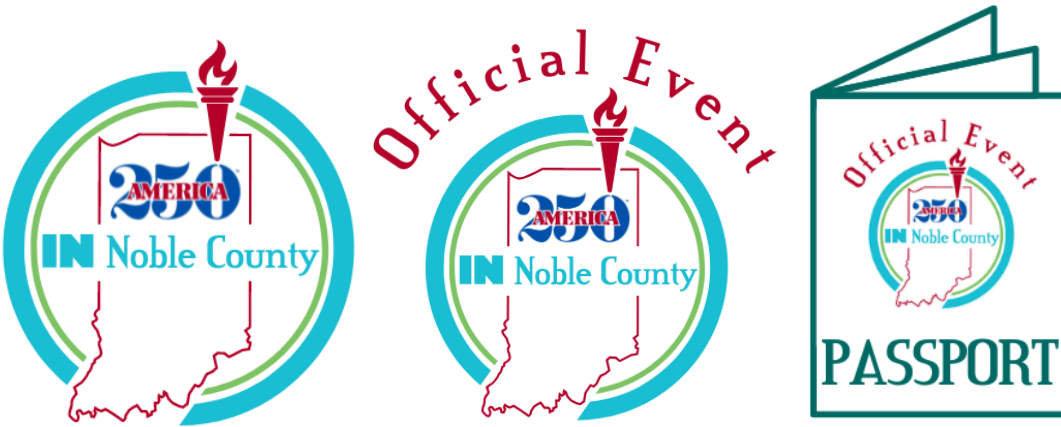


## August 21, 2024- America 250 in Noble County Update

Following the Aug. 22 meeting, Catchy Creations designed logo samples to be discussed at the Feb 2025 meeting:



### **MEETING NOTES:**

Committee name: "America 250 in Noble County Celebration Committee"

DATE & LOCATION: August 21, 2024 at the Noble County Public Library (Cole Room, lower level.)

Since the last meeting:

Grace Caswell and Lori Gagen created a landing page on the CVB website for partnership resources, notes, and related information to the America 250 in Noble Celebration here is the link: <https://www.visitnoblecounty.org/america-250>

Grace reported that about 45 people have engaged so far in these discussions.

Last month, Visit Noble County received a letter in mail from the Indiana DAR asking us to help organize and coordinate the America 250 Events for Noble. We received a door cling as well. It is now on the CVB's door. Bill Shultz, Noble County Historical Society, is sending a representative to our meetings but is unable to offer his support directly at this time.

Once related event dates are settled for 2025 and 2026, they will be posted to the America 250 in Noble County landing page and on the CVB's Facebook page as an "official event". Visit Noble County would like to host the meetings either at Noble County Public Library- Albion or at the CVB. Please let us know what dates are best and what location is best. Ideally, quarterly meetings will be held in 2025 and every other month in 2026.

Lori Gagen and Grace Caswell will also write a press release following this meeting to announce 2025 and 2026 tentative meeting dates and communicate that they are open for public input.

Visit Noble County is currently in possession of the SPIRIT OF INDIANA TORCH which will come into play as part of the State's activities.

#### Updates From America 250 in Indiana:

- **250th anniversary celebration on July 4, 2026, at the Indiana War Memorial in Indianapolis.**
- **Torch relay that reaches all 92 Indiana counties.**
- **Education materials available outlining important state and national historical events.**

**Important partners:** Indiana Governor's Office, Department of Veteran Affairs, and the Indiana War Memorial

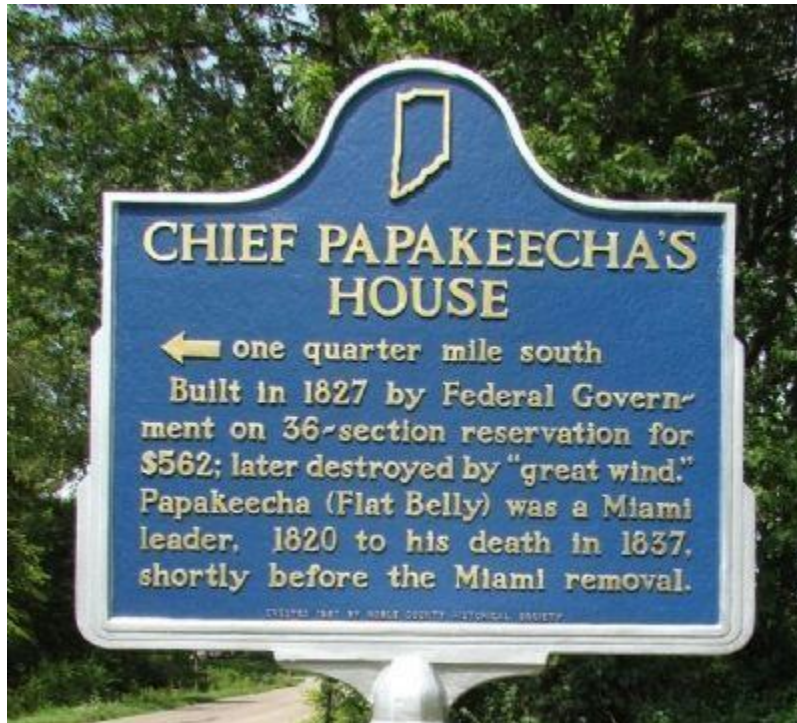
#### **POSSIBLE NOBLE COUNTY OFFICIAL SITES/EVENTS:**

Trevor Tipton would likely be willing to provide lectures and/or exhibits of his native American artifacts. Julia Tipton will reach out to him to seek his participation.

#### Celebrating Native American History in Noble County

Nestled in the heart of Noble County, Indiana, a tribute to Native American history stands proudly. The site of Chief Papakeecha's House located a quarter mile south of

West 200 North and just west of U.S. 33, invites us to honor the legacy of a remarkable Miami leader.



Erected in 1967 by the Noble County Historical Society, this marker commemorates a home built in 1827 by the Federal Government on a 36-section reservation. Constructed for \$562, this residence bore witness to the pivotal years of Chief Papakeecha, also known as Flat Belly, who led the Miami people from 1820 until he died in 1837.

Though the original house was destroyed by a “great wind,” the dedication of this historical site preserves the memory of Chief Papakeecha and his crucial role in the region’s history, just before the Miami removal. Today, this site serves as a poignant reminder of the rich heritage and enduring spirit of the Miami people in Noble County.

### **Fireworks Dates: 2026**

- Avilla June 27, 2026 - Freedom Festival has tentatively agreed to move their event up to accommodate this kickoff event. Festival dates would be June 25-26-27. Celebration would run June 25 - July 5 in the county (tentatively.)
- Albion July 3, 2026
- Rome City July 4, 2026

- Kendallville July 4, 2026

Main Street Ligonier is considering doing an Independence Day celebration as well. Marshmallow Festival will keep their fireworks celebration on Labor Day weekend.

Cromwell has a waterpalooza type event annually; they may do something on or around July 1, TBD.

Thus far, Wolf Lake has not planned anything.

#### Round Table for Committee Member Updates:

- Tiffany Parker- GSP State Museum, nothing yet planned but the state is working on it and has a committee formed.
- Judy Richter, DAR & Noble County Genealogy; DAR can apply for a \$500 grant for the celebration; Board meeting this month. Once they know what they are doing they will report back. Grant deadline is in Feb. '24. She was encouraged to consider doing a genealogy workshop at the CLC specifically on tracing back to the American Revolution timeframe.
- Roberta Stone, President - Rome City Lake Assn. and Chamber. Fireworks are all set for July 4. No other plans at this time.
- Leigh Pranger : Rome City ditto Roberta.
- Sue Simon, local resident is passionate about family activities around history and local sites and just wants to help [xanthra007@gmail.com](mailto:xanthra007@gmail.com). She suggested we might make a parade banner that individuals/families can carry in multiple parades that summer.
- Kevin Kelly, representing the Avilla Freedom Festival and Chamber. Suggested official name "American 250 IN Noble County" to move forward - consensus of agreement at the table. This will be the official moniker everyone can use; Lori and Grace will work on some possible branding. (Samples provided in these notes, after this meeting.) The group confirmed their support for Avilla Freedom Festival to promote as the "official kickoff event" for Noble County.
- Sandy Petrie, NCPL- the library can help event planners create branded banners and fliers (at or just over their cost); will share social media posts, and

will consider related pop events and displays. She suggests that NoblePalooza and Engage Noble also adopt the theme in 2026 plans.

- Lori Gagen- representing the landing page online, Albion STAR Team, and can help communicate with Albion Chamber. She will provide support for marketing events and activities. Not sure if organizations will have any events. Lori will reach out to Sarah Knopp, county historian, to seek historical facts from the era relevant to Noble County; these could be used as learning opportunities for the passport locations.
- Cyndi Schlemmer , representing Ligonier Visitors Center & Museum, and Main Street Ligonier; has a collection of arrowheads for display in 2026. Organizations are in the brainstorming stage - possibility that Main Street Ligonier may do Fireworks, no promises.
- Mid-America Windmill Museum - Doug & Pam Younce and Mike Fitzgibbon - they want to participate in a passport promotion for the celebration and are considering offering free admission on July 4. Asking for an official logo to be created. Pam will look into creating a commemorative rope light display to be up at the Winter Wonderland for a Christmas close of the celebration in 2026.
- Julia Tipton, Community Learning Center - hopes to host any lectures, exhibits and other related events at the CLC and would participate in the passport. Suggests that a learning element be included at each passport site.
- Grace Caswell & Alexis Wagner, Noble County CVB - announced their digital passport software will allow the event passport to be both digital and on paper. They will also have e-commerce on their site and can host any commemorative merch sales there.
- Mayor Earle Franklin, City of Ligonier - noted there is a Revolutionary War veteran interred at the city's cemetery. Judy Richter noted another is buried in Washington township. (Joseph) Galloway and (Nathaniel) Prentice are to be celebrated as they are connected to the Revolutionary War

#### Committee Idea/Officers:

- Promotions Committees
- Financial Committees

These will be discussed at a later date.

2025 Meetings:

FEB- MAY-AUG-NOV - to be held after State meetings each quarter.

2026 Meeting Dates:

To be determined