

For Immediate Release

Vincennes Local History Seminar Connects the Past to Today

Vincennes – August 16, 2011—The cradle of the state of Indiana as we know it today is Vincennes, Indiana’s First City and Territorial Capital. The Vincennes State Historic Sites (VSHS) and Grouseland Foundation are partnering to continue the tradition of offering to interested adults an engaging experience to learn more about the rich local history of Vincennes.

The Vincennes Local History Seminar will meet on Monday evenings, from September 12 through December 12, 2011, in the Old State Bank, 112 N. 2nd St., Vincennes, unless otherwise indicated. Special visits are planned for the George Rogers Clark National Historic Park, the Indiana Territorial Capital, and Grouseland.

The principal instructor for the seminar will be Richard Day (VSHS), with regular commentary from panelists Robert “Gus” Stevens and Dr. Dan Combs. Deborah Kolb and Dan Sarell (both from Grouseland Foundation) will serve as the moderators. A number of guest presenters will be joining specific sessions.

The class sessions will follow a chronological history of Vincennes, back to Native Americans before contact with Europeans, to the present, highlighting important aspects that have shaped the community, like the colonial fur-trade, industrialization, transportation, architecture, farming and religion.

The registration for the course is \$75.00 per person, and the deadline is Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2011. To register, call VSHS at (812) 882-7422, email vincenneshs@indianamuseum.org, or visit the Log Cabin Visitors Center at 1 W. Harrison St., Vincennes.

Several years ago, noted attorney and Vincennes native, Rabb Emison, gathered a group of community-minded history enthusiasts to share their passion for the historical richness and cultural diversity of Vincennes with others. The classes were enormously popular, so much so that they have continued to be offered annually.

Of particular note in 2011, VSHS is hosting the “Muster on the Wabash,” September 24-25, at Ft. Knox II (Ouabache Trails Park), marking the bicentennial of Harrison’s army of volunteers leaving Vincennes for what culminated in the Battle of Tippecanoe, November 7, 1811. 2011 also marks the centennial of Harrison’s home, Grouseland, being open as a museum.

Grouseland’s ongoing “First Families” heritage education program aims to raise awareness of Vincennes’ deep cultural roots by enlisting the participation of descendants of pre-statehood families, many of whom still live in Knox County.

The goal of these historical education efforts is always to connect the lessons of the past with the present and future, inspiring personal reflection and motivating historic preservation.