

Indiana Bicentennial Commission News

October 2014, Vol. 12

www.indiana2016.org

Bicentennial BIZ for September:

- 2 Team 2016 visits Benton, Warren and Vermillion counties
- 4 Meet with Indiana State Museum and Jasper County visit
- 5 Meet with Indiana State Department of Health
- 5 Morgan County visit
- 9 Pike and Gibson county visits
- 10 Warrick and Spencer county visits
- 11 Indiana Commission on Higher Education presentation, Indiana Geological Survey meeting and Orange County visit
- 12 Meet with Central Indiana Community Foundation (CICF)
- 15 Meet with Indiana War Memorial
- 16 Clark and Floyd counties visit
- 17 Knox and Daviess counties visit
- 18 Parke County visit and meet with Indiana Department of Education
- 19 POW/MIA Ceremony IN War Memorial
- 20 Co-Chair Becky Skillman speaks at Princeton's Bicentennial Plaza dedication
- 22 Meet with ArtSmart and Indiana Society of Museum presentation
- 23 Bicentennial Green Legacy Community presentation
- 23 Vanderburgh County visit
- 24 Wells and Whitley counties visit
- 25 Indiana Association of Counties presentation
- 26 French Lick, Orange County visit
- 30 Noble County visit

www.indiana2016.org - Deb Wezensky,
Editor dwezensky@indiana2016.in.gov

Historical Celebration: The Magic of Discovery Where is Indiana's "lost" centennial film?

In 1916, a "moving picture" became a part of Indiana's centennial celebration promotions. During the filming weather was often inclement. "However it presents a suitable and commendable picture show, suggestive of incidents in the historical life of Indiana. It has been shown in connection with many celebrations and is in great demand generally," according to the *Report of the Indiana Historical Commission, April 24, 1915 to December 1, 1916*.



The centennial film included President Woodrow Wilson's visit, James Whitcomb Riley, the evolution of the street car and G.A.R. Encampment and parade, as well as 30,000 school children performing a flag drill.

Selig Polyscope Company of Chicago produced the picture on nitrate film which becomes highly volatile with age. However, a few minutes of transferred footage exists yet today at the Indiana State Library, the National Archives and on YouTube <http://youtu.be/iXPIHqiT7r4>. Is there more?

While Ted Green, Indianapolis filmmaker, was doing research, he unearthed an historic WWI era Indianapolis film. Scenes included Teddy Roosevelt's Indianapolis visit, WWI soldiers returning home and the moving of a hotel with rollers and horses so the War Memorial could be built.

"Finding that old canister at the State Library, then having Eric [Grayson] digitize it and seeing it for the first time, it was like the magic of discovery," said Green.

To think of history slowly deteriorating in mostly unmarked boxes...hopefully it's a call to arms for libraries and historical societies and just regular people across the state to dig into these basement boxes and see what might be there. Imagine the possibilities -- and the catastrophe of losing it forever."

Historical Celebration "A Town Born of Victory"

Legacy Project Number IBC-YE-26 "A Town Born of Victory" is a project about the Town of Orleans in Orange County, Indiana. In keeping with the town's 2015 bicentennial and Indiana's 2016 bicentennial, the documentary celebrates a rural southern town's hopes, dreams, victories over adversity and determination to boldly embrace the future.

The Spirit of Orleans Moves Forward

January 1815: *A ragtag army of Americans, under the command of Major General Andrew Jackson, defeated a much larger and better equipped British army near New Orleans.*

It was an astounding victory – one that left an indelible imprint on the psyche of the new nation and kept the Louisiana Purchase in American hands.

Samuel Lewis and William McFarland were so inspired that they named the town they were plating out in the Indiana Territory "Little Orleans," opening lines from "A Town Born of Victory."



The only rail spur to French Lick, and its opulent hotels in their original heyday, began in Orleans. "People watching" when train No. 5 arrived with the rich and famous was a local past-time.

1851-52: To secure the railroad for the town, the citizens gave \$40,000, all by private subscription. Considering the time and size of the town this was a remarkably large amount.

1917: The United States had entered WWI. A close-knit group of Orleans students knew there was a very real possibility that some of them could be shipped off to France soon. However, they still left lively records in the "Orleana" yearbook:

"OHS is a dear school, and fewer fools are found in no other."

"Some peoples have been exposed to four years of education without catching it."

"Never neglect to shine your shoes. If you cannot shineth on one end, you may shineth on the other."

"The key to a town's identity lies within the pages of its history, and the manifestation of that identity is the action taken by the town's people," says Cathy Hardin, executive producer, "A Town Born of Victory." "We hope to make people aware of the spirit that began this place, and so many like it, and to refresh and renew that spirit among the citizens of rural Indiana towns."

1960s: The Village Improvement Society and other groups plant dogwood trees in the town's park, along city streets and highway corridors. Orleans becomes the "Dogwood Capital of Indiana."



Today:

2015 Orleans bicentennial plans are underway

Celebrations will include:

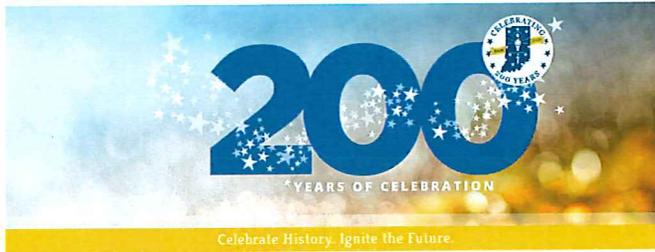
- Kick-off celebration: "Orleans 200 Birthday Party" on March 11, 2015
- A special commemorative postmark will be offered through the Orleans Post Office
- The annual Dogwood Festival in 2015 will feature a bicentennial birthday party theme. www.orleansdogwoodfestival.com
- "A Town Born of Victory" video premier
- "Orleans Homecoming" over the long Fourth of July celebration

Visit www.facebook.com/orleans200 for details.

A Vision for the Future: "Imagine Orleans"

Planned revitalization initiatives include:

- Diversified housing
- Alternative energy sources
- Advancement of local food opportunities
- Additional recreational activities and sites
- Creation of adult education/training programs
- Library expansion
- New fire station
- Community Wi-Fi access in the public park
- Redeveloping Bicentennial Sulphur Well Park



Spotlight 92: Greene County

Q&A with *Brianne Jerrels,*
Bicentennial County Coordinator

Q: What steps has your county taken to roll out Indiana 2016 Bicentennial planning?

A: We keep gaining momentum. To date:

- We have an established a Facebook page with over 120 “Likes.” “Like” us at www.facebook.com/greene16.
- Greene 16 is trying to integrate its diverse county assets into the planning process.
- The Greene 16 team is participating in the CRANE 75th Anniversary planning to try to create synergism between the two regional events.

Q: How important do you believe it is to include youth and young adults in planning and celebrating the bicentennial?

A: “It’s extremely important! They are the future of Greene County. The more we include them in planning and celebrating, the more likely they will take ownership and develop a sense of community pride for a lifetime.”

Q: What Bicentennial Legacy Projects are in the works for Greene County?

A: Greene 16 recently met with Mark Becker Bicentennial Nature Trust Program Director, DNR, to discuss the plan for a county-wide biking/walking trail to connect all of Greene County.

Q: What challenges are you addressing?

A: “Being one of the state’s largest counties (in area) with a very dispersed population, communication to the residents will be a major challenge. Greene 16 is trying to also make sure that the river dividing the county in half does not become an inhibitor to the celebration’s success.”

Some Greene 16 Team Members



(Left to right) Front row: Brianne Jerrels, Laura McIntosh, Ruth Rollins, Gerry Masse; middle row: Dianne Masse, Cheryl Hamilton, Susie Schulte; and back row: Kyle Cross.

Q: What can be accomplished through the Greene County Bicentennial celebration?

A: “This is an exciting opportunity to create an on-going awareness of annual events throughout our community while promoting tourism from within. Also, we hope this will encourage the youth to become more interested and engaged in the community they call home.”

Q: What resources do you find most helpful?

A: “The Bicentennial Commission staff has been readily available to answer any questions and the website is a very handy tool.”

www.indiana2016.org

Greene County’s bicentennial committee is constantly growing. Partners include DNR, CRANE, local governments, business owners, schools, chambers of commerce, local media, Purdue Extension, the Community Foundation and Economic Development. To date 36 persons have expressed an interest in the Bicentennial celebration.

Connect with Brianne:

bjerrrels@insidegreencounty.com 812-847-4500

Sharing Hoosier Insights*



Levi and Catharine
"Aunt Kate" Coffin
Images courtesy of
Indiana State Library,
Rare Books &
Manuscripts Division.

"My patriotic pride grows every time I visit the Levi Coffin house at Fountain City. What exceptional people Levi and "Aunt Kate" were...risking much every time they assisted a fugitive slave.

A concern though: I have often wondered why Catharine isn't given more credit? Levi couldn't have done all that he did without her help and support."

Richard Radcliffe, County Historian, Spiceland, Henry County

"Over the years historians have argued the influence of one great man in shaping a period of history. Nineteenth century romantic philosopher Thomas Carlyle wrote, "The history of what man accomplished in this world, is at the bottom the history of the Great Men who worked here." Others believe leaders do not make history but are products of the times.

The Hoosier Poet James Whitcomb Riley was a great man. The richness of James Whitcomb Riley's poetry has come to personally represent how we view ourselves as a state." **Joe Skvarenina, Greenfield, Hancock County**



James Whitcomb Riley, known as the Children's Poet, poses with a group of children for a photo to be published in a book for the Indiana state centennial.



"The wonderful farm land has given the people of Indiana and the United States food to help sustain the lives of millions. The forests of beautiful hardwoods have helped provide homes for these millions. I have traveled around the United States and the world... Indiana is one of the most beautiful and bountiful places in the whole world. I cannot live any place else." **Richard B. Copeland, Logansport, Cass County Historian**



One of the two historic public sulphur wells that were once located in Little Orleans circa 1890. At one of the original sites, plans are underway for the creation of the Bicentennial Sulphur Well Park, one of Orleans' potential Legacy Projects in conjunction with Indiana's 2016 Bicentennial.

* **What are Hoosier Insights?** Musings of fellow Hoosiers from across the state.
* **What makes you genuinely proud of your community? County? Our great state?** Share your Hoosier Insight online www.indiana2016.org/share-your-insights/

Experience Honest-To-Goodness Indiana October Outings

October 2 -4, 2014



The Indiana Bicentennial Train

9:00 am - 6:00 pm Thursday and Friday

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturday

At Margaret Ave just west of Third Street
Terre Haute, IN

[Get More Information](#)

October 3, 2014

Indiana Bicentennial Commission Meeting

9:30 am Executive Session

10:00 am – 11:30 am Public Meeting

Conner Prairie Interactive History Park

13400 Allisonville Road

Fishers, IN 46038

[Get More Information](#)

October 9 -10, 2014



Frederick Douglass

Second Annual Madame C.J. Walker - Frederick Douglass Public Lecture and Workshop Series

The topic of this 2-day workshop is Frederick Douglass's *The Heroic Slave* and the American Revolutionary Tradition. Activities are devoted to examining this often overlooked early gem of African American fiction that was written by Douglass in 1853.

* Thursday, October 9, at the Tower Ballroom of IUPUI's Hine Hall (formerly the University Place Conference Center) 10:00 am Registration 7:00 – 8:30 pm Keynote Address: "Heroic Slaves: Madison Washington and My Bondage and My Freedom" Robert S. Levine, Distinguished University Professor of English, University of Maryland.

* Friday, October 10, at the Jewel Center, 3333 N. Illinois Avenue -- 9:15 am Welcome Both days of this event are **free and open to everyone**. For more details, please visit <http://news.iupui.edu/releases/2014/09/douglass-conference.shtml>.

If you plan to attend, please send an R.S.V.P. to Douglass@iupui.edu, but walk-ins are also welcome. Jack Kaufman-McKivigan, Editor, Frederick Douglass Papers

October 9 -11, 2014

The Indiana Bicentennial Train

9:00 am - 6:00 pm Thursday and Friday

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturday

Bargersville, IN

[Get More Information](#)

October 17 - 19, 2014

Culver Fall Fest

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Downtown Culver

Photo Booth * Chili Contest* I AM AN ARTIST * pet costume parade * pumpkin & face painting * HAUNTED HOUSE * HISTORY HAYRIDE * Culver Coffee Company Oktober Beer Garden* MOONLIGHT KAYAK & CANOE PADDLE ON LAKE MAXINKUCKEE * Marionette Show* SCARECROW CONTEST *

[Get More Information](#)

October 25, 2014



9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Indiana State Library

615 West Ohio Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204

The Indiana State Library will host the annual Indiana Genealogy and Local History fair in downtown Indianapolis. Admission is free and open to the general public. This year's theme is "Haunted and Historic Indiana." Over 30 organizations and exhibitors will be in attendance. Parking is free at 202 N. Capitol lot.