

Collection #
M 0043

CENTENNIAL FARM FAMILIES RECORDS, 1947–1950

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department

William Henry Smith Memorial Library

Indiana Historical Society

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	4 manuscript boxes, 1 folder of photographs
COLLECTION DATES:	1947–1950
PROVENANCE:	Transferred from Indiana Historical Society office, August 1975
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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**REPRODUCTION
RIGHTS:**

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 1975.0809

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Initially called Pioneer Farms, the Centennial Farms project was started in 1947 as joint venture between the Indiana Historical Society and Purdue University to honor families whose farms had belonged to the same family for over 100 years. By July 1947 the number of identifiable farms had amounted to almost 750, with the highest number coming from Rush and Wayne counties. Purdue used its county agricultural agents to help identify centennial families. At that time, the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana Historical Bureau shared offices and staff, and Shirley Snyder (later McCord) of the Historical Bureau verified the information and corresponded with the applicants regarding questions.

Recognition took the form of a certificate awarded at a special ceremony. The certificate contained the Indiana Historical Society's new seal which was commissioned for this event. Other items on the award included the owner's name, township, and county as well as the words "loyalty to the land." Medallions which were either plain or could be engraved with the family's name were available for purchase. These also contained the Society's seal and the words "Centennial Farm Family." They could either be displayed by hanging or on a flat surface.

The awards ceremony took place in May 1948, in conjunction with the Agricultural Conference of State Associations at Purdue. Some 1,200 centennial family farms were recognized at the event. Upon the project's completion in 1951, over 1,650 families had been recognized by the Society for their contribution to the state's history.

Sources:

Information obtained from Publications Division, Indiana Historical Society.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the collection contains application forms and other relevant information submitted by families whose farms had been in same family for over 100 years, dating from 1947-50. In addition to the completed application forms, there also is additional information supplied by the applicant as well as correspondence with the Indiana Historical Bureau regarding additional information and/or questions. Also included is a list of farms and correspondence regarding ordering of medallions and certificates. There is also one folder of photographs.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0043).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.