

## Indiana Bicentennial Commission News

July 2014, Vol. 9

[www.indiana2016.org](http://www.indiana2016.org)

### Bicentennial BIZ Team 2016's June:

- 3 Team 2016 meets with Indiana Landmarks and IPBS
- 6 Team 2016 speaks at Indiana Byways Conference in Plymouth, Marshall County
- 9 Team 2016 meets with IN State Fair.
- 12 Team 2016 presents to Brownsburg Rotary
- 13 Team 2016 meets with Eiteljorg staff
- 18 Team 2016 visits Randolph and Delaware counties and Minnetrista Cultural Center
- 19 Team 2016 visits Owen and Daviess counties
- 19 Commission member, Jim McCormick hosts Team 2016 in Vincennes, Knox County
- 20 Team 2016 visits Adams and Grant counties
- 23 Endorsement Committee consulted with First Lady Karen Pence, Bicentennial Ambassador, on art-related projects
- 25 Team 2016 visits Jasper County and Crane SWC
- 26 Team 2016 speaks at North Central Indiana School Study Council retreat, Nashville, Brown County
- 26 Team 2016 meets with U.S. District Court Historical Society
- 27 Team 2016 visits Bartholomew County
- 30 Team 2016 meets with Ball State



### Marion County's Bicentennial Nature Trust Project

Commission members Becky Skillman and Mary McConnell join Team 2016 and trail enthusiasts for the Speedway Trail Corridor dedication – A BNT project. A "Walk a Mile with Mike" followed.

### Happy Fourth of July!

Celebrating America's Independence Day conjures up many pleasant memories for each of us. We gather together with family and friends for historical pageants, picnics, baseball games, watermelon-eating contests, and trips to the beach. We enjoy hotdogs, hamburgers, pig roasts, corn on the cob, apple pie, cole slaw, and sometimes clam bakes.

But how much do YOU know about the real story of our Fourth of July celebration?

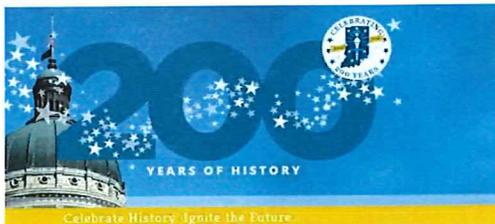
- July 4, 1776 wasn't the day that the Continental Congress decided to declare independence -- that was July 2, 1776.
- It wasn't the day we started the American Revolution either -- that had happened back in April 1775.
- And it wasn't the day Thomas Jefferson wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence -- that was in June 1776.
- Source: <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-declaration-of-independence/fourth-of-july/> Learn the "real story."

Others celebrate July 4<sup>th</sup>, knowing their ancestors played an integral role in the American Revolutionary War, such as some Society of Indiana Pioneer members. See p. 2

### Celebrate History: The Indiana centennial's spirit of '16

After the 1916 celebration, county centennial chairmen identified the most helpful and permanent results of the celebration: "The rousing of a new interest in state and local history, and the creation of community spirit and consciousness." Source: [archive.org/details/indianacentennia00indirich](http://archive.org/details/indianacentennia00indirich) p63.

## Explore Your Roots



### The Society of Indiana Pioneers Discover your Hoosier ancestry

The Society of Indiana Pioneers (SIP) has its roots in the 1916 Indiana Centennial. The Society will celebrate its Centennial as Indiana celebrates its 2016 Bicentennial.

Over the years, the Society has engaged in various projects, such as historical Indiana “pilgrimages,” as a means to serve its membership - 1,200 strong today.

You too can learn about your Indiana heritage and help celebrate a rich Indiana Pioneer lineage. To learn more about SIP membership and qualifying ancestors, visit [www.indianapioneers.com](http://www.indianapioneers.com).

### Indiana Ancestry: A treasured heritage

#### The Everitt Experience

“One of the things I got the most out of the Society of Pioneers was knowledge of my Everitt ancestors,” says Bob Everitt. “I was born and reared in Scott County -- 6<sup>th</sup> generation Scott County. I never thought about studying family history, it was all right there in front of me every day.” The Everitt ancestral home still stands on land where the family settled circa 1827.

Bob and his wife, Joannie, learned that their qualifying ancestors lived in adjoining southern Indiana counties Washington and Harrison in the same time period. They were intrigued. The Everitt’s believe that learning about their ancestry through the Society of Indiana Pioneers has added a good measure of richness to their lives.

“We have a great fondness for Indiana,” Bob shares. “We want to make sure that the stories of our family don’t die away.”

“One story says that when my Everett ancestor got his Civil War military pension papers to sign, they had miss-spelled his name to ‘Everitt.’ Being the pragmatist that he was, he said, ‘What the hell, I’ll just change my name.’ So the Scott County Everett’s have been ‘itt’ – Everitt’s ever since.”

Bob relates, “The common sense approach to problems is the Hoosier way and it is something that I value.”

“Having ancestors who fought for American independence serves as a constant reminder of the risks take and sacrifices made to create this great county.” - Brett Decker

#### The Oakley Interest in History Keeps Growing

It appears that when people start to research their roots, interest increases and they soon discover just how much their family tree can keep growing.

Bruce Oakley has 42 Indiana Pioneer ancestors and three from his mother’s side, who fought in the American Revolutionary War.

One of those ancestors, John Faucett a militia man, was buried in Hendricks County. He was an original land owner in the state of Indiana and owned 160 acres in Marion County, located on what is now the northwest corner of Rockville Road and Raceway Road.

“I was sharing about documenting ancestors and mentioned John (Faucett) while I gave a talk for the Marion County Genealogical Society,” Bruce said. “Someone raised his hand and said, ‘He’s my 5-great grandfather too.’”



Society of Indiana Pioneer member, Bruce Oakley’s efforts to keep family history alive bore fruit. His son, Brian, has been a history fan since elementary school. The family enjoyed traveling around Indiana to join re-enactors to celebrate and relive history.

#### The American Revolution: Uniquely personal for the Decker family

“It’s important to honor the general legacy and history of the nation’s Founding but also to remember our individual ancestors and the beliefs they risked their lives to propagate, such as a Bill of Rights guaranteeing that the sovereignty of the individual is superior to the government,” Brett Decker states. “I’ve done this by joining societies such as the Indiana Pioneers, Sons of the American Revolution and the Society of the War of 1812. I also try to keep the events and individual personalities alive by telling their stories. It’s a tumultuous period from which we can continue to learn many lessons today.”

Brett’s value of history’s lessons has deep family roots.

The Deckers, an old Dutch family, settled in the New Netherland colony in the 1630s-50s and refused to sign the Oath of Allegiance to the King of England in 1675 after the British invaded and changed the name of New Amsterdam to New York. Like many Dutch-American clans, the Deckers were early supporters of American independence and signed up for the revolutionary cause to throw off the British yoke but also to score some revenge against the English interlopers who had stolen their territory a century before, relates Brett.

## Coming soon: Indiana's Bicentennial Rediscover Hoosier Pride!

Let's celebrate in 2016 – Indiana's bicentennial. Hoosiers have the opportunity to help show the world the best our state has to offer. **For YOU**, what makes Indiana's past and present worth celebrating?

How can we best showcase 200 years of progress? Indiana's bicentennial will reflect the value we place on our ancestors' legacy. Our genuine Hoosier pride and ingenuity will help set the course for our state's next 100 years!



"I am proud of Switzerland County for its beauty that stems from the **spirit of its people** and their **dedication** to its **history** and **culture**. We embrace our rural Indiana roots through historic sites and community events, making us **charismatic to locals and visitors**.

The pride in our county is apparent as we are committed to showcasing our **rich heritage** while engaging in endeavors to insure a **thriving future**."

Kendal Miller, Vevay, Switzerland County

## What makes you proud of Indiana?



"I am very proud to live in Dubois County. I was fortunate to grow up here with many **great leaders** to help me grow and develop.

The opportunity to work with so many great people inspires me to contribute. Our people have a **strong work ethic** and also realize the importance of **giving back** to their communities. Our communities **work together** to achieve a **high quality of life**, one we are very proud of." Kevin Manley, Bicentennial County Coordinator, Jasper, Dubois County



"Dearborn County people have never lost their **sense of neighborliness**. They greet each other on the street even if they are not acquainted. It's not unusual for motorists allow other drivers to enter the highway. Anyone with just a few items to check out at the supermarket can count on other shoppers to let them go ahead.

Whole communities routinely **pitch in** to **help families** with serious problems. It all makes Dearborn **truly Home** in Indiana." Chris McHenry, Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County

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Help make your county's bicentennial celebration be 'all things Hoosier'!

Volunteer now: <http://www.indiana2016.org/get-involved/volunteer/>