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Ancestor Migrations

Hennon Siblings Move from Ohio to Indiana and Farther West, 1850s through 1870s

ROBERT DEWITT HENNON

By the middle of 1865, all of my Hennon ancestors who had lived in Muskingum County, Ohio, since about 1812 had migrated to other parts of the United States including Indiana. This article attempts to document the migrations of the first generation of Hennons to move away from Ohio.

Although I cannot document where my great-great-grandfather, James Hennon Sr., and his wife Osee Dewitt were living in 1808, family legend places them in Washington County, Pennsylvania, at this time. Based on evidence regarding the birth of their first child, Elizabeth, born September 13, 1809, according to the family Bible, James Sr. and Osee Dewitt Hennon were probably living in Pennsylvania and were probably married by 1808.¹ The 1850 U.S. census for Muskingum County lists Elizabeth's place of birth as Pennsylvania.² Their second child, Mary, was born on August 29, 1812.³ The 1850 U.S. census lists Mary's birth place as Ohio.⁴ The birth dates for these two children indicate that the

family of James Hennon Sr. moved to Muskingum County sometime between 1809 and 1812.

James and Osee had four other children: James Jr. on October 26, 1814; George Washington on March 26, 1817; Thomas on November 16, 1819; and Joseph Jackson on December 1, 1825.⁵ All four sons were born in Ohio according to U.S. census records for 1860, 1870, and 1880.

The first of my ancestors to emigrate from Ohio were Elizabeth and Mary. Elizabeth married Andrew Cole on December 31, 1835.⁶ By 1850 they had six children.⁷ A search of land records for Muskingum County shows that Andrew sold all of his property on September 2,

1857.⁸ A search of subsequent land records indicates that Andrew owned no property in Muskingum County after 1857. The 1860 U.S. census places Andrew and his family in McDonough County, Illinois.⁹ The Mills County, Iowa, 1985 Heritage Book states that the Cole family left Illinois in 1866 and settled in Mills County, Iowa.¹⁰

Although a thorough search of the 1870 census records for Mills County did not reveal Andrew Cole, the Mills County heritage book lists his date of death as December 17, 1874. His will was probated on April 13, 1875.¹¹ Elizabeth (Hennon) Cole died in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on August 14, 1904, at the age of 97.¹²

Aaron Cole, Andrew's brother, married Mary Hennon on September 11, 1834, in Muskingum County, Ohio.¹³ The 1850 U.S. census for the county shows five children.¹⁴ Land records also show Aaron selling his property to a Jno.



Ryerson, George

Obituary: "George Ryerson Dies at Soldiers Home," *Covington Republican*, 15 June 1928, p. 1, col. 6: "George Ryerson, age 81, civil war veteran of Attica, died at 1:55 Sunday in the Soldiers Home in Danville, Ill. The remains were taken to Attica by T. V. Marshall and taken to his funeral home on east Jackson street, where they were prepared for burial. Monday they were removed to Mr. Ryerson's late residence.

"The deceased is survived by four daughters, Mrs. Lula Farmer of Attica, and Mrs. Myrtle Holycross of Indianapolis and [Mrs.] Alden Nail, of Attica."

[Note: The fourth daughter was not listed.]

Smith, Thomas R.

Obituary: "Deaths," *Covington Republican*, 12 Feb. 1897, p. 1, cols. 5 and 6: "Died at his home northeast of Covington on Friday evening February 5 1897 of pneumonia, Smith was 55 years and 21 days. He was born January 12, 1842 and was married to Mary R. Piper in 1870. To them were born 11 children, of whom 4 sons and 3 daughters are living. He enlisted in the war of the rebellion August 1862 and was discharged and mustered out in 1865. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias and stood high in the order among the members. The GAR's of this place also testified to his worth as a comrade by following the old soldier to his last camp where his arms were stacked and tent struck preparatory to his enlistment in the army of the Lord.

"Services at Bend Church and interment at Steely cemetery, Monday afternoon."

He was somewhat eccentric and because of his mechanical experiments and the work he conducted at his workshop he was looked upon as a genius and somewhat peculiar.

Strong, James

Obituary: "Mellott Veteran Dies," *Covington Friend*, 2 Jan. 1914, p. 1, col. 6: "James Strong, an aged veteran of the Civil War, died last Friday morning at his home in Mellott. Infirmities of age had been sapping his strength for a long time and his death had been anticipated. He was past 79 years of age, and for the past four years had been totally blind. The funeral services were held on Sunday."

Van Lear, Jeremiah

News item, *People's Friend* (Covington), 6 May 1863, p. 2, col. 1: "Private Jerry Vanlear of Co. B, 63rd, accidentally shot himself last Friday. The wound is supposed to be mortal."

Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana, vol. 6, p. 22: Jeremiah Vanleer resided in Covington when he was mustered 1 May 1862. He died 7 June 1864 of wounds.

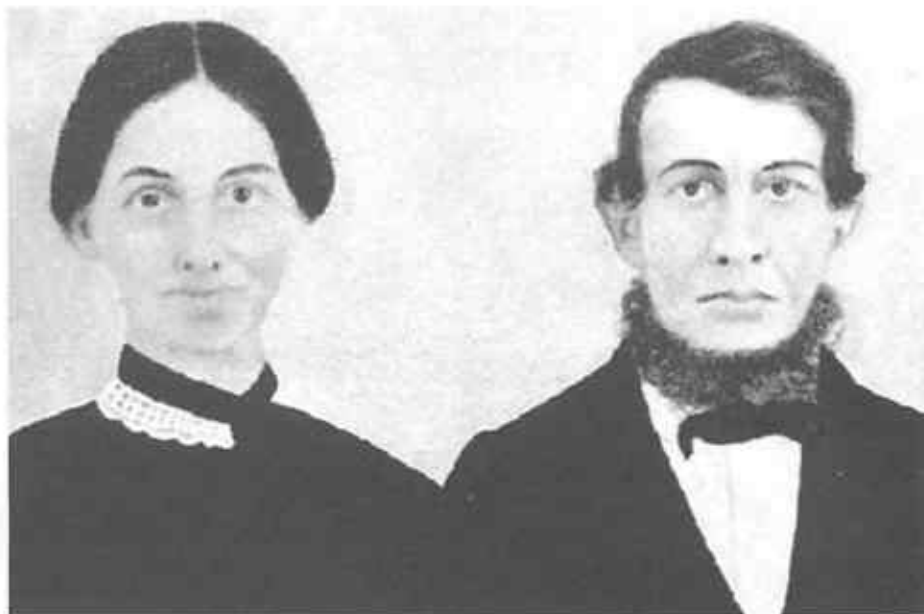
[Note: See *The Hoosier Genealogist*, vol. 44, no. 3, pp. 187-88 for Benjamin F. Vanlear.] ■

Mary Blair Immel has an MA in U.S. history, has taught school, served as assistant to the director of the Tippecanoe County Historical Association, and organized TIPCOA, the Tippecanoe County Area Genealogical Society. Immel, an award-winning storyteller, is the author of several books, including the children's book, Captured! A Boy Trapped in the Civil War (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 2005), which was one of twenty-seven books honored by the American Library Association on June 25, 2006, in New Orleans in its program, "The Best of the Best of the University Presses: Books You Should Know About."

McGlade on September 21, 1857.¹⁵ Additional deed searches indicate that Aaron bought no more land after the 1857 sale. By 1860 the U.S. census for Nodaway County, Missouri, shows the family residing in Nodaway Township.¹⁶ The 1870 U.S. census lists the family in Andrews County, Missouri.¹⁷ Mary (Hennon) Cole died on February 8, 1872, and Aaron died on August 28, 1881.¹⁸

Elizabeth and Mary's brothers did not migrate until several years later. By 1860 all four had married and were raising families. George Hennon married Andrew and Aaron's sister, Mary Cole, on March 1, 1838.¹⁹ The 1860 U.S. census lists seven children in their household.²⁰ James Jr. married Margaret Meeks on October 24, 1839, and in 1860 this family had six children.²¹ Thomas married Barbara Devore on May 6, 1841, and they also had six children by 1860.²² The last to marry was Joseph, who married Sarah McKee on April 26, 1850, and in 1860 had four children.²³

Speculation suggests that the Hennon brothers planned to migrate west as their brothers-in-law and two sisters had done. On October 29, 1859, James Sr. sold to George eighty acres of land for \$800. On the same day George sold the same parcel to a Nicolas Sutton for \$2,000.²⁴ This was quite a mark up, and the difference would have provided George with ample cash to emigrate. However, George had other parcels of



Mary (Cole) Hennon and George Washington Hennon. George is the author's great-great-uncle. (Courtesy of author)

land he needed to sell before departing Ohio. Something else that may have delayed George and his brothers from moving West was concern for their elderly father. Their mother, Osee (Dewitt) Hennon, died October 26, 1855. Their father, James Hennon Sr., lived until June 30, 1861.²⁵ Perhaps after his death the brothers felt free to migrate to greener pastures.

Joseph was appointed executor of his father's estate. The will was probated on July 15, 1861, and the estate was closed on November 23, 1863.²⁶ During this time, George sold his remaining properties, one parcel of forty-three acres on

April 24, 1862 (price on deed illegible), and another parcel of forty-nine acres on December 19, 1862, for the sum of \$1,500.²⁷

The other brothers began selling their land in 1864. The first was Thomas, who sold eighty acres on February 27, 1864, to John B. Sutton for \$1,967.50.²⁸ On July 20, 1864, James Jr. sold his property of seventy acres to John M. Lane for \$2,000.00.²⁹ Joseph parted with one hundred acres on August 30, 1864, selling the land to Joseph Sutton for \$4,000.00.³⁰ An exhaustive search of deed records revealed no further land transactions in Muskingum County by the four Hennon brothers. They were apparently readying their families to migrate. Land records show that each of the brothers bought land in Martin County, Indiana, between February 1864 and April 1865.

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Margaret (Meeks) Hennon and James Hennon Jr., the author's great-grandparents (Courtesy of author)

George bought 120 acres from Joseph G. Gutheridge for \$825 on February 23, 1864.³¹

Thomas was the first brother to follow George. He bought land in Martin County, Indiana, from George Sipes and others on March 24, 1864, for \$2,600.³² Joseph, the youngest brother, paid \$4,800 for 360 acres from George Adams and wife on October 29, 1864.³³ James Jr. did not buy land until 1865. He purchased 220 acres for \$3,300 from Thomas Hitchcock and others on April 27, 1865.³⁴

Why James waited almost nine months to buy land in Martin County is unknown. In fact, the details about the Hennons' journey is largely unknown: why they chose Martin County, Indiana, in which to settle; whether one or more brothers found land in Indiana and

then sent for their families; whether the families traveled together or separately; what mode(s) of transportation the Hennons used. Regarding the latter question, railroads or overland roads seem most likely. By the mid-1860s railroads connected Muskingum County, Ohio, to Columbus, Ohio; Columbus to Cincinnati, Ohio; and Cincinnati to Martin County, Indiana.³⁵ Alternatively, the National Road ran directly from Muskingum County to Indianapolis, and several roads existed during this period from Indianapolis to the southern parts of the state.³⁶

According to Mabel Japinga, a direct descendant of George Hennon, two deaths may have been associated with the trip to Indiana. George's wife, Mary (Cole) Hennon, gave birth to Mary E. Hennon on April 27, 1864. This was only

two months after George's purchase of Martin County land. Mary (Cole) died on September 23, 1864, and the baby died a few days later on September 30, 1864. Nearly one year later, George married Clarinda Wallace on August 10, 1865.³⁷

Not all of the Hennon brothers remained in Martin County for long. Thomas sold his land for \$4,200.00 on April 24, 1866.³⁸ He moved a short distance away to Indian Creek Township, Lawrence County, Indiana. On May 5, 1866, he paid J. J. Price \$2,670.80 for more than 220 acres.³⁹ Thomas died in Lawrence County on September 18, 1876, and he was buried in New Union Cemetery, located in the town of Springville, just north of Indian Creek Township.⁴⁰ At least two of Thomas's children were still living in Lawrence County in 1880.⁴¹

Joseph's death date at this writing remains unknown as well; however, he is buried in the Roachdale, Indiana, cemetery with Sarah and their daughter Minerva. Unfortunately, the dates on their tombstone are not legible.

Joseph was the second brother to leave Martin County. He began selling his land in 1867 and by 1880 was living in Putnam County, Indiana, working as a carpenter.⁴² On April 20, 1867, he sold 12.9 acres in Martin County for \$72 to Campbell W. Dickson.⁴³ On July 8, 1867, he sold 116.8 acres in Martin County for \$1,500 to Robert Adams.⁴⁴ The 1870 U.S. census shows Joseph and his family still living in Martin County, in Mitcheltree Township.⁴⁵ I have not been successful in locating documents related to Joseph's departure from Martin County. In addition, I do not know why his wife, Sarah,

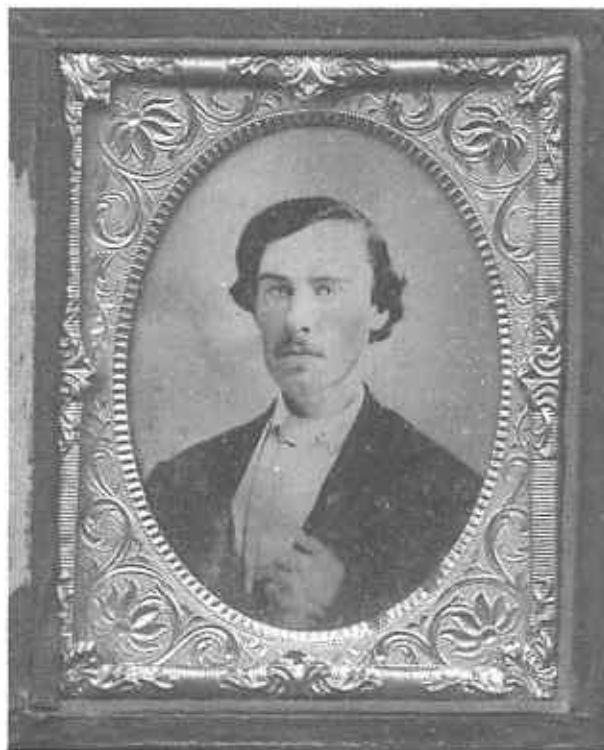
or any of his children are not recorded with him in the 1880 census, which lists him as a border in the household of William Matkin in Roachdale, Putnam County, Indiana. Joseph's death date at this writing remains unknown as well; however, he is buried in the Roachdale, Indiana, cemetery with Sarah and their daughter Minerva.⁴⁶ Unfortunately, the dates on their tombstone are not legible.

George sold all of the 120 acres he owned by March 26, 1868. The first piece of land he sold was forty acres to his son John C. Hennon on December 6, 1866, for \$550.⁴⁷ The second tract of

land was sold to James Sibert for \$700.⁴⁸ By 1870 George and his second wife, Clarinda, and their family were living in Halbert Township, Martin County.⁴⁹ No records of real estate transactions have been found after 1870. George divorced Clarinda and was married for a third time on August 31, 1876, to Harriet Sponsler.⁵⁰ Sometime between 1870 and 1880, George, Harriet, George's son Francis "Frank," and his stepson Winfield, moved to Knox County, Indiana.⁵¹ No date or place of death for George has been found.

James Jr. sold 140 acres of the 220 he purchased in Martin County to his two sons, Aaron DeWitt Hennon and James M. Hennon, for \$2,000 on May 13, 1868.⁵² James Jr. and his family moved to Jackson Township in Greene County, Indiana, where he bought 107 acres for \$1,500 from Basil Graham.⁵³ It is interesting to note that Aaron (25 years old) and James M. (21 years old) were listed in the household of their father in the 1870 U.S. census.⁵⁴ I speculate from the census data that the land in Martin County held jointly by the

Aaron DeWitt Hennon (born in Ohio ca. 1842), son of James Hennon Jr. and Margaret (Meeks) Hennon, and the author's grandfather (Courtesy of author)





Franklin P. "Frank" Hennon (top; born in Ohio, ca. 1853), and James M. Hennon (bottom; born in Ohio, ca. 1847), sons of James Hennon Jr. and Margaret (Meeks) Hennon, and the author's great-uncles (Photos courtesy of author)

two brothers was either used as farm land or held as an investment. As of this writing, no record of a subsequent sale of the tract of land in Martin County has been found. James Jr. died in Owensburg, Jackson Township, Greene County, on November 22, 1872, and was buried in the Owensburg Cemetery.⁵⁵

In conclusion, I did not think that tracing the migration history of my Hennon ancestors would be possible with the limited evidence available. However, as I began to assemble what evidence I did have, I discovered that a great deal could be written by utilizing deed records, U.S. census records, family records and lore, and miscellaneous historic data surrounding the time frame of their migrations.

Although living in different counties, at least three of the four brothers remained in Indiana until their deaths. The children of the Hennon brothers have their own migration histories. Although it is not the purpose of this article to document these migrations, research indicates the descendants of the six Hennon siblings, children of James Hennon Sr. and Osee (Dewitt) Hennon, are currently found in the states of Arizona, California, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, New Mexico, Texas, and Washington. ■

Notes

1. Hennon family Bible, "Births." *The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testaments* (Philadelphia: McCarty and Davis, 1834).
2. 1850 U.S. census for Muskingum County, Ohio, National Archives, series M432, roll 717, p. 149.
3. Hennon family Bible.
4. 1850 U.S. census for Muskingum County, Ohio, National Archives, series M432, roll 717, p. 135.
5. All birth dates are from the Hennon family Bible. The number of persons in the household and the ages correlate to information in the 1830 U.S. census for Muskingum County, Ohio, National Archives, series M19, roll 137, p. 252, entry for James Hennon, James Hennon Jr. is the author's great-grandfather.
6. Hennon family Bible.
7. 1850 U.S. census for Muskingum County, Ohio, National Archives, series M432, roll 717, p. 149.
8. Andrew Cole sold his land to David Frazier (Grantor Index to Deeds, A-L, vols. 1 and 2, 18031859, FHL #0907760. Deed available at Muskingum County Recorder's Office, Zanesville, Ohio, in vol. 32, p. 610).
9. 1860 U.S. census for McDonough County, Illinois, National Archives, series M653, roll 201, p. 625.
10. *Mills County, Iowa* (Glenwood, IA: Mills County History Book Committee, 1985), 228.
11. "Andrew Cole," Mills County Wills, Book 2, Mills County, Iowa, Probate Office.
12. *Mills County, Iowa*, 228; Obituary for Elizabeth (Hennon) Cole, Mills County, Iowa, *Tribune*, August 18, 1904. For more information on Elizabeth (Hennon) Cole, see Robert D. Hennon, "Letters and Family History," *The Hoosier Genealogist* 45, no. 1 (Spring 2005): 60–63.
13. Hennon family Bible.
14. 1850 U.S. census for Muskingum County, Ohio, National Archives, series M432, roll 717, p. 135.

15. Grantor Index to Deeds, Muskingum County, Ohio, vol. 33, p. 79.
16. 1860 U.S. census for Nodaway County, Missouri, National Archives, series M653, roll 637, p. 115.
17. 1870 U.S. census for Andrews County, Missouri, National Archives, series M593, roll 755, p. 170.
18. Death dates supplied by Wayne Gilbert, a direct descendant of Aaron and Mary (Hennon) Cole.
19. *Muskingum County, Ohio, Marriage Book 3, 1835–1848* (South Zanesville, OH: Muskingum County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, 1982), 9.
20. 1860 U.S. census for Muskingum County, Ohio, National Archives, series M653, roll 1019, p. 518.
21. *Muskingum County, Ohio, Marriage Book 3*; 1860 U.S. census for Muskingum County, Ohio, National Archives, series M653, roll 1018, p. 86.
22. *Muskingum County, Ohio, Marriage Book 3*; 1860 U.S. census for Muskingum County, Ohio, National Archives, series M653, roll 1019, pp. 518–19.
23. Dorothy Tunis, Betty Hutchins, and Anita Rich, comps., *Muskingum County, Ohio, Marriages, Book 4, 1848–1865* (Zanesville, OH: Muskingum County Genealogical Society, 1983), 42; 1860 U.S. census for Muskingum County, Ohio, National Archives, series M653, roll 1018, p. 86.
24. Recorder's Office, Muskingum County, Ohio, vol. 36, p. 243.
25. Death dates for Osee and James Hennon Sr. come from the Hennon family Bible.
26. Muskingum County, Ohio, Probate Court, case no. 4937.
27. Recorder's Office, Muskingum County, Ohio, vol. 39, p. 402, and vol. 40, p. 177.
28. *Ibid.*, vol. 41, p. 572.
29. *Ibid.*, vol. 42, p. 426.
30. *Ibid.*, vol. 42, p. 526.
31. Recorder's Office, Martin County, Indiana, vol. 13, p. 294.
32. *Ibid.*, vol. 13, p. 307.
33. *Ibid.*, vol. 14, p. 30.
34. *Ibid.*, vol. 14, p. 342.
35. "Colton's County and Township Railroad Map of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, 1860," Electronic Atlas of Central Indiana, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, http://atlas.ulib.iupui.edu/librarycongress_sid/rr001230.html, courtesy of Library of Congress. See also Keith T. Poole, "Railroads, the First Big Business: Topic 4," Vote View Web site, <http://voteview.com/rtopic4.htm>.
36. See for instance James Hamilton Young, engraver, *The Tourist Pocket Map of the State of Indiana, Exhibiting Its Internal Improvements, Road Distances, &c* (Philadelphia: S[amuel] Augustus Mitchell, 1833).
37. Birth and death dates for Mary (Cole) Hennon and Mary E. Hennon and marriage information for George Hennon and Clarinda Wallace Hennon supplied by Mabel Japinga.
38. Recorder's Office, Martin County, Indiana, vol. 15, p. 316.
39. Recorder's Office, Lawrence County, Indiana, Book Y, p. 442.
40. Death and burial date supplied by Carol Bibby, descendant of Thomas Hennon.
41. The 1880 U.S. census for Lawrence County, Indiana, shows Josephus Hennon, farmer, age 30, and Gilman Hennon, artist, age 21, living together in Indian Creek Township (National Archives, series T9, roll 292, p. 481). Josephus and Gilman Hennon were two of the children listed as sons of Thomas Hennon in the 1860 census (see end note 22).
42. 1880 U.S. census for Putnam County, Indiana, National Archives, series T9, roll 306, p. 359.
43. Recorder's Office, Martin County, Indiana, Book 16, p. 437.
44. *Ibid.*, Book 16, p. 463.
45. 1870 U.S. census for Martin County, Indiana, National Archives, series M593, roll 342, p. 376.
46. Photo of tombstone in author's possession. All three names are engraved on one tombstone: "Jos J. Hennon, wife Sarah, Dau. Minerva."
47. Recorder's Office, Martin County, Indiana, Book 17, p. 35.
48. *Ibid.*, Book 17, p. 274.
49. 1870 U.S. census for Martin County, Indiana, National Archives, series M593, roll 342, p. 322.
50. Martin County, Indiana, Probate Court, Book 2, p. 265 (divorce from Clarinda Wallace Hennon), and Book 3, p. 419 (marriage to Harriet Sponsler).
51. 1880 U.S. census for Knox County, Indiana, National Archives, series T9, roll 289, p. 245.
52. Recorder's Office, Martin County, Indiana, Book 17, p. 382. Aaron DeWitt Hennon is the author's grandfather.
53. Recorder's Office, Greene County, Indiana, Book 1, p. 4.
54. 1870 U.S. census for Greene County, Indiana, series M593, roll 318, p. 362.
55. Hennon family Bible.

Robert DeWitt Hennon was born in Bedford, Indiana, and raised in Bloomington, Indiana. He matriculated at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio, in 1948, transferred to Indiana University (IU), Bloomington, in 1950, and earned a BA and an MAT in 1953 and 1954, respectively. Hennon taught speech and theater from 1955 to 1983 when he retired as an associate professor from IU. He now lives in New Bern, North Carolina, where he served as the president of the Craven County Genealogical Society, from 2000–2005.

Notices

Indiana Historical Society Programs

How to Preserve Original Family Documents

(Preservation Workshop, February 8, 2008, 9 a.m.–noon OR 1–4 p.m.)

Many people start their genealogy with the discovery of one intriguing family letter or document. Learn how to preserve *your* family treasure at our next preservation workshop for original family documents. Bring your treasured certificate, letter, or other document for specialized advice from the conservation staff. This hands-on workshop will show you how to evalu-

ate the condition of the paper, surface clean, and create an archival enclosure. Only single-sheet paper items, no photographs or pamphlets, will be encapsulated. The document may be double sided. See a demonstration of how to humidify and flatten items that have been rolled for many years and store them with care. Ramona Duncan-Huse, senior director of Conservation at the Indiana Historical Society, has been managing the preservation and

treatment of the Society's collections of rare manuscripts, prints, and photographs for more than twenty-five years. She holds a certificate of conservation from a conservation graduate program sponsored by the University of London. Cost is \$25; \$20 IHS members. The registration deadline is January 24, 2008. Seating will be limited to 15 per session. To register call 317-232-1882.

Around the Midwest

Kentucky Historical Society Workshops

The Kentucky Historical Society, in partnership with the Kentucky Genealogical Society, offers a series of free family history workshops throughout the year. Topics range from how to begin tracing your ancestry to the best new resources for genealogists. Generally these workshops are held on the second Saturday of each month from

10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Martin F. Schmidt Library at the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History in Frankfort, Kentucky. Although the workshops are free of charge, the option of a light lunch is available at a cost of \$5, payable at the door. Registration for the workshops and lunches is required by noon (eastern time zone) on the Friday before each

workshop. For more information regarding the 2008 schedule or to register for a workshop, contact the library Reference Desk, 502-564-1792, ext. 4460, or e-mail refdesk@ky.gov. Also, check the calendar of events online at <http://www.history.ky.gov/> for updates regarding these and other history education opportunities.

International News

Online Directory for Genealogy and History

In order to promote scholarly educational access to all key worldwide Internet genealogical and family history databases and resources, *Who's Who in America*, 1999 edition through 2004 edition, and *Who's Who in Genealogy and Heraldry*, 1981 and 1990 editions, has created a Web site for genealogists and family historians containing two separate but connected components.

The Family Genealogy and History Internet Education Directory (<http://www.academic-genealogy.com/>) is a professional worldwide humanities and social sciences Web portal that connects users to billions of family history and genealogy record databases for primary and secondary sources, encompassing key worldwide genealogy sites.

A major section within the directory, Regional Genealogy and Local History Research, includes "areas, countries, directories, organizations, local ancestry, and local history studies. Total ethnic group populations are combined with regions of significant ethnic population, for an evaluation of global migration patterns over generations of time."

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY