



News & Events

The high price of gas has not slowed genealogists down. In the past month, we've had visitors from all over Indiana and Michigan, and from as far away as California and Georgia. Take advantage of our air conditioning and make us your destination too!

Even if you can't make it in, you can take advantage of our website's resources. New to [our website](#): helpful tips and information from our recent program "[Where Our Grandparents Walked: Finding Our Ancestral Homelands](#)." Visit our website and then click "[Programs and exhibits](#)" to find these and other slideshows and handouts from past programs.

[Local & Family History](#) has both good and sad news this month. Sad news first: longtime patron John Patrick Henry died on Friday, June 27, in his home. In addition to carrying out his personal research here, John Patrick had once been a volunteer for us and was instrumental in creating the first Local & Family History website. [Click for his obituary](#) (search for last name Henry on 6/29).

Now, the good news. Longtime Local & Family History volunteer Toni Cook, who also volunteers at the [Northern Indiana Center for History](#), recently won the NICH Lloyd S. Taylor Excellence in Volunteerism Award, along with her husband, Jon. We congratulate Toni, whom we know from firsthand experience to indeed be an excellent volunteer! Even with help from Toni, we have plenty of work here for volunteers to do, so [e-mail](#) or call me if you are interested in applying. (See contact information above.) We have projects here that range from preservation photocopying to carrying out research.

Be sure to keep an eye out in the [South Bend Tribune](#) for each Monday's "Through the Years" column. We have expanded the number of writers for this column, so you will see articles by me but also by other area history professionals, our volunteers, and even our patrons! (If *you* have an interest in writing a column about an aspect of the history of our area, please [contact me](#) for more information.) If you live out of area, you can still read these columns. Just visit the [Tribune](#) once a week and use the search box near the top of the page; search for "Libby Feil," and all of the columns sponsored and edited by Local & Family History will appear. You never know when one of our columns might be about your relative!

If you are a fan of NewspaperARCHIVE, one of our databases that you can use from home with a valid [SJCPL](#) card, you might have had problems recently when trying to search this enormous collection of searchable newspapers. The explanation: NewspaperARCHIVE.com operates from a building in downtown Cedar Rapids, Iowa, right in the heart of the recent [Iowa flooding](#). Fortunately, their staff and operations are all fine, and the database is working again.

Speaking of databases: stay tuned for a big announcement. We are working on a way to allow people from outside our area to purchase an SJCPL card; getting your own card would allow you to use many of [our databases](#), including NewspaperARCHIVE.

Lost & Found Department: Are you the patron who has lost a medium-sized spiral-bound research notebook with a light blue cover? If so, please stop by the Local & Family History desk to retrieve it.