



Editor & Writer: Libby Feil, Librarian & Manager, Local & Family History Services

News & Events

Thanks to everyone who came out for the joint [St. Joseph County Public Library - South Bend Area Genealogical Society](#) program, "Journeys and Journals: Indiana Immigration and Writing Your Family Memoirs." Speakers Patrick Furlong and June Goldstein drew a crowd of more than 40 people on April 14 to Main Library's Colfax Auditorium. Many people then stayed in the Library all day doing research. Sara Allen from Local History and Bill Minish and Mary Waterson from SBAGS did a terrific job of planning and organizing the morning. Sara, Local History's programming coordinator, is always planning more events for you, so stay tuned for more class offerings in the upcoming year.

Speaking of volunteers, April was Volunteer Appreciation Month, and in Local History we have 9 WONDERFUL volunteers whom we very much appreciate. Many others appreciate them too: several of our volunteers received special gifts at the [annual Library volunteer recognition dinner](#) because of the hundreds or even thousands of service hours they have donated to the Library. Toni Cook, Irv Morse, and Martha Pickrell all received additional recognition as nominees for the [2007 Community Association of Volunteer Coordinators award](#) and the [2007 Michiana 55 Plus Volunteer Awards](#). Toni Cook was even chosen as one of the CAVCO winners! Without Toni, Irv, Martha, Carol Collins, Steve Elek, Joyce Hug, Audrey Johnson, Bill Minish, and Mike Schoen, Local History would not be able to answer patrons' long-distance queries, have an Obituary Index, and provide many other important services. The Local History staff is very thankful for all of you, and I know our patrons are too.

Speaking of volunteers, several people have recently signed up to help us out with genealogy projects here, and will be starting soon. We can always use more volunteers and we're excited to welcome newcomers into the fold!

New & Notable Items

If you're in the neighborhood, stop by to check out our new materials. In the past few weeks we've received a big shipment of genealogy books (atlases, county histories, will indexes, cemetery transcriptions, vital statistics indexes, and more) on a variety of Indiana counties. Which counties? Too many to list here, but included are at least one book each on Boone, Brown, Daviess, Lawrence, Montgomery, Posey, Ripley, Scott, Spencer, Vanderburgh, Vermillion, Vigo, and Washington Counties.

We've added a new database to our "[Digital Collections and Databases](#)" page too: NewspaperARCHIVE is now available in every branch of the Library. It contains actual article clippings from American newspapers from a wide variety of time periods. It doesn't have the full run of many newspapers, but it does have enough material to make using it worthwhile. I did a quick search for some of my California relatives and found that this database had articles from some very useful small-town papers. Give it a try and let us know how you like it!