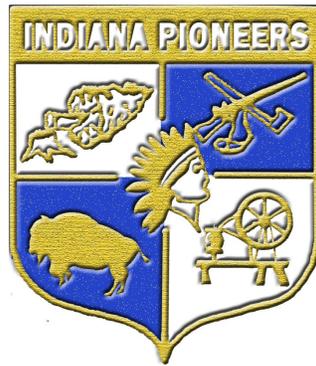


2010 PIONEER FOUNDERS of INDIANA

The Society of Indiana Pioneers



“To Honor the Memory and the
Work of the Pioneers of Indiana”

The Society of Indiana Pioneers is seeking to identify exceptional pioneers to recognize and honor their efforts in building early Indiana foundations.

Each year, 15-20 counties will be selected for honoring pioneers at each annual meeting. The task of covering all 92 counties will be completed by 2016, the year which we celebrate the centennial of the founding of The Society of Indiana Pioneers. For 2010, the counties include: Allen, Carroll, Cass, Clinton, Delaware, Harrison, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Marshall, Montgomery, Putnam, Scott, Shelby, Starke, Switzerland, Vigo, and Wayne.

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THEY WERE THE "BEST"

When we first thought about the Pioneer Founders of Indiana project, it was suggested that each year we solicit pioneer nominations from the selected counties. The committee members would then review the nominees and vote on which founding pioneer from each county was the "best" pioneer. Surely a man who constructed a courthouse or laid out a future city was better than a woman who gave birth and raised ten children in a simple log cabin.

As the nominations came in from ancestors, historians and residents, the committee soon realized that the original idea was wrong. All of the founding pioneers of Indiana were the best. They were strong, brave, tough, religious, dedicated, tolerant and solid Hoosiers. Today's Hoosiers are spoiled. The pioneers had none of the education, food, vehicles, materials and electrical conveniences that we depend on. It would be a futile exercise and a dishonor to those pioneers for us in the 21st century to not honor all of the nominated pioneers as their county's "best" and honor them equally.

In the following pages of this Society of Indiana Pioneer's tribute to the 2010 Pioneer Founders of Indiana, you will find all of the nominations that we received as well as some that the committee members submitted.

Today, we honor them all. They were a part of the creation of the Great State of Indiana and we pay tribute to them.

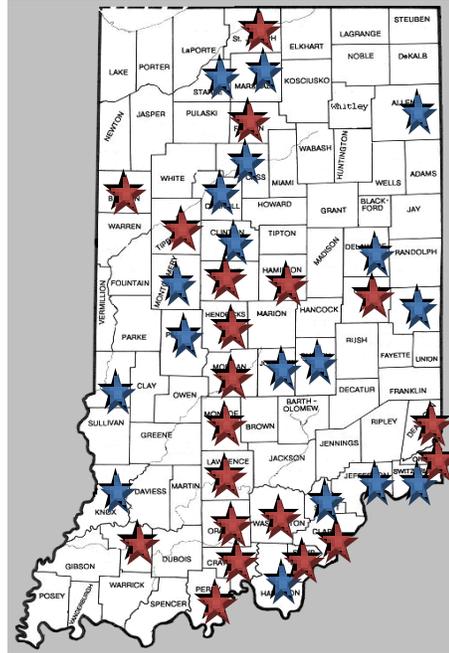


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★ **2010 COUNTIES**

★ **2011 COUNTIES**

ALLEN	CARROLL	CLARK	DEARBORN
CASS	CLINTON	FLOYD	FULTON
DELAWARE	HARRISON	HAMILTON	HENDRICKS
JEFFERSON	JOHNSON	PIKE	TIPPECANOE
KNOX	MARSHALL	HENRY	BENTON
MONTGOMERY	PUTNAM	WASHINGTON	ST. JOSEPH
SCOTT	SHELBY	BOONE	MORGAN
STARKE	SWITZERLAND	MONROE	LAWRENCE
VIGO	WAYNE	ORANGE	CRAWFORD
		PERRY	OHIO

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Allen County



Jean Baptiste de Richardville

Date of Birth: 1761--- Kekionga (Forth Wayne), Indiana

Date of Death: August 13, 1841 ---Fort Wayne, Indiana

Jean Baptiste de Richardville was the son of a French merchant named Joseph Drouet de Richardville and Tacumwah, sister of the Miami chief Pacanne. He was self educated, and could speak Miami, Iroquois, French and English. He acquired a trade license in 1815. In 1818, he signed the Treaty of St. Mary's. He was able to negotiate legal land grants to individual Miami families and offered his lands as refuge for other Miami. This allowed about half of the Miami tribe to remain in Indiana when the tribe officially removed in 1846.

He built a house in Fort Wayne and in 1827 it became the first Greek Revival house in Indiana. The house was acquired and restored by the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society, which has restored the remaining property.

Contributor--committee member

Socrates B. Bacon

Date of Birth: March 1, 1807---Charlton, Massachusetts

Date of Death: 1867---New Haven, Indiana

Socrates Bonaparte Bacon was married to Anna (Earp) Bacon and came to Allen County in 1838. He purchased 100 acres in Section 28, Jefferson Township and farmed it until 1858 when he moved to New Haven and platted Bacon's addition. In 1849, he and George Buchanan repaired Ft. Wayne's Fire Engine No. 1. In 1850, Socrates was postmaster of the first post office in Jefferson Township. In New Haven he was a dealer in hardware, stoves, and tin ware. He and Anna had 7 children.

Contributor--Larry Lichtsinn

Samuel J. Bacon

Date of Birth: October 10, 1834---Detroit, Michigan

Date of Death: May 6, 1917---New Haven, Indiana

Samuel J. Bacon was the son of Socrates B. and Anna (Earp) Bacon. They settled in Allen County in 1838. Samuel was a farmer and carpenter. His farm was located on Fackler Road just north of Tillman Road, section 28, Jefferson Township. The local schoolhouse was located here and then moved across the road(known as Bacon Schoolhouse). Samuel served as a corporal in Co.H, 91st Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War. He was known to acquire each new fangled piece of equipment that came along. He had 10 children.

Samuel Bacon, Jr. did not live in pioneer times--- but was a successful business man who lived from 1890 to 1957.

Contributor--Larry Lichtsinn

John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed)

Date of Birth: September 26, 1774---Leominster, Massachusetts

Date of Death: March 18, 1845---Fort Wayne, Indiana

John Chapman was the second child of Nathaniel Chapman and Elizabeth Simonds Chapman. Nathaniel was a farmer of little means. Nathaniel started John Chapman on a career as an orchardist by apprenticing him to a Mr. Crawford who had apple orchards. John's father, Nathaniel, was an officer leading a company attached to General George Washington's forces in New York City. Elizabeth Chapman died leaving John and his older sister to be raised by relatives. Nathaniel remarried and had 10 more children.

John's favorite place was his father's apple orchard. The popular image of Johnny Appleseed had him spreading apple seeds randomly. In fact, he planted nurseries rather than orchards, built fences around them to protect them from livestock, left the nurseries in care of neighbors who sold trees on shares, and returned every year or two to tend the nursery and collect his earnings. He would accept cash, corn meal or used clothing as payment. He was a wanderer all his life.

He dressed in the worst of the used clothing and went barefoot summer and winter to save leather. John supposedly had considerable property, yet denied himself the common necessities of life. He left an estate of over 1,200 acres of valuable nurseries to his sister.

John spent time being a pastor spreading the word of the Swedenborgian gospel. He would travel back east to visit his sister and to replenish his Swedenborgian literature. His traveling song was a Swedenborgian hymn "The Lord is Good To Me". He believed as a follower of Swedenborg that the more he endured in this world the less he would have to suffer in the hereafter.

The *Fort Wayne Sentinel* printed his obituary on March 22, 1845, saying he died on March 18. His grave is located in a park in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Contributor--committee member

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Carroll County



Lucinda Buskirk Kendall

Date of Birth: December 5, 1809---Kentucky-Shelby County
Date of Death: February 20, 1907---Carroll County, Indiana

Lucinda was born in Kentucky and came to Monroe Township at the age of three. In 1835 she moved to Rock Creek Township where she lived until the last two years of her life which she spent in Camden.

She was the mother of 13 children. Lucinda was known for her service to the Burrows Indiana Christian Church and her family. She was the oldest lady in Carroll County upon her death.

Contributor--Mark A. Smith

James Thornton

Date of Birth: 1805---Delaware
Date of Death: October 18, 1877---Carroll County, Indiana

James Thornton traveled over 165 miles through wilderness from Hamilton County, Ohio to the Government Land Bank in Crawfordsville, Indiana. In December of 1824, he was one of the first eight persons to purchase land in Carroll County. He moved his family to Carroll County in the early 1820's, raised a family of nine and farmed in what is now known as Washington Township. He had at least one son-in-law that served in the Civil War and continues to have family living in Carroll County today.

Contributor--Kevin D. Collins

Henry Robinson

Date of Birth: March 1778---Pennsylvania
Date of Death: July 1845---Delphi, Indiana

Henry Robinson was the first permanent settler in Carroll County. He was a remarkable man, possessing characteristics which marked him as a leader of men. He emigrated from Ohio to the Wabash Valley in the fall of 1824. Henry and his sons reached and crossed the Wild Cat Creek and encamped that evening on a bluff. After leaving the creek, their way was difficult for they had to cut a way through thick woods without other pioneers or guides to help them proceed. Henry and his sons and a few others had traversed the country in a log wagon drawn by cattle. They had followed the Indian trail up the Wabash to what is now Carroll County. Mr. Robinson purchased land and on December 31, he, with his sons' families, arrived on the land and went into camp. They proceeded to cut logs and erect their cabin. This was in 1825.

Mr. Robinson later decided to erect a saw-mill and built a crude affair. He also cracked corn on a pair of mill-stones for settlers. In January of 1826, the settlement met and held their first social prayer meeting. There were now ten families in Carroll County.

Mr. Robinson was the first Justice of the Peace elected in Carroll County. Dr. John Ewing, one of the very first settlers, talked about Henry Robinson in 1855. Dr. Ewing stated that no man labored more for Carroll County than Henry Robinson. He was foremost in establishing churches and schools. He was an opponent of idleness and vice of any description. He put up the first mill and kept up the repairs even though the profits were not sufficient to do so. His labors and money were appropriated for the benefit of others.

Contributor--committee member

Reed Case

Date of Birth: January 29, 1808---Nelson County, Kentucky
Date of Death: October 23, 1871---Carroll County, Indiana

Reed Case was born in Kentucky in 1808 and with his father, Nelson Case, moved to Orange County, Indiana, in 1808. In the spring of 1809, owing to the presence of some hostile Indians, they returned to Kentucky, and located in Shelby County. In 1810, the family again determined to move to Indiana and moved to Harrison County and then to Orange County where they settled. At the age of sixteen, desiring to begin business for himself, and having become a skilled brick mason, he moved to Hendricks County and took a contract of building the court house. He was there three years. In 1836, he went to Miami County, and took a contract on the Wabash and Erie Canal then under construction. Afterward, he took a contract on the same public work below this city, at what is known as the Falling Spring Bluffs, located in the edges of Carroll and Tippecanoe Counties. In 1838, he formed a partnership with the late James Spears, under the firm name of Spears & Case. He purchased an unfinished canal contract of Valerius Armitage.

The firm built the steamboat canal and locks on the Wabash. During 1842 the firm also built the paper-mill on the side cut leading from the canal to the warehouse at the foot of Main Street in Delphi. In 1843, the firm built a warehouse and packing house and conducted a general produce, beef and pork trade on an extensive scale.

Reed Case was limited in educational advantages as in the case of most pioneers. He had an abundance of pluck and energy which more than compensated for his lack of education. He had an unusual executive ability and at the age of sixteen began his business career as a contractor. He was generous to a fault, and the name of Reed Case was a household name and a joy in the homes of the poor who enjoyed his acquaintance and esteem.

Mr. Case and his family figured largely in the development of Carroll County. Today part of the Wabash and Erie Canal has been restored in Delphi. An interpretive center stands near the canal. The Reed Case home has also been restored to period elegance and is located near the Canal Interpretive Center and canal in Canal Park.

Contributor--committee member

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Cass County



John Tipton

Date of Birth: August 14, 1886---Sevier County, Tennessee

Date of Death: April 14, 1839---Logansport, Indiana

John Tipton was a man of many talents. A self-made man, he never attended school and was unable to write competently; yet he was able to accomplish more than most men.

The Tipton family moved to Harrison County when John was twenty-one. In 1809 the sheriff of Harrison County formed a troop of mounted riflemen to protect the settlers from the Indians and John immediately joined up. The troop was soon requested by Governor Harrison to move against the Indians at the Battle of Tippecanoe. In 1813 when the Indian troubles seemed to have disappeared, John Tipton was promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General by President Monroe and returned to his home in Corydon.

Indiana became a state in 1816. General Tipton was first elected Sheriff of Harrison County. Then in the state election of 1810, he was elected as a representative to the State Legislature. He was appointed by the Governor to a commission to select a new state capital and later assisted in the job of defining a boundary line between Indiana and Illinois. The state of Indiana became quite interested in internal improvements. General Tipton was appointed to assist in negotiating with the Indians for a strip of land one hundred feet wide through their reservation for the Michigan Road. John Tipton helped select the route and survey the land for the Wabash and Erie Canal.

President Monroe appointed General Tipton Indian Agent for the Pottawatomie and Miami Indians in 1823. The Agency was first stationed in Fort Wayne. Later in 1828 Tipton decided to move his office of Indian Affairs to Logansport.

General Tipton was selected to complete the Senatorial seat in the U.S. Senate held by Senator Noble and following that he was elected for a full six year term.

General Tipton insisted that a school be built the very first year that Logansport was in existence. He was instrumental in forming a Masonic Lodge in both Fort Wayne and Logansport.

Contributor--Richard Copeland

Jordan Vigus

Date of Birth: September 17, 1792---Amherst County, Virginia
Date of Death: September 27, 1860---Logansport, Indiana

Jordan Vigus joined the 1st Kentucky Regiment during the War of 1812 and served with distinction under William Henry Harrison and moved up in rank to Colonel.

After the war Jordan moved to Corydon, Indiana and operated a tavern, tailor's shop, and became director of the Corydon Branch Bank. He moved to Indianapolis in 1826 when the state government decided to build a new capitol. Here he ran a tavern until he decided to move to Logansport in 1829 and join John Tipton who had become a close friend.

Jordan Vigus helped plat the town of Logansport. In 1832 he was appointed commissioner of the Wabash and Erie Canal and rowed up the Wabash to Fort Wayne for the opening ceremonies.

In Logansport Jordan Vigus was involved in running a tavern and grocery store and he went into business with his brother and father -in-law who was John Tipton. They initiated a mail coach route between Logansport and Indianapolis. He and his brother, Cyrus, initiated the U.S. Mail Pilot Lines from Niles, Michigan, South Bend, Plymouth, Logansport and Indianapolis.

Jordan Vigus was the first mayor of Logansport, Indiana.

Contributor--Richard Copeland

Daniel Pratt

Date of Birth: October 24, 1813---Palmero, Maine
Date of Death: June 17, 1877 ---Logansport, Indiana

Daniel Pratt's family moved from Maine to Marion County, New York. Daniel's father was a country doctor and small farmer. The family found life very difficult, but the doctor was able to send his three sons to college and provide well for the four girls. In 1825 Daniel was sent to Cazenovia Seminary in New York and later enrolled in Hamilton College and graduated in 1831. He was given a professorship at Madison University and with a full teaching load studied law at Casonvia College. After learning enough law, he decided to move westward.

After walking for several days, he arrived in Cincinnati with \$30 and a silver watch. He found a job teaching in Rising Sun, Indiana. Law was his real love so he moved to Indianapolis to work in Calvin Fletcher's law office. His main business was collecting money and transferring money from one bank or business to another. At one time he carried \$20,000 in his saddlebags.

In 1836 he decided to come to Logansport, Indiana. Daniel was admitted to the bar to practice law and soon became known as the most gifted jurist of his day. Clients flocked to his office and for 25 years he was without rival in Northern Indiana. His oratory was unexcelled and his acute intellect enabled him to outwit most other lawyers.

Daniel entered the political arena in 1851 by running for the Indiana House of Representatives and became leader of the House. He was a delegate to the National Republican Convention in 1860 and was elected secretary of the convention. It was at that convention that Abraham Lincoln was nominated for President. Daniel lost a U.S. Senate bid in 1863 but ran again for the U. S. Senate and was elected in 1869. After one term as senator, President Grant requested that he be in charge of the Internal Revenue Department during the war of the whiskey ring.

Daniel Pratt's creed for life was, "do right and treat all men with equal consideration."

Contributor--Richard Copeland

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Clinton County



John, William and Nicolas Pence

Date of Birth: unknown---Warren County, Ohio

Date of Death: unknown----Clinton County, Indiana

Brothers John, William and Nicholas Pence previously of Warren County, Ohio, settled on the land on which Frankfort now stands in 1829, having entered it from the government in 1827 and 1828. In 1830, the brothers donated 60 acres of the land to the county commissioners, a donation which led to the establishment of the county seat at that site rather than in Jefferson, a community which had also been vying for the honor. The new town was named Frankfort at the brothers' request and honors their German great-grandparents' home of Frankfurt am Main.

Contributor--committee member

Stephen Sims

Date of Birth: November 14, 1792---Cocke County, Tennessee

Date of Death: January 16, 1863---Clinton County, Indiana

Stephen Sims came to Franklin County with his parents in 1811, served in the War of 1812, married and moved to Fayette County in 1813. He moved to Rush County in 1821, and the first session of the Circuit Court of Rush County was held at his home. He was a brick maker and builder, was the first Justice of the Peace in Rush County and was the school commissioner. He moved to Boone County in 1834 and was an Associate Judge of the Circuit Court there. He moved to Clinton County in 1836. He represented Clinton and Tipton Counties at the Indiana Constitutional Convention of 1850. He had six sons and four grandsons in the Civil War. He had thirteen children by his first wife and six by his second.

Contributor--Jay B. Wright

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Delaware County



Goldsmith Gilbert

Date of Birth: 1795---New York

Date of Death: unknown---Muncie, Indiana

The first permanent white settler in Delaware County was Goldsmith Gilbert, born in New York in 1795. He moved to Delaware County in 1823 and established a trading post in the northern part of the county. The post was burned and with the money he was awarded in compensation by the United States government, in 1926 he bought 672 acres from an Indian widow named Rebecca Hackley. The Hackley Reserve, as it was called, became the center of present day Muncie. Gilbert built two log cabins and the village began to attract other settlers.

On January 26, 1827, Delaware County was organized and at that time it had about 1,000 residents. Shortly after, the village of Munsetown was established as the county seat.

Contributor--committee member

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Harrison County



Samuel McAdams

Date of Birth: unknown

Date of Death: November 6 1824---Harrison County, Indiana

Samuel McAdams was a lieutenant in Colonel Cox's militia under General Clark. When he arrived in Indiana, he was already an older man. In 1815, he and Jacob Funk platted New Amsterdam. Samuel ran a ferry operation which helped pioneers move to the area. It also helped interstate travel. This ferry helped open our state by making it easier to arrive in Indiana with family and supplies.

Samuel McAdams was 70 when he was married for the second time in 1819.

Contributor--Kay Woodward Dean

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Jefferson County



Floyd Sutherland

Date of Birth: December 29, 1827---Indiana

Date of Death: July 30, 1897---Tennessee

Floyd Sutherland was born in Indiana in 1827, the son of John and Fanna Neely. He married Isabel Holden on August 28, 1851 in Jefferson County and to this marriage was born nine children. In the 1880 census, he is listed as a farmer in Hanover Township. His son, John, had 4 children one of whom was my grandfather, William. They were farmers and respectable citizens in their communities. Several of the Sutherland descendants are residents of the community besides multiple persons with married names.

Contributor--Janice Hardy Stanley

Isaiah Blackford

Date of Birth: August 26, 1804---Kentucky

Date of Death: June 28, 1878---Jefferson County, Indiana

Isaiah Blackford and his wife, Mary, purchased land in 1811 in Saluda Township of Jefferson County near 14 Mile Creek. According to the 1820 census, Blackford had 5 children. In 1827, Isaiah was recognized as a Jefferson County Pioneer by the Madison Courier. The poll book of 1828 has him verified as a voter. Saluda Post Office lists him as a patron in 1858. As of the 1850 census, my great- grandfather, Salem, was two. Many of his descendants are active in local public and civic activities.

Contributor-- Janice Hardy Stanley

Mary Polly Thompson

Date of Birth: July 6, 1800---Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania

Date of Death: February 28, 1858---Jefferson County, Indiana

Polly was one of the early pioneer women in Hanover Township. She married John Holden on June 12, 1823 in Jefferson County. To this union was born 6 children of whom my 2nd great- grandmother, Isabel, was the wife of Floyd Sutherland. The census of 1830 lists her as a resident of Hanover Township and The 1820 census includes her father, Alexander Thompson. The family was very influential and supportive of the local Presbyterian Churches, Bethel and Carmel. Polly needs to be included as a woman who withstood the rigors of the frontier.

Contributor--Janice Hardy Stanley

Thomas Arbuckle

Date of Birth: May 2, 1747---Augusta, Virginia

Date of Death: July 15, 1843---Saluda Township, Jefferson County, Indiana

Thomas Arbuckle migrated from Virginia and Kentucky to Washington County in 1811. He was a Revolutionary Soldier and served under George Rogers Clark in the Ohio campaign. In the 1830 census he was living with his son in Scott County but by the 1840 census he had moved to Saluda Township in Jefferson County. He died there three years later at the age of 95..In the township is Arbuckle Road. The Arbuckle families have operated numerous grocery stores with postal services in the area. Today, there are many descendants living and striving in the two counties.

Contributor--Janice Hardy Stanley

George Shannon

Date of Birth: March 17, 1759---Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Date of Death: December 4, 1840---Jefferson County, Indiana

George Shannon was a Revolutionary War veteran who established his home on a high bluff overlooking the Ohio River in Jefferson County, Indiana, about eight miles east of Madison.

In November, 1812, Shannon addressed a letter to "The Honorable President and Council and members of Congress Sitting in Washington City" in which he set out "...the deplorable situation we a number of Citizens of the Indiana Territory North West of the Ohio are placed in." He went on to relate instances of skirmishes with "our savage neighbors" and implored the Federal authorities to provide some protection. He tells the President that the citizens will have to abandon the country if they do not receive relief soon and suggests that a call for volunteers - to be paid by the granting of a section of land for each year of service - could alleviate "our exposed condition". There is no evidence that the President or Congress acted on his request.

Contributor--Robert Schirmer

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Johnson County



Bartholomew Carroll

Date of Birth: 1722

Date of Death: 1823--- Johnson County, Indiana

The first settler in Johnson County was Bartholomew Carroll who located on section thirty-four near the place where John Vandiver/Vandivier afterwards built a mill. His family consisted of himself and wife, three sons, William, John and Samuel, two daughters whose names have not been handed down, and the grandfather of his children, a very aged man, who died, it is said, when he was 110 years old.

Bartholomew Carroll was a genuine backwoodsman who spent his days hunting and trapping and gathering wild honey. In that early day, and indeed for many a year after, all this region was celebrated for the abundance of its wild game, its fur-bearing animals and its wild bees. It is said that Carroll would sometimes have as many as 100 bee trees marked in the woods at one time. The Carroll's had the country to themselves for three years, when, in 1826, others began to move in.

Bartholomew Carroll served in the Revolutionary War and enlisted in New London, Virginia, in June 1, 1780. He was a private in Captain Stribling's and Captain Stephens's Company, and Colonel Haw's Virginia Regiment. He was in the Battle of Guilford Court House. Carroll was discharged on January 1, 1782.

Contributor--committee member

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Knox County



Francois-Marie Bissot, Sieur de Vincennes

Date of Birth: June 17, 1700 ---Montreal

Date of Death: March 25, 1736---near Fulton, Tennessee

In May of 1722, Vincennes was commissioned an Ensign. He took control of the fort at Ouiatanon (Indiana's first settlement), near present-day Lafayette. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1730 and established a fort and trading post at the Indian village of Chipkawkay(present-day Vincennes) in 1732. He married the daughter of Phillippe Longpre' of Kaskaskia. They had two daughters, Marie Therese and Catherine.

During the Chickasaw war, some of his men were wounded in a battle with the Chickasaw near Memphis, Tennessee. He refused to abandon his wounded men, was captured by the Chickasaw and was burned at the stake.

Contributor--committee member

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Marshall County



John S. and Lydia Norris

Date of Birth: May 4, 1785---Corinth, Vermont-- (Orange County)

Date of Death: October 1847---Culver, Indiana ---Marshall County

John and Lydia Norris migrated from Vermont to Indiana in 1838 near Maxinkuckee Village. It was the year of the Trail of Death and the removal of the Indians by the federal government. They endured incredible hardships building a cabin in the wilderness of timber interspersed with impenetrable marshes and swamps. People were shaking from chills and fever, but they managed to drain and clear the land for farming and raising fruit trees. They had 15 children (5 died young) who went on to be successful.

Contributor--Mary Ann Norris

John Norris came with few resources and a family at the age of 52 and settled on free land. His descendants include doctors, teachers, ministers and farmers. Some have served in local political offices. He was a veteran of the War of 1812. John walked from Edwardsburg, Michigan to Marshall County in 1837. He stayed the winter with a distant relative of his wife and returned to Michigan for his family and brought them to Marshall County in 1838.

Contributor-- Phyllis Norris Schoonover

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Montgomery County



Lew Wallace

Date of Birth: April 10, 1827---Brookville, Indiana

Date of Death: February 14, 1905---Crawfordsville, Indiana

Lew Wallace was born in Brookville, Indiana, April 10, 1827, to David Wallace and Esther French Test Wallace. David Wallace, his father, was a graduate of the United States Military Academy. When Wallace's father was elected as lieutenant governor of Indiana, he moved his family to Covington, Indiana. Esther Wallace, his mother, died in 1834. His stepmother, Zerelda Gray Sanders Wallace, was a prominent suffragist and temperance advocate.

In 1836, at the age of nine, he joined his brother in Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he briefly attended Wabash Preparatory School. Wallace was studying law at the start of the Mexican - American War in 1846. He raised a company of militia and was elected a second lieutenant in the 1st Indiana Infantry regiment. He rose to the position of first lieutenant serving in the army of Zachary Taylor. Lew Wallace was admitted to the bar in 1840. In 1851 he was elected prosecuting attorney of the First Congressional District. In 1852, Wallace married Susan Arnold Elston by whom he had one son, Henry Lane Wallace. In 1856, he was elected to the State Senate after moving his residence to Crawfordsville.

At the start of the American Civil War, Wallace was appointed state adjutant general and helped raise troops in Indiana. In 1861, he was appointed Colonel of the 11th Indiana Infantry. Wallace was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers and given the command of a brigade. Wallace helped General Grant capture Fort Donelson in Tennessee. Wallace's most controversial command came at the Battle of Shiloh where he served as a division commander under Grant. He was blamed for a setback for moving his troops up and nearly costing the Union a defeat. Wallace's most notable service came in 1864 at the Battle of Monocacy. In this battle he was able to stall a push the Confederates were making toward Washington, D C. Wallace was devastated by the loss of his reputation as a result of Shiloh.

Wallace participated in the military commission trial of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. Lew Wallace held a number of important political posts for he served as Governor of the New Mexico Territory and as U.S. Minister to the Ottoman Empire.

While serving as Governor of the New Mexico Territory, Wallace wrote the novel *Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ*. This novel grew to be the best-selling American novel of the 19th century. The last twenty years of his life were spent in Crawfordsville where he wrote and lectured. Wallace died in Crawfordsville in 1905 at the age of 77 and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Contributor--committee member

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Putnam County



George W. Sutherlin

Date of Birth: 1787---Burke County, North Carolina
Date of Death: 1841---Putnam County, Indiana

George W. Sutherlin was one of the early settlers of Putnam County, Indiana per Weiks 1910 History of Putnam County, page 356. The family moved to Orange County, Indiana in 1815 and to Putnam County in 1821.

George W. Sutherlin made land entries in Jackson, Monroe, and Greencastle townships in 1826, other entries in Jackson township during the 1830's and two in Floyd township in 1836. These were probably farms for his children.

Contributor--Larry Tippin

Reverend Benjamin Jones

Date of Birth: October 22, 1779---Queen's County, Maryland
Date of Death: January 22, 1845---Mt. Meridian, Putnam County, Indiana

The Reverend Benjamin Jones was one of the first settlers to arrive in Putnam County (tradition says the 3rd). In October, 1821 he legally entered a tract of land in Putnam County "U.S. to Benjamin Jones, entry date October 29, 1821, recorded in Entry Tract Record". After staking his claim and building a crude cabin, he returned to Kentucky to marry Esther Alexander in January, 1822. He resided on this land until 1837 when he moved to SW one half section 4 (Jefferson Township, south of Mt. Meridian). Reverend Jones was one of the founders of Indiana Asbury (now DePauw University) and one of its first trustees. He also was a charter member of the first Methodist Church in Greencastle built in 1826. Benjamin Jones and his family are buried in the Jones family cemetery (alternately known as the "Methodist Cemetery" located a short distance south of Mt. Meridian. Benjamin and Esther were strong abolitionists and tee-totalers.

Parents of nine children, Benjamin and Esther were the ancestors of a widely spread family. Three sons and a daughter settled in Iowa, Kansas, and other points west. Three remained in Putnam County and two died in childhood.

Contributor--Mr. and Mrs. Robert Evans

William E. Rissler

Date of Birth: October 12, 1797---near Winchester, Virginia

Date of Death: March 9, 1884---Putnam County, Indiana -Reelsville, Indiana

William Rissler is felt to be one of the leading men of his township and county. He came to Putnam County in 1825 from Virginia over the Cumberland Gap to the Big Walnut Valley in a covered wagon. He brought his wife and infant son. They lived in the covered wagon until a log cabin was built. The logs from the original cabin are still part of the homestead where his eighth generation grandchildren grew up. I still live in the home as a seventh generation descendant. All eight generations have lived there.

He purchased a tract of land from the government in Washington Township, the south west part of Putnam County. He rode to Vincennes to make entry and receive a patent bearing the signature of John Quincy Adams, President. Later, in 1831 he entered land adjoining his original purchase and in 1838 purchased a third tract in the same location. The last patent was signed by President Van Buren.

William Rissler was a miller. Her erected a mill on Walnut Creek, near what is the Huffman covered bridge. It was greatly prized in the community. He operated the mill for many years with much success. In time he cleared and improved good farm land and became one of the largest, leading farmers in the county. The Rissler Family eventually owned several hundred acres along the Big Walnut Valley.

William brought his mother to Putnam County. She is the oldest white settler buried in Putnam County. His wife, Susan Boone Rissler, was a close relative of Daniel Boone.

Contributor--Terri Beasley

Dr. Daniel Wunderlich Layman

Date of Birth: September 24, 1808---Shippensburg, Pennsylvania

Date of Death: August 10, 1887---Indianapolis, Indiana

Dr. Daniel Layman wore "many hats". He came to Putnam County in 1831. For 56 years he practiced in Putnam, Owen, Clay, Vigo,. Parke, Montgomery, Hendricks, Morgan, and Marion counties. Not only was he a physician in Putnamville, quite able and well-loved, going on horseback far over the surrounding countryside to see his patients, he also was credited with making Putnamville a "thriving community". Dr. Layman kept 4 horses in the stable ready for use at any hour.

He helped build and establish the first Presbyterian Church in Putnamville (1834), which was later sold to the Methodists in 1861. He became Putnamville's Postmaster in April of 1833. Although interested in politics, he never entered into the political arena. He had been brought up as a Jeffersonian Democrat. Later, however, he became quite disgusted with Andrew Jackson's administration and became a Whig, after which he became an abolitionist and an ardent Republican. A grandchild of Dr. Layman's said that from his observations he was sure that the Layman home was one of the underground railroad stations.

"As a physician he was credited for stopping the spread of smallpox. He, himself, only lost one case of smallpox. Since he couldn't obtain vaccines, Daniel used the scabs from his own baby grandchildren whom he vaccinated immediately after birth. Also, later, physicians in Indianapolis heard that Daniel was having unusual success in curbing infections from wounds, and after being invited to attend a medical convention, Daniel explained that he used homemade soft soap". This quote is from the 1945 yearbook of The Society of Indiana Pioneers.

Contributor--Virginia Ann Kingsbury

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Scott County



William Conway Everett

Date of Birth: February 23, 1786---Northumberland County, Virginia

Date of Death: September 1875---Scott County, Indiana

William Conway Everett with this wife, four young children and little else, moved and cleared land in Scott County in 1832. He was elected Road Supervisor for Vienna Township in Scott County in 1833 and again in 1846. Five more children were born of this marriage and their descendants have remained active in the farming, agricultural, business and civic life of Scott County for more than 175 years.

William Conway Everett was born on February 23, 1786, to William and Winnifred Everett in Northumberland County, Virginia. Little is known about his youth until the spring of 1813 when he enlisted in the 41st Regiment, Virginia Volunteers at Richmond County Courthouse. Following the War of 1812, he moved west to the young city of Louisville, Kentucky, and engaged in the tailoring trade. He met Mary Lewellen, 16 years younger than he, and they were married on May 12, 1818. They started their family and lived in Louisville until sometime in the mid-1820s when they moved north across the Ohio River into Clark County, Indiana, where Mary's brothers, Thomas and Samuel, resided.

In 1812, a renegade band of Shawnee Indians attacked the small community of Pigeon Roost in what was to become Scott County and brutally killed 24 of the white settlers (15 of them children) in the area. Twenty years later-in 1832-William Conway Everett and his wife Mary Lewellen purchased eighty acres just a short distance from the site of the tragedy and there raised a family of nine children. Seven of the children grew to adulthood, married and became prominent farmers, businessmen and civic leaders in the young county. For the most part, the next and subsequent generations adopted "Everitt" as the spelling of their surname. More than 3,000 descendants of William and Mary have been identified and published in a database by the family. For a number of years, descendants have published an Everitt Family Newsletter which is now distributed twice yearly to more than 300 members of the family throughout the United States. The Everitt Family Cemetery in southwestern Scott County is the final resting place of William Conway Everett, his wife and most of their children. The cemetery was in a very remote location and was neglected for a number of years, but in recent years, it has been supported and well-maintained by family members and has again become the burial site of choice for many of the descendants. Since 2002, a biennial reunion of the descendants of William C. and Mary L. Everett has been held in Scottsburg in the fall. Many seventh and eighth generation descendants of this Pioneer Founder reside in Scott County and are active in the business and civic affairs of the community.

Contributor--Robert Everitt

James Bishop Murphy

Date of Birth: September 2, 1809---on a ship at sea from Ireland to United States

Date of Death: May 26, 1884---Scott County, Indiana

James Bishop Murphy was an Indiana Pioneer who moved from South Carolina in 1830 and established a home that same year in Scott County, Indiana and lived there until his death in 1884. He purchased additional property and eventually gave some to each of his children. His son, William Murphy, built a home on such property and his son Scott Murphy lived there until his death. Now his great-great-grandson, Teddy Murphy, lives there. Numerous other descendants remain in Scott County.

Contributor--Nancy Swank

Reuben Johnson

Date of Birth: 1777---Shenandoah Valley, Virginia

Date of Death: November 6, 1822---Lexington, Indiana

Reuben Johnson served in the War of 1812 while in the Ohio. When the first three commissioners were appointed in 1820 for the newly formed Scott County, Reuben was chosen.

Contributor--Steven Carlisle

James Noell Harrod

Date of Birth: April 14, 1744---Maryland

Date of Death: 1822---Scott County, Indiana

James N. Harrod paved the way for other pioneers to settle in Scott County. James had been at Fort Harrod, Kentucky and later moved to Falls of Ohio. After joining an expedition to Ohio where they defeated the Shawnees, James squatted on land that was then part of huge Knox County (later Clark County 1800-1820 and Scott County in 1820) in 1796. James and wife Elizabeth died and were buried in unmarked graves in 1822. This area is now known as the Homer Cemetery near Lexington, Indiana. Since that time in 1796, generations of the Harrod family have led productive lives in Scott County.

Contributor--Janet Cox Payne

Dr. Jonathan Hardy

Date of Birth: May 18, 1778---Tewsbury, Massachusetts

Date of Death: December 30, 1836---Lexington, Indiana

In 1815, Dr. Jonathan Hardy came from Massachusetts to the Lexington community and settled on a farm near the 14 Mile Creek. He and his wife, Elizabeth Cochran, had 7 children. During the Christian Restoration Movement, Concord Church was organized near Hardy's home and he was a strong supporter and leader. His son, Herschel, was a founder of the Lexington Church. Two descendants of Dr. Hardy continue to serve. In 1890, there was a Hardy Post Office and settlement. Hardy Lake State Park and Hardy Mill Road exist as a testament to the Hardy families' influence.

Contributor--Janice Hardy Stanley

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Shelby County



James Wilson

Date of Birth: 1779---Virginia

Date of Death: unknown ---Shelby County

James Wilson was born in Virginia in 1779. James came to Indiana in 1800, first settling in Jefferson County. In 1801, he married Nancy McCarty. She was born in 1785 in a Fort in Kentucky. He and his wife and their family moved to Franklin County in 1808. Jacob Whetzel, brother of the famous Indian-hater, Lewis Whetzel, had obtained from his Indian friend, Chief Anderson of the Delawares, permission to mark a wagon path through the forest from Franklin County in eastern Indiana to the "Bluffs" on the White River. Within a week after the treaty had been concluded, friends began to blaze this wilderness "road", since known as the Whetzel Trace. This is the route James Wilson and others followed to Shelby County.

After Jacob Whetzel had completed work on the Trace, Wilson and two other men followed the Trace to where it met with the Blue River. This is where he decided that he was going to build his new home. James Wilson returned to Franklin County, gathered his three oldest sons, and the four of them returned to the spot that he'd chosen. They built the new cabin which was one-room 16' by 16' foot and was near "little" Marion. Early in January, 1819, the Wilson family---eleven in all---moved to the cabin and became the county's first settlers. Once they were settled into their new home, James established a trading post.

James Wilson and his family didn't live in isolation for long. Shelby County was no longer wilderness, but becoming a well populated settlement. Because the Wilson family needed shoes, they persuaded Bennett Michael, a shoemaker, and his family to move to Shelby County. Thus, the Bennett Family was the second family to settle in Shelby County. It is believed that James Wilson built the house for his friend, Bennett Michael, next to his own. There soon came a flood of new people that settled in Shelby County.

Contributor--committee member

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Starke County



Samuel Koontz

Date of Birth: unknown

Date of Death: unknown

Samuel Koontz built the first sawmill in Starke County at Koontz Lake in 1849. He purchased the land on what was then called Woodworth Lake on November 6, 1848. He had traveled to Starke County on horseback the year before from Ohio. The land he bought included the outlet for the lake and he built a dam to power an "up & down" saw mill.

This resulted in one of the first lawsuits in Starke County, as his neighbors complained the dam was harmful to their farm land. The federal court ruled in favor of Mr. Koontz and awarded him title to all the waters of the lake. When the dam was built, the lake increased in both size and depth due to the dam. The mill was converted to a grist mill in 1851. The mill was able to produce 40 barrels of flour every 24 hours.

Contributor--committee member

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Switzerland County



William Cotton

Date of Birth: March 13, 1776---Fairfax County, Virginia
Date of Death: July 2, 1838---Switzerland County, Indiana

My great- great -great grandmother, Mary Jane Cotton, was the wife of Johnston Brown and the sister of William Cotton. She died October 12, 1823, in Switzerland County, Indiana, and is buried in the Cotton Cemetery , which is located on Indian Creek near Mt. Sterling, Indiana , in a grave next to William's grave.

William Cotton was a farmer and came to Switzerland County about 1798-1799 from Nelson County, Kentucky. He was the first to build a grist mill on his farm on Indian Creek so that local farmers could mill their grain and avoid the long trek back to Nelson County to acquire that service. He set aside about an acre of his land which was designated for use as a cemetery, the first such cemetery established in the county. There are at least 116 marked graves in this cemetery with some being dated around 1820. In 1814, he was appointed Constable for Jefferson Township, Switzerland County, Indiana Territory, and also served as Justice of the Peace. Indiana Territory Governor, Thomas Posey, appointed him Associate Judge of Circuit Court for Switzerland County in September 1814. In May 1816, he was elected as a Delegate to the Constitutional Convention and helped create the original Indiana Constitution. He was elected Associate Judge for Switzerland County on March 17, 1817. He served in the Indiana Senate for part of 1821 plus the years 1822, 1823, 1824, 1828, 1829 and 1830. He was twice appointed by President Monroe to value the improvements of the Indian villages of northern Indiana and Ohio and was later elected to the House of Representatives.

Contributor--Harold E. Brown

Henry D. Banta

Date of Birth: January 29, 1785---Henry County, Kentucky
Date of Death: January 21, 1867---Switzerland County, Indiana

Henry Banta was recorded as a Collector having purchased pelts in 1829, 1832, 1834 in Pleasant Township, Switzerland County. In Jefferson County records there show 145 numerous marriage licenses signed by him as a Preacher of the Gospel, PG in 1830. His son, Henry D, Banta, born in 1842, became a Captain in the Union Army, Co. A, 3rd Regiment, Indiana Cavalry. Captain Banta wrote a letter in 1862 to John Brown pleading for his soldiers to be paid. Captain Banta's son, Ben Banta, was a noted poet in the 1940's. He wrote many poems about Clifty Falls State Park during his tenure as gate keeper. The poems are published and on exhibit at the Clifty Falls Inn.

Contributor--Janice Hardy Stanley

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Vigo County



Saint Theodora

Birth Name: Anne Therese Guerin

Name in 1840: Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

Date of Birth: October 1, 1798---Etables-sur-Mer, France

Date of Death: May 14, 1856---Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana

Saint Theodora, who arrived in Vigo County, Indiana, in 1840, advanced education in Indiana by establishing a number of schools including Indiana's Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College. Due to two proven miracles associated with Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, she was canonized a saint of the Roman Catholic Church on October 15, 2006, by Pope Benedict XVI.

As a skilled businesswoman and leader, she established between her time of arrival in Vigo County in 1840 to January 1849 the following: Parish schools in Jasper, St. Peter's, Vincennes, Madison, Fort Wayne, and Terre Haute. She also established two orphanages in Vincennes. By the time of her death at age 57, she had facilitated the growth of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary's of the Woods, Indiana, which she founded from six sisters and four postulants to 67 professed members, nine novices, and seven postulants.

Contributor--Dr. Mary Alice Hines

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



Wayne County



John Bell

Date of Birth: June 17, 1770---Pasquotank County, North Carolina

Date of Death: December 1839---Milton, Indiana

In 1817, John Bell brought his wife and 11 children to Milton, Indiana, from Guilford County, North Carolina to settle on a farm and ply his trade as a tailor. He also must have had skills as a surveyor as he laid out the town of Milton (plat recorded on July 5, 1824). With 5 men they located the county seat of Henry County in 1821. He was active in the Orthodox Milford (Milton) Quaker meeting.

Contributor--John(Jake) Ferris

John Ferris

Date of Birth: March 14, 1773---Caroline County, Maryland

Place of Death: July 19, 1853---Milton, Indiana

True to his Quaker heritage, John Ferris did not want to raise his family in a slave state. In 1828, John with wife, Anna, and four children moved by covered wagon from Wilmington, Delaware, to Milton, Indiana, a journey of seven weeks. He was instrumental in the foundation of Milford (Hicksite) Quaker meeting in Milton in 1828-30 and was an active member. He plied his trade as a cabinet maker and farmer.

Contributor--John(Jake) Ferris

John Turner

Date of Birth: 1780---Virginia

Date of Death: 1840---Wayne County, Indiana

John Turner was the first sheriff at Wayne County. He remained sheriff until 1818. John came in 1805 with the Rue family. There is a history of his life in all the Wayne County books.

Contributor--Gloria Jean (Turner) Folkerth

Robert Watkins

Date of Birth: October 10, 1754---Maryland

Date of Death: December 6, 1845---Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Robert Watkins was one of the first settlers of Wayne County, Indiana. He settled in Clay Township, where we know his first son was born on January 27, 1812. In all, Robert and his wife had 5 children and remained in Wayne County for approximately 20 years. He later filed his pension application in 1832 in Delaware County for service in the Revolutionary War in South Carolina. His final years were spent in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, where he died at 91 years of age.

Contributor--Betty Cummings

David Hoover

Date of Birth: April 14, 1781---Randolph County, North Carolina

Date of Death: September 12, 1866---Wayne County, Indiana

David Hoover is credited with being the first white man to come to the Whitewater Valley and was one of the early influential citizens of Wayne County. Smith and Cox hired David to lay out the city of Richmond and to write the deeds for the property. David Hoover is also credited with naming the city. In 1810 he was appointed as Justice of the Peace, 1815 associate judge, 1817 clerk of the Wayne County Circuit Court and served 6 years as State Senator.

Contributor--David Sloan

THE SOCIETY OF INDIANA PIONEERS



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