

**From Education Chairman
Ron Morris**

The Society of Indiana Pioneers is very happy to announce that Jazma Sutton, a doctoral candidate at IU Bloomington, has won the SIP Fellowship for her thesis *Borderline Freedom: Free and Self-Liberated Black Women in Rural East Central Indiana before the Civil War*.

We encourage other aspiring scholars at Indiana universities interested in the pioneer period of Indiana (prior to 1850) to consider applying for future support. We believe in supporting research in the pioneer period of Indiana history at both the master's and doctoral level. The virus has made dissemination of applications difficult this year, but, if you know of deserving graduate students, we would be interested in supporting their endeavors.

New Members

The Society of Indiana Pioneers would like to welcome the following new members who have joined from 15 Sep 2019 through 19 Sep 2020.



Regular Members:

- Alexander, Kathleen
Indianapolis, IN
- Amick, Lorie Lee Ehrlich
West Lafayette, IN
- Benoit, Daniel Edwin
Stamford, CT
- Brannon, Andrea Orman
Winter Haven, FL
- Breisch, Carroll DeHart
Fishers, IN
- Case, Betty Isaacs
Euless, TX
- China, Sheila Scanlon
Titusville, FL
- Colbert, Kenneth Lee
Evansville, IN
- Collins, Larry Wayne
West Chester, OH
- Corya, Paul David
Greensburg, IN

- Coyner, Barbara Junken
Greenwood, IN
- Davidson, William Edward
Gilbert, AZ
- Decker, Stacey Lee
Manteno, IL
- Douglas, Martha Ann
Gosport, IN
- Douglass, Clell Richard
Asheville, NC
- Dow, Patricia Marsh
Paragon, IN
- Dow, Philip Leon
Paragon, IN
- Dunning, USAF, TSgt Mark Evan
Woodbridge, VA
- Ferris, John Richard
Coto De Caza, CA
- Fisher, Jennifer Hughes
Lake Barrington, IL
- Flanagin, Gail Stover
Jupiter, FL
- Fledderman, Adam Daniel
Indianapolis, IN
- Geisinger, Michael Frederick
Vernon Hill, VA
- Gervais, Lora Lin Gruenholz
Hamilton, MT
- Hamill, James Thomas
Bealeton, VA
- Hamill, Suzan Stacy
Bealeton, VA
- Hardesty, Paula Ann
Indianapolis, IN
- Harshman, Raymond Brent
Dallas, TX
- Hickey, Alexandra Nicole
Santa Rosa, CA
- Hintz, Suzanne Steiner
Savannah, GA
- Huskey, Frances Joy Flint
Sacramento, CA
- Jackson, Pamela Kay Holt
Payson, AZ
- Jeffrey, Robert Leroy
Tampa, FL
- Joyce, Teresa Gail
N. Chesterfield, VA
- Kennedy, Rhonda Sheldon
Rensselaer, IN
- Kurtz, Judith Cook
Concord, VT
- Lanier, Doris Isaacs
Garrett, IN
- Lawrence, Joyce Wells
Powhatan, VA
- Lilly, II, Jefferson Davis
Indianapolis, IN
- Lucas, Perry Edmund
Brownsburg, IN

- Marshall, Dan Edward
New Palestine, IN
- Maxam, Judith Paul
Carmel, IN
- McConaughy, Gregory Lee
Indianapolis, IN
- McGuire, Tana Bea
Reno, NV
- Parker, Gary Jay
Jacksonville, FL
- Price, Diane Bell
Bolivia, NC
- Proctor, Carol Baker
Depauw, IN
- Renbarger, Terry Alan
The Villages, FL
- Richardson, Janet Junken
Indianapolis, IN
- Rivers, Wiljona Wiebus
Pace, FL
- Romans, CSM(Ret), Charles Joseph
Hoyt, KS
- Sanner, Drew Christopher
Morrow, GA
- Satterthwaite, Carol Grodrian
Pleasanton, CA
- Schell, Vicki Jo
Pensacola, FL
- Shale, Rick, Ph.D.
Youngstown, OH
- Sonafrank, Steven John
Indianapolis, IN
- Spatz, Mary Lee Mace
Arlington, VA
- Speer, Jacob Gabriel
Indianapolis, IN
- Stewart, Sister Mary Ann, S.P.
Indianapolis, IN
- Stuckman, Noel Ward
Dewitt, MI
- Sumwalt, James Alden
Indianapolis, IN
- Turley, Una Ruth
Lexington, IN
- Vachet, Thomas Aaron
Appleton, WI
- Walleman, Angela Rogles
O'Fallon, MO
- Williams, Michael Henry
Matthews, MO
- *Wright, Mary Kathleen Kuhn
Manilla, IN

Associate Members:

- King, Ida Ellen
Middletown, IN
- Smith, Janet McCord
Indianapolis, IN

**deceased*

The Society of Indiana Pioneers



**Pioneer
Times**

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**Annual Meeting to be Virtual via Zoom
Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 11 a.m. E.S.T.**

The Annual Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom on Saturday, November 7, 2020 at 11 A.M. E.S.T. You may access this meeting using your computer or mobile phone or you may call in on a landline (audio only).

Details on how to log into the meeting were provided in the printed version of this newsletter that was mailed to members in early October and also provided in the "E-blast" sent by email in early November. Instructions are below.

How to Join a Zoom Meeting.

BY COMPUTER: Two to three days before November 7th, an E-blast providing a "link" to the meeting will be sent to all members who have provided SIP with their email address *. **Save that email.** Then, on November 7th at or before 11 a.m. E.S.T., click on the link provided in the E-blast and your internet browser will open and you will be prompted to download and run the Zoom program/app (if you haven't already downloaded it on another occasion). Follow the instructions as prompted and the meeting will open automatically. If Zoom does not join the meeting automatically, come back to this email and click the meeting link. Because of security provided by Zoom, you will be placed in a "waiting room" until you are "admitted" into the meeting by the host.

BY PHONE: (audio only) Dial the number provided in the print newsletter or the E-blast at or a few minutes before 11 a.m. E.S.T on November 7th. You will be prompted to enter the Meeting Number and Password. Be-cause of security provided by Zoom, you will be placed in a "waiting room" until you are "admitted" into the meeting by the host.

** If you do not receive the E-blast by November 6th, check your spam folder. You may also email the SIP office (IndianaPioneers@gmail.com) and the meeting information will be emailed back to you.*

THE SLATE

Officers

(Serving one-year terms)

- President – Bob Clements Indianapolis
- Vice-President/
President-Elect – Ron Morris Centerville
- Secretary – Bob Everitt Indianapolis
- Treasurer – Bruce Oakley Indianapolis
- Yearbook Editor – Jeanie Hornung..... New Palestine
- Registrar – Marcia Krieg Indianapolis
- Past President – Julie Newhouse..... Arlington

Board of Governors

(Serving three-year terms)

- Brigitt Caito* Indianapolis
- Terri Gorney* Fort Wayne
- Judith Griffin Danville
- Andrea Neal Indianapolis
- Kathy Parkison Rensselaer
- Eric Ward* Cambridge, MA
- David Yeley* Columbus

**second term*

Proven Ancestors:	9,496
Total Members:	1,027
These include:	
Life Members:	187
Junior Members:	13
Associate Members:	24

Evaline Hitz Rhodehamel 16 December 1924 - 22 August 2020

A lady – in every sense of the word - who has been described as the heart and soul of The Society of Indiana Pioneers died peacefully at her home in Indianapolis on August 22, 2020. Evaline Rieman Hitz Rhodehamel (Mrs. Harley W., Jr.) was a member of the Society for nearly 70 years and served it as President, Registrar, and a member of the Board of Governors (5 terms). For her remarkable contributions to the organization, she was named an Honorary Member of the Society in 2004 and was the first recipient of the Society of Indiana Pioneers Medallion in 2007 for her outstanding service.

But as Evie once joked, “The Society is in my blood!” She was the granddaughter of the Society’s first president (John H. Holliday) and his wife, the first Honorary Member (Evaline MacFarlane Holliday) who is credited with having the idea of creating such an organization. At the public inauguration banquet held in the Riley Room of the Claypool Hotel on December 19, 1916, Evie’s mother, Elizabeth Cruft Holliday, a recent graduate of Bryn Mawr College, stood in front of a large map of the state with a pointer indicating the counties as members stood to signify the home county of their ancestors. Until quite recently, the tradition of calling the roll at Annual Meetings of the Society was ably carried out by Evie, and subsequently followed by her son William.

She is survived by five children, Life Members of the Society and great-grandchildren of founding President John H. Holliday: John Holliday Rhodehamel, Nicholas Henry Rhodehamel, Harley Wesley Rhodehamel III, Lucia Evaline Rhodehamel Lorenzi, and William Ames Rhodehamel. Also surviving are eleven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.



From the President Julie Newhouse

My husband, Tracy, and I were really looking forward to attending the annual meeting this November. However, because of the uncertainty of Covid-19 and for the safety of our members, the Executive Committee reluctantly voted to have a Zoom meeting instead.

I wonder what it must have been like for the 1918 and 1919 years for the Society. November 11, 1918 would have been the end of WWI, yet the country was in the midst of the Great Influenza Pandemic. Pictures of that time show people out and about with their facemasks on so in that respect, today we are not that much different.

Our Society Board and committees have continued to stay busy and meet by Zoom. The Vision Committee even met at the Oliver Morton home in Centerville hosted by our member, Dr. Ron Morris. We managed to socially distance, have a wonderful lunch, and conduct business. The Education, Nominating, Pilgrimages, and Awards Committees have been meeting via Zoom and e-mail, and will present their reports via Zoom at our annual meeting.

Even though our pilgrimages have been canceled, we will have a pilgrimage for next year and perhaps a Saturday trip in the summer in central Indiana for Pioneer families who want to drive to it. Stay tuned!

These are interesting times, and in some respects as a result of Zoom, the Society has been able to conduct much business with more members in attendance at the committee meetings. Perhaps that will not change when the Governor’s pandemic orders are completely lifted.

I hope to see you all via Zoom on November 7, stay safe, remain healthy, and to quote the Queen of England, “Until we meet again!”

From the Genealogist Michele Kerr

One thing is for sure, this slowing down that our entire world has been experiencing in 2020, has given quite a few people the time to look at their “need-to-do-someday” lists. The steady stream of applications has kept us very busy in the Society of Indiana Pioneers’ “office.” I put that word, office, in quotes because when the Indiana State Library shut down, they literally shut the doors, turned the lights off and no one was allowed back in until the Governor of Indiana relaxed the quarantine orders.

We did a quick pivot and Sally Fadely, our office manager, graciously allowed applications to be directed to her home address. [Applause and many thanks to Sally!] Soon after that, the State Library re-opened to appointment research only and we were allowed back into our office space and finally, things seem to be back to normal – or “new” normal as it seems to have morphed into.

I do love to look for the positives and our Facebook group has definitely become quite a community of fellow Hoosier-loving members. At one point this spring, I was adding 10 or more new members each day and we are currently up to 816 Facebook members in our Society of Indiana Pioneers’ private group. If you are on Facebook, feel free to look us up. You are more than welcome to come on in and join in the conversations.



At the very top of the group’s page, I have added an Announcement which is a Google Slide that walks prospective applicants through the in’s and out’s of the application process. I have listed resources and tips so that

the process isn’t quite so daunting to first-time applicants. And to further help with that, I have also started to do end-of-week SIP TIPS that are short couple-minute videos covering all sorts of topics from the application process to resources and how to best to use them. I encourage everyone who is a member of our FaceBook group to click on a topic that looks interesting to you and see all the posts that have been made. This is one time when older posts are just as relevant as the newer ones – there is a lot of great information that has been posted inside our group. It isn’t limited to just my posting either! Group members are welcome to add their own posts as long as we keep to the general topic of Indiana and its pioneers!

We get updates on *Hoosier History Live*, the radio program headed by our own Nelson Price. Another member and librarian, MacKenzie Ledley, has graciously been adding information on libraries and their resources from all over the State of Indiana. Members are talking about all sorts of topics from books they have found to well-loved historical documents passed down through generations. Believe me, the topics are abundant and always interesting.

A new member of our group just invited me to speak to her DAR group and talk about The Society of Indiana Pioneers. While introducing me to the group, she acknowledged that she had not heard of our group before she began researching for her DAR application. And, as she wrote to me in an email afterwards, relayed to me that several members commented to her that they were interested but had never heard of our group either. This was up in Noblesville, which as many of you probably know, is just northeast of Indianapolis and would be considered a commuter community.

If I can ask a favor of everyone, it would be to tell your friends that you are members of this group and if you are on a social media like Facebook, make a post to your friends and family that you are a member and even list your Indiana Pioneer ancestors! I know how much our members love their Indiana Pioneer ancestors and I’m betting that there are a lot of your friends and family that might also be interested in acknowledging their Indiana ancestors as well! If they have never applied to a lineage society, our application process is certainly a great way to tip their toe into water! Point them to the Facebook group or pass along my email if they have any further questions! Genealogist@IndianaPioneers.org

From Pilgrimages Chairman Nelson Price

Alas, 2020 has been a truly distinctive year for our Pilgrimages – because, due to public health concerns, we haven’t been able to have any. A full motor coach of travelers had signed up for our Spring Pilgrimage, which was to include visits to the Centerville home of Civil War Gov. Oliver P. Morton, the Hoosier Gym in Knightstown, and other historic sites in eastern Indiana. The Pilgrimage was shifted to the fall and then canceled for the year.

Undaunted, we are forging on with this popular Pilgrimage and rescheduling it for fall 2021. The itinerary will be as identical as possible to the initially planned trip, depending on the availability of the sites.

The tentative new date for the trip is Sept. 11. A flyer with full details about the Fall (2021) Pilgrimage will be inserted in our January mailing. Travelers who had signed up for the Pilgrimage are being rescheduled; Thomson Tours, our travel partner, provided a full refund for those unable to reschedule. It is currently our only Pilgrimage for 2021.

Many thanks to everyone for flexibility in dealing with the challenges of the 21st century.

From the Vision Committee Chairman Jim Fadely

Julie Newhouse, Marcia Krieg, Ron Morris, Charles Short, and Jim Fadely – met at the Oliver P. Morton House in Centerville, restored beautifully by Ron Morris, on August 10, 2020.. A potluck lunch was enjoyed and the committee members reviewed the progress made toward fulfilling the five motions offered by the committee and approved by the Governing Board at its June 8, 2019 meeting. This committee is addressing proposals made at the Board’s Strategic Planning session of October 1, 2016, during our centennial year. A follow-up round of proposals will be made to the Governing Board.

Ruth Ellen Lathom Dorrel 26 January 1936 - 15 September 2020

Ruth Dorrel, stalwart member of The Society of Indiana Pioneers, died on September 15, 2020, at age 84. Ruth served on the Board of Governors for two terms, 1990-95 and 2005-2010. From 2001 to 2005, she was the Genealogist/Office Manager and donated her salary to the Society’s newly established endowment. In 2014, she received The Society of Indiana Pioneers Medallion in recognition of her “outstanding service to the organization.” She was a faithful helper, behind the scenes, with Society mailings for years. For many people in the Indiana historical community, Ruth was the face of The Society of Indiana Pioneers. She is survived by her husband Warren, daughter Martha (Marti) Schrock, and granddaughter Maddie Long.



Ruth Dorrel receiving the Society of Indiana Pioneers Medallion from Jim Fadely, for outstanding service to the organization. (2014)



Ron Morris stands in front of the Oliver P. Morton home in Centerville, Ind. He purchased the home in 2012.