



Pioneer Times

Proven Ancestors:
8,905

Total Members:
1,028

These include:
Life members: 185
Junior Members: 15
Associate Members: 27

CENTENNIAL ISSUE

Issue 16 September 2016

President's Message – James P. Fadely

The Society of Indiana Pioneers has had a wonderful year celebrating its centennial and the bicentennial of the State of Indiana!

We have completed three Legacy Projects endorsed by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission: 1) the publication of *Deep Forest*, a book of historical fiction about pioneer Indiana, deeply researched and written by a former president of the Society; 2) the John H. Holliday Prize competition in which we awarded \$10,000 in prize money for the top three pieces of writing about Indiana history; and 3) the publication of the *Pioneer Founders of Indiana* book, a collection of biographical sketches of pioneers submitted from all 92 counties.

A highlight of the year was our Centennial Gala at Conner Prairie Interactive History Park in Fishers which was attended by 150 people. (See *Gala Marks Bicentennial and Centennial*)

And, finally, we had two distinctive, sold-out Pilgrimages this year. In May, the Spring Pilgrimage included planting an American elm tree at the first state capitol in Corydon, visiting the Cook family's Cedar Farm (1837) in Harrison County along the Ohio River, and then traveling upriver to tour Madison's National Historic Landmark District and for a reception at the Shrewsbury-Windle House. The Fall Pilgrimage in September took us to the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, we had drinks at the home of member Dr. and Mrs. Rapp, dinner in the Granary, and an overnight at the New Harmony Inn, and then on to William Henry Harrison's Grouseland (1804) in Vincennes the next day, where we also had drinks and hors d'oeuvres. The Pilgrimages were fun and full of member camaraderie as we celebrated both our organization and state.

Please plan to join us for the Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 5, at Meridian Hills Country Club in Indianapolis, when we will conduct our usual business and recognize our member descendants of the 43 signers of Indiana's 1816 Constitution.

Thank you for the privilege of being your president for the past two years.

WITH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

Evie Rhodehamel, granddaughter of SIP founder, John H. Holliday, has graciously increased her endowment of the John H. Holliday Junior History Award with an additional \$5,000. The award is now \$500 annually.

Maxine Brown Helps Dedicate Bicentennial Marker

Society of Indiana Pioneers former Board Member Maxine Brown celebrated with the Indiana Supreme Court and others a special Bicentennial marker dedication highlighting the anti-slavery clause in Indiana's 1816 Constitution. Representatives of the Indiana Historical Bureau, Indiana Archives and Records Administration, and Indiana Bicentennial Commission participated along with pioneer period costumed greeters.

Maxine applied for the marker which now stands on the lawn between Indiana's Old State Capitol at Corydon and the Harrison County Courthouse. It commemorates the legal victory of Polly Strong, a slave purchased by a Vincennes innkeeper. Polly appealed her case from the Knox County Circuit Court to the Indiana Supreme Court, which in 1820 concluded "slavery can have no existence in Indiana."

Prior to the dedication of the Marker, Maxine joined former Indiana First Lady Judy O'Bannon Willsey and her husband Don Willsey, Attorney General Greg Zoeller, Superintendent of Public Instruction Glenda Ritz, Court of Appeals Chief Judge Nancy Vaidik, Society of Indiana Pioneers Board Member Jan Aikman Dickson, school teachers and students, Oasis members, and a few

others in watching a current Supreme Court case in the tiny second floor Courtroom of the Old State Capitol Building.

The case was webcast live to an audience in the Harrison County Courthouse and made available to schools throughout the State. The Indiana State Bar Association and several nearby Bar Associations supported the event. Along with the Indiana Supreme Court they encouraged judges and lawyers to visit their local schools to tell more about our State's legal system and answer questions in conjunction with those webcasts. In the video at the Court's website "Oral Arguments Online" tab at <https://mycourts.in.gov/arguments/default.aspx?id=1948&view=detail>

Spring 2016 Hoosier Heritage Pilgrimage



Pioneers dedicating the American Elm on Capitol Plaza Corydon

A maximum capacity group of 55 Pioneers and guests participated in the 2016 Spring Pilgrimage on Wednesday, May 4. The first of two bicentennial-themed pilgrimages planned for the year, it featured a milestone event at the plaza of the State Capitol Historic Site in Corydon (pictured above) followed by a visit to nearby Cedar Farm and its beautifully restored 1837 plantation-style complex overlooking the Ohio River and visits to the Shrewsbury-Windle Home (1840's) and other historic sites in the Ohio River town of Madison.

For more information on this pilgrimage go to the Society's website.

Gala Marks Bicentennial and Centennial

Nearly 150 members of the Society of Indiana Pioneers and their guests gathered on a warm June 27, 2016, to participate in the gala celebration to mark the 200th anniversary of Indiana statehood and the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Society. The revelers – many dressed in formal attire or in pioneer costumes – enjoyed refreshments on the front lawn of the meticulously restored 1821 home of William Conner, the centerpiece of the Conner Prairie Interactive History Park near Noblesville. They proceeded to a tent overlooking the expansive Conner Prairie to enjoy a sumptuous buffet dinner.

After words of welcome by President Jim Fadely, greetings from Conner Prairie by President and CEO Norman O. Burns II got the program underway.

One of the major initiatives of the state's bicentennial celebration is to construct a new home for the state's archives. James Corridan, State Archivist and Director of Indiana Archives and Records Administration, reported on the plans and related some interesting stories about the archives particularly on the 1816 Indiana Constitution, the original of which is housed in the archives. The Society is recognizing descendants of the signers of the 1816 Constitution at its Annual Meeting in November. President Fadely recognized Perry Hammock, Executive Director of the Indiana Bicentennial Commission, and expressed appreciation for his participating in our celebration.

In anticipation of the celebration of the Society's centennial and the bicentennial of the State of Indiana, the Society of Indiana Pioneers created an award for the promotion of the highest quality of scholarship, research and writing about Indiana pioneer history from pre-history to and including the year 1851. The prize, named

the John Hampden Holliday Prize to honor the Society's founder, was officially designated as a Legacy Project by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission. President Fadely recognized Board member Julie Newhouse who chaired the committee that reviewed the nominated works to select the winners.



Dr. James Madison
1st place winner,
John Hampton Holliday Prize

To announce the winners and present the prizes, Julie was joined by David Willkie, a member of the selection committee. The first prize of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) was presented to Dr. James H. Madison for his book, *Hoosiers: A New History of Indiana*. The second place prize of three thousand dollars (\$3,000) was presented to Bob Ostrander for his 4 volume work, *Indiana Bicentennials*. Co-authors Lee Ann Sandweiss and Dr. James H. Madison shared the third place prize of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for their book, *Hoosiers and the American Story*. All of the authors were present and delivered brief acceptance remarks as they received their cash awards.

The Honorable Brent Dickson, retired Chief Justice of the Indiana Supreme Court, delivered the keynote address of the evening, "The Journey of the 1816 Indiana Constitution". (Chief Justice Dickson's remarks will be published in the Society's 2016-2017 Yearbook.)

The Chief Justice recreated the scene in Corydon, the summer of 1816, when forty-three delegates convened to draft a constitution which would be the governing document when the state made the transition from the Indiana Territory to the State of Indiana. The task was completed in just 18 session days. The constitution was adopted by the delegates on June 29, 1816, and transmitted to Congress. On December 11, 1816, Congress adopted and President James Madison approved a resolution admitting Indiana as the 19th state. The evolution of the document from the Northwest Ordinance was explained and highlighted was the delegates' attention to the matters of slavery, citizen rights and public education. Referencing the Constitution Elm, under the branches of which the delegates met to ally the blistering summer heat, he noted that the tree died in 1923 and pieces of it were sold throughout the state as souvenirs. The Chief Justice concluded: "Like the Constitution Elm, Indiana's 1816 constitution was eventually retired – by our 1851 Constitution. But unlike the elm, our first constitution has left us with far more than souvenir relics. Its provisions were largely grafted into its successor Constitution in 1851 and they live on today to guide government and to protect Hoosiers."

As the sun descended over William Conner's prairie, the celebrants raised their glasses in a toast to celebrate the Hoosier State's Bicentennial and the Society's Centennial, followed by a stirring singing of *Back Home Again in Indiana*.

Genealogist's Report – Michele Kerr

As I expected, the number of applications certainly has been high for this bicentennial year! I have approved 232 applications so far in 2016 with 114 of them being new ancestors. We still have three months before the end of the year and the applications don't seem to be slowing down. When I started in 2006 as the staff genealogist for this group, we had around 8,300 ancestors and our latest number is at 8,905 which is outstanding! At the beginning of this year, I was hoping that we might hit the 9,000 mark for the number of ancestors and we are certainly going to get very close.

Every other year, the Midwestern Roots Conference takes place at the Marriott East conference center; this year we had a table, as we have in the past, and lots of prospective members stopped to chat. This is always a great time to put our name out there because we always get a large number of people noting that they "had never heard of us before!" So, there are plenty of opportunities to get the word out! (hint, hint)

If you follow our group on FaceBook, I think you will agree that we have quite a thriving community up and running. Members range from actual members of our group to prospective applicants to those that are simply very excited to have found a group that focuses on Indiana pioneers. This group is closed, so you will need to simply search for "The Society of Indiana Pioneers" and request to be added.

Just about four weeks ago, I started a weekly posting on our

Facebook group called, "Tuesday Tribute" where I am literally going down our list of 1917 applications and transcribing the information that is found on the early application. I've been posting snapshots of portions of the applications as well, so you can see the lovely handwriting. My 4th entry is about a member whose father is the actual pioneer ancestor. The member tells a brief history of his father and grandparents on both sides. It just doesn't get much better than this!

Welcome New Members

The Society of Indiana Pioneers would like to welcome the following new members who have joined from 25 Feb. 2016 through 15 Sep. 2016

Associate Members:

Burkhart, Lorene McCormick
Carmel, IN

Regular Members:

Arentsen, Sue Bousman
Punta Gorda, FL
Bair, Jana-Lee Beggs
North Port, FL
Blatzer, Darryl Edward
Jacksonville, FL
Bowen, Thomas Lee
Camby, IN
Campagnolo, Michael Steven
Carol Stream, IL
Carter, Douglas Jackson
Dayton, OH
Chamberlain, Marilyn Hutton
Scottsburg, IN
Clark, Diana Harrison
Kansas City, MO
DeBoalt, Brenda Barnes
Pelham, AL
Erickson, Ronald Alan
Apple Valley, MN
Gardner-Young, Amy Corrine
Indianapolis, IN
Gaughan, Shirley Farmer
Indianapolis, IN
Ground, Cheryl Stephenson
Godley, TX
Henderson, Jr., Robert F.
Orleans, IN
Hinshaw, Philip Lee
El Cajon, CA
Holley, Thomas Patrick
Newport, KY
Hollings, Lacy Zobel
Indianapolis, IN
Howard, Elizabeth Ann Vogt
Indianapolis, IN
Kennett, Gerardo Raymond
Pinecrest, FL
King, Melinda Powell
Evansville, IN
Kniffen, Mary Stephenson
Mendard, TX
Kowitz, Robert Stephen
Indianapolis, IN
Mandel, Karen Kiefer
Indianapolis, IN
Marquis, Jacqueline Kay Hutton
Santa Rosa, CA
Marston, Christopher Michael
Alexandria, VA
Martin, James Lee
Washington, IN
Martin, Phillip Lee
Monclova, OH
Milano, Deborah Sanders
Bridgeville, DE
Miller, Herbert Ray
Centennial, CO
Mills, Joyce Biggs
Lawrenceville, IL
Murray, Debra Martha
Indianapolis, IN
Myers, Jonathan Jay
Columbia City, IN
Nesius, Rose Mary Klaus
Rensselaer, IN

Noble, Kelton Ethod
Elwood, IN
Noble, Myron Estel
Anderson, IN
Nowicke, Carole Elizabeth
Bloomington, IN
Powell, Elaine Hatfield
Orlando, FL
Poyser, Karen Kelshaw
Carmel, IN
Poyser, Thomas Dale
Carmel, IN
Reno, Susan Stephenson
Duncanville, TX
Rhodehamel, Benjamin Charles
Brownsburg, IN
Schafer, Ph.D., Elizabeth Diane
Auburn, AL
Schutt, Kelly Carter
Zionsville, IN
Shields, Kathleen Harvell
Scottsdale, AZ
Smith, Margaret Weir
Indianapolis, IN
Smith, Mary Ellen Rhoads
Wilton, NH
Sorensen, Linda Markins
West Lafayette, IN
Stephenson, Benjamin Brady
Gallatin, TN
Stephenson, Blair Y.
Irving, TX
Stephenson, Erin Marie
Glenn Heights, TX
Stephenson, Gertrude Young
Salem, IN
Stephenson, Melvin Irvin
Salem, IN
Stephenson, Shelbie Taylor
Gallatin, TN
Stults, Donald Leon
Noblesville, IN
Taylor, Janice Slayback
Roanoke, VA
Wetzel, Alissa Courtney
Indianapolis, IN
Wilburn, Maureen Morreale
Dacula, GA
Wilkens, Cynthia Hatfield Hopkins
Indianapolis, IN
Winkler, III, Carl Julius
Westfield, IN
Woerner, Joan Williams
Fort Wayne, IN
Worrall, James P. E.
Floyds Knobs, IN
Wyatt, Helen Amelia Knight
Knightstown, IN
Wyzard, Doris Leep
Clarksville, IN
Yoder, Ph.D., Ryan Jeffrey
Bettendorf, IA

Junior Members:

Hollings, Emma Kay
Indianapolis, IN
Robertson, Blake Gene
Greenfield, IN
Zwick, Mi-ree Jade
Noblesville, IN

SPECIAL THANKS

Jay Wright generously contributed \$1,000 to the Society in 2015, but was inadvertently omitted from the Holliday Circle Endowment Donor List in the yearbook. Thank you for your contribution and many apologies.