

*The Society of Indiana Pioneers
Hoosier Heritage Spring Pilgrimage*

WILLKIE HOME, COVERED BRIDGES, HISTORIC MANSIONS & MORE

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Price: \$165

(Includes transportation, luncheon, light dinner reception, admissions, gratuities & donations to sites and driver)

Deadline: January 31, 2018

for Pioneers/guests

(After that, also opens to the public.)

Guests are welcome; number may be limited. Minimum: 25 travelers; Maximum: 54

Join us for a Spring Pilgrimage to southeastern Indiana that will feature a visit to the Civil War-era Rushville home where Wendell Willkie lived during his rollicking 1940 presidential campaign against FDR; his grandson, David Willkie, will be our host. The trip also will include visits to the picturesque town of Aurora and to two famous mansions perched on bluffs overlooking the Ohio River: ornate Hillforest and Veraestau, a portion of which dates to 1810. Historic reenactors and musicians periodically will greet us during the day, which also will include a visit to – and presentations about – covered bridges in Rush County.

- Enjoy commentary from pilgrimage chairman Nelson Price on the motor coach on the drive south.
- In the Ohio River town of Aurora, meet a Civil War physician re-enactor at City Hall.
- Explore the windows of Aurora on a short walking tour of the historic downtown. With one of the town's primary muralists as our guide, we will learn the stories "behind" the window murals. They include painted scenes of life during the early 1900s, a community arts project.
- Savor a "progressive luncheon" beginning at Hillforest, a lavish Italian Renaissance-mansion built in the 1850s overlooking the Ohio River. Luncheon will be followed by tours with period-costumed docents of Hillforest, the mansion of wealthy industrialist Thomas Gaff. With flourishes like arched windows, graceful balconies, and spectacular porches, Hillforest is a National Historic Landmark.

(CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE)

Reserve early! Before it is open to the public!

To make a reservation, mail the tear-off form and check payable to: Thomson Travel
5764 East Fall Creek Parkway, N. Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46226 thomsontravel@gmail.com

For answers to questions, contact Sue Thomson at (317)-908- 9602

To make a reservation for "Willkie Home, Covered Bridges Historic Mansions & More" trip

Name(s) _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____ Cell (required if you have one) _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Checks only! # of reservations _____ @ \$165 = \$ _____

Lunch choice (please check one): Pork _____ Chicken _____

ITINERARY CONTINUED

- Travel to Veraestau, a mansion owned by Indiana Landmarks. Built beginning in 1810 above the Ohio River, the Greek Revival-style mansion is the setting for elegant weddings and receptions; it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. We will enjoy a dessert buffet at Veraestau.
- Journey to Rush County, where we will be greeted by a historic reenactor at a legendary covered bridge near the tiny town of Moscow. Struck by a tornado, the Moscow Covered Bridge was rebuilt after its original wood was salvaged from the Flatrock River by local residents. The award-winning restoration of the covered bridge was unveiled amid much fanfare in 2008.
- Enjoy a presentation by Larry Stout, past president of the Covered Bridge Society of Indiana.
- With David Willkie, visit historic East Hill Cemetery, the burial site of Rush County notables including Wendell Willkie (1892-1944), the Elwood native and maverick businessman who became the unexpected GOP challenger of Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1940 presidential election.
- Visit the Rush County Courthouse. Circuit Court Judge David Northam will speak briefly about the courthouse and open his courtroom.
- At the Civil War-era, ancestral home of David Willkie's family – where his grandfather lived while campaigning for U.S. president – enjoy a light dinner reception. We also will enjoy a presentation from David about his family and the home, where much Rush County history unfolded.

Depart: 7:30 am promptly from Second Presbyterian Church, 7700 N. Meridian St. in Indianapolis. Please arrive 15 minutes early for prompt departure. Park at lower level of parking lot, north of church.

Return: 8:30 pm (approx.) to Second Presbyterian Church.

Cancellation policy:

A \$10 cancellation fee applies for any cancellation before March 21, 2018. After that, no refund except recoverable money unless we have someone on the wait list to take your place. If there isn't a wait list, you are welcome to find a replacement to fill your spot.