



Pioneer Times

Proven Ancestors:
9,324
Total Members:
1,022
These include:
Life members: 188
Junior Members: 17
Associate Members: 28

Office phone number:
317-441-8293

Email:
IndianaPioneers@gmail.com

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Issue 21

A Note from the President Julie Newhouse

Greetings to fellow SIP Members,

Thank you for such a successful and great year!

The State of Indiana is in its first full year of implementing Indiana History as an elective in high schools throughout the state. The Society has followed and encouraged the schools statewide to begin teaching Indiana History again. The Society also is supporting a project to engage a pilot group of 4th to 6th graders in five counties around the State in a study of early pioneers in their respective communities.

Additionally, our Vision Committee has recommended that the Society utilize our endowment fund to support the mission and activities of SIP. A few of the recommendations that the Board voted to do are to increase the monetary awards for the master's thesis fellowship, doctoral dissertation fellowship, and the SIP Junior History Award. Furthermore, an application process will be established for five (5) fourth-grade field trip grants. Also, SIP will seek additional partnerships with the Indiana Humanities Council, Indiana Landmarks, and the Indiana Historical Society.

SIP continues to collaborate with Midwestern Roots. Several members attended and monitored our booth at the Midwestern Roots Conference in July in Indianapolis.

From July 25 through July 28, SIP had a full bus load of members and other guests who traveled to the Cumberland Gap area. There were many highlights of this trip. We visited historic houses and Keeneland race track in Lexington, Kentucky, toured the Buffalo Trace Distillery and sipped bourbon. We donated a bench to the Pine Mountain State Park where we attended a commemoration ceremony in memory of our ancestors who passed through the Cumberland Gap. We stayed at the Pine Mountain State Park Hotel where Daniel Boone and Dr. Thomas Walker spoke to us. We walked the Cumberland Gap trail to the Cumberland Gap where we were told one in eight of our ancestors passed through between the 1690s and 1810. We passed through the States of Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia within an hour and a half, much less time than our ancestors. We stayed at Boone Tavern in Berea, visited the old State Capitol at Richmond, Kentucky, Martin's Station, Shaker Village, and Boonesborough. Needless to say, we had a wonderful trip!

Many thanks to Sue Thomson of Thomson Travel, Nelson Price, and Board member, Dr. Ron Morris, who regaled us with the history of our ancestors. Thanks Dr. Bob and Jill Clements for your many hours of coordination and out of state travel to implement the bench commemoration. Thanks to Bob Everitt for suggesting this trip! It was remarkable.

Thank you Sally Fadely and Michele Kerr for everything you do for SIP.

Thank you to all of the members of SIP for your continued support. It is my belief that SIP has one of the hardest working and interesting boards with which I have had the privilege to serve.

Please attend the annual meeting of our membership on November 2, 2019, at Meridian Hills Country Club in Indianapolis. This is an opportunity to meet new members and for fellowship with other history aficionados.

Best regards and hope to see you in November.

A Note from the Genealogist Michele Kerr

Hello to everyone! My call for pioneer photos in the last newsletter has brought in quite a few and I will be sharing the project as soon as I can. The one thing that is always evident is that we have a passionate group of members!

As some of you are aware, we have an ever-growing group on FaceBook which include official SIP (Society of Indiana Pioneers) Members and those who are interested in the Society or just have a passion for their own Indiana ancestors. All are welcome and quite a few of our newest members have joined the Society after joining our FaceBook group. It is a great place to ask questions about the application process and to find others with ancestors who are related or from the same county. If you have someone who might be interested in our group, feel free to point them to this FaceBook group as well. I am the moderator and always willing to help a fellow Indiana pioneer descendant! (This FaceBook group is a private group, so prospective members will just need to do a Search for The Society of Indiana Pioneers and then submit their request to join.) It's also a great place to share your own research stories or Indiana pioneer ancestor stories!

For anyone interested, I write a monthly article for a digital scrapbooking group called Scrapaneers Society about everything Heritage. It is a learning group that offers classes on digital scrapbooking and I was originally asked to focus on helping digital scrapbookers to begin their journey into looking at their family history and I cover everything from research to photos. I also share my own lifestory book I'm making for my paternal grandparents as I describe the different research processes that I'm using to locate information. I will be reposting them to my own blog and then sharing in our FaceBook group, so it can be used as a research resource archive of sorts! (My articles focus on the family history research side only.)

My goal is to eventually get this type of information located on our SIP website and available to our members. As I am working on both the photo project and the research help project, I am open to suggestions on what you would love to see available in a member-only area. Are there any of you, our members, who might be interested in writing short articles on your pioneer ancestor's counties or might you have an idea of other articles that you might like to suggest be written? I can't guarantee anything, but I would love to be able to do some brainstorming to make sure that our members fully enjoy their membership.

A while back I also mentioned that it would be a good thing to submit your own resume or lifestory so that it could be added to your

application for those descendants to discover possibly in another 100 years (more or less!) We have had a few take me up on this and I do hope that we all take the time to get some highlights of each of our lives written down. I'm not going to put a structure on this so feel free to make it like a resume, more like a trip down memory lane or simply a timeline. (And feel free to either handwrite it or type it out.) You can send it to me via email to genealogist@indianapioneers.org or mail it to our office. I will happily add it to your application file. (If you are not sure about why this is a good thing, just think of how much you would love to find a hand-written personal history of your own Indiana Pioneer ancestor!) Good hunting! -

Welcome New Members

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

Regular Members:

Ackley, Nancy Sue Allen
Carmel, IN
Benedict, Richard Lee
Carmel, IN
Buchanan, Bruce Warren
Indianapolis, IN
Burrow, Michael Robert
Greenfield, IN
Chambers, Jill Lough
Indianapolis, IN
Christensen, Abigail Leigh
Whitestown, IN
Christensen, Carolyn Hinkle
Lafayette, IN
Christensen, Richard Lawrence
Lafayette, IN
Dawalt, D.O., Joshua William
Noblesville, IN
Engleman, Jansson Tyler-Smith
Zionsville, IN
Goldman, Patricia Spence
Placentia, CA
Hicks, Deborah Whitmore
Eufaula, AL
Hoffman, Dan Clayton
Indianapolis, IN
Holton, Gregory Andrew
Indianapolis, IN
Hornung, Jeffrey Wayne
New Palestine, IN
Hyer, Ronald Lee
Michigan City, IN
Ikerd, Truitt Williams
Clermont, FL
Kohl, Nina Harlan
Greenfield, WI
McConaughy, Glen Edward
Greenwood, IN
McConaughy, Nancy Copple
Greenwood, IN
Montigney, Bruce Allan
Fishers, IN
Montigney, Troy Allan
Indianapolis, IN

Nathan, Joan Graham
Medford, NY
Petry, Catherine Ann
Lakewood, CO
Richter, Tetra Rochelle
Fishers, IN
Ross, Dennis Hamilton
Spring Valley, CA
Ross, Linda Click
Orlando, FL
Schnarr, Ann Blueher
Indianapolis, IN
Speer, Dennis Lee
Ottumwa, IA
Spencer, David Allen
Greenfield, IN
Stokes, Anita Junken
Indianapolis, IN
Stultz, Janet Youngblood
Greenfield, IN
Waggoner, Shannon Skiles
Knightstown, IN
Wood, PhD, Michelle Zewari
Columbia, MD
Youngblood, Carol Elaine
Monrovia, IN
Zewari, Janis Woody
Columbia, MD

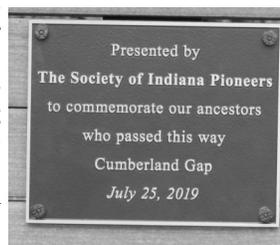
2019 Society of Indiana Pioneers Pilgrimage to the Cumberland Gap

In June a Society of Indiana Pioneer delegation traveled to the Cumberland Gap to retrace the physical or metaphorical journey our ancestors made to come to the Indiana frontier. The first ever four-day pilgrimage took them to the Cumberland Gap where, under the leadership of the Pine Mountain State Resort Park of Kentucky, they dedicated a bench on the Wilderness Road to our forebearers who came



through the Gap and proceeded to Indiana. The SIP members explored four themes on the trip: Becoming Americans, Becoming Kentuckians, Becoming Hoosiers, and Diversity on the Frontier.

Diversity on the Frontier was the theme that was the most challenging for the SIP members. Meeting the Shakers at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky, made us think about what we thought we knew about the frontier. Here were people who had unconventional ideas about society, property, gender, religion, and race. Further down the road was the small Berea College that challenged its



neighbors with idea about education, religion, gender, and race. These were all powerful themes that we still wrestle with in our communities.

In Kentucky the SIP members found multiple connections that helped us understand our theme of Becoming Hoosiers. One example was in Lexington's Gratz Park where we stood in the shadow of John Hunt Morgan's home. Morgan, "the Thunderbolt of the Confederacy" would terrorize Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio on his wild raid during the summer of 1863.

The SIP members learned about Becoming Kentuckians in Danville, Kentucky, where they explored the surgery, apothecary, and residence of Dr. Ephraim McDowell who conducted the first successful open abdominal surgery recorded in American history. Not only were the citizens of Kentucky learning how to create a civic society they were also making strides to provide community members with services that would improve their lives. Located on the edge of the wilderness, Danville was also the location of the Kentucky Constitutional Convention attended by the leaders of the Commonwealth, including Revolutionary War Hero Isaac Shelby.

Isaac Shelby brought a group of frontiersmen over the Appalachian Mountains into North Carolina to participate in the pivotal Battle of King's Mountain. It was a needed victory in the American Revolution in the South and a story that helped the SIP members learn about the trip theme of Becoming Americans. Another point that illustrated this theme was a visit to Martin's Station which guarded the eastern opening to the Cumberland Gap and was the scene of frequent frontier conflict. As a jumping off point from Virginia it served as a migratory opening for western settlers.

Of course, the SIP members got to stand in or look over the Cumberland Gap while meeting National Park personnel who provided interpretation. The contributions of Dr. Thomas Walker and Daniel Boone figured prominently into the NPS video. However, the major character was the land itself; it was beautiful, bountiful, and imposing.

The Society of Indiana Pioneers Pilgrimage Committee is busy planning future excursions and eagerly anticipates the next trip. The Pilgrimage Committee would like to thank all who helped to make the trip a memorable success. Finally, the Pilgrimage Committee would like to encourage SIP members to consider traveling with us on our next adventure.

2019 Fellowship Winner

John W. Nelson, PhD Candidate at the University of Notre Dame, is the 2019 Winner of the Society of Indiana Pioneers Fellowship. The fellowship is offered annually to graduate students to assist in their research on early Indiana history. John's dissertation title is "Muddy Ground: Indians, Europeans, and the Struggle to Connect a Continent in Lower Lake Michigan." He will be a guest at the Annual Meeting and offer remarks on his research.

