

positivity rates. Indiana Department of Education officials have left the decision about COVID guidelines to individual districts and schools.

The uncertainty has prevented the education committee from aggressively marketing the Society's field trip grant program, which provides \$500 to underwrite class visits to historic sites across the state, with preference given to destinations related to the pioneer era.

The education committee received seven applications in the most recent cycle and granted three, giving the recipients flexibility to move the trips to spring should Covid protocols so dictate. The recipients are:

- Missy Renforth, Grade 4 at Laurel Elementary School for a visit to Metamora.
- Katharine Nicholson, Grade 3 at School 51 in Indianapolis for a visit to Whitewater Canal State Historic Site.
- Spencer King, Grade 4 at Garden City Elementary School in Wayne Township of Marion County for a visit to Eiteljorg Museum.

The committee hopes to promote the grant program more actively in the spring semester and encourages Society members to spread the word to teachers of Indiana history and Indiana Studies.

Awards Committee

Jim Fadely, Chairman

The 2021 Society of Indiana Pioneers fellowship for the master's thesis was awarded to **Dylan Rawles**, a graduate student at Ball State University. His thesis title is *Hoosiers and Slavery: Racial Politics in Indiana 1800-1850*. His is groundbreaking research in the Hoosier racial environment prior to the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. His work is directed by noted historian Nicole Etcheson, the Alexander M. Bracken Professor of History at Ball State University.

New Members

The Society of Indiana Pioneers would like to welcome the following new members who have joined from 15 Sept. 2020 through 17 Sept. 2021.

Associate Members:

Barnett, Matt
Walton, IN

Brookbank, Linda Anders
Liberty, IN
Godby, Drew Christopher
Kokomo, IN
Sutton, Jazma
Bloomington, IN

Regular Members:

Beatty, Garrett Todd
Mitchell, IN
Beaumont, Delilah Hall
Niles, MI
Boersma, M.D., Dorothy Cummings
Thorntown, IN
Boomershine, April Mercer
Noblesville, IN
Boomershine, Emily Louise
Noblesville, IN
Boomershine, Kathryn Ann
Noblesville, IN
Borden, Michele Weir
Crawfordsville, IN
Brookbank, Brian Hawley
Liberty, IN
Cappetto, Lisa Hisey
Acworth, GA
Cawthorn, Vonda Powers
Fairmount, IN
Connair, Karen Matusoff
Annandale, VA
Crow, Elizabeth Colleen
Hawaiian Gardens, CA
Deakne, Jean Pantan
Arlington, TX
Eckerle, Rachel Jackson
Lebanon, IN
Egler, Rhonda Hulka
Camby, IN
Engel, Terry Walker
Avon, IN
Freeland, Sharon Butsch
Indianapolis, IN
Gase, Nancy Farrugia
St. Augustine, FL
Glass, Suzanne DeMoss
Peoria, AZ
Harris, Jacqueline Jagger
Muncie, IN
Haynes, Richard Alan
Fishers, IN
Jackson, Jonathan Luke
Martinsville, IN
Kator, Mary Lou Buchman
Rochelle, IL
Keefer, Kathryn Elizabeth
Virginia Beach, VA
Kelley, Mary Ann Smith
Gillette, WY
Kemper, Patricia Elsom
Arlington, TX
LeMaster, Gloria Wright
Alexandria, IN
LeMaster, Travis John

Sweetsner, IN
Madison, Patricia Jane
Sherman, TX
Marchino, Sharron Hershey
Indianapolis, IN
Meier, Susan Marie Hall
Seymour, IN
Mercer, Gregory Gene
Plymouth, IN
Mercer, Mack Johnston
Plymouth, IN
Miller, I, Jackie Dean
Berry, KY
Miller, Stephanie Linebaugh
Warrenton, OR
Molella, Lauren Elizabeth
Indianapolis, IN
Niemantsverdriet, Carolyn Ann
Avon, IN
Powers, William Douglas
Northumberland, PA
Proctor, Carol Baker
Depauw, IN
Readmond, Thomas Andrew
Alexandria, VA
Richards, Jason Lee
Magnolia, TX
Robertson, Eli Michael
Indianapolis, IN
Schirmer, Mary Jane Ryan
Allen, TX
Shale, Ph.D., Rick
Youngstown, OH
Shelton, Catherine Baker
Marion, IN
Sly, Jr., Dr. James Edward
Bellevue, NE
Smith, Nancy Lu
Indianapolis, IN
Spore, James Lynn
Bloomington, IN
Stafford, Dexter Kyle
Vincennes, IN
Stafford, Grace Whitton
Charlotte, NC
Stewart, Sarah Angst
Lebanon, MO
Stewart, S.P., Sister Mary Ann
Indianapolis, IN
Wagner, Patricia A.
McCool Junction, NE
Warchol, JoAnn McCracken
Fairview Hts., IL
Weddle, Paul Dennis
Shelbyville, IN
Wilhoit, Sandra Hash
Edwardsburg, MI



The Society of Indiana Pioneers



Pioneer Times

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Proven Ancestors: 9,625
Total Members: 1,003
These include:
Life Members: 186
Junior Members: 10
Associate Members: 25

Annual Meeting IN PERSON

Saturday, November 6, 2021 10:30 A.M.

Meridian Hills Country Club, Indianapolis 46260

The Annual Meeting will be held in person at the Meridian Hills Country Club. For those who cannot or do not wish to attend in person, the meeting will be available via Zoom. Please contact the office by phone (317-441-8293) or by email (indianapioneers@gmail.com) to request the meeting ID and password.

From the President

Hello Fellow Pioneers!

To quote pop artists Sonny and Cher, "The Beat Goes On" at least as far as the COVID-19 pandemic is concerned. Just as we were thinking that society was about to emerge from the shadow of mandates and lockdowns, the Delta variant arrived on the scene to administer at least a partial "setback" to the weary Pioneers of 2020 and 2021.

The Society of Indiana Pioneers Annual Meeting (November 2020), and the Governing Board meetings (January and June 2021) were all conducted "virtually" via ZOOM technology. While adequate for the purposes of conducting Pioneer business, these meetings distinctly lacked the camaraderie of the face-to-face encounters that we have always looked forward to. And little did we know that our Cumberland Gap Pilgrimage in July 2019 would be our last pilgrimage until September 2021! Thank goodness that today's Indiana Pioneers have inherited the resilience and steadfast resolve that their ancestors demonstrated on a daily basis.

On the GOOD NEWS side of the ledger, we have much to report! The SIP Pilgrimages, which I consider to be the backbone of our camaraderie, have resumed! On September 11, the Pioneers were able to take only their SECOND pilgrimage since 2018! Some 40 travelers made a one-day trek to east central Indiana. Our first stop was at the **Knightstown Academy**, built in 1876, with additions in 1887 and 1931. We were expertly guided by Kevin Richey, who attended elementary school in the building! We were able to visit all three floors and to see the "original" gymnasium which was in use before basketball had even arrived in the Hoosier State. Next door to The Academy is **The Hoosier Gym** (built in 1921) where the basketball scenes for the movie "Hoosiers" were filmed. Bob Garner addressed the Pioneers and shared a great deal of information and numerous humorous anecdotes. We were able to actually "shoot some hoops" and even made a few!



Sue Thomson & Jill Clements
at The Hoosier Gym

On to Cambridge City for lunch at King's Cafe. Canal Days was underway so there was LOTS going on! We took a brief tour of the old Cambridge City Opera House and Dr. Ron Morris took us on a walking tour where we learned about the Whitewater Canal.

In Cambridge City we were also privileged to be able to tour the **Overbeck House** (home of the world-famous Overbeck Pottery). The house is being lovingly restored by **Jerry and Phyllis Mattheis**. Right

around the corner was the Solomon Meredith House, which is in the early stages of an historic restoration....what an incredible undertaking! Troy and Dion Lewis are the very energetic young couple taking on this project.

They have a great vision of what they want The Meredith House to be and outstanding respect for its storied past.

The highlight of the Pilgrimage occurred in **Centerville at the**

home of Indiana Civil War Governor, Oliver P. Morton. This historical landmark home has been impeccably restored by SIP Vice-President, Dr. Ron Morris. At the Governor's Home we were treated to a period meal of carrot soup, pork and chicken (typical fall foods for the pioneers), Tecumseh succotash, green beans and a poached apple in a pastry shell. White & red wine provided the adult libation. During the meal, a re-enactor (Kevin Stonerock), portraying Governor Morton, addressed the Pioneers, relating details of the Governor's life, both personal and political.

All in all, it was a great trip....both educational and entertaining! Special thanks to **Sue Thomson** who worked tirelessly to get this put together, to **Nelson Price** for expert commentary and to **Dr. Ron Morris** who also provided commentary and hosted the awesome dinner at the **Morton House**. Take a look at the Facebook page for The Society of Indiana Pioneers for numerous photographs from the Pilgrimage.

Looking ahead, a 4-day, 3-night Pilgrimage, similar to our trip to **Cumberland Gap**, is in the works for **August 1 – 4, 2022**. This Pilgrimage will explore the National Road (built between 1811 and 1837 and originally connecting Cumberland, Maryland with Vandalia, Illinois). The National Road was one of the routes that our ancestors took on their westward trek. This trip, accommodating up to 48 travelers, has stops planned at the Davidson Interpretive Center (largest settlement of Shawnee and the site of the Peckuwe Battle in 1780) and the Ohio



Jerry and Phyllis Mattheis with member Jim Fadely at the **Overbeck House**

Statehouse, a great example of Greek Revival architecture. Travelers will stay two nights at the Oglebay Resort in West Virginia. While there we will tour the estate of Earl W. Oglebay, and visit the LeMoyné House (built in 1821, and a center for Underground Railroad activity). Other sites in this area include Albert Gallatin's estate at Friendship Hill National Historic Site and the Glass Museum. Departing Oglebay, we will visit the site of The Battle of Fort Necessity, Braddock's grave and Washington Tavern. Additional stops are planned for the Chesapeake, Ohio and Cumberland Visitor Center where we will learn about the C&O Canal and will hopefully dedicate a bench in recognition of our Pioneer ancestors. Overnight will be at The Historic Summit Inn (1907) in western Pennsylvania. On the way back to Indianapolis we will visit one of the few remaining S-Bridges along the National Road, and stop at the Zane Grey Museum. A stop is also planned at the German Village in Columbus, followed by a unique dinner in the limestone vaults of the 1875 Schlee Brewery. This looks to be a SPECTACULAR TRIP which will rival our Cumberland Gap Pilgrimage! Look for a flyer in this mailing with many more details and pricing. Remember, only 48 travelers, so plan to reserve early!

Your Society is also planning a new and unique event for June 29, 2022. This will be an Intergenerational Day at the Strawtown Koteewi Park and The Taylor Center of Natural History. This event is being planned by Board members Nelson Price, Andrea Neal and Terri Gorney Lehman. Nelson Price has prepared an article with the details of this event which appears in this newsletter.

Andrea Neal and her Educational Committee continue to award \$500 "field trip" grants to schools who have their proposals approved by the committee. Since most schools have not been doing field trips during COVID, these grants have helped to offset educational expenses which pertain to Indiana and pioneer history. Hopefully pioneer-oriented field trips can resume soon!

Dr. Stephen Kappes, arborist and Society Life Member, continues to look after the elm tree planted in 2016 by SIP at the original state capital in Corydon.

Matt Barnett, the 2020 winner of the **John H. Holliday Award**, and an 8th grade teacher at Lewis Cass Jr.—Sr. School (Walton) continues to impress the Society with his educational endeavors.



Flatboat that Matt Barnett and his 8th graders built.

Matt and his students recently built an Indiana-style flatboat and they were able to take it on its maiden voyage on the nearby Eel River. Nice work Matt, and thank you!

Those of you who pay close attention to the Pioneer Yearbook might have noticed three welcome additions to the 2020-2021 Yearbook brought about by our editor, **Jeanie Hornung**. 1. 30-year, 40-year, 50-year and 60-year members are listed along with the year that they became members. This should help settle the age-old question: who has been an Indiana Pioneer the longest? 2. We now have a table which shows the number of Indiana Pioneers in each state (as well as a few foreign countries). 3. Under each member's individual listing, the year that they joined SIP is noted. Thanks for the added information Jeanie!

And finally, the 2021 Annual Meeting will be LIVE and IN-PERSON at Meridian Hills Country Club on November 6, 2021. Please plan to attend!! See you there!!

In Pioneer Fellowship,
Robert E. Clements, President

From the Genealogist
Michele Kerr

As the genealogist for the Society of Indiana Pioneers, I'm asking a favor of all of our active members. I've had several take me up on this request that I've issued before, but I am hoping that this newsletter finds even more people that are not only excited to have documented their Indiana pioneer ancestors, but are also realizing how important it is to document themselves. I would again like to ask that each active member take a few minutes to write down a basic outline of their life AND the reason that each one felt compelled to join the Society of Indiana Pioneers. What is it about this group or the application or the pioneer ancestor that drew each of us to apply for mem-

bership?

This exercise always feels like it is something that can wait, but as I have recently experienced with the passing of a very close friend after a recurrence of cancer, I am more than aware that our "todays" are gifts not to be taken for granted. I originally submitted my own applications for my Indiana pioneer ancestors because I wanted to honor their legacy and hard work AND to have the documentation stored for future generations.

What I'm realizing as I continue to work through even my own parents' generation is that I have found lots of documents, but nothing that really tells their story like they might have. Because of this, I have to draw my own hypothesis on the "Whys" for my parents' actions. Gosh, what I would give to find a letter written with an outline of their life and possibly a few insights into some of the "Whys."

Back to the life outline I'm asking for all our members to submit: To say that I'm asking for a biography sounds way too daunting, but if I phrase it as more of a timeline with a few added facts or reasons added in, then maybe it is something that we can all pull together.

I have had some people submit resumés which is basically a timeline filled with work facts and that is wonderful. I'm not judging any submissions as they come in, but only asking that along with some facts, it would be a grand idea to include your personal reason for joining our group. I have had members trace their movements from childhood and even include circumstances where they realized why looking back at their family's history became very important.

Let me also say that these documents are placed in with your application file and will not be handed out for many years down the road. Let's think one hundred years from now. These will be those proverbial treasure boxes that everyone would give almost anything to be able to look at!

One more request as well: If you have a copy of your Indiana Pioneer ancestor's photo, I would love to have a copy submitted to be added to your file AND to collect as a project I'm undertaking so that we can pull photos and drawings together on as many Indiana pioneer ancestors as we can! I have had several take me up on this request and I'm very thankful. I am very close to showing what has been submitted so

far. When you send the photo copy in by email or mail, please include names of everyone in the photo to the best of your knowledge and any short story if you didn't happen to include that in your original application for that ancestor! These photos will also be placed into your file, but are being collected as a group as well. They can be emailed along with your timeline or mailed into the office.

Also, if any of our members are involved in **FaceBook** groups that are Indiana County history associated, feel free to mention in these groups that you are a member of the Society of Indiana Pioneers and that they can find out more information in the Society of Indiana Pioneers Facebook group! I have posted in my own home county of Steuben County's Memories group before and found myself quite a busy person hearing about the interest in our group!

If you are involved in a project that relates to Indiana pioneer history, we do love to share those projects. Feel free to contact me about them at genealogist@indianapioneers.org. Or if you have recently received an award, have a great family history website or blog that you are especially proud of, or have published a family history based book, send that information along as well! It is fascinating to see what all our members are up to!

Intergenerational Day
Strawtown — June 29, 2022
Nelson Price, Pilgrimage Chair

A brand new event is being planned for summer 2022, an Intergenerational Day designed to have special appeal to young generations of Pioneers (children and grandchildren), although the interactive programming will be enticing to all ages. The Intergenerational Day will be at an intriguing historic site at Strawtown near



the White River: the Taylor Center for Natural History and surrounding 750-acre Koteewi Park.

Board members Andrea Neal, Terri Gorney Lehman and I have met with a Hamilton County naturalist and an archeologist to plan the exciting day, which will be **June 29, a Wednesday**. The programming will touch on White



River history, Native American history, and a range of natural history, with a visit by a falconer who will be accompanied by native birds of prey. Other visitors will include an early fur trader (a history reenactor in costume). In addition to enjoying the extensive display of artifacts at the history center, we will have a nature walk (the area includes hiking trails and gardens of medicinal plants), we also will step inside recreations of Native American structures.

A flyer with a mail-back reservation form will be inserted in the January dues mailing to all Pioneers. The cost for the Intergenerational Day, which will include a box lunch, will be extremely reasonable. That's in part because, rather than using a motor coach as with our Pilgrimages, Pioneers who want to participate will need to make arrangements for their own transportation to the Strawtown site. Look for full details in the January flyer; the purpose of this article is merely to provide a heads-up about this new event. Those of us who met with the Hamilton County parks department staff are very enthusiastic about the activities for Pioneers, our families, and our guests.

Education Committee Report
Andrea Neal, Chairman

The late summer surge of the coronavirus Delta variant has forced many Indiana schools to put field trip plans on pause as they continue to assess the safest way to educate students in a pandemic. Indianapolis Public Schools announced that it would resume in-person field trips on October 8, while some schools are waiting until second semester for travel due to rising Covid