



# The Society of Indiana Pioneers

## June 2024 Newsletter

### A Message from the President

*"Summer Afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."* Henry James

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and is able to attend a family reunion, enjoy happenings around the state and participate in a Society of Indiana Pioneers event.

On June 1, the Board of Governors met for a very productive meeting. I would like to thank each board member for their time, talent and dedication to SIP.

Our Society is about to reach our 10,000th proven ancestor. We are at 9,915 now. The board unanimously voted to give a free life membership to the person who reaches this goal.

The board decided to again have a table at the Indiana State Fair in the Pioneer Building. Details will follow in the coming weeks.

The third **Intergenerational Day** will take place **July 11** at **Limberlost State Historic Site in Geneva**. There is still space available. Please think about bringing your children or grandchildren. This event is open to all our membership (with or without children).

There will be a special exhibit on **Gene Stratton-Porter** at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis beginning **June 15**. This year marks the 100th anniversary of her passing. The Huntington Library in Huntington will be showing *A Girl of the Limberlost* movie on June 27, 6:00 pm.

The **June 21 Pilgrimage at the Indiana Historical Society** sold out quickly. Please sign up early for the December 5 Pilgrimage *Celebrate the Holidays with History* as we expect this one to sell out.

From your own home, you can Zoom our quarterly **Sip with SIP**. The next one is June 26 (details below). You can also listen to *Hoosier History Live!* every Saturday at noon or listen to one of the shows on a podcast. It is hosted by our own Nelson Price.

Thank you for being a member.

Warmly,



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## “Sip with SIP”

A Quarterly Zoom Happy Hour Connection

**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**

5:00 to 5:30 PM (ET)

PRESENTER: **Matt Barnett**

TOPIC: Storm the Fort

(slides from winning the John H. Holliday Award)

DRINK:

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## Ancestor Contest

At the time of this newsletter, there are **9,915** proven ancestors in the Society's database. The Society would like to reach 10,000 proven ancestors this year. To that end, the Society is offering a **life membership** to the member who submits the 10,000th ancestor.

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Thursday, July 11, 2024, from 9.30 am to 3.00 pm

Exploring the natural history of  
**the Limberlost and Gene Stratton-Porter**

Special appeal to children and grandchildren of Pioneers

**Deadline is June 15 and cost is \$25**

Participants must provide their own transportation to:

Limberlost State Historic Site

200 E. Sixth Street (& US 27)

Geneva, IN 46740

Maximum participants: 40

[Intergenerational Day Itinerary & Reservation Form](#)

## **Celebrating the Holidays with History December Pilgrimage**

Thursday, DECEMBER 5, 2024

Price: \$168

(Includes transportation, progressive luncheon, celebratory cocktail or non-alcoholic drink to toast the holidays, admission and gratuities to driver.)

Deadline: **Oct. 1, 2024** for Pioneers/guests

(After that, also opens to the public.)

Guests are welcome; number may be limited.

Minimum: 30 travelers; Maximum: 51

[December Holiday Pilgrimage Itinerary & Reservation Form](#)

**An Excerpt from the Society's 1928 Yearbook.**

Pioneers. He was the second president of the organization. A special thank you to former president Chuck Bragg and his wife Karen who digitalized our Yearbooks.

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS

*An Early Pioneer and His Home*

By AMOS W. BUTLER

**T**HE first settler of Brookville, Indiana, was Amos Butler. He was a Quaker. His ancestors were members of that Society almost from its beginning. In the first volume of records of Bristol and Somersetshire monthly meetings, Bristol, England, appear the names of John and Elizabeth (Worley) Butler. They were present at the marriage of their son, John, and Bersheba (Noble) Coombe, widow in 1703. In the same volume is the record of the marriage of William Penn and Hannah Callowhill. The witnesses to one wedding were witnesses at the other one. To John and Bersheba was born a son, Noble. The three were of the colonists who came to Penn's colony in America, at Philadelphia. Noble moved to Chester County, Pennsylvania, and married. His grandson, Amos Butler, son of William, became the first settler of Brookville. He came to Lawrenceburg in 1803.

He selected some land in the "Big Bottoms," near Elizabethtown. In the course of his prospecting in the summer of 1804, he made his way along the Indian trail up the White-water River to the site of the present town of Brookville. Greatly pleased with the beautiful region at the forks of the river, he selected the southeast quarter of section 20, being influenced by the fact that it had little large timber on it. The second growth was doubtless that which occupied an old Indian clearing. This land was entered at the land office at Cincinnati, December 4, 1804, being the first entry of land within the limits of the future town of Brookville. That winter he busied himself with plans for developing the new region. He and Jesse B. Thomas, of Lawrenceburg, afterwards United States Senator from Illinois, and the author of

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the historic "Missouri Compromise," were associated in the plan to form a new town. July 3, 1805, they entered the northwest quarter of section 29. For this Mr. Butler paid the greater part of the purchase money, but Thomas succeeded in having the patent issued in his name. On this land the original plat of the town of Brookville was laid out August 8, 1808. The sale of the lots was deferred through legal proceedings taken by Amos Butler. He later agreed to a compromise settlement by which he was deeded part of the land in consideration of the payments he had made. The first lot in this addition was sold March 7, 1811.

Mr. Butler remained at Brookville until 1818, when he removed to Hanover, Jefferson County. In 1825 he built the stone house near Butler's Falls at the edge of Hanover. The following spring the family moved into it. The accompanying picture shows its present appearance. It has been continuously occupied and still is. His son, William Wallace Butler, father of the writer, born in Brookville, March 11, 1810, lived to be almost ninety-four years old. He grew up at Hanover but most of his life was spent at Brookville where he became one of its most active and prominent citizens.

Mary Parvin (Mrs. James P.) Baker and Amos W. Butler, two of his grandchildren and both members of the Society of Indiana Pioneers, together with the children and grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Amos W. Butler, were present at the Centennial, 1926, of the occupation of the dwelling.

In a little old graveyard, known as Greenbrier burying ground, approximately a mile from Hanover, are buried Amos and Mary Butler, Nathaniel Wallace, the father of the latter and others of their descendants.

## SIP President & Sen. Glick ~ Building Bridges with Birds

On May 23, I was invited to participate in a walk with Sen. Sue Glick by Audubon Great Lakes. It was part of their program "Building Bridges

history as well as nature, so I chose the Gene Stratton Porter State Historic Site in Rome City. We talked about her family which settled in LaGrange County in the 1840s. She is eligible to become a member of SIP. We hope she will join. Have you talked to someone about joining SIP?



Front Row: Randy Lehman, Sen. Sue Glick, Terri Lehman

Back Row: Tai Gunter, Mitch Greenberg, Sabra Stevens, Fred Wooley

## Dates to Remember

**Friday, June 21, 2024**

Summer Pilgrimage - Behind the Scenes at the IHS

**Wednesday June 26, 2024**

SIP with Sip - Matt Barnett

**Thursday, July 11, 2024**

Intergenerational Day - Limberlost State Historic Site

**Wednesday, September 18, 2024**

Sip with SIP - Andy Olsen

**Saturday, November 2, 2024**

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Sip with SIP - Lori Samuelson

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

Board Meeting

**Saturday, June 7, 2025**

Board Meeting

## Fun Things Happening Around the State

### From the Bartholomew County Historical Society:

SAVE the DATE – July 13 – FARMJAM '24! This new event at the Farm will be full of great music, food, cold beverages and fun!

Columbus, Indiana

<http://https://bartholomewhistory.org/>



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