

## Genealogy

### GENEALOGICAL MATERIAL IN ST. JOSEPH COUNTY, INDIANA

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Yes, the northern part of the state has ancestor hunters, too. The genealogical corner of the Local History Department of the South Bend Public Library is a popular place although its volumes are limited. To supplement this collection, the files of old newspapers, dating back to 1831, are consulted at the Northern Indiana Historical Museum and the records of marriages, wills, and deeds are searched at the courthouse.

The "Index to Marriages in St. Joseph County," dates back to 1832. Volume one, an old, worn book with a very loose cover, disappeared several years ago. In some clean-up process at the courthouse it must have been discarded as useless—another instance of the loss of valuable material through carelessness or ignorance. Very few of the family names in the early index are well-known names in the community today. The ones that are known have been written into South Bend history as "Founders." Many French names appear in the old records; Madore Cratee, for example, whose marriage was recorded on page 36 of the lost book. His name is inseparably connected with the St. Joseph River. As captain of the freight boat, "Fairplay," the story of his life is the story of the St. Joseph River in its days of navigation.

The "Deeds of St. Joseph County" are on file back to 1831 and the "Mortgages" date back to 1833. It is very fitting that the first property transfer in the book should concern Alexis Coquillard, his wife Frances, and Samuel Hanna. It was Coquillard and Lathrop Taylor, Samuel Hanna's brother-in-law, who laid out the town of South Bend. From old deeds one can often establish family relationships but it takes careful reading of these documents. The property may be referred to as "that which I received from my brother William" or "that which I received by will from my father." Now and then a complete abstract is given on an old deed as, "this being the property received by Elizabeth Smith as her dower right from the Court of Common Pleas and bequeathed by will to her eldest son Samuel, who in turn willed it to his son John," etc.

St. Joseph County's earliest recorded will seems to be that of James Ireland, of the county of Cass in the Territory of Michigan, dated tenth day of March, 1832. If you can find an ancestor who made a will mentioning each one of his children, his father and mother, and his wife's maiden name, you are in luck. So often, through death or dissension in the family, the names of one or two of the children were omitted when the bequests were handed out. In spite of the "uncertainty of this mortal life," and the "sound and perfect memory" of the testator, wills can be very confusing to the genealogical worker. While furniture, cattle, lands, and cash are listed with great accuracy, the name you are looking for may be missing.

The Public Library in South Bend has the enumerator's copy of the 1880 Census of St. Joseph County. This volume, discarded from the courthouse, is a very valuable book. It has proved more than one old-age pensioner's right to a pension as it gives the age of each St. Joseph County resident at the time the census was taken.

The Local History Department has a file of over 6,500 biographies of St. Joseph County and Indiana residents and 180 histories of the northern Indiana counties; these have been very useful to genealogists. The genealogy section in this department boasts only a few individual family genealogies, but many a searcher has found clues among such helpful books and magazines as the following:

- Charles T. Libby, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* (5 pts. Portland, Maine, 1928-1938).
- James Savage, *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, showing Three Generations of those who came before May, 1692, on the basis of Farmer's Register* (4 vols., Boston, 1860-1862).
- I. Daniel Rupp, *A Collection of Upwards of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776* (Philadelphia, 1898).
- Marvin V. Koger, *Index to the Names of 30,000 Immigrants, German, Swiss, Dutch and French into Pennsylvania, 1727-1776, Supplementing The I. Daniel Rupp, Ship Load Volume* (n.p., 1935, mimeographed).
- Alfred S. Roe, *Rose Neighborhood Sketches, Wayne County, New York; with glimpses of the adjacent towns: Butler, Wolcott, Huron, Sodus, Lyons and Savannah* (Worcester, Massachusetts, 1893).
- Gustav Anjou, *Ulster County, N. Y. Probate Records in the office of the surrogate, and in the county clerk's office at Kingston, N. Y.* . . . (New York, 1906).

- Pennsylvania Archives* (9 series, 119 vols., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1852-1935).
- William W. Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* (3 vols., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1936-1940).
- Frederick A. Virkus (ed.), *The Compendium of American Genealogy* . . . (7 vols., Chicago, 1925-1942).
- Frederick A. Virkus (ed.), *The Handbook of American Genealogy* (4 vols., Chicago, 1932-1943).
- Early Settlers of New York State, their Ancestors and Descendants* (Akron, New York, 1934- ). The title varies since numbers one through five of Volume I carry the title of *Early Settlers of Western New York*.
- Indiana Magazine of History* (Bloomington, Indiana, 1905- ).
- Historical Collections* . . . *Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society* (40 vols., Lansing, Michigan, 1877-1929), 1874-1915.
- Americana* (New York, 1906- ), 1932-1943.
- Old Northwest Genealogical Quarterly* (15 vols., Columbus, Ohio, 1898-1912).
- Mrs. Roscoe C. O'Byrne (comp.), *Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution buried in Indiana* (n.p., 1938).
- Daughters of the American Revolution, *Official Roster of the Soldiers of the American Revolution buried in Ohio* (Columbus, Ohio, 1929).
- Harry Wright Newman, *Maryland Revolutionary Records* (Washington, 1938).
- John H. Gwathmey, *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution—Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, 1775-1783* (Richmond, 1938).
- National Historical Magazine* (Washington, 1892- ), 1929-1944.

The local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution gives the Library the last-mentioned magazine and has placed many of its lineage books and other valuable genealogical material in the Local History Department. Through their efforts some of the local church and cemetery records have been copied.

Among other useful books in the library are the following:

- Arthur C. Fox-Davies, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry* (London, 1929).
- John B. Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage together with Memoirs of the Privy Councillors and Knights* (London, 1890).
- John B. Burke, *Burke's Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Peerage, Baronetage and Knightage, Privy Council and Order of Precedence* (London, 1938).
- John B. Burke, *Burke's Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry including American Families with British Ancestry* (London, 1939).
- James Fairbairn (comp.), *Fairbairn's Crests of the Leading Families in Great Britain and Ireland and their Kindred in other Lands* (two volumes in one, New York, 1911).

And several other books of this type, not so well known, afford endless delight to the student of heraldry.

#### DEARBORN COUNTY MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1806-1815

Compiled by ALAMEDA MCCOLLOUGH

A collection of Dearborn County, Indiana Territory, marriage licenses from 1806 to 1815 were presented to the Tippecanoe County Historical Association by Mrs. J. L. Caldwell, formerly of Lafayette but now of San Diego, California. They were inherited by her with other papers and effects from her great-grandfather, William Major, who was born in Chester County, Pennsylvania, December 27, 1766. Emigrating to Lexington, Kentucky, in 1795, he crossed over to Indiana Territory in 1801 and settled on the Whitewater River in what is now Dearborn County.

On March 7, 1803, William Major was appointed by Governor William Henry Harrison as justice of the peace of Dearborn County; from December 14, 1805 to December 31, 1813, he was a member of the court of common pleas, and served as an associate judge of the circuit court from January 6, 1814 to February 14, 1817.<sup>1</sup> He came to Tippecanoe County in 1830, and in 1832 was the founder of a village in Lauramie Township which he called "Monroe." Monroe enjoyed a brisk growth until the Madison, Indianapolis Railroad to Lafayette in 1853 by-passed it and left it to ultimate decline. William Major died March 14, 1845, and is buried in the family lot at the Monroe Cemetery but a stone's throw from United States Highway 52.

In the following list of some of the Dearborn County Marriage Records from 1806 to 1815, the "L" indicates the date on which the license was issued and the "M" the date of the marriage:

Richard T. Gayness to Catherine Vincent, L, 9-1-1806.

Williams Eads to Jane Adair, L, 1-10-1807.

James Remy to Rebeckah Adair, L, 2-10-1807.

John Alverstatz to Charlotte Shank, L, 10-3-1807.

Enoch McCarty to Elizabeth Logan, L, 10-10-1807.

James Logan to Liddy McCarty, L, 11-28-1807.

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<sup>1</sup> Louis B. Ewbank and Dorothy L. Riker (eds.), *Laws of Indiana Territory, 1809-1816* (*Indiana Historical Collections*, XX, Indianapolis, 1934), 836; William W. Woollen, Daniel W. Howe, and Jacob P. Dunn (eds.), *Executive Journal of Indiana Territory, 1800-1816*, Indiana Historical Society Publications (Indianapolis, 1897- ), III (1905), 117, 205, 221.