find!
- Toni's Checklist to take with you (in her usual organized way!)
  - o Treats for the offices!
  - o File folders to protect print-outs, especially 8x13 legal size
  - o Camera or ipad for scanning & pictures
  - o Cash – some office don't take credit cards (or want to use for a \$3 purchase!)
  - o Magnifying glass
  - o Post-it notes – to mark books for copying or mark print-outs
  - o Allergy meds to counteract the dust and mold
- Understand the county lines and how they have changed over time to know where records might be located.
- Remember that workers at the courthouses have jobs hat are focused on current information. Genealogists tend to be an inconvenience.

# FTM WHAT ??

## *Family Tree Maker Software Being Retired by Ancestry -by Becky Speaker*

*Perhaps like me, you drew a panicked gasp when you read the announcement on December 8<sup>th</sup> that Ancestry is planning to retire Family Tree Maker Software?!?! I think I've been using Family Tree Maker (FTM) for almost 20 years! I was definitely using FTM long before I subscribed to Ancestry.com. I keep all my records in my FTM 2014 database on my own computer (with a new auto backup.) I do sync with Ancestry.com, loving the ease of merging an online record with detailed source information, as well as communicating with distant relatives. But I don't use Ancestry.com as my primary family tree - partly because I don't understand it as well and partly because I like using other sources such as newspapers, family letters and other websites like FamilySearch.*

*With a knot in my stomach, I spent a couple of hours researching this after Christmas. First, and most importantly - I found out we can continue using FTM with its current functionality for another year until the end of December 2016 (we just can't buy the software after Dec 31, 2015.) So I have some time to make a decision on what to do next. This didn't seem to stop cancellations or software changes by some of the nearly 8k people who posted negative comments on Ancestry's blog. Many people are angry at this change, so I think we will learn more in the future from the genealogy community. There are already suggestions about converting to RootMagic or Legacy databases (both are running sales with how-to videos for transferring data from Family Tree Maker.) If anyone else is interested, let's have a Family Tree Maker sub-group to learn and vent and plan and support each other!*

## INDIANA TERRITORY CAPITOL—VINCENNES

-extracted from Vincennes Website

George Rogers Clark's victory at Vincennes in 1779 gave the new United States a claim on all the land northwest of the Ohio River after the Revolutionary War. Our new country organized the Northwest Territory in 1787, and in 1800, the Indiana Territory was created. The Indiana Territory included what is now Illinois, parts of Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, and of course Indiana. Vincennes became the first capitol of the territory and from 1800 to 1813 was the focal point of the nation's western frontier. In 1804 Vincennes acted as the capital of a new territory that President Jefferson had purchased, the District of Louisiana. In 1813 the territorial capitol moved from Vincennes to Corydon, which later became the first state capitol.



Indiana Territory Capitol in Vincennes

### More Links for Bicentennial Happenings !

[IBC: The Empire Strikes Back – A Bicentennial Celebration of Indiana Fashion](#)

[IBC: Bartholomew County](#)

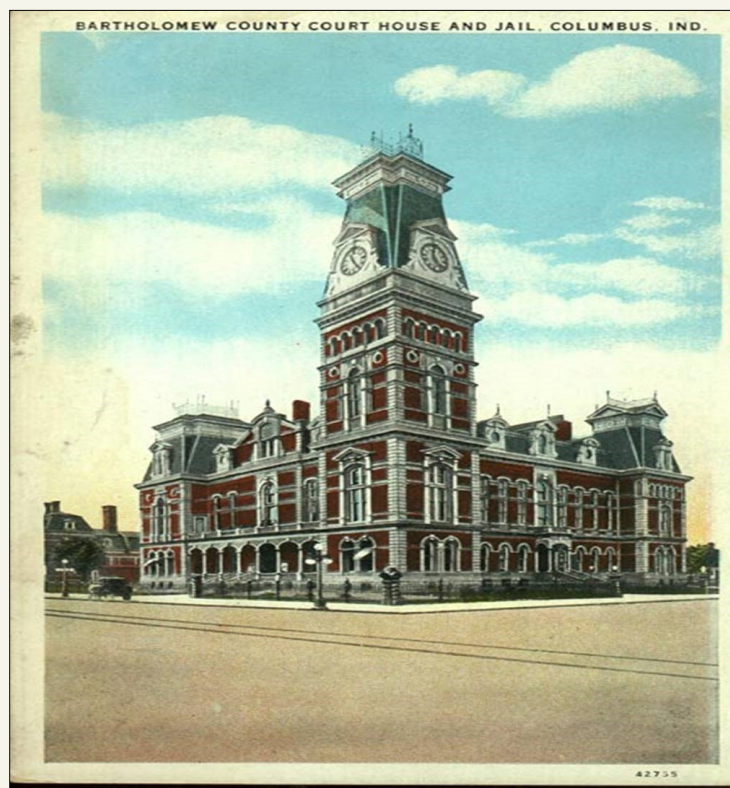
[Columbus — Indiana Historical Society](#)



## ***Bartholomew County Genealogical Society Membership***

*Membership year extends from January – December  
and includes 4 issues of ANCESTORS*

***1 year Membership: Individual (\$10) Couple (\$15)***



## ***Thanks for your Support***

**Bartholomew County Genealogical Society, Inc  
PO Box 2455 Columbus, Indiana 47202-2455**

***email: [bcgs47202@yahoo.com](mailto:bcgs47202@yahoo.com)***

***website: [barthgen.org](http://barthgen.org)***

***Like us on facebook !***

*Member of Indiana Genealogical Society and  
Federation of Genealogical Societies*