

## The Opportunity

The history of the Blue River Friends Community is a story worth sharing with a wider audience.

## My Introduction to Quaker World

Story of Sweet Brier, Living in Salem

## About Quaker Religion

- Quakers rejected elaborate religious ceremonies
- Believed in spiritual equality for men and women.
- Quakers were pacifists and refused to take legal oaths.
- Testimony of Simplicity (Meeting house Style/Dress/Life)
- By observing and encouraging simple tastes in apparel - we help to do away with the unwholesome rivalry and we learn to value self-denial
- Central to their beliefs was the idea that everyone had the Light of Christ within them.

## Quakers in America & Indiana Today

- Quakers in America – 81,000
- Richmond Area/Earlham College Legacy
- Plainfield Area - 1858 Western Yearly Meeting of Friends was organized
- The Plainfield "Quaker" is the mascot of the high school.
- Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting is a spiritual community of 17 Monthly Meetings in Indiana, Kentucky, and southwestern Ohio.

## Quakers in Indiana in 1800's

- Lick Creek Monthly Meeting – Orange County – 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting Site 1812 / Blue River was 2<sup>nd</sup> Quaker Community.
- Indiana had an unusually sizeable Quaker population by 1850 that formed the state's fifth largest denomination and comprised the fourth largest number of Quakers in the United States.



## Blue River Settlement Historical Contributions

### Quakers as Abolitionists

- Convictions of the Quakers to leave NC, Virginia and other states
- Arrived in Washington Co in 1808 from mostly from the slave-holding states of North Carolina and Virginia in response to Fugitive Slave Law.
- The earliest report of a runaway slave in the Salem was in 1819.
- Underground Railroad –James Thompson, William Penn Trueblood, Elwood Trueblood
- Landmarks of the Anti-Slavery Movement in Blue River (Lindley Cabin, William Penn Trueblood Home)
- African Americans were not always warmly welcomed to the state. Quakers played a vital role in facilitating their settlement and helped other fugitive slaves reach freedom through the Underground Railroad in the region.
- Although some blacks migrated separately and settled different areas, many chose to locate close to the Quakers due to their antislavery and humanitarian philosophy. As a result, there was a close association in Indiana among natives of North Carolina, Quakers and blacks by 1850.
- Opportunity to “tie in” to the Freedom Trail Coming from New Albany.

### Friends to the African Americans – John Williams Story

- John “Black John” Williams Blacksmith / Blacksmith for Blue River Community / Lindley Family (Recruited to be a blacksmith in Quaker Community by William Lindley)
- John Williams was involved in building one of the African Methodist Episcopal Churches there in the early 1850’s. By 1850 around 400 Black people called Salem home
- Tragically, he was murdered in the 1860’s. His gravestone sits on that church’s property to this day.
- African-American Cemetery and the John Williams Fund (owned 160 acres) – His will managed after his death by William Lindley. (No heirs)
- Railroad from New Albany/Stops at Blue River Settlement/Little Africa Area/John Williams Farm

### Importance of Education for All

- Education for All - Women, Indians, Negroes
- Famous Alumni of Quaker Schools – Barnabus Hobbs – First President of Earlham College / Thomas Clarkson Trueblood – Univ. Michigan Expert on Public Speaking/Oratory/Elocution
- Significant reason why Salem was referred to as “The Athens of the West” – Quaker Influence for Extended Education
- Monument Stone on the site of the Blue River Schoolhouse

### Fair Treatment for the Indians

- Christian duty to look after the Indians – After the treatment of Indians at Battle of Fallen Timbers/Treaty of Greenville - Blue River Quakers established a special committee to look after the scattered bands of Indians who still were found in the surrounding area.

## Salem Peace Society

- One of the earliest peace societies in the United States originated in Salem in 1819. Fifty-seven men, of whom thirty-nine were Quakers, met and organized the Salem Peace Society.
- Benjamin Franklin Trueblood, a descendant of one of a founding Quaker was for many years General Secretary of the American Peace Society and made many trips abroad in the interest of peace and international arbitration.

## Other Early Organizations

- Salem Farmers Club – Earliest Farm Club in Indiana / Article from 1896 in Indianapolis Newspaper. Quaker Families from Blue River Area -12 Families - Rotating Farms
- Salem Fortnightly Club – Studying of Literature, Shakespeare, Celebration of Music in a time of limited education for general populations.

## Morgan's Raiders pass through Hobb's Grove in Quaker Settlement

- Morgan's Raiders arrived in Salem on July 10th 1863. The number of troops was estimated at 4,000. Morgan's Raiders took advantage of the shade of the grove of large trees to take a rest on their hurried dash through Southern Indiana. The Raiders stay in Hobb's Grove was brief, much to the relief of the Hobb's family and the Home Guards.

## Quakers Role in Agriculture in Indiana

- First Agriculture/Farm life Dedicated Club in Indiana – Salem Farmers Club (Best Practices of Farming Exchange between member)
- Charles N. Lindley - Head of the Indiana Dept of Horticulture / World's Fair Expos
- Role of Apples – Indiana Apple Show / Trains for Shipping Country Wide in Barrels
- Mrs. Charles N. Lindley's role in women having a place in the Indiana State Fair
- Mrs. Lindley's Role – Purdue Extension – Women's Role on the Farm as Equals to men

## Quakers Role in Salem Indiana

- The name "Salem" signifies Peace and is a reflection of the Pacifism of the Quakers.
- The Quaker Family "Lindley's" that named Salem migrated from Winston-Salem. NC.
- Several Quaker families from Salem Indiana migrated to and were involved in the establishment of the Salem, Iowa Quaker community.

## Quaker Meeting Houses

- Hicksite Meeting House & Cemetery – On National Register of Historic Places
- Orthodox Meeting House & Cemetery – Current congregation Meets Here.

## Lindley Cabin

- Stop on the Underground Railroad, Potential as a significant landmark for Salem. Owned by Amanda Bills. Good intentions for renewal of the structure.

## Sweet Brier Farm (Charles N. Lindley Homestead)

- The home was built in 1886 from an original design by famed Architect George Franklin Barber and the house plan appears in “Cottage Souvenir” which was published in 1887.

## Common Family Names of Blue River Quakers

- Lindleys
- Truebloods
- Coffin
- Hobbs
- Newby
- Morris
- Booth
- Overman
- Thompson
- Kemp
- Pitts
- Lyon
- Lamb

## Media Research/Resources

- John Hay Museum
- Earlham College History Archives
- Centennial History of Washington County (Book)
- Newspaper Archives
- Local People/Neighbors/Homeowners

## More information

Visit the Blue River Friends website at [www.blueriverfriends.org](http://www.blueriverfriends.org)

## Online Search Engine Results Page Results (Google)

- Search Term “Indiana Quakers” (#2 Result) -  
<https://www.blueriverfriends.org/index.php/salem-indiana-quaker-settlement/about-blue-river-quakers-settlement>
- Search Term “indiana quakers history” (#1 Result)  
<https://www.blueriverfriends.org/index.php/salem-indiana-quaker-settlement/about-blue-river-quakers-settlement>

## **Blue River Quaker Historic District Opportunities**

- Opportunity to provide historical, geographic background to Quaker relatives and those interested in the early history of Quakers role in the founding of Salem & Indiana.
- Increase in local hotel visits/overnight stays to explore Blue River Community and family ancestry and genealogical research. Including cemetery visits, meeting houses, local home and driving tours of the community.
- Opportunity for a community rallying point as the history of the settlement gains awareness and understanding of the role of the Quakers.
- Opportunity for common branding within the district of (Quaker Insignia Barn Quilts as example)
- Story of Seeds/whips brought from NC as a tribute to Winston-Salem Quakers (Common planting of plants)

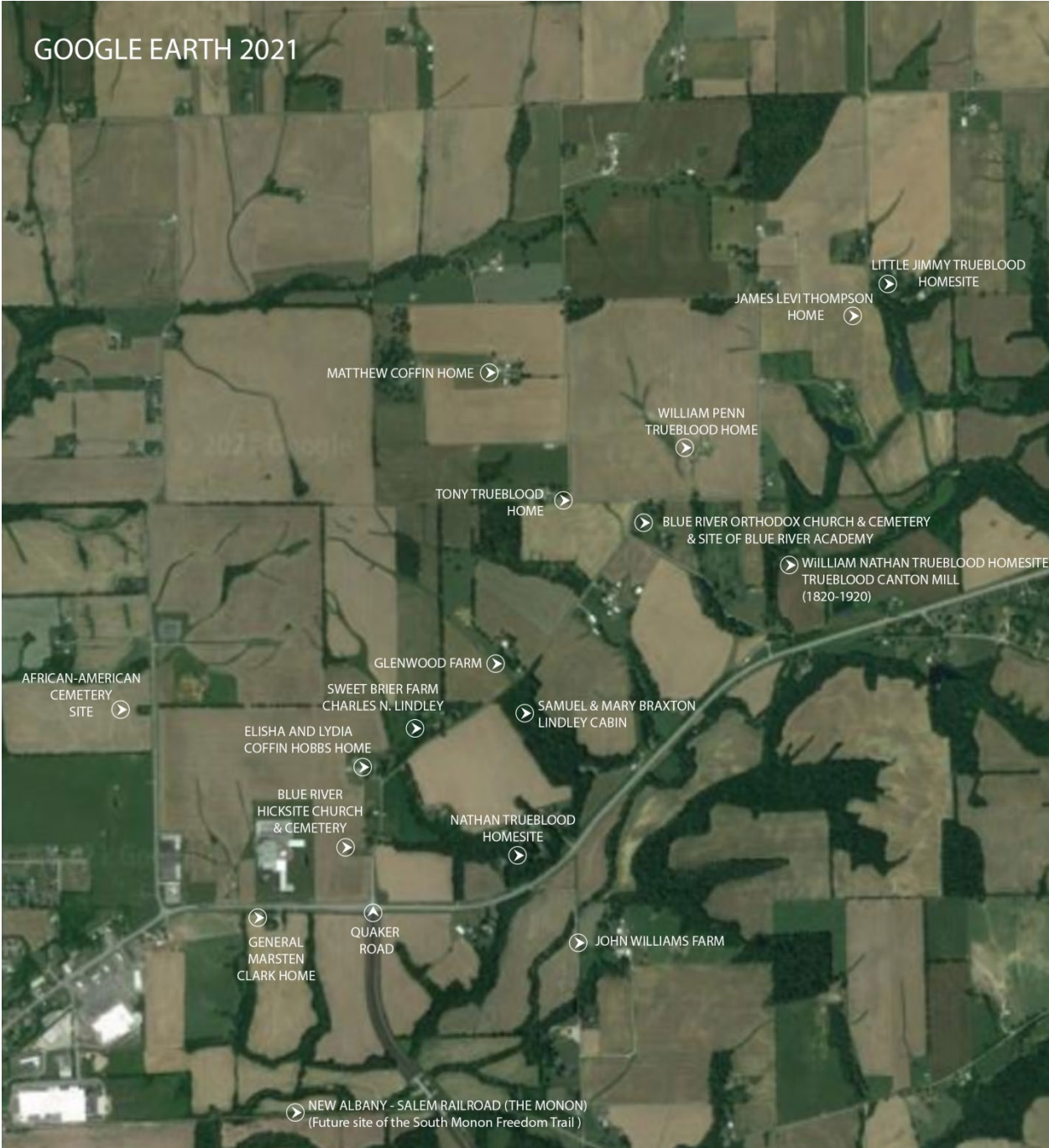
## **The Consultant – National Register of Historic Places Application Preparation**

The final boundaries are still to be determined, but the aerial provided below shows some of the key properties that ought to be included.

The consultant would do additional research on the history of the area and the structures themselves, and will likely uncover additional things that should be included.

From his initial visit to the area and the background info we provided him, he thought that there would probably end up being about 30 properties containing about 100 total structures within the district.

# The Map



## **The National Register of Historic Places Application Expenses**

Indiana Landmarks has secured \$3400 of the \$7400 estimate, leaving a needed balance of \$4000.

**Consultant Fees - \$7400**

**Indiana Landmarks - \$3400**

**Remaining Amount - \$4000**

**(Tourism Board - \$2000 - ?)**

**Quaker Church Community Donation - \$2000**