



Bicentennial Quilt: Tying Our Past To Our Future

Who'd have thought that a quilt would be able to bring appreciation of Indiana's majestic barns to thousands of people across the state. But IBF's Bicentennial Legacy Project has been doing just that. Throughout 2016 the quilt will be seen in libraries, at county fairs, the State Fair, quilt shows and at official Indiana Bicentennial celebrations.

The 92 squares were each hand-created by artists across Indiana, then pieced together and hand-quilted, giving many Hoosiers personal connections with the quilt. Each square depicts a barn from one of Indiana's 92 counties, so owners of those barns as well as quilt contributors are traveling to see the quilt in their communities, taking pride in their connections to this heirloom quality quilt.

The quilt contributors were honored in a private unveiling, made more memorable by our guests of honor, First Lady Karen Pence, Governor Mike Pence, Indiana Bicentennial Executive Director Perry Hammock and IBF board member and former First Lady Judy O'Bannon.

At the time of this writing, the quilt has been on display from southwest to northeast Indiana, and in between. Its first public stop was at the Indiana State House. It has already been on display at 11 different locations, and throughout Indiana's 200th



IBF President Carolyn Rabe is joined by Quilt Coordinator Joy William and First Lady Karen Pence at the Indiana State House for the quilt's public unveiling on February 29th.



Indiana's Governor and First Lady Mike and Karen Pence honored quilt contributors at a private reception and unveiling on February 27th at the Morris Butler House in Indianapolis.

birthday, 2016, it will make well over 50 stops, ensuring that it reaches every part of the state.

But the quilt's true mission runs deeper than being enjoyed as a beautiful piece of art. Ultimately our goal is to raise funds to support barn owners in their efforts to preserve their barns. Indiana Barn Foundation has held onto the belief that in order to save Indiana's barns, to make a tangible difference to barn owners, there must be financial support. If this quilt helps us harness the passion of all the people who want to help save barns, it will have served its ultimate purpose.

On March 4th, 2017, our first major fundraiser will be held to help fund grants for barn preservation. We are planning to auction the Indiana Bicentennial Barn Quilt, as well as other barn-related and quilt-related pieces. We have already received donations from many of the organizations who are displaying the quilt, and are profiting from the sale of commemorative quilt books and posters that can be purchased on our website www.indianabarns.org/store and at many of the display venues.

We believe the Bicentennial Barn Quilt is an ideal reflection of Indiana's 200-year-old heritage, and beautifully ties our past to our future. The full quilt tour schedule can be found at www.indianabarns.org/barn-quilt, or "like" Indiana Bicentennial Barn Quilt on Facebook.

State Barn Survey Preparations Underway

How many barns are there in Indiana? How many are still in use? And of those left, where are they located, what types do they represent, and what do we know about their original uses and cultural roots? Unfortunately, the answer to all of these questions is “Your guess is as good as mine.”

To get the answers, the Indiana Barn Foundation is planning a statewide survey to aid us in our advocacy efforts. It is difficult to promote barn preservation when we know so little about the ones we have. Moreover, how can we measure our success without a reliable inventory? And why do we want to save our barns for future generations? Because they are an integral part of our rural landscape, yes, but also because barns tell our story: settlement history, ethnic and cultural origins, agricultural practices, commerce and work traditions, and family and community histories—stories we do not want to lose.

In March, at our meeting for county representatives, we began the process of articulating the survey process, (see “County Barn Reps Meet March 19” in this issue). We now have a form that surveyors can use that helps identify barn styles, materials, roof shape, and other physical attributes, as well as ownership and location by county and street address. I presented a slide lecture on barn typologies, and we used the session to train those present in the use of the forms, but several challenges emerged.



Photo by Marsha Williamson-Mohr

One is the magnitude of the undertaking—few Indiana counties have reliable barn surveys, and surveying 92 counties with county reps means that each county will need several volunteers to scour the countryside. To date a little less than half of our counties have IBF reps, and few of those have more than one or two. Additionally, we will need a system for gathering each county’s survey information and recording it electronically—a process

known as data entry. For this we will need to design a database that is sophisticated enough to allow us to access our collected data in different ways, add to it over time, and make it available to the public in a simple, but useful manner. So we have both a personnel problem and an information problem to solve.

Early discussions determined that we should conduct workshop-training sessions in several regions of the state. These will assist in recruiting more county reps as well as in training them to organize surveyors and learn to use the survey forms. Individuals from the several regions will be trained to present the slide show to their area constituents as part of the training effort so every surveyor is familiar with Indiana barn types.

To date we have a small committee, and have recruited a few volunteers, who will help design the database, and we have begun planning for a regional system of workshops, but much remains to be done. Anyone interested in becoming a county rep or regional trainer should contact the IBF. We need all the help we can get.



Photo by Marsha Williamson-Mohr

County Barn Reps Met March 19

About 30 barn reps from across the state met on March 19 at the Fulton County Historical Society Museum. Shirley Willard and museum staff hosted the group. Duncan Campbell gave a fascinating Power Point presentation that showed different barn types and styles. The group learned about English, Pennsylvania and Sweitzer barns, among many others, and about the many roof shapes, foundation styles and building materials.

After lunch, Duncan led a discussion about conducting a county-level barn survey and various survey forms were distributed. Because of the complexity of compiling and managing the information, it was suggested that workshops be held across the state to learn how to conduct a useful barn inventory. A small committee has been formed to work with Duncan on this.

Carroll County had seven representatives present at the meeting and reported that they are excited about hosting the 2016 Barn Tour on October 8. The self-guided driving tour will include about a dozen barns of various types across the county. Registration, and viewing of the Bicentennial Barn Quilt, will be at the Courthouse in Delphi, 9-5. The cost for the tour is \$12. Carroll County will have a booth at the 4-H Fair and Old Settlers this summer to help bring awareness to the value of its barns.

The next meeting of the county reps will be at the IBF Annual Meeting on July 16. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Join Us For Our Annual Meeting July 16th

We invite you to come be a part of the 3rd annual meeting of the Indiana Barn Foundation on Saturday, July 16th at the Indiana State Fairgrounds Normandy Barn. Whether you own a barn or merely appreciate what barns add to our Indiana landscape, you are welcome to join us.

Our day will start at 10 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Our featured speakers are Bob Cherry, Duncan Campbell and Rick Collins of Trillium Dell barn restorers. We will learn about the new improved law concerning tax abatement for barns from State Representative Bob Cherry. He will discuss the changes to this important law, as well as answering questions about how you may apply in your county for this tax abatement for barns over 50 years of age.

Duncan Campbell will talk to us about the many and unique types of barns that are in different parts of Indiana. If you have always wanted to know more about the history of barns and what the genesis of your barn is, this may be the presentation you want to hear. Duncan

is a well-known expert in the history of barns. An accomplished speaker and historian, Duncan will be able to answer your questions about barns in your community.

Rick Collins of Trillium Dell Timberworks will talk to us about barn preservation and also how barns can be converted into other uses. We encourage you to visit the Trillium Dell website, www.trilliumdell.com, to get a full understanding of the craft he brings to barn restoration. Since 1996, his company has worked all over the mid-west in both saving and repurposing barns and other historic structures.

If you would like to attend, please follow the link to Eventbrite and sign up. It's a great opportunity to learn about barns and meet others who share your interest, and to even enjoy some good food, music and fun!

As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Indiana's founding, we want to honor our past plus help find a way to preserve our heritage. Join us on July 16th.

<http://indianabarnfoundationannualmeeting2016.eventbrite.com>

Big Projects Underway in 2016

Bicentennial Barn Quilt Travels State, Carroll County Barn Tour, Annual Meeting and Statewide Barn Survey

IBF is in its third year, and it has been a remarkable journey. Since our last Annual Meeting in July of 2015, we've taken on some enormous projects and are making great headway! Membership continues to grow and more and more have become involved in local and statewide efforts to preserve barns. We could not have had this success without what has truly become a grassroots effort.

INDIANA BICENTENNIAL BARN QUILT

The dream of creating the Bicentennial Barn Quilt - of 92 people hand-crafting and donating squares to represent barns from their counties has come true. The quilt is now traveling all across Indiana, creating a renewed appreciation of barns. In February Governor Pence and First Lady Karen Pence honored the quilt contributors in a private ceremony, followed by its public unveiling and its first installation at the Indiana Statehouse. It has already been seen by hundreds and just embarked on its "tour" of the state!

BARN TOUR

The date for the 2016 Barn Tour has been set for October 8th in Carroll County. The quilt will also be displayed during this time as part of the Carroll County Bicentennial Torch Relay, and will be at the courthouse from October 5th through 9. So plan now to be in Carroll County on October 8th!

ANNUAL MEETING

Our 3rd Annual Meeting will again be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in the Normandy Barn on July

16th from 10:00-3:00. Besides providing a great opportunity to network and learn from barn experts, there will be a membership business meeting in which elections will be held for the next class of Board of Directors. Anyone wishing to nominate someone or be considered for a position on the board should email info@indianabarns.org.

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES/BARN SURVEY

Barn enthusiasts from several of Indiana's 92 counties have continued to meet since they first began organizing at the 2015 Annual Meeting. Under the leadership of Janet Ayres, this group has become an active, integral part of our organization's growth. As this role continues to evolve, we encourage you to contact Janet if you have an interest in representing your area or being involved with the barn survey process. Email ayres.janet.sue@gmail.com or call 765-564-2324.

NEWSLETTER

One of the benefits of membership is receiving IBF's newsletter, the Hoosier Barn Chronicle four times a year. Because of some illnesses and schedule changes amongst the board, there was no winter newsletter this year. If you have graphic design skills and are interested in a volunteer opportunity in our newsletter layout, please contact carolynrahe@indianabarns.org.

We recognize and thank all of our members and volunteers who have come together to support the mission of the Indiana Barn Foundation, "Preserving Indiana's Heritage, One Barn At A Time."

Bicentennial Barn Quilt Donors:

Brown County Historical Society
 Clay County - Crazy About Quilts Show
 Cook's Bison Ranch (LaGrange County)
 Courthouse Square Preservation Society (Noble County)
 Decatur County Arts & Cultural Center
 Franklin County Quilt Show
 Brown County Pioneer Women's Club
 Historic Bremen (Marshall County)
 Marshall County Historic Society
 Pulaski County Library
 Quilters Hall of Fame (Marion, Grant County)
 Red Bud Quilt Guild (Madison County)
 Southeast Indiana Quilt Expo (Dearborn County)
 Starke County Historical Society
 Sullivan Area Art Guild

Welcome New Members!

Indiana Barn Foundation welcomes the following new members:

Judith C. Baker
 Tom Dull Family
 Robb Greene Family
 Terry & Lois Guerin
 Family
 Robert E. Kohnen
 Debra & Louis Lukac
 Family

Kathleen McGuire
 Peg Ramey
 Ralph & Jan Stacy Family
 Laura Weston-Eichert
 Jane Larkey

Calendar

Send submissions to
info@indianabarns.org

July 16, 2016 - Annual Meeting of
 Indiana Barn Foundation, Normandy
 Barn at Indiana State Fairgrounds.
 Register online at
[indianabarnfoundationannualmeeting
 2016.eventbrite.com](http://indianabarnfoundationannualmeeting2016.eventbrite.com)

October 8, 2016 - 3rd Annual
 Historic Barn Tour, Carroll County

March 4, 2017 - Indiana Bicentennial
 Barn Quilt Auction and Fundraising
 Event at Indiana Landmarks Center,
 Indianapolis

Indiana Landmarks
 1201 Central Ave.
 Indianapolis, IN 46202

