

## Indiana Bicentennial Commission News

September 2014, Vol. 11

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

### Bicentennial BIZ for August:

- 5 Hamilton County visit
- 6 Team 2016 meets with Spirit and Place Festival staff
- 6 Hancock and Henry counties visit
- 8 Perry speaks at the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Town of New Harmony
- 13 Indiana State Fair and Bicentennial Commission Lunch at the Fair
- 14 Team 2016 meets with Purdue Engineering and Master Gardeners.
- 18 Scott and Jefferson counties visit
- 19 Switzerland, Ohio, Dearborn and Ripley counties visit
- 20 Elkhart County visit
- 20 U.S. 6 Dairy Trail meeting
- 21 Wabash and Johnson counties visit
- 22 IBC Board Meeting
- 25 Team 2016 presents at the Children's and Young People's Division, Indiana Library Federation, Conference
- 28 Team 2016 presents to AgrIIstitute

### Building Better Communities

**Building Better Communities (BBC)** recently announced the **four winners of the 2014 Primacy of Place Community Awards Program**. The program recognizes communities making innovations to improve quality of life for residents, visitors and businesses. The winning communities will be featured at the [Primacy of Place Conference](#), October 16 at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre.



Jeffersonville's Big Four Station to be unveiled in October, 2014. Rendering courtesy of The Estopinal Group.

**Big Four Bridge Project, Jeffersonville**, connects the city to Louisville, KY across the Ohio River for pedestrians and bicyclists. Jeffersonville will also unveil the Big Four Station, a new \$5 million park.

**Riverside Park Amphitheater, Rushville** has offered a free summer concert series since 2005. The amphitheater has hosted more than 65,450 concert-goers.

**Read to Succeed Program, Greater Lafayette/Tippecanoe County's** program motivated hundreds of community volunteers to spend one hour per week in local classrooms helping third-grade children improve their literacy skills.

**Nickel Plate Arts Initiative, Hamilton/Tipton Counties** provides visual and performing arts experiences in six communities along the historic Nickel Plate Railroad – making connections between residents, artists and communities.

**The Primacy of Place Community Awards Program** was launched in 2013 by Building Better Communities, an outreach division of Ball State University, and the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA), two Indiana Bicentennial partners. OCRA liaisons are partners in identifying and engaging Bicentennial County Coordinators in all 92 counties. Ball State has two endorsed Bicentennial Legacy Projects: "Crossroads Connect" and "Indiana Courthouse Squares."

**The Building Better Communities program is in the same spirit as one of the Bicentennial Commission's key focuses – Community Involvement. Other key focuses of the Commission include Nature Conservation, Youth and Education and Historical Celebration.**

Help plan and implement your community's new Bicentennial Legacy Project to improve its quality of life. Learn how at [www.indiana2016.org](http://www.indiana2016.org) > Events & Programs > Legacy & Signature Projects.

## Sharing Hoosier Insights

### Community Connections



"This is a very exciting time for the City of Wabash on our second attempt to secure the designation as a "Stellar Community."

We have been working diligently for quite some time on various projects. Now, having a partnership with Stellar, we can complete these projects in four years instead of the anticipated 15 years." Mayor Robert Vanlandingham, City of Wabash, Wabash County

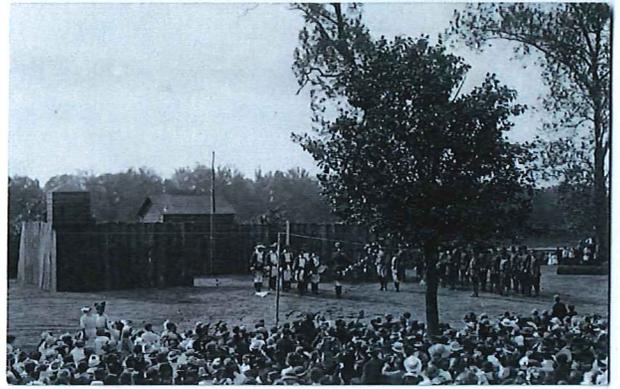


"I'm proud to have been born and raised in Spencer County. The people here embrace Hoosier hospitality to its fullest and love sharing the legacy of Abraham Lincoln's time in Indiana. It's fun to live in a town called "Santa Claus," too!" Melissa Brockman, Santa Claus, Spencer County Bicentennial Coordinator

"Although there are several keys that will lead to a successful Hoosier future, I feel the most significant key is education. We must continue to push education in a creative way to get our Hoosier children excited about learning again and again!" Justin Tucker, Social Studies teacher, Greensburg Junior High, Decatur County

**SHARE YOUR HOOSIER INSIGHT**

Read more [IBC News issues!](#) Subscribe to IBC News – [Deborah Wezensky, IBC News editor](#)



This image is from George S. Cottman's centennial pageant that took place on May 19, 1916. **Can you name the location?** Courtesy of Indiana State Library, Rare Books and Manuscripts Division.

"INDIANA is a great place to live. Neighbors and friends are always there when there is a time of need. Communities are proud of their heritage and work to preserve it." Barbara Elliott, Bluffton, Wells County Historian



"Being a Carroll County historian, I am proud of a county which has been both industrial with varied small industry as well as a rich agricultural base. Transportation has played a great part in Carroll County's life from earliest days with various roads and traces, the Wabash and Erie Canal, major railroads, the Fort Wayne and Wabash Valley Traction lines, and now the Hoosier Heartland Corridor with accompanying Freedom Bridge.

The best thing about living in Indiana is having a rich heritage of vision, energy, and vitality to carry all of us into the next century." Mark Alan Smith, Brookston, White County

## Community Involvement Bicentennial Legacy Projects

The 2016 Bicentennial is truly a great platform from which Hoosiers can renew their sense of community. And, from now through 2016, there will be great opportunities to connect communities across the state as plans are made for Indiana's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.

One key focus of the Bicentennial Commission is to encourage community involvement as part of the celebration. Through the Bicentennial Legacy Project endorsement process, Hoosiers are encouraged to work together to create projects and programs that highlight the best of Indiana for our 2016 Bicentennial celebration. Check out these projects:

### Decatur County 1916 Pageant

**Legacy Project IBC-YE-37:** For Indiana's bicentennial, the pageant will come to life with the help of history students from Greensburg Junior High School and Greensburg High School. The performance will be at the Chautauqua in the fall of 2016. Students from the High School TV group will film the production and will make it available to the public. Tickets will be sold to the community and any proceeds will be put into a History fund in the Greensburg Community Schools Foundation.

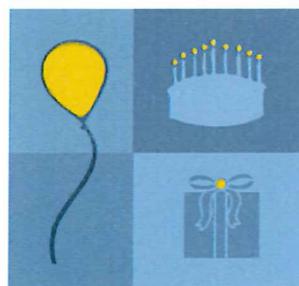


Decatur County Pageant

In October 1916, Decatur County was planning to celebrate Indiana's Centennial with an extensive outdoor pageant that depicted 100 years of Decatur County history. It was planned for outdoors. Unfortunately, it rained heavily that day and the pageant was never performed.

### Birthday Book

**Legacy Project IBC-CI-2:** Brick Street Poetry Inc. is working with co-sponsoring organizations, such as libraries, in each county to conduct calls for poetry that speaks to the character of Indiana's 92 counties. "Poetry is a great way to celebrate the individuality of Indiana's 92 counties," says Joyce Brinkman, project manager. Learn more at [www.brickstreetpoetry.org](http://www.brickstreetpoetry.org).

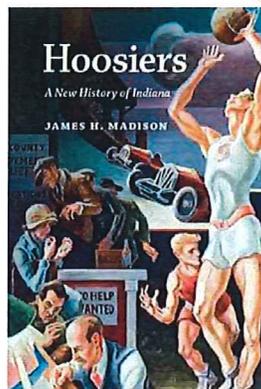


Happy Birthday Indiana

Each of the 92 organizations will forward to Brick Street 3 to 5 finalists from their county. One poem per county will be selected by Brick Street to be included in a "birthday" book that will be published for the Bicentennial and distributed to libraries. To get more information, email [joycebrinkman@yahoo.com](mailto:joycebrinkman@yahoo.com).

### Hoosiers: A New History of Indiana

**Legacy Project IBC-YE-9:** Historian James H. Madison has written an up-to-date history of Indiana from the beginnings to the present. This new history tells the stories of Hoosiers, offering an invigorating view of one of America's distinctive states and the long and fascinating journey of its people. Based on extensive research, the book is written for general readers and seeks throughout to connect past and present. The book was published by Indiana University Press and the Indiana Historical Society Press.



Bicentennial Commission member Jim Madison's new book, titled Hoosiers: A New History of Indiana, is now available.

A five-minute overview can be found online:  
<http://youtu.be/atF22fjYpCg>

## Get Out and Experience Indiana

A September sampler of events



### Community-wide yard sale

Vevay, IN

September 13 - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

[Switzerland County Tourism](#)

Downtown Vevay and Switzerland County, IN, residents and businesses are gathering wares you won't want to miss out on at this community-wide yard sale.



[www.indianahistory.org/train](http://www.indianahistory.org/train)

### The Indiana Bicentennial Train

Columbus, IN

September 18 - September 20

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

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturday

Bartholomew County Fairgrounds

### The Indiana Bicentennial Train

Jasper, IN

September 25 - September 27

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

9:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturday

Jasper, Indiana train depot

### Trail of Courage Living History Festival

Rochester, IN

September 20 - September 21

10:00 am - 6:00 pm Saturday

10:00 am - 4:00 pm Sunday

Frontier Indiana comes alive!

Location: The Historical Society grounds

For more information, contact Fulton County Museum - 574-223-4436 or [fchs@rtcol.com](mailto:fchs@rtcol.com) or visit [www.fultoncountyhistory.org](http://www.fultoncountyhistory.org).



### Madison Chautauqua Festival of Art

Madison, IN

September 27 - September 28

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Madison Chautauqua

Southern Indiana's premier juried fine art and craft festival. For more information visit [www.madisonchautauqua.com](http://www.madisonchautauqua.com)



### Cedar Lake Hometown Festival

Cedar Lake, IN

September 27

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cedar Lake Town Grounds

Pumpkin painting, kids games, pumpkin bowling -- entertainment for all ages.

219-374-6157 Cedar Lake Chamber of Commerce

### Old Settlers Day

Salem, IN

September 20 - September 21

10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: East Market Street

Arts, crafts, food at the Stevens Memorial Museum complex. The John Hay home is located at this site. Come enjoy genuine Hoosier hospitality at Washington County's historical celebration.

The Old Settlers' Days Festival in Salem Indiana dates back to September 29, 1875. On that historic day in 1875 Washington County residents first came together to celebrate the lives and contributions of their pioneering forefathers. For more information, visit [www.oldsettlersdays.org](http://www.oldsettlersdays.org)

### Salem Bicentennial Parade

Salem, IN - established in 1814

September 27

2:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Salem Public Square, Washington County. For more information, contact Anita Bush (812) 883-4303 [info@washingtoncountychamber.org](mailto:info@washingtoncountychamber.org)

Learn more about these September events at  
the Bicentennial Calendar

[www.indiana2016.org/events-programs/events/](http://www.indiana2016.org/events-programs/events/)