

## April as Hoosier History and Heritage Month

At its regular biennial session in 1967 the Indiana General Assembly approved a resolution, sponsored by Senator Robert P. O'Bannon of Corydon and Senator J. J. Bailey of Anderson, declaring April of each year to be Hoosier History and Heritage Month. The resolution's suggestions about relevant historical programs and observances should be helpful to students, teachers, librarians, and citizens generally. During April, schools, historical societies, libraries, museums, newspapers, luncheon clubs, and the like should sponsor educational programs or exhibits concerning some topic or aspect of Indiana's history and heritage. Moreover, as indicated in the resolution which follows, April is a particularly pleasant time of year to visit historical sites and to enjoy the beauty to be found in most of Indiana's countryside as well as in many of its towns and cities.

The legislative declaration of April as Hoosier History and Heritage Month was one of various by-products of the Indiana Sesquicentennial. Having such a month annually affords a helpful reminder that the study of state and local history merits constant attention and encouragement. Since this year is the first since the legislative resolution became effective, the *Indiana Magazine of History* is especially pleased to be able to include the proclamation of Governor Roger D. Branigin formally calling upon Hoosiers to observe April as Hoosier History and Heritage Month. Governor Branigin is himself unusually well informed about Indiana history and is an avid collector of valuable books, manuscripts, and other material about all aspects of the state's history, making it particularly appropriate that this initial proclamation should come from him.

The legislature of 1967 also took another important step concerning state and local history. It directed the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to make a statewide study of historical sites and buildings. Dr. I. George Blake, professor of history at Franklin College, Franklin, Indiana 46131, has been appointed director for this study. In cooperation with an advisory committee he is collecting information about historical sites and buildings and will subsequently suggest guidelines and priorities concerning their preservation and maintenance to the next general assembly. Representatives of historical organizations and other individuals who have useful information about Indiana's historical sites and buildings should make it available to Dr. Blake.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION declaring the month of April as Hoosier History and Heritage Month.<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, An understanding and appreciation of Indiana's history and government are essential to proper exercise of citizenship on the part of Hoosiers; and

WHEREAS, Schools, libraries, historical societies, museums, theatres, art associations, and musical organizations contribute significantly to such understanding and appreciation; and

WHEREAS, Service clubs, women's organizations, business and professional groups, fraternal orders, and organizations of laborers, farmers, youth, religious, and political groups have many opportunities to encourage such understanding and appreciation; and

WHEREAS, The Act of Congress resulting in the writing of Indiana's first Constitution at Corydon in June, 1816, and the state's admission to the Union on December 11 following, was approved by President James Madison on April 19, 1816; and

WHEREAS, April is a particularly pleasant and rewarding time to visit Indiana's scenic and historical places: Therefore

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

SECTION 1. That the month of April annually be declared Hoosier History and Heritage Month by formal proclamation of the Governor of Indiana; that especially during April, schools, libraries, historical societies, museums, theaters, art associations, and musical groups should make special efforts to feature classes, lectures, exhibits, plays, pageants, and other educational programs regarding Indiana's history and heritage; and that service clubs, women's organizations, business and professional groups, fraternal orders, and organizations of laborers, farmers, youth, religious, and political groups are urged to develop or cooperate with others in sponsoring educational programs concerning Hoosier History and Heritage Month.

SEC. 2. That during April, Hoosiers both individually and collectively be asked to engage in special programs or projects which help protect and preserve parks and wilderness areas, foster preservation and increase of natural resources, and enhance and safeguard the natural beauty of all portions of the Hoosier State.

SEC. 3. That particularly during April, state and local units of government, representatives of the mass media, and Indiana organizations and citizens generally are encouraged to cooperate with others in sponsoring programs which increase knowledge of and appreciation for the large and continuing debt owed those who have made important contributions to economic, educational, political, and religious life from pioneer days to the present.

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<sup>1</sup> The following resolution is reproduced verbatim, without change in punctuation or spelling, from Indiana, *Laws* (1967), 1344-45.

# Proclamation

FOR: HOOSIER HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH . . .  
APRIL 1-30, 1968

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME,  
GREETING:

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana has a rich historical heritage which has produced an image distinct and unique among the fifty states: and

WHEREAS, this image reflects the courage of Indiana's early settlers, the stability of the principles of its government, the varied character and talents of its citizens, and the pride and patriotism of all who call themselves, Hoosier: and

WHEREAS, it was in April, 1816, when President James Madison signed the law authorizing Indiana's admission to the Union, and it was on December 11, 1816, when formal statehood began: and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that today's generation of Hoosiers demonstrate their appreciation of this heritage and rededicate themselves to its traditions and ideals:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roger D. Branigin, Governor of the State of Indiana, in accordance with Chapter 362, Acts of 1967, do hereby proclaim the month of April, 1968, as

## HOOSIER HISTORY AND HERITAGE MONTH

and urge all citizens to reread the State's Constitution and stories about Indiana's history, and that our schools, libraries, historical societies, museums, civic groups, and other organizations recognize this State's history and heritage in special programs.

[SEAL]

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED TO BE AFFIXED THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF INDIANA, AT THE CAPITOL, IN THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, THIS 30TH DAY OF JANUARY 1968.

[Signed] R. Branigin

BY THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR OF INDIANA

[Signed] Edgar D. Whitcomb

SECRETARY OF STATE