



January 2015

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IBC NEWS

Monthly Indiana Bicentennial Commission Communiqué



Photo courtesy of René Stanley
Indiana State Senator Jim Merritt was the emcee for 4th grade students from across the state at Statehood Day in the Indiana Statehouse.



Students were able to learn about the state of Indiana through many interactive displays that also explained what each department of the government does.

INDIANA STATEHOOD DAY 2014

Indiana's 198th Birthday Celebration

Governor Mike Pence issued a proclamation declaring December 11, 2014 to be Statehood Day across the state of Indiana.

Bicentennial Torch Relay is an Olympic style relay that will begin in Corydon. It will then travel through each of Indiana's 92 counties, and finish in Indianapolis on October 15, 2016.

He and first lady Karen Pence welcomed Indiana fourth-graders to the statehouse where they learned about our state's government and Indiana history.

Pence told the hundreds of fourth graders in attendance about the importance of the torch as a symbol of Indiana and how all of them could be part of the excitement in 2016.

Governor Pence also announced a "signature event" for the state's bicentennial. The Indiana



Photo courtesy of René Stanley
Students from Indiana Math and Science Academy view the original state banner.



The Constitution of 1816 granted Indiana permission to form a government and join the United States as a state. Both of the original state constitutions are pictured below.



Photo courtesy of René Stanley

Photo courtesy of René Stanley

Jim Corridan, Director and State Archivist, along with Dr. Alan January, Program Director for the Indiana State Archives, involve fourth-grade students in their presentation on Indiana's constitution on Statehood Day in the Statehouse.



Photo courtesy of IN Torch Relay
Governor Mike Pence signing programs and talking to fourth-graders about Indiana.

Bringing Constitution History Alive Today

On Statehood Day, 345 fourth-grade students traveled from Fishers, Greenwood, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Michigan City, Noblesville and Palmyra to the Indiana Statehouse to experience the state's 198th birthday.

January, Program Director at the Indiana State Archives.

Students displayed images of Indiana's first capitol building in Corydon as well as the Constitutional Elm under which delegates relaxed while working on the original 1816 constitution.

As part of the celebration, students, teachers and other visitors joined Governor and First Lady Pence for a special program which included bringing Indiana's original constitutional documents of 1816 and 1851 back to the statehouse.

"The 1816 Indiana Constitution embraced many of the concepts we have in place today, including establishing three branches of government," said Corridan. "Maybe most important was the notion of the state being responsible for providing for the education of children."

They will be housed in a display case which is made of wood from the Constitutional Elm which died in 1925. A presentation on Indiana's constitution was given by the Indiana State Archives' Director and State Archivist, Jim Corridan and Dr. Alan

To watch a webcast of Statehood Day events, go to <http://webinar.isl.in.gov/p38915bo3g5/>.



Photo courtesy of René Stanley
Fourth-grade students learning about the bicentennial celebrations.



Photo courtesy of Samuel Alderfer
Governor Mike Pence and First Lady Karen Pence reading to the fourth-grade students at Statehood Day.

Early Indiana History

The story behind the State of Indiana Constitution

The first Indiana Constitution was written in 1816 at the constitutional convention in Corydon. The convention was attended by 43 delegates from 13 existing counties.

One of the first items of business was to determine if Indiana should become a state. On June 10, eight delegates voted “no” but the motion to become a state passed. An act of Congress later made Indiana the 19th state to enter the union.

Using other state constitutions as examples, delegates had Indiana’s constitution written in just 19 days.

This was the first constitution in the nation to call for a “general system of education, ascending in regular gradation (or stages) from township schools to a state university wherein shall be gratis (free) and equally open to all.”

Under the Constitutional Elm in Corydon, delegates would debate while working on the constitution. On June 29, 1816 the convention ended and the Constitution of the state of Indiana was adopted.

By 1850 Hoosiers became unhappy with the original constitution. A new constitutional convention was authorized in 1850. It met in Indianapolis and lasted over four months.

Changes were made, including the prohibition of the State going into debt, more public offices were made elective and voting rights were extended to non-citizens – but not to women or African-American residents.

On February 10, 1851 the revised constitution was finalized at the Indianapolis convention. It was approved by voters in the general election.

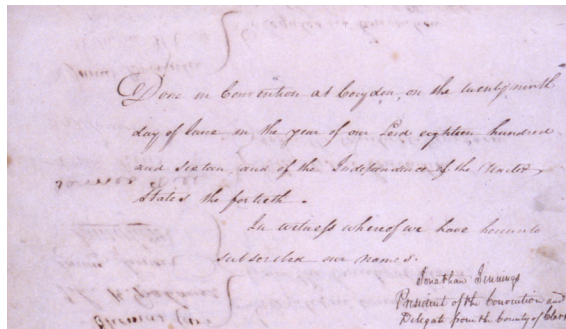


Photo courtesy of Indiana State Archives.

Jonathan Jennings served as president of the 1816 Constitutional Convention called to frame a constitution for the new state of Indiana. This is an image of Jennings’ signature page from the original (1816) Constitution of the State of Indiana (pictured left). Jennings was elected as Indiana’s first state governor in 1816.



Photo courtesy of www.in.gov.
A portrait of Jonathon Jennings, the first governor of Indiana.



Photo courtesy of www.in.gov.
Constitution Elm today.



Photo courtesy of www.in.gov
A picture of the Constitution Elm in Corydon, Indiana.



4th Grade Student Essay Contest

Photo courtesy of René Stanley.
Olivia Abner, Morgan Elementary, Palmyra, Indiana. Olivia read her essay "History is Not Just the Past - It's Today" at the State House.

Maya Yaari, Haston Hebrew Academy, Indianapolis, Indiana. Maya read her essay "Field trip to the Indiana State Museum" at the State Museum.

Congratulations to this year's "What Indiana Means to Me" Statehood Day Essay Contest winners.

The special theme for the 2014 contest was "Hoosier Bicentennial Moments."

The four winners of the 4th grade student essay competition read their respective essays as part of the Indiana Statehood Day celebration in Indianapolis.

The Indiana State Treasurer provided each winner with a 529 College Scholarship Savings Account.

To read the complete winning essays, click [here](#).



Oliver Estes, St. Stanislaus Kostka, Michigan City, Indiana. Oliver read his essay "The Creation of the Indiana State Flag" at the Historical Society.



Reese Knoderer, New Britton Elementary, Fishers, Indiana. Reese read his essay "The Indiana Gas Boom" at the State Library.

Fellow Hoosiers

What makes Indiana a great place to live?

Help prepare for Indiana’s 200th birthday. Share your Hoosier Insight to help build anticipation for the 2016 Indiana bicentennial celebration. Let others know what you appreciate about Indiana.

What are Hoosier Insights?

They are quotes from fellow Hoosiers from published authors to 4th grade winners of the Annual Statehood Day Essay Contest, to Governor and First Lady Pence, to the neighbor next door.

People all across the state get to share what makes them genuinely proud of their community, county and great state!

The insights get published on our website and possibly in our [monthly newsletter](#).

Speak out!

The Indiana Bicentennial Commission would love to hear your own personal “Hoosier Insight,” just click [here](#) so we can share what you love about Indiana.

Read more Hoosier Insights at <http://www.indiana2016.org/category/hoosier-insights/>

Martin County Bicentennial Committee’s Hoosier Insight:

“Martin County is a portal to the Indiana past, with great forests, vistas, rolling hills, rivers, and ancient rocks existing today, as they would have been seen by those who came before. The people of Martin County treasure and preserve those natural wonders with their wildlife habitats. They have also established carefully in their midst, modern industries and agriculture. These are monuments to human endeavor and harbingers of the future.”



Photo courtesy of visitmartincounty.org. The Pinnacle is a perpendicular descent of over two hundred feet of sandstone.



Photo courtesy of visitmartincounty.org.

This natural geological rock formation in Martin County, Jug Rock, is composed of sandstone and is located in Shoals near the east fork of the White River. As the largest free-standing table rock formation (also called a “tea table”) in the United States east of the Mississippi River, the Jug Rock has created a great deal of interest in geological circles. Jug Rock stands alone with no adjacent ledge, which classifies it as one of the most puzzling formations, known as “Stand Rocks,” in the United States.



Photo courtesy of visitmartincounty.org | provided by Marie B. Hawkins. A scenic view of the winding White River through river bottom, farms and valleys.

Legacy Projects

Making a place in Indiana's bicentennial history

Indiana's past and present are worth celebrating. Where we live and work, in communities all around Indiana, local partners are collaborating on projects to become officially endorsed as Bicentennial Legacy Projects and highlight the best of Indiana for our 2016 Bicentennial celebration.

There are many opportunities for local and regional Bicentennial celebrations, projects and programs to reflect upon a history of progress with genuine Hoosier pride and ingenuity.

To promote and support these local activities, the Bicentennial Commission is accepting applications for endorsement. Upon approval, projects become official Indiana Bicentennial Legacy Projects and are promoted with the Commission's "seal of approval."

Upcoming deadlines to submit an application for endorsement of bicentennial legacy projects are January 31, 2015, March 31, 2015, and May 15, 2015. To complete on application click [here](#).

If you have questions, please contact us at: info@indiana2016.in.gov or call 317-234-8686.

Heritage Barns of Indiana

The majority of Gwen Gutwein's paintings for the project are created on location, using the technique called plein air painting. The wonderful barn owners also compile fascinating family and barn histories. This information is compiled into a story which will be exhibited with the completed artwork.



Photo courtesy of artist Gwen Gutwein.
This is the Lloyd-Field barn of Jefferson County.



Photo courtesy of IBC News.

A picture of members of the Pike County Tractor Club.

From the Seat of a Tractor

In 2016, the Pike County Tractor Drive will follow the route of the Indiana Bicentennial Torch Relay across the county. A video will be made with a historical focus on the route. Local high school students in the Digital Design and Visual Communications Department will produce the video with help from their instructor and a former student.



Photo courtesy of IBC News.

A picture of project partners as they explore part of the trail route.

MY Path Trail System

MY Path Trail System will connect McCormick's Creek State Park to the east of Spencer with the Family YMCA to the west. The trail system will also include a riverfront trail portion along the White River. The goal is to get more Owen County citizens out walking and to connect with their river heritage.

To read about the 113 officially endorsed Bicentennial Legacy Projects – click [here!](#)



Photo courtesy of IBC News

Students at the Weidner School of inquiry interview a local World War II veteran.

Inside Indiana

A sampling of bicentennial activities around Indiana

Recording the American Perspective

Recording the American Perspective is a collaboration between the Marshall County Museum and the Weidner School of Inquiry to digitally record stories of World War II told by the local veterans who served.

Through this project, the school and the museum have forged a relationship that will continue to bring to life the real stories of real people for years to come.



Photo courtesy of the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites.

Sandra Peterson is the artist and owner of this quilt titled "Bohemian Fireworks."

19 Stars: Quilts of Indiana's Present and Past

Indiana was the nineteenth state to join the Union; the state flag depicts nineteen stars. In anticipation of the state's bicentennial, this exhibition presents nineteen historic star-patterned quilts selected from the Indiana State Museum's nationally known collection. An equal number of contemporary star-themed quilts by some of Indiana's outstanding quilt artists will also be displayed. Some of these quilts are being created specifically for the show.



Photo courtesy of IBC News

Representatives of this legacy project discuss its features.

IN State Park History Tour Phone App

The Indiana State Park History Tour Phone App gives the user a walking or driving tour of the history of the Indiana State Parks. At each stop the listener hears a history of the site and sees historic photos. The parks currently available on the app include: Indiana Dunes, Lincoln, McCormick's Creek, Mounds, Pokagon, and Turkey Run.

Looking Forward to 2015

Indiana Bicentennial Commission Meetings

The Commission meets approximately every six weeks to conduct bicentennial business.

During these public meetings the Commission endorses Bicentennial Legacy Projects.

The commission members also hear updates and inquiries regarding the bicentennial from local citizens, bicentennial county coordinators, state agencies and other partner organizations.



Photo courtesy of René Stanley.

Commission Members (pictured from left to right) Tony George, Co-chair Lee Hamilton, Co-chair Becky Skillman, Mary McConnell, C. James McCormick, and State Senator Jim Merritt

The meetings are open to the public. The 2015 meeting schedule is as follows and may be subject to revision:

January 27, 2015 – Indiana State Library (1:00 p.m.)

February 27, 2015 – Indianapolis, IN

April 24, 2015 – NSWC Crane, Martin County, IN

June 12, 2015 – Indianapolis, IN

July 31, 2015 – Leora Brown School, 400 E. Summit, Corydon, IN

September 18, 2015 – Lake County, IN

November 6, 2015 – Fort Wayne, IN

Meetings are generally held on Fridays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

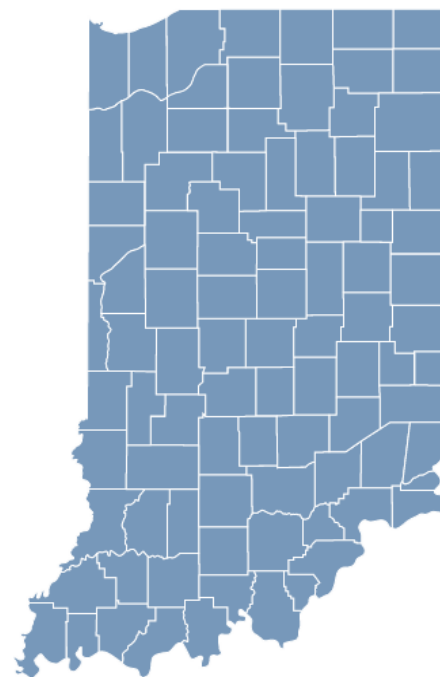
To learn more about the Bicentennial Commission, visit <http://www.indiana2016.org/about/about-the-commission/>.

Events Across Indiana: Invite Hoosiers and other tourists to your community's event

Submit your event for the Bicentennial Calendar. Once the event is reviewed to insure complete information has been provided, your community event will be added to the calendar.

To add your event to the bicentennial online calendar, visit at <http://www.indiana2016.org/submit-your-event/>.

This community calendar is offered as a public forum to promote Hoosier events across the state. The appearance on this site of events and other sources of information does not constitute an endorsement by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission or the State of Indiana unless expressly stated.





Photos courtesy of René Stanley

Let's Celebrate the Beauty of Winter in Indiana!

Winter Instagram Contest: Want to be featured in our next newsletter? Submit your best Indiana winter photos to **#INDIANAWINTER**

Rules:

1. Follow **@INDIANA2016**
2. Tag your post **@INDIANA2016**
3. Caption or comment must include **#INDIANAWINTER**
4. Caption or comment must include County name where photo was taken.

Contest ends **January 20, 2015**. Winning photos will be featured in the February Indiana Bicentennial Commission Communiqué.

Limit two entries per account.

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Deborah Wezensky, Editor

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