



Local & Family History

October 2007  www.libraryforlife.org/localhistory/  local.history@sjcpl.org  (574) 282-4621

Editor & Writer: [Libby Feil](#), Local & Family History Librarian & Manager  Writer: [Sara Allen](#), Local & Family History Librarian

Did You Know? by Libby Feil

Local & Family History has many gems in its collection that patrons don't seem to know about. Recently I've had several people ask me to purchase books for our collection -- books that we already had! In a collection as big as ours, it's easy to overlook some great items. I wanted to share a few often overlooked but valuable resources with you, from our room and also our website.

Stop by the LFH room on the second floor of Main Library to take a look at some of our treasures. Have you seen our *Township Atlas of the United States*, which names and gives details about all the townships in the country? Did you know that, in addition to our frequently used marriage indexes covering 1860 to 1957, we have marriage indexes that start in 1830 and that extend forward to 1965? Have you tried our general genealogical dictionaries, which help you make sense of old-fashioned terms? How about our genealogical dictionaries for German, Polish, and general Central European languages? For you history buffs, we collect books on a variety of interesting historical topics: Indiana architecture, railroads, bridges, canals, military battles and regiments, and more. Many of these can be checked out. We also have a small but growing collection of local authors, focused on the St. Joseph County area but with additional materials from Indiana authors. Many historic St. Joe County and Indiana writers, such as James Whitcomb Riley, can be found here.

In addition to our extensive book collection, we house a great number of microfilm reels and genealogy and history magazines. Have you used our extensive Catholic church records on microfilm? We have the records of the Fort Wayne/South Bend diocese up through 1920 and in some cases later. We also subscribe to many popular genealogy magazines and local genealogical society's newsletters, so that you can keep up on new developments in the field and get inspired. The South Bend Area Genealogical Society has been kind enough to give us the newsletters that they receive from genealogical societies around the country. Come in to see if we have one from the area that you're researching!

Those of you who live outside the Michiana area or have trouble making it to Main Library can still take advantage of LFH's unique resources. Take a minute to visit our website at the web address above. On the "Digital collections and databases" page, all of the databases marked with a blue "Available anywhere" button can be used by anyone from anywhere in the world. The items marked with a miniature library card can be used by SJCPL library card holders at any computer. Many people still don't realize that we have how-to articles posted on our website as well. Click on "How-to guides" to find articles on family history, local history, publishing a family history book, finding birth dates for foreign-born relatives, and more.

Come in to hunt for all of our "buried treasure"! We hope to see you soon.



October 2007, p. 2  www.libraryforlife.org/localhistory/  local.history@sjcpl.org  (574) 282-4621

Upcoming Local and Regional Events, by Sara Allen & Libby Feil

Many local groups and libraries have fun activities planned for this month.

- [Niles District Library](#) will put on a “Local History and Genealogy @ the Library” mini-conference; October 20 at the Library. Call them at 269-683-8545 to preregister.
- LaPorte County Indiana Genealogical Society will host “Sharing Our Sources” sessions to provide research help; October 20 at the Swanson Activity Center. Stop by the Center, at 910 State Street in LaPorte, between 11:00 AM and 3:00 PM.
- St. Joseph County Archives and Records Center will provide orientation and tour sessions; October 20 and 25 at the Archives. Preregister and get more information by calling 574-235-9091.
- [Elkhart County Genealogical Society](#) will host a “Fall Workshop”; on October 27 at the Rush Memorial Center in Bristol. Go to [their website](#) to get the details.
- And mark your calendars for our own “All About Ancestry.com” program, coming up Tuesday, November 13, at 10:00 AM. Libby will provide strategies that will help you use this very popular online database, as well as tips on how to use Ancestry for free. We’ll meet in the Dickinson Room on our Lower Level. Call us at 574-282-4621 to preregister.

Volunteers Make It Possible, by Libby Feil

All Local & Family History staff and patrons need to give a hearty thank-you to the 10 current LFH volunteers. They contribute a total of at least 100 hours of work to our department each month. Without them, we wouldn’t have an Obituary Index. (Thank you, Audrey Johnson, Carol Collins, and Alice Clark.) We wouldn’t have been able to answer the more than 9,200 look-up requests that we’ve received so far this year. (Thank goodness for Irv Morse and Toni Cook.) We wouldn’t have a Local History Education Database and a *Bendixline* Index in the works. (Thanks to Bill Minish, Joyce Hug, and Steve Elek, Jr.) We wouldn’t have an archival collection on its way to becoming publicly available. (Thank you, Martha Pickrell.) And we wouldn’t find all the books that have been misshelved. (Welcome to our newest volunteer, Sharon Grow.) If you’re interested in volunteering, just ask for an application at our desk or e-mail me at l.feil@sjcpl.org. We’d love to have you join us!

Did You Know? by Libby Feil

Here’s something else you may not know: you can call us at 574-282-4621 to arrange a half-hour one-on-one research help session. One of us will sit down with you, answer any questions you have about family history, and help you with those frustrating “brick walls” that we all hit sometimes in our research.