Indiana Genealogy Research

The earliest known inhabitants of the area that is now called Indiana included the **Miami, Illini** and **Shawnee**. Other Native American tribes who migrated into or through Indiana after Europeans arrived include:

*The Lenape/Delaware Indians
*The Iroquois Indians (Seneca and Cayuga)
*The Kickapoo Indians
*The Muncie Indians
*The Nanticoke Indians
*The Potawatomi Indians
*The Wyandot Indians
*The Piankashaw
*The Wea

The French established outposts along the Wabash-Maumee trade route in the early 1700's.
In 1763, the British took possession of the area and discouraged settlers, but the few hundred Frenchmen who were already there were permitted to remain, and Americans began filtering in.
In 1783, Indiana was included in the territory ceded by Britain to United States.
In 1784, Clarksville (on the north bank of the Ohio River) became the first authorized American settlement in Indiana.
After 1794, treaties were made that opened up large areas of land for settlement.
At the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811, the Indians were defeated, and white settlements then proceeded at an increased rate.
The state of Indiana was created in 1816 partly from Indiana Territory and partly from Indian Lands.
By the 1840s, most of the Indians had moved westward to other lands, either voluntarily or by force.
By 1881 Indiana had ninety-two counties.

Indiana Birth Records

In 1881, Indiana law required counties to record births. Birth records from 1881 to 1907 were filed with the local health department in the county. Mandatory recording with the state board of health began in October 1907.

You can obtain a copy of a birth record from the County Clerk or from the Indiana State Department of Health. It may be quicker and cost less to get a copy from the county.

Restrictions for persons born within the last 100 years:
To obtain a copy of the birth certificate for those born within the last 100 years, you must be:

- The person on the certificate
- The parents and grandparents of person on the certificate
- The wife or husband of the person on the certificate
- The children and grandchildren of the person on the certificate
- The brothers or sisters of the person on the certificate
- Anyone who has legal interest in the certificate

Indiana Marriage Records

Marriage licenses and certificates have been issued by and kept at the County Circuit Clerk's Office**,** generally beginning with the formation of each county.
Prior to 1940 it was necessary for a couple to obtain a license from the county in which the female resided.
If you know the county of marriage, you can request a search for a fee from the **County Circuit Clerk's Office**.
Indiana marriage records can be ordered by anyone during any time period.

If an Indiana ancestor's marriage record cannot be located in Indiana, check marriage records in Cincinnati; this area was a "Gretna Green" (no-questions-asked marriage locale) for Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana residents.

Indiana Death Records

Death records were recorded by the county health office beginning in 1882. Mandatory recording with the state board of health began in January 1900.
Indiana death records from 1882 to 1900 are filed only with the County Health Department.
Death records from 1900 to 1920 can be obtained from the County Health Department or from the State Department of Health. It may cost less and take less time to obtain a record from the county.
NOTE: If you are not a direct relative of the person named on the certificate, the date of death must be *more than 75 years ago* in order to obtain a death certificate for genealogical purposes.

Other sources of Birth, Death, and Marriage information:

- Newspaper announcements
- Church records
- Family Bible records
- Military records
- Censuses
- Obituaries/Funeral Home records/Cemetery records
- Probate records

Indiana Genealogical/Historical Repositories

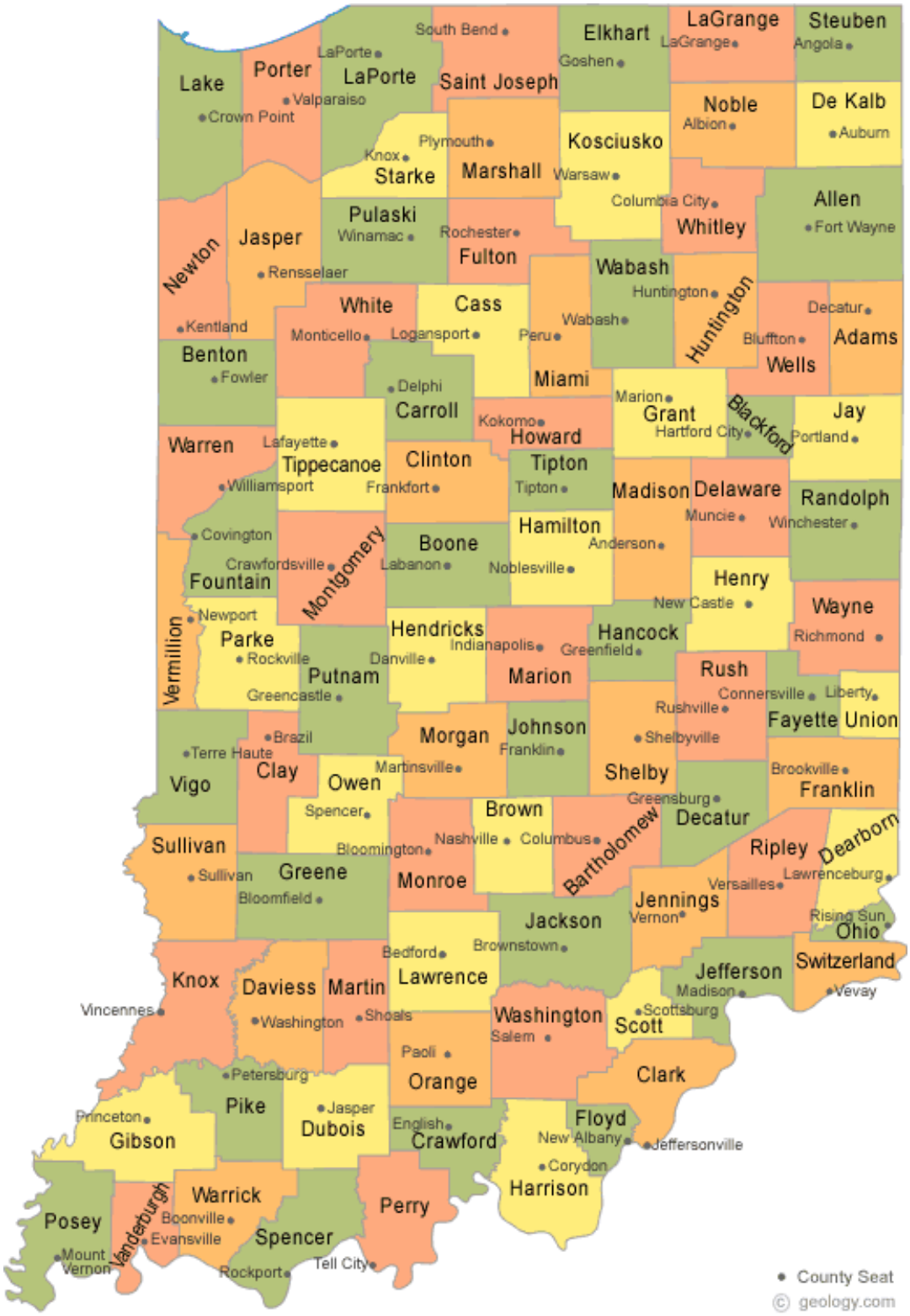
- Allen County Public Library
- Ft. Wayne Historical Society
- Indiana Historical Society
- Indiana Genealogical Society
- Indiana University Library
- Indiana State Library
- Indiana State Archives
- Indiana State Library
- Indianapolis Public Library
- Sullivan County Historical Society
- United Brethren Historical Center
- University of Notre Dame Hesburgh Libraries

Migration Routes through Indiana

Buffalo Trace
Catawba Trail
Delaware Indian Road
Lafayette Road
Louisville – Vincennes Road
Maumee Trail
Wetzel's Trace

Migration Routes in the Central Plains States -
http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~tqpeiffer/Documents/Ancestral%20Migration%20Archives/Migration%20Webpage%20Folder/Central%20Plains%20States%20Routes.htm

Indiana Counties



The Atlas of Historical County Boundaries – Interactive maps and text covering the historical boundaries, names, organization, and attachments of every county, extinct county and unsuccessful county proposal from the creation of the first county through December 31, 2000. - http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/index.html

Indiana Genealogy Research Websites

Note: Check online for the *GenWeb* and *Genealogy Trails* of the county in which your ancestor lived.

Allen County Public Library – indexes of local obituaries, cemeteries, courthouse records, African Americans, Native American research, family trees, family Bible records, military records - http://www.genealogycenter.org/

Indiana Biography Index – Indiana State Library – search index of obituaries, other articles about citizens - 1922 to 1989 - https://digital.statelib.lib.in.us/legacy/search.aspx?index=1

Indiana Blacksheep Ancestors - indexes of nefarious Indiana ancestors – prison and court records - http://www.blacksheepancestors.com/usa/indiana.shtml

Indiana Digital Archives – indexes of military records, corrections and prisoner records, African American registers, court documents, naturalization records, etc. - https://secure.in.gov/apps/iara/search/

Indiana Memory – view images and articles of over 350,000 historical and cultural items – Indiana State Library - https://digital.library.in.gov/

Indianapolis Public Library Digital Collection – neighborhood newsletters and documentaries, high school yearbooks, historical photos, police photos, mug shots, etc. - http://www.digitalindy.org/

Indiana Online Historical Directories – view pages of some Indiana city directories - https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/usa/in

Indiana State Library – search indexes of marriages, deaths, biographies, newspapers – click *Indiana Memory* for images of city directories, newspapers, plat books, almanacs, etc. - http://www.in.gov/library/databases.htm

Lake County Obituaries, Birth, Marriage and Death Announcements – search index of obituaries in the *Post Tribune/Gary Post Tribune* 1921 to the present; search birth, marriage, and death announcements in the *Lake County Register and Star* - http://engagedpatrons.org/database/LakeCountyObits/

Plymouth, IN, Obituary Indexes – PDF indexes of obituaries in the Plymouth Pilot Daily from July 27, 1922, through May 19, 1983 – indexes include full name and obituary date - request an electronic copy of an obituary from the library - http://www.plymouth.lib.in.us/resources/genealogy/plymouth-newspapers-obituary-index.aspx

Michigan City Obituary Index, 1887- present (www.mclib.org/genealogy/obituaryindex.html

My Genealogy Hound – *biographies* extracted from *pre-1900 county histories* of Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee – vintage county maps from Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma (including Indian Nations), and Tennessee - http://www.mygenealogyhound.com/

Nappanee Obituary Index (http://history.nappanee.lib.in.us/obituaries.asp)

New Albany-Floyd County Public Library, Indiana – search 16 local newspapers covering 1847 to the present by name or subject and date range; historic photographs, documents - http://nafclibrary.org/indiana-history-room/

New Carlisle Online Obituaries, search the keyword field for the word obituary and the name of the deceased (https://ncpl.follettdestiny.com/common/welcome.jsp?context=saas19_1301713)

Niles, Michigan, Obituary Index, click link off the home page (www.nileslibrary.net/)

NOBLESVILLE, IN: **Hamilton East Public Library** – search indexed cemetery burials and transcriptions of newspaper articles - read 5 Hamilton County Histories - view photos of Hamilton County people and schools, a Noblesville city directory, and Hamilton County Gazetteer, 1907 – 1908 - http://hepl.lib.in.us/indiana-room/

Online County Histories - http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/countyhistories1.htm#il

St. Joseph County Obituaries, Death Records, Funeral Memorials – search index of obituaries from various newspapers, death records and funeral memorials from the early 1900's to the present – http://www2.sjcpl.org/db/obits

Sullivan County Public Library – indexes of marriages, coroner's inquests, newspaper obits and death notices, burials, funeral home records, Sullivan High School graduates, wills, and admissions to the county home for various years - http://www.sullivan.lib.in.us/online-resources/

PERRY COUNTY, IN: **Tell City Public Library Obituary Index** – index and transcriptions of obituaries in the Perry County News, a few obituaries from other newspapers - some gravestone photos - http://165.138.8.66/history/obit
PERRY COUNTY, IN: **High School Yearbooks** - Tell City, Troy and Cannelton high schools - https://www.tcpclibrary.org/references-and-resources
Wabash Valley Visions and Voices Digital Memory Project - artifacts, administrative and personal papers, manuscripts, photographs, texts, yearbooks, maps, oral histories, and other audio/video files of the Wabash Valley region in west central Indiana and east central Illinois - http://visions.indstate.edu/
Wakarusa Online Obituaries (http://wakarusa.lib.in.us/historical/obituaries.asp

Indiana African American Research

AfricaMap – track the slave trade with historical overlays and geographical data - http://worldmap.harvard.edu/africamap/
AfriGeneas – slave records, death and marriage records, censuses, surnames – chat or send messages to other researchers - http://afrigeneas.com/
Free African Americans in the Southeast - Free people of color in the colonies of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware – a few families in Illinois, Tennessee and Indiana - http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/
International African American Museum - African American funeral programs, obituaries, marriage records, photos, historical documents and family histories – military records of the U.S. Colored Troops are currently being digitized - https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/records/
Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery - search thousands of "Information Wanted" advertisements taken out by former slaves in all states searching for family members lost by sale, flight, or enlistment – the collection currently includes newspapers from 1853 to 1911 - http://www.informationwanted.org/
Slave Voyages - the *Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database* documents vessels along the Atlantic slave routes from 1514 to 1866; *Intra-American Slave Trade Database* documents vessels traveling between the Atlantic and Pacific ports ranging from the United States to Brazil; the *African Names Database* gives names, ages, possible origins of slaves liberated from captured slave ships between 1808 and 1862 - https://www.slavevoyages.org/

Indiana Cemetery Research

Evansville, IN, City Cemeteries – search burial lists of Oak Hill and Locust Hill cemeteries - view cemetery maps, photos, histories - http://www.evansvillegov.org/city/topic/index.php?topicid=62&structureid=18
INDIANAPOLIS, MARION COUNTY, IN: **Crown Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery** – Locate a Loved One links to search fields of burials, includes burials in the National Cemetery, cemetery map included - http://www.crownhill.org/cemetery/locate-a-loved-one.html
Marion County Genealogical Society – search burials in Marion County listed by cemetery– detailed information about each burial, cemetery locations, conditions – an ongoing project to find all "lost" or relocated cemeteries - http://genealogyindy.org/cemeteryRecords.php

Indiana Military Research

Grand Army of the Republic Records Project – developing database - histories of posts, reports of officers and members if available, search by state - http://suvcw.org/garrecords/
Indiana Society Sons of the American Revolution Patriot Graves Registry - http://graves.inssar.org/

Indiana Native American Research

First People - Links to State Recognized Tribes, sorted by state - http://www.firstpeople.us/FP-Html-Links/state-recognized-tribes-in-usa-by-state.html
Native Languages of the Americas: Native American Cultures: search by state for information about indigenous peoples living in that area – http://www.native-languages.org/home.htm

Indiana Newspaper Research

ELKART COUNTY, IN: **Elkhart Newspaper Obituary Index** - search index of obituaries in *Elkhart Truth* from 1921 to the present - www.myepl.org/epl/cgi-bin/obituary_search.php

Hoosier State Chronicles – search or browse full-text images and transcriptions of Indiana newspapers from 1804 to 2011 - https://newspapers.library.in.gov/

Indiana Digital Historic Newspaper Program – search or browse newspapers published in Indiana in varying dates – website maintained by Indiana State Library - https://newspapers.library.in.gov/

Indiana Online Historical Newspapers – names of newspapers, links to websites with images of newspaper pages - https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home/usa/in

Lake County Obituaries – search index of obits in the *Crown Point Register* 1857 to 1933 and in the *Lake County Star* 1940 -2016 – list includes full name and the date the obit was published – contact library for copy of article - http://engagedpatrons.org/database/cpplobits/

Lake County Birth, Marriage and Death Announcements – index of obits in the *Post Tribune/Gary Post Tribune* 1921 to the present; index of birth, marriage, and death announcements in the *Lake County Register and Star* 1857 to 1938 - contact library for copy of article - http://engagedpatrons.org/database/LakeCountyObits/

Marshall County Newspaper Obituaries – search index of obituaries in *The Bremen Banner* and *The Bremen Enquirer* April 1884-2009- http://www2.bremen.lib.in.us/heritage/obits.htm

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, IN: **"South Bend Times" Name Index** – search name index of issues from 1881 to 1917 - www.sbags.org/times.htm

*ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, IN: "***Walkerton News" Indexes** –search name indexes of birth, marriage, and divorce announcements and of obituaries in the *Walkerton News* from 1886 to 1929 - http://sbags.org/walkerton.htm

Information on these pages is compiled from information in:

- *FamilySearch.org* Wiki
- Family Tree Magazine
- *The Weekly Genealogist, NEHGs; Genealogy Gems from the Allen County Public Library*
- *Dick Eastman Genealogy Newsletter*
- *Online Revolutionary War Indexes and Records*