

INDIANA GENEALOGY

Two Genealogy Sections

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The correlation of history and genealogy is so obvious that to call attention to it, other than for the sake of emphasis, is as superfluous as carrying coals to Newcastle. The history of a locality is bound up with the lives of its people. The branches of a family tree are intertwined with an accumulated growth of history.

Genealogy, *per se*, might soon die of its own boredom. If its pursuit led along a dusty road only to the finding of some links in a family chain, there would be justification for that attitude of antipathy which many people hold toward the word *genealogy*. But genealogy is more than this. It is a portrayal of the drama of life through succeeding epochs of history. Rather, it is an entire literature of life, for its byways and lanes lead into romance and poetry, tragedy and much comedy, biography and history. This is what gives to the quest for an ancestry that fascination from which the devotee cannot and does not care to free himself.

The genealogical importance of a state is determined largely by three rather inter-dependent factors—namely, geographical position, age, and the character of its record. That section of the United States which is now recognized as Indiana, has always benefited, both from migrations and other forces, from being on the line of march. The territorial years, plus almost a century and a quarter of statehood, have built up for Indiana an established place in history. Position and age, with some unusual contributory influences, have combined to make of that history and its attendant genealogy a record worthy of investigation.

Indiana is becoming more and more a fertile field for genealogical research. Its records are being sought not only by its own people but by those of other states with Indiana connections. For this reason, an additional source of information becomes of widespread interest. The news of the inauguration of a section in the *Indiana Magazine of History* to be devoted to Indiana Genealogy and to be conducted by Mrs. Harvey Morris of Salem, Indiana, spread with almost the swiftness of telepathy. That the section takes on the nature of a tribunal before which one can lay his case, causes even greater

rejoicing. Its auspicious start and its enthusiastic reception augur well for its future, and it is both hoped and urged that through interest of its patrons and additional subscriptions to the *Magazine*, the section will receive the support necessary for its continuance.

While there is no official connection between the Genealogy Section of the *Indiana Magazine of History* and the Genealogy Section of the Indiana State Library, it is purposed that the two shall co-operate to the extent of a mutual helpfulness. Their very differences and distinctions should work toward successful results. It can readily be seen that the Section in the *Magazine* will fulfill a long-felt need which the Library Section cannot meet, for the latter does not undertake the research necessary to the supplying of links in a family history. Its purpose is to answer the very definite requests which can be handled through indices and readily available guides, to direct in the use of the material in the Library, and to suggest, whenever possible, sources where information may be found. Since no material circulates from the Genealogical Section of the State Library, the disadvantage to that patron who cannot visit the Library in person, is met with a limited amount of copying and with a somewhat greater effort to put this patron in touch with the material in the library. The actual work of research is to be done by the person in quest of facts, or by that one, not connected with the Library staff, whom he may choose to carry on the investigation.

An extensive system of indexing is in progress under the direction of Miss Leona Tobey, assistant in the genealogy room. This will be a constantly increasing aid to both patron and librarian in promoting accessibility of records. Already the genealogy catalog, which is supplementary to the main catalog of the State Library, contains the lists of family and local histories and many analytical references. Several indexing projects are in process, the chief one being the alphabetizing on cards of the names of heads of families as found in the photostat copies of the Indiana census records for 1820 and 1830. While the work on many of the counties of the 1820 record is finished and the cards filed, it will be some months before the entire list is complete. The Society of Indiana Pioneers and the Indiana Historical Society have aided materially in contributions for the thousands of cards neces-

sary for the project. Other important records are being indexed, in some cases the service of patrons being offered gratis and accepted gratefully. Mrs. J. M. Hopkins, of Indianapolis, is indexing the scrapbooks containing the *Boston Transcript* clippings. Mr. Willard E. Wight, of Indianapolis, has already finished an alphabetical list of names of Indiana Pensioners in the 1835 pension roll, and has begun work on the rolls of other states.

The editor of the Genealogy Section of the *Magazine* has kindly offered occasional space for lists of material and other items from the Library which may tend to keep the two sections in close relationship. Both sections are new, the Library Section having been opened to the public March 1, 1934. Up to that time the work had been carried on by the Reference and Indiana History Divisions of the library. But so well were the foundations laid during the years of the Library's existence, both as to material and methods of work and the later cataloging of the separated collection, that the first librarian of the new section found the way already paved.

It is impossible at this time to do more than suggest the nature of the material which is being added to the Library. More detailed lists will appear later. The request that the people of Indiana make the Library a depository for their family histories is meeting with a liberal response and should be kept in mind. Many of these histories in manuscript, pamphlet, chart, and book form are being received. Local histories and miscellaneous material have been acquired through donations and through purchase. Sets, which may be difficult to obtain later on, are receiving especial attention, such as, for instance, the volumes of the *Vermont Historical Gazetteer*. The publications of the Harleian Society of England, comprising parish registers and visitations of the heralds will help in standardizing the collection in the genealogy room. Strassburger's volumes on the *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*, giving lists of arrivals at the port of Philadelphia between 1727 and 1808 with names of ships, is a distinct addition. William Wade Hinshaw's first volume of the *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, recently off the press, has been in constant use since its reception. The library is fortunate in having the seven collections on Virginia history covered by the new two-volume *Virginia Historical Index*, which contains over twenty-two hundred pages of references.

The coöperation of the patriotic and historical societies in Indiana leaves little to be desired. The Indiana Society of Mayflower Descendants has deposited its entire collection here, thus putting it at the disposal of patrons using the library. The Society of Colonial Wars has done likewise. The Society of Colonial Dames is placing its memorial volumes here. The Daughters of Founders and Patriots have given lineage books and separate volumes. The Daughters of the American Revolution continue to place in the library one copy of each of the genealogical records compiled by the various chapters in the state. Gifts have been received from the Sons of the American Revolution, the Children of the American Revolution, and Daughters of 1812. Noteworthy among cemetery records are those of Ripley County, compiled by Miss Violet E. Toph of Versailles and Mr. Harry O. Garman of Indianapolis, the work having been done under the auspices of the Indiana Historical Society.

The Genealogy Section of the Indiana State Library, being the older of the two sections, extends the right hand of fellowship to the Genealogy Section of the *Indiana Magazine of History*, and congratulates it on its opportunity and ability not only to furnish much needed information but to become a real force in focusing attention on Indiana genealogy and to help in keeping Indiana in pace with other states that are meeting the "wave of genealogy" which sweeps the country. May the new Section live long and prosper.