National History Day® in Indiana

2025-2026 Topic Guide

NHD NATIONAL HISTORY DAY®

Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

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Crete
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Dana
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Fort Wayne
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- Kekionga
- Syrian-Lebanese Peddlers in Fort Wayne

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- Indianapolis Union Station
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Special Prize Topics

National History Day in Indiana

$250

Gene Stratton-Porter Prize
Gene Stratton-Porter

Indiana Pioneers Prize for Early Indiana (pre-1840)
Bially Family
Eli Farmer
William Henry Harrison
George Washington Julian
New Harmony
Frances Slocum
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International History in Indiana Prize
Thubten Jigme Norbu
Bracero Program

Patti Curran Prize for Fashion Design in Indiana
Roy Halston Frowick

Roy F. Stinger Memorial Prize for Labor Unions in Indiana
Better Homes of South Bend
Eugene V. Debs

$500

Cole Porter Prize for Indiana Musical Heritage
Cole Porter

William Henry Smith Memorial Library Prize
Mattie Coney
Meredith Nicholson
May Wright Sewall
Gene Stratton-Porter
Carmen Velasquez
Madam C.J. Walker
William Henry Harrison
Woman's Improvement Club

Two $250 Indiana Local History Prizes are also available to the Youth/Junior Division and the Senior Division. Any local history topic is eligible for this prize.

George Ade

Kentland, Indiana

Photo: New York Public Library Digital Collections

George Ade was born in 1866 in Kentland, Indiana and lived until 1944. Among many things, he was a writer, newspaper columnist and playwright who gained national fame and was nicknamed the "Aesop of Indiana" for his many fables written in midwestern slang. From a young age, Ade was an excellent reader and writer, and though he was not sure on what he wanted to be, he knew he needed to attend school to avoid becoming a farmer or laborer. After graduating from high school, Ade attended Purdue University to study science. However, his grades started to slip as he became more active in other areas at school, such as theater. Eventually, after graduating from school, Ade decided he wanted to be a journalist and took a job as a reporter for the *Lafayette Morning News.*

While pursuing his career as a journalist, Ade's work brought him to Chicago, Illinois where he received a job at the *Chicago Record*. There he became inspired by human-interest stories and he acquired a talent for writing satirical pieces, which would become his trademark. The core of Ade's work was his ability to create true American characters, void of any class distinctions, that utilized a modern vernacular and satirized society in a way that was not mean or negative, but allowed people to laugh at themselves.

Though he worked throughout the Midwest, at heart Ade was a true Hoosier who set many of his stories in small town Indiana. Eventually, as the Great Depression hit and World War II began, Ade's work began to fall out of popularity. However, it remains important in history as it helped shape a unified midwestern identity and ultimately succeeded in what it was intended for, making people laugh.

Sources for more information:

The Permanent Ade by Fred C. Kelly

The Newberry Library

Indiana Historical Society

Purdue University

Small Town Chicago by James DeMuth

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Albion Fellows Bacon

Evansville, Indiana

Photo: Library of Congress

Albion Fellows Bacon was born in 1865 in Evansville, Indiana and lived until 1933. She was known as a "municipal housekeeper", a term which meant a woman who utilized their domestic housekeeping skills to tackle social issues within their community. Early in her life, Bacon became increasingly concerned about the effects of industrialization and urbanization on the community. Particularly, she noted that living conditions in Evansville were very poor and believed that this substandard housing was the root of many of the social issues that impacted the Evansville area. Locally, Bacon tried to reform building codes in Evansville, but was ultimately unsuccessful and took on a new approach by tackling reform at the state level.

Throughout her life, Bacon was a voice for the poor and authored many different books, pamphlets and journal articles addressing housing reform in the state of Indiana. She also worked with many other activists throughout the state and held roundtable discussions across the country to share ideas and concerns. In 1908 she drafted her first piece of legislation, a statewide tenement law for Indiana, and began to attend and occasionally speak at every session of the Indiana General Assembly in order to see her proposal passed.

Through her writings, speeches, lobbying and round table conversations, Bacon was able to gather a large network of support. As a result of all her work, the Indiana state legislature passed housing reform laws in 1909, 1913 and 1917. Following her death, Evansville's newspapers called her the city's "best known and most loved woman."

Sources for more information:

Willard Library

Indiana State Library

Albion Fellows Bacon: Indiana's Municipal Housekeeper by Robert Graham Barrows

Beauty for Ashes by Albion Fellows Bacon

Library of Congress

Bailly Family

Porter, Indiana

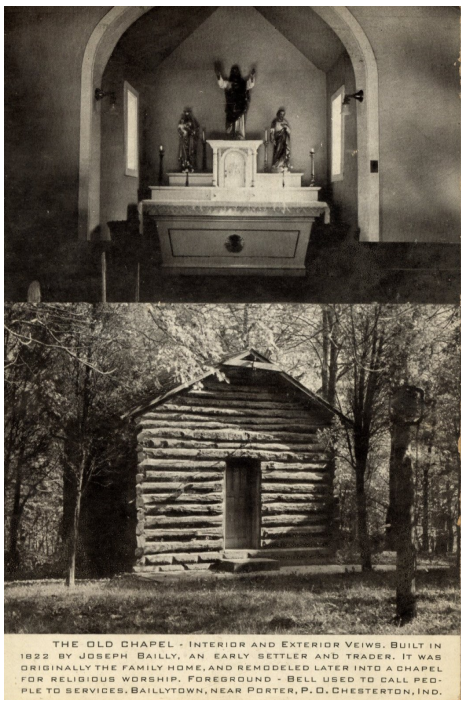

Photo: Saint Mary of the Woods

The state of Indiana was founded in 1816, though the northwest portion of the state was not heavily settled until the 1830s. Among the many reasons for settling Indiana, the environment itself was especially enticing to incoming Euro-American settlers. The Grand Kankakee Marsh encompassed most of the Calumet region of Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois, making the land not ideal for most European styles of farming. The area was a prime location for hunting and gathering. The Potawatomi people sourced much of their food from the wetlands, bogs and woodland; harvesting menomen (wild rice) and cranberries in the wetlands, many types of fish, as well as large and small game. Partly because of this abundance the first Euro-American settler in Northwestern Indiana was Joseph Bailly de Messein (1774-1835), a French-Canadian fur trader who built a homestead and trading post in what is today Porter, Indiana. Today, the Bailly Homestead has been preserved as a part of the Indiana Dunes National Park.

Bailly focused on the fur trade in his early years while living in Michigan, but by the 1820s, the demand of the trade was disappearing and he changed his focus to the sale of goods, the keeping of an inn, and land speculation. In 1824, Bailly, his wife Marie LeFevre de la Vigne Bailly (abt 1783-1866), and their five children settled along the banks of the Little Calumet River. They were near two major Indigenous trails, which helped the Bailly's business ventures succeed. Marie was the daughter of a french fur trader and trapper and a now-unknown woman of the Odawa Nation. Bailly used Marie's connections with the Odawa Nation to help trade with the Indigenous peoples of the western Great Lakes: Odawa, Potawatomi, and Ojibway. The Bailly homestead became one of few stops for Euro-American and Indigenous travelers alike along the early road between Detroit and Fort Dearborn (Chicago). A series of treaties by 1838 ceded all Indigenous land in northwest Indiana, which led to the forced removal of the Potawatomi in an event that came to be called the Trail of Death. Joseph Bailly played a role in some of the treaty negotiations, which complicates his legacy. Joseph Bailly's wife and children might have also been removed if not for Marie's conversion to the Catholic faith. According to Marie and Joseph's granddaughter Frances Rose Howe (1851-1917), Marie wished for the homestead to be undivided and to preserve its memories after her death. Frances took that wish seriously and made many efforts to preserve the homestead, chapel, and family cemetery, though ultimately she was the last Bailly to live on the homestead.

Sources for more information:

Marie LeFevere Bailly

Joseph Bailly's Account Book: Materials for French Teachers

Poco Museum

Dunes Requiem: A Family Between Two Worlds

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Written by Quinn Albert*

Ball Corporation

Muncie, Indiana

P0430_FOLDER4_GEORGEBALL

Digital image © 2005 Indiana Historical Society. All Rights Reserved.

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

The Ball Corporation was founded in Buffalo, New York in 1880, and later moved to Muncie, Indiana in the 1880s when it incorporated as the Ball Brothers Glass Manufacturing Company. The original founders were two of the five brothers, Frank C. and Edmund B. Ball after borrowing money from their uncle. The other three brothers, George A., William C., and Lucius L. Ball would later join the company. The original products were tin cans to hold kerosene, paint, and varnishes, but these chemicals caused constant corrosion to the tin so they started working with glass jars instead. In 1910 the Muncie workers led a strike at the main facility with the Local 200 (Glass Workers) of the Industrial Workers of the World to get wage increases.

Ball State University was founded by the Ball brothers who in 1917 bought the Indiana Normal Institute in Muncie, Indiana after it was foreclosed and then gave the land and school to the State of Indiana. It was originally a teaching college named the Indiana State Normal School Eastern Division, although it was known unofficially as "Ball State" due to the relationship between the school and the Ball brothers, although the name officially changed to Ball State University in 1965. In 1926 the Ball brothers contributed to the needs of the area by creating the Ball Brothers Foundation to expand their philanthropic causes. Their mission is "dedicated to the stewardship legacy of the Ball brothers and to the pursuit of improving the quality of life in Muncie, Delaware County, East Central Indiana, and Indiana through philanthropy and leadership." In 1998 the company moved from its longtime home in Indiana to Broomfield, Colorado.

Sources for more information:

Ball Company

Ball State University

Smithsonian Magazine

Visit Indiana

Ball Brothers Foundation

Arcada Stark Balz

Bloomington, Indiana

Photo: The Indianapolis Star at Newspapers.com

Arcada Stark Balz was born on a farm near Bloomington, Indiana in 1879 and lived until 1973. In her early years she traveled with her family to Colorado and Kansas before they finally settled down in Indianapolis, Indiana. In Indianapolis, Balz attended Manual High School and later Indianapolis Normal College (which would later become a part of Butler University). Following her schooling, Arcada became a middle school teacher of history, art and literature in the Indianapolis public schools. There she became increasingly interested in community work and politics, supporting educational legislation and serving in many women's clubs, including serving as president of the Indiana Federation of Women's Clubs.

Arcada's political career began to gain traction in the late 1930's when she proposed a plan to preserve the community of New Harmony, Indiana. She was appointed to the New Harmony Memorial Commission where she served as president from 1939 to 1947. During her time as the president of the New Harmony Historical Commission, Arcada ran for and won a position on the Indiana Senate, becoming the first woman to be elected to the Indiana State Senate. There she served two consecutive four-year terms from 1943 to 1950.

Throughout her career as an Indiana State Senator, Arcada was an advocate of getting women involved in politics. She encouraged women to meet post-WWII challenges, including taking a much deeper interest in politics. She was also a supporter of many women's rights issues, such as regulating women's working hours and wages. Her other policies included licensing nursing homes, improving school attendance and establish a merit system for state employees.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Commission for Women

Indiana State Library

Indiana Historical Society

Evergreen Indiana

Battle of Tippecanoe

Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

The Battle of Tippecanoe occurred on November 7, 1811, in Tippecanoe County, Indiana. The battle was fought between American forces led by Major General William Henry Harrison and Native American forces led by Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa, also known as "The Prophet." Harrison was appointed governor of the Indiana territory in 1800. In this role, Harrison sought to secure more area for settlement through land cession treaties with surrounding native tribes. Tecumseh, leader of the Shawnee, opposed these efforts and the 1809 Treaty of Fort Wayne, which sought to acquire almost 30,000,000 acres of native land for white settlers. Tecumseh slowly built a resistance in Prophetstown. In 1810, Tecumseh led armed warriors to meet with Harrison in Vincennes to contest the treaty. Tensions continued to escalate, eventually leading up to the Battle of Tippecanoe.

In July of 1811, Tecumseh left Prophetstown to gather more support for his confederacy. Harrison, knowing of Tecumseh's absence, led federal troops into Prophetstown in November. In Tecumseh's absence, Tenskwatawa went against his brother's wishes to not initiate any hostile actions and decided to attack. In the early hours of November 7th, hundreds of native forces launched a surprise attack on the federal troops. The federal troops counterattacked, and the natives scattered. In the wake of the battle, Prophetstown was destroyed. The battle was deemed a victory for the federal troops and elevated Harrison to national fame. He gained the nickname "Tippecanoe" after his victory. The defeat of Prophetstown served a devastating blow to Tecumseh's confederacy and prompted him to ally his remaining forces with Great Britain during the War of 1812.

Sources for more information:

Battle of Tippecanoe Subject Guide

Explore Tippecanoe County

Battle of Tippecanoe Battlefield and Museum

Battle of Tippecanoe Video

The Battle of Vincennes

Vincennes, Indiana

Photo: National Park Service

Built in 1777, Fort Vincennes, also known as Fort Sackville, was a British stronghold built to protect land won from the French. Located just along the Wabash River, the Fort was built in a settlement named Vincennes, a territory that would one day become part of the state of Indiana.

Due to the fact that the Fort ultimately signified control over the western frontier, it flipped control between the two forces throughout the war. In February 1778, it was abandoned by the British due to lack of support and fell into the control of Americans. This control was short lived, and in August of 1778, Captain Leonard Helm regained control of the fort, occupying it with 90 British troops and roughly 200 Indigenous allies.

British control over the fort, however, did not last. On February 6th, 1779, Leftenant Colonel George Rogers Clark and 172 American and French militia began a grueling 180-mile trek to Vincennes from Kaskaskia (modern day Illinois). It was not until late in the day on February 23rd, 1779, that Clark and his men entered Vincennes. British forces, commanded by Lieutenant Governor Henry Hamilton, were caught off guard by the attack. The battle raged throughout the night and on the morning of the 24th, Clark and Hamilton entered negotiations. Following the loss of 16 British soldiers to the American's 4 soldiers, on February 25th, Lieutenant Henry Hamilton surrendered the fort to the Americans.

Though the Fort no longer remains, the area to which the battle and the fort stood is now known as George Rogers Clark National Historical Park. To commemorate the United States 200th birthday, the Park opened its visitors' center on July 4th, 1976.

Sources for more information:

Siege of Fort Vincennes/Siege of Fort Sackville

The Battle of Vincennes

NPS—Fort Sackville

NPS—George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, Indiana

NPS—George Rogers Clark, *Maintaining a Legacy, Chapter 5*

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Birch Bayh

Bloomington, Indiana

Photo: Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society

Birch Bayh was born in 1928 and lived until 2019. He was a United States Senator from Indiana who is most notable for authoring Title IX of the Higher Education Act of 1968, which banned gender discrimination in federally run colleges and universities. After attending Purdue University and Indiana University's School of Law, Bayh's political career began at a very young age. At age 26, Bayh was elected into the Indiana House of Representatives where he served for two years as Speaker and four years as Democratic Floor Leader. By age 34, Bayh defeated an 18-year incumbent and was elected to the United States Senate in 1962. His campaign success was attributed to a rigorous campaign that included over 300 speeches given between Labor Day and the election.

During his eighteen years serving Indiana in the Senate, Bayh participated in the drafting of three amendments to the United States Constitution. The Twenty-Fifth Amendment, concerning presidential succession and disability, and the Twenty-Sixth Amendment, which set the voting age at eighteen rather than the previous twenty-one, were ratified. The third, the Equal Rights Amendment, which would establish equal rights for men and women under the Constitution, was defeated. Later in his career, he also supported Electoral College reform, which never gained any traction in either house of Congress. Most notably, however, Bayh sponsored and co-authored Title IX of the Higher Education Act.

Though he had plans for a Presidential run, his momentum was quickly derailed when his wife was diagnosed with cancer. Despite never reaching the presidency, Bayh held a long and successful political career where he championed many important issues relating to women, people with handicaps, and minorities.

Sources for more information:

Indiana University

Birch Bayh: Biography

Legislation Sponsored by Birch Bayh

Birch Bayh: Making a Difference by Robert Blaemire

Indiana Memory

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Better Homes of South Bend

South Bend, Indiana

Photo: Indiana History Blog

During a period between 1916 and 1970, America was experiencing what would be called the Great Migration, where many African Americans began to move from the rural south to Northern cities in order to find work as industrial workers. Prior to the migration, very few black families lived in South Bend, Indiana, however like most industrial cities in the north, they soon saw their African American population begin to boom. This period, however, was also a time period of mass segregation, racist policies and Jim Crowism. One such racist policy in South Bend was redlining, which put services such as housing and finance out of reach of certain residents based on race or ethnicity.

Redlining in South Bend forced the majority of the black population to take up residence in poorly maintained rentals in the area surrounding the Studebaker plant. As the rentals began to fill up, prefabricated homes provided by the federal government were brought in to accommodate. Though these homes were even worse quality and meant to be temporary structures, segregation in the community made them a permanent feature of South Bend.

In 1950, several families of workers at the Studebaker plant met at church in order to take their housing woes into their own hands. This group formed the housing cooperative called "Better Homes of South Bend". As a group, they began to pool their resources and money in order to obtain mortgage loans and start construction of new, better homes. The co-op also helped secure mortgages for the individuals who would live in these homes. Better Homes of South Bend was essentially a group effort to help remove a large part of the African American population from the industrial slums to better, quality homes.

Sources for more information:

Better Homes of South Bend: An American Story of Courage by Gabrielle Robinson

Indiana Historical Bureau Blog

Indiana Historical Bureau

The Studebaker National Museum

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Black Arts Movement

Indianapolis, Indiana

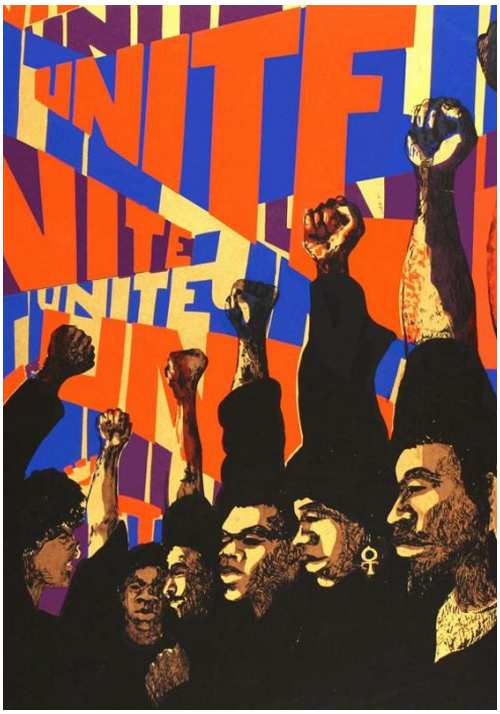

Photo: The Art Institute of Chicago

The Black Arts Movement was an African-American led art movement during the 1960's and 1970's. In the wake of the Black Power movement, black poets, artists, dramatists, musicians and writers emerged promoting a message of black pride and power through their works. Their art resisted traditional Western influences and took up a cause of activism, which portrayed the black experience to audiences. Though the Black Arts Movement began in New York, it quickly spread to other major cities throughout the country, such as Chicago, Detroit and San Francisco. In Indianapolis, poets like Mari Evans and Etheridge Knight are known to be associated with the Black Arts Movement.

After Malcom X was assassinated in February 1965, the Black Power Movement was divided into two camps: revolutionaries who were represented by the Black Panther Party and cultural nationalists who used poetry, novels, visual arts and theater to demonstrate their pride in black culture. When Imamu Amiri Baraka, largely considered the father of the Black Arts Movement, opened the Black Arts Repertory Theater in Harlem in 1865, the Black Arts Movement was formally established.

The works produced during the Black Arts Movement are largely remembered as being innovative and provocative. The Black Arts Movement left behind many pieces of iconic literature, poetry and theater and even helped lay the foundation for modern-day spoken word and hip-hop. However, the movement was also very alienating to some, both white and black, because of the raw shock value that many works evoked, often embracing violence, and the focus on black hyper masculinity.

Sources for more information:

Black Past

Poetry Foundation

New York Public Library

Washington University

Block and Pennsylvania (Block and Pennsy)

East Chicago, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

In the early 1900s, the Calumet Region, consisting of Northwestern Indiana and Southeastern Chicagoland, experienced exponential growth fueled by the steel, refinery, and railroad industries. Boosters from Chicago purchased land in Indiana and facilitated economic growth by encouraging businesses to take advantage of the natural perks, such as a navigable lake and numerous railroads connecting it to Chicago and the rest of the United States. The arrival of industries, which required tens of thousands of workers, ignited mass migration to the region across the United States and the world. This industrial development forged a diverse community representing dozens of ethnic heritages. However, it also highlighted the housing shortages in the region. In East Chicago, limited residential options defined the city's early years, forging distinct neighborhoods like Block and Pennsylvania or Block and Pennsy, named for the two major thoroughfares.

While Block and Pennsy represented a curious mix of different classes of residents of various ethnicities in the initial years, the area eventually became considered "blighted." Similar to other industrial and urban communities in Indiana, redlining forced immigrants and the Black community into substandard housing. The Home Owners' Loan Corporation, an agency of the federal government, graded the neighborhood a "D" and colored it red in their produced map of Lake County, Indiana. Often unable to purchase homes elsewhere in the city, these residents moved into overcrowded and substandard housing.

Regardless, Block and Pennsy became a vibrant community of restaurants, pool halls, bars, neighborhood groups, and religious institutions for its residents. One of the Midwest's earliest ethnic Mexican parishes, Our Lady of Guadalupe, was established in 1926 in the neighborhood. However, in 1939, a fire damaged the original wooden structure. While OLG relocated, the original structure was repaired and consecrated as St. Jude in 1940. St. Jude became a Catholic Church for Mexican and Black parishioners and some Puerto Ricans in the 1950s.

In the 1950s, the Block and Pennsy neighborhood was targeted as the site of the city's Urban Renewal Project No. 1. This project, facilitated in partnership with the Purdue-Calumet Development Foundation, sought to demolish dilapidated housing in specific communities to make way for new housing. In 1959, the Foundation released its proposed plan, which entailed buying approximately 800 parcels of land and relocating displaced families into temporary housing while new buildings were constructed. Many plots sat empty until the construction of the Cline Avenue Bridge, which began in 1979 and cut through most of the neighborhood.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Harbor's urban renewal project no. 1

General Plan for East Chicago

"Block and Pennsy,"

Indiana Historical Society Blog

Mapping Inequality

Written by Emiliano Aguilar*

Bracero Program

Photo: Oakland Museum of California, accessed Online Archive of California

The bracero program was a series of laws and agreements made between the United States and the Mexico in 1942, which established conditions for contract laborers from Mexico during the labor shortages of World War II. The word bracero is Spanish meaning “manual laborer” or “one who works using his arms”. It began in August of 1942, when the United States signed the Mexican Farm Labor Agreement and indicated that all laborers from Mexico would be given decent living conditions, protections from forced military service and a minimum wage of at least 30 cents per hour. It was the largest foreign worker program in United States history.

Starting during the Great Depression, many agriculturalists warned that there was an impending labor shortage and not enough workers to fill positions with the gap increasing as more men began to enlist in the armed forces during World War II. President Roosevelt also introduced the Lend-Lease program at this time, which lent food and supplies to the Allied powers during the war and created a bigger demand for agricultural products than ever before. Soon the entire country began to feel the pressure of this labor shortage, especially large agricultural states along the corn belt such as Indiana.

Though the program has safeguards in place to protect Mexican farm workers already living in the United States and domestic workers, many of these rules were ignored in practice. Mexican and native workers suffered while growers began to benefit from the plentiful and cheap labor. However, the program was successful in ensuring that production could continue through the war.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

National Museum of American History

The University of Texas at El Paso

Oregon State University

Bracero History Archive

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

John Brademas

Mishawaka, Indiana

Photo: U.S. National Library of Medicine

John Brademas was born in Mishawaka, Indiana on March 2, 1927 to a Greek Immigrant father and an American mother. He graduated valedictorian from Central High School in South Bend, Indiana and attended Harvard University and received his PhD in Social Studies from Brasenose College in Oxford. In 1959 Brademas was elected to the United States House of Representatives as a representative from Indiana's 3rd Congressional District. He was the first native-born American of Greek origin elected to Congress and held that seat for 22 years. His last four years were spent as the House majority whip, who assists the Speaker of the House and majority leader to coordinate ideas on proposed legislation. It is the third highest position in the house of Representatives.

Brademas was well known for his dedication to education, arts and humanities, services for the elderly and disabled and libraries and museums. He was the chief House sponsor for a variety of bills on these topics and cosponsored the legislation that created the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He also helped revitalize the South Bend Area of Indiana after the Studebaker Corporation closed its automobile manufacturing plants by inviting the Kaiser Jeep Corporation to purchase the truck plant and start building military and postal vehicles there.

After leaving Congress in 1981, Brademas took over as the 13th President of New York University where he helped revitalize the university and turn it into a nationally and internationally renowned institution. New York University continues his legacy with the John Brademas Center of New York University. Brademas died in 2016 and is buried at the Congressional Cemetery.

Sources for more information:

New York University John Brademas Center

New York University Archives

Library of Congress

National Archives

A Congressman Looks at Education—interview

George Washington Buckner

Evansville, Indiana

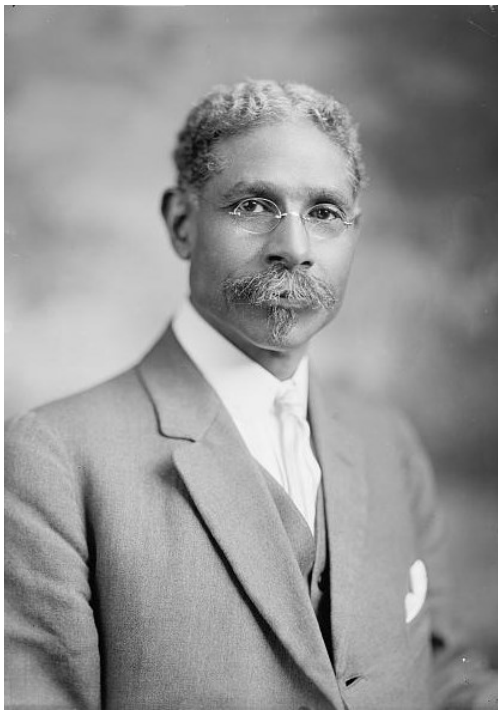

Photo: Library of Congress

Born into slavery in Kentucky, George Washington Buckner was freed at the age of 10 and attended a Freedman's School in Greensburg, Kentucky. By 1871 Buckner was working as a teacher and he moved to Indiana to continue his education at Indiana State Normal School in Terre Haute and Indiana Eclectic Medical College. At the normal school, Buckner was trained as a teacher and he worked as a teacher in Southern Indiana. While he was teaching, Buckner was also going to school to become a doctor, which he did in 1890. After practicing medicine in Indianapolis for a year, Buckner eventually moved to Evansville and opened a doctor's office there.

In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson appointed Buckner to be his minister resident to Liberia. Buckner kept that title for two years and also served as the American Consul General in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. However, the tropical climate did not agree with Buckner and he was frequently ill as a result. So, after two years in Liberia, Buckner returned home to Evansville.

Buckner was active in civic affairs in Evansville and helped to establish both the Cherry Street Black YMCA and the United Brotherhood of Friendship. He was very active in the Democratic Party and regularly wrote for the "Colored Folks" section of the region's Democratic newsletter. Through his writing, he urged African Americans of Indiana to support the Democratic party. Buckner was nicknamed "Elder Statesmen of Indiana Blacks." He died at the age of 87 and is buried in Evansville. Much of his memorabilia was donated to the Evansville Museum.

Sources for more information:

Library of Congress

Indiana Historical Society

A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves

Indiana Public Media

Evansville African American Museum

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

John Bushemi

Gary, Indiana

Photo: Library of Congress

John Bushemi lived from 1917 to 1944. He was born in Centerville, Iowa and was raised in Gary, Indiana during the Great Depression. Bushemi was a boxer in high school but dropped out to work in the US Steel mill with his father, using his savings to buy a camera. He soon put his camera to use as an apprentice photographer for the *Gary Post-Tribune*, starting in 1936 and specializing in sports and crime photography. His precise shots were immortalized in his nickname, "One Shot" and in awards from the Indiana Associated Press and the Inland Daily Press Association.

In 1941, Bushemi joined the US Army at Indianapolis' Fort Benjamin Harrison and was assigned to *Yank Magazine* as a staff photographer in 1942. He worked alongside staff writer Merle Miller throughout the Pacific in Hawaii, New Caledonia, Fiji, Australia, as well as several other Pacific islands. He died in 1944 after being fatally wounded in his fifth battle assignment, at the Eniwetok atoll.

The photos and videos Bushemi produced were able to capture key moments and conditions of the war and of the soldiers who fought it. He inspired the *Post-Tribune's* "Dear Johnny" newsletter, parts of Marion Hargrove's best selling novel, and his creations inspired Americans back home to support the war effort abroad, illustrating the work being done by his fellow combatants. As a combat photographer and videographer, John Bushemi brought the experiences of the Pacific Front in World War II back to the States. His photographs were featured in numerous articles and various museum exhibitions, earning him posthumous Bronze Star and Purple Heart awards as well as a place in Indiana's Journalism Hall of Fame.

Sources for more information:

One Shot: The World War II Photography of John A. Bushemi by Ray E. Boomhower

City of the Century: A History of Gary, Indiana by James B. Lane

Library of Congress

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Julia Carson

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Mark A. Lee LGBT Photo Collection, Indiana Historical Society

Julia Carson was born in 1938 and lived until 2007. She was a member of the United States House of Representatives for Indiana's 7th congressional district from 1997 until her death in 2007. She was also the first woman and first African American to represent Indianapolis in the U.S. Congress.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky to a single mother, Carson moved at a young age to Indianapolis, Indiana as her mother was looking for work. Carson attended Crispus Attucks High School and grew up very poor, working many odd jobs as a teenager such as waiting tables, delivering newspapers and harvesting crops. After graduating high school, Carson married and began to attend Martin University. There she began working as a caseworker and district aide for Representative Andy Jacobs who urged her to run for office in the Indiana legislature.

From 1973 to 1977, Carson served in the state house of representatives before winning the election to the Indiana senate. Throughout her political career, Carson earned a reputation for defending the poor. Following the retirement of Representative Andy Jacobs, Carson won the election into the United States House of Representatives in a majority-white, conservative-leaning district. Carson would then go on to win four re-election campaigns throughout her career, despite concerns for her health and speculations that she would not be re-elected. Throughout her career she had many interests, ranging from national issues affecting children and working Americans, especially those in her Indianapolis constituency. From her seat on the Financial Services Committee, Carson helped raise the financial literacy of average Americans.

Sources for more information:

United States House of Representatives

Indiana University, Purdue University—Indianapolis

Indiana Commission for Women

C-SPAN

GovTrack

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Vivian Carter

Gary, Indiana

Photo: Made-in-Chicago Museum

America's first successful African American-owned recording company, Vee-Jay Records, was established in 1953 by Vivian Carter with her husband Jimmy Bracken. As co-founder and DJ, Vivian helped develop original music in Blues, Doo-Wop, Gospel, Pop, R&B, Soul and other genres for over ten years. Carter was born in 1921 in Tunica, Mississippi, and moved at an early age to Gary, Indiana. She prepared for her career by sharpening her skills in chorus, theater and public speaking and earning a degree in business. She seized her opportunity to enter the radio industry after winning a talent contest in 1948 hosted by Chicago's WGES radio station. Carter was able to work in Chicago for WGES for three months before returning to Gary. Back in Indiana, she spent time working for WJOB AM in Hammond, WGRY in Pulaski and WWCA in Gary.

While Vivian worked as a DJ in Lake County's radio stations, she and Jimmy opened Vivian's Record Shop in Gary, which they expanded in 1953 to establish Vee-Jay Records. The company flourished in the 1950s and the early 1960s, signing hit artists like The El Dorados, Gene "The Duke" Chandler, Frankie Valli And The Four Seasons, Little Richard and Jimi Hendrix. Vee-Jay was also an early distributor of the Beatles and the first record company to bring the popular British band to the United States before losing the rights to Capitol Records. Carter's management and radio presence helped the company to attract new upcoming stars.

Carter was a key figure in forming and distributing America's pop culture during the Post-War era. Her work paved the way for many artists to communicate with the nation through their music.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

NPR

Vivian Carter and Vee Jay Records by James B. Lane

Made in Chicago Museum

Great 78 Archive Project

Central State Hospital

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

Established in 1848, the Indiana Hospital for the Insane was Indiana's first and primary hospital for individuals experiencing mental health issues. Located just west of downtown Indianapolis, the grounds initially encompassed 100 acres. Initial petitions for such a facility began in 1844 when Dorothea Dix, a mental health reformer, lobbied for the institution. Prior to the Indiana Hospital for the Insane, individuals struggling with mental illnesses were housed within jails and almshouses around the state. However, with lobbying, state legislators worked to establish the hospital in 1848.

The institution, renamed as the Central Indiana Hospital in 1889, was not the only institution of its kind within Indiana. By 1890, Central Indiana Hospital was one of four Mental Health hospitals operating in Indiana. Though it remained the largest in the state, housing nearly 1,800 patients at a time, the hospital only served those in central Indiana. Later, in 1929, the hospital would again change its name to the Central State Hospital.

The hospital reached its peak in 1950, treating around 2,500 patients for various mental health illnesses. Such illnesses included schizophrenia, depression, hysteria, substance abuse disorders, dementia, epilepsy, and more. Additionally, the hospital included a Pathological Department tasked with finding the causes of such illnesses. Established in 1896, the hospital's Pathological Department researched and observed patients in the name of medical education.

Despite reaching its peak, the 1960s marked the hospitals' decline. Throughout the decade, the hospital would begin discharging long-term patients. With patient abuse allegations in the early 1990s, the Central State Hospital struggled to remain open and eventually closed its doors in 1994. Today, the hospital's buildings serve as the Indiana Medical History Museum.

Sources for more information:

Central State Hospital

About the Medical History Museum

Dorothe Dix and the Care of the Mentally Ill

IHB: Central State Hospital

IHB: Pathological Department

George Rogers Clark

Clarksville, Indiana

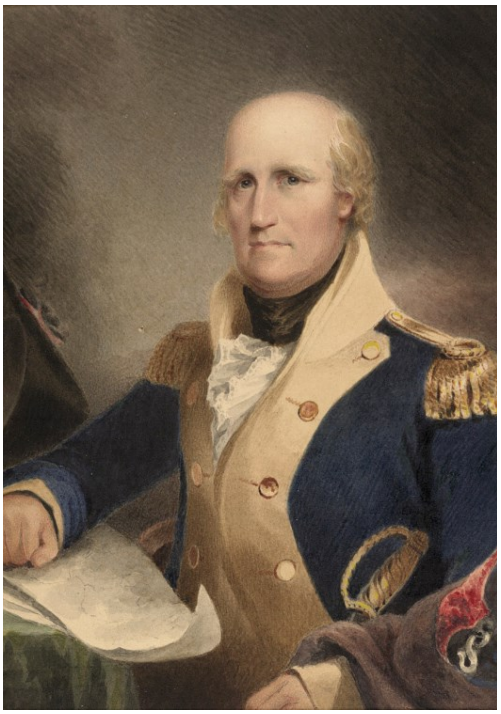

Photo: National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

George Rogers Clark was born in 1752 and lived until 1818. Born in Virginia near Charlottesville, Clark had very little formal education and received a common education mixed with home tutoring. Though he was educated at home, records indicate that Clark was very well-read and his writing was above average for the time period. While living with his grandfather, Clark was trained through his homeschooling to become a surveyor. Clark began his surveying career at age 20, traveling West to Kentucky. There he located land for himself and his family and acted as a guide for new settlers.

At the outbreak of the American Revolution, Clark served in the Virginia militia. Through his service, he worked toward protecting Kentucky from British and Native American attacks. For his service in the American Revolution he is best known for the captures of Kaskaskia and Vincennes during the Illinois Campaign, which was instrumental in weakening British forces in the Northwest Territory. In the 1783 Treaty of Paris, the British ceded the entire Northwest Territory to the United States with Clark becoming known as the "Conqueror of the Old Northwest".

After Clark's success in Illinois, more people continued to arrive in Kentucky and develop the land north of the Ohio River. Clark was appointed as an Indian commissioner and in 1785 he negotiated the Treaty of Fort McIntosh, requiring Native Americans in the territory to leave their land. The treaty was controversial and war soon broke out along the Wabash River with no victories. Clark's reputation soon became tarnished after being rumored to have been drunk on duty. Clark soon moved on from Kentucky and established Clarksville in Indiana.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Hoosiers and the American Story by James H. Madison and Lee Ann Sandweiss

Missouri Historical Society

George Rogers Clark Heritage Association

University of Chicago

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Clean Air Indiana

Photo: Newspapers.com

At the beginning of the 20th century pollution was becoming recognized as a major issue affecting Indianapolis. During the 1910s, a group of Indianapolis women established the Smoke Abatement Organization (SAO). The SAO sought to educate people on the dangers of pollution. The SAO also pushed for local legislation to ban the use of bituminous coal, an especially pollutive type of fuel which was cheap and widely used. The SAO's fight to eradicate this source of pollution faced considerable resistance from businesses and politicians with ties to the Hoosier coal industry. However, the SAO was ultimately successful in getting ordinances passed which restricted bituminous coal usage.

During the 1960s a different source of pollution was having a severe impact upon Indianapolis, and once more women took the lead in fighting for new laws. The source was smog, a hazy, harmful mixture of chemicals and particles stemming from plastics manufacturing and increasing numbers of automobiles. This acidic pollution was harmful to people, buildings. and historical landmarks. Indianapolis women, supported by Hoosier women from other communities, such as Richmond and Terre Haute, stepped up to lead efforts to educate the public and lobby their government. Their efforts were part of a wider nation-wide reckoning which led to Congress passing the landmark Clean Air Act in 1970.

These Hoosier heroines took the lead during times when society did not necessarily look kindly upon women being vocal within their communities. In addition to fighting legislators and corporations, they also need to fight against those who did not want to take them seriously and who felt that a woman's role was best served in private instead of public spheres.

Sources for more information:

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis

Historic Indianapolis

Indiana History Blog

Vigo County Public Library

Levi Coffin

Newport, Indiana

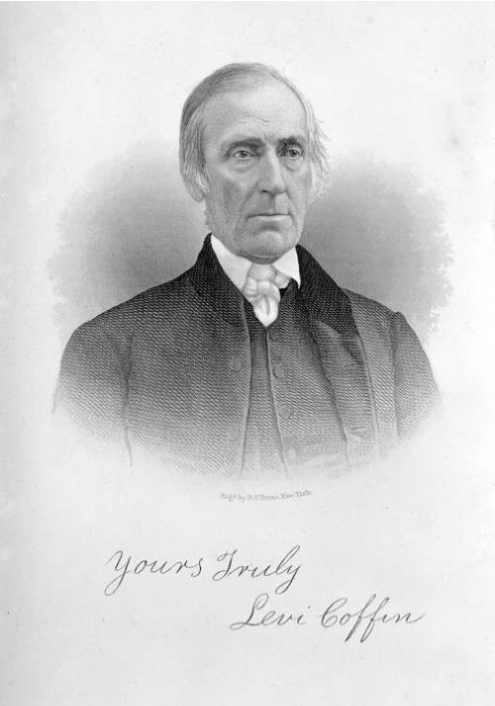

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

Born to an abolitionist Quaker family in New Garden, North Carolina, Levi Coffin developed strong anti-slavery sentiments at an early age. Coffin and other members of his Quaker community left North Carolina for Indiana in the 1820s after abolitionists in the state received pressure from the legislature to prevent anti-slavery activity. Upon settling in Newport (now Fountain City), Indiana in 1826, Coffin managed a dry goods store and quickly became a leading member of the community.

He and his wife, Catherine, were widely known as abolitionists. Over the next 20 years, the Coffins opened their home to nearly two thousand enslaved people on their quest to freedom along the Underground Railroad. The Coffin home was so widely used that it was nicknamed the "Grand Central Station of the Underground Railroad."

In 1847, the Coffins left Newport for Cincinnati, Ohio, where Levi opened a wholesale warehouse. In Ohio, they continued to help enslaved people via the Underground Railroad. Coffin offered additional assistance to recently freed slaves as an agent for the Western Freedman's Aid Society and delegate to the International Anti-Slavery Conference. The Coffin house in Fountain City, now referred to as the Levi and Catherine Coffin State Historic Site, is listed as a National Historic Landmark.

Sources for more information:

National Park Service - Levi Coffin Biography

Levi Coffin: President of the Underground Railroad
By Ray Boomhower

The Home of Levi and Catherine Coffin

A Good Night for Freedom - By Barbara Olenyik Morrow

Levi Coffin House

Rhoda Coffin

Richmond, Indiana

Photo: Indy Star

Rhoda Coffin was born in 1826 and lived until 1909. She was a Quaker and women's rights activist who is also known for her work on prison reform in Indiana. Though she was born in Ohio, Rhoda lived and went to school in Richmond, Indiana. She eventually married the president of the Richmond National Bank and lived an upper-class lifestyle.

Though her family was very well-off, Rhoda and her husband participated in many charitable activities and provided a lot of assistance to the poor in Richmond. Through her charitable work, Rhoda became exposed to many prison and reformatory issues within the state. While visiting penitentiaries throughout the state, Rhoda saw and heard of many instances of abuse and neglect and began to seek reform and improvements in the prison system. She also argued that a female-only prison should be established, as female inmates had very different needs that were not being met.

Rhoda became deeply involved with politics and spent her time lobbying the Indiana General Assembly to have the female prison established. In 1869 The Indiana Reformatory Institution for Women and Girls was established in Indianapolis and Rhoda was appointed to the first board.

Though she achieved success in Indiana by creating improvements in the prison system and establishing the first women's prison in Indiana, Rhoda did not stop her efforts for prison reform until she died. She became well-known for being an advocate for prison reform and traveled across the country and even to Europe and the Middle East to speak on these matters, inspiring change throughout the country and the world.

Sources for more information:

Indiana's 200: The People Who Shaped the Hoosier State by Ellen Swain

Swarthmore College

Rhoda M. Coffin by Rhoda Moorman Coffin

From Benevolence to Reform by Ellen Swain

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Mattie Coney

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society, M1086

Mattie Rice Coney was born in 1909 and lived until 1988. Born in Gallatin, Tennessee on May 30, 1909, Mattie Rice Coney moved to Indianapolis with her family when she was six weeks old. She graduated from Shortridge High School in 1927 and attended a two year teacher training program at Butler University. While in school, Coney paid her tuition by delivering newspapers and working at the L.S. Ayres Tea Room. She also did postgraduate work at Indiana State University, Western Reserve University and Columbia University.

Coney taught 4th grade in Indianapolis public schools for thirty years. She then retired and founded Citizens Forum, Inc on July 9th, 1964. This organization was developed at the grass roots and used civic engagement and community organization to encourage good citizenship and individual responsibility. This program organized local block clubs that then worked to improve their local communities. This work included clearing thousands of tons of trash, planting hundreds of trees, reducing the rodent population in residential areas and creating safe walking zones for students on their way home from school. This organization ran for twenty years, but disbanded in 1984 after Coney retired to deal with various health issues.

Coney, who served as Co-chairman of the Indiana Blacks for Reagan-Bush Committee, was known for her no nonsense, conservative views. Many of her philosophies were affectionately called 'Mattieisms'. In recognition of her continued service to her community, Coney received a number of awards and Indianapolis Mayor William Hudnut III named December 10, 1987 "Mattie Coney Day".

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

Indiana Originals: Hoosier Heroes & Heroines by Ray E. Boomhower

Hoosier State Chronicles

The "Real Black Power" by Olivia M. Hagedorn

Helen Corey

Terre Haute, Indiana

Photo: Arab Indianapolis: A Hidden History

Helen Corey was born in 1923 and lived until she was over a hundred years old, dying in 2024. The daughter of Arabic-speaking Syrian-Lebanese immigrants, she grew up in Canton, Ohio, but in 1947 moved to Terre Haute, Indiana, where she became a Democratic Party leader. The first Arab American elected to statewide office, Corey received over 1.1 million votes in 1964 to become the Reporter of the Indiana Supreme and Appellate Courts.

Helen Corey's involvement in politics began in 1948, when she became secretary to Terre Haute's mayor, Ralph Tucker, a job she would hold until 1961. Corey developed statewide ties to other Democrats and came to direct the speaker's bureau of the Indiana Democratic State Central Committee in 1956. She was named Indiana's Outstanding Young Democratic Woman in 1959. The next year, she helped to organize Vigo County's welcoming committee for then-Senator John F. Kennedy, the Democratic Party's candidate for U.S. President. In addition, Corey was elected Indiana's Young Democrat National Committeewoman and represented the state at the 1960 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.

In 1961, Corey left her secretarial job in Terre Haute to become director of the Bureau of Women and Children in the Indiana Division of Labor in Indianapolis. Her pioneering work included the issuing of guidelines for Indiana employers concerning women's issues in the workplace and the implementation of child labor laws. She was appointed executive secretary of the state's Commission on the Status of Women in 1963. In 1964, Corey ran for the office of Reporter of the Supreme and Appellate Court, a position to which Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd President of the United States, was elected in 1860. The job of the Reporter, a political office that no longer exists in Indiana, was to edit, publish, and distribute all of the judicial rulings of the Supreme and Appellate Courts and distribute them to law libraries, universities, and law offices. Corey served in this capacity until 1969.

Corey also became known on a national level as the author of the best-selling *Art of Syrian Cookery*, published by New York's Doubleday Press in 1962. The book, along with her popular cooking demonstrations, classes, and videos, not only explained how to make dishes such as *warak 'inab*, or rice-and-meat stuffed grape leaves, and *tabbouli*, or parsley and wheat salad, it also featured stories about the cultural traditions of Corey's family. The majority of the Arabic-speaking immigrants to Indiana before 1965 were Christian rather than Muslim, and Corey's cookbooks, which later included *Food from Biblical Lands: A Culinary Trip to the Land of Bible History* (1990), introduced her readers to the meaning of various dishes and their functions during holidays like Lent and Easter in the Antiochian (Syrian) Orthodox Church.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

PBS Learning Media

"Little Syria on the Wabash" – Historical Marker

The Art of Syrian Cookery

Indiana State Library

Written by Edward E. Curtis IV*

William Connor

Hamilton County, Indiana

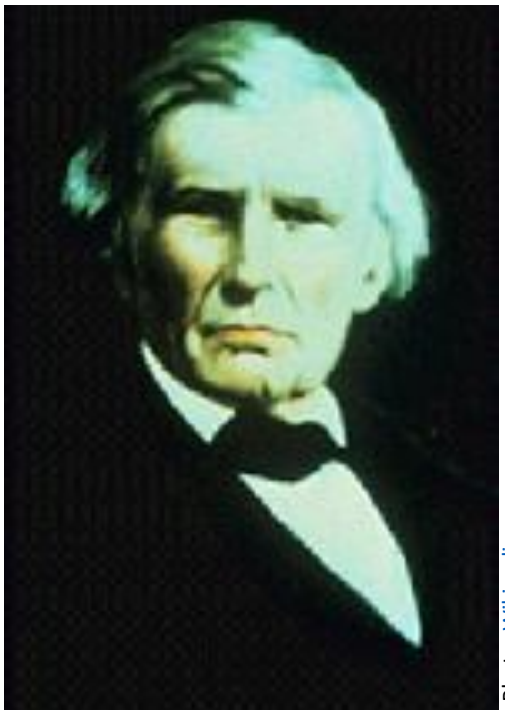

Photo: Wikipedia

William Conner was born near Lichtenau, Ohio to parents Richard and Margaret Conner. His father worked as a trader and tavern keeper, eventually establishing a trading post in Michigan. In the winter of 1800, William and his brother moved to Indiana and began working as fur traders. Both brothers settled among the Delaware and married Delaware women. William's new bride was the daughter of a Delaware Chief. It was not uncommon for white fur traders to marry Native women in an attempt to gain more control over the tribes with which they traded.

The Conner brothers became very successful in their trading business. They often engaged in trading with Delaware tribes and William gained special status among the Delaware people due to his marriage. Despite his marriage to a Delaware woman, William aided the U.S. government during the War of 1812. Conner assisted with treaty negotiations and interpretations to the benefit of William Henry Harrison. He enlisted to fight alongside Harrison and was present at the Battle of Thames where Tecumseh died.

After the war, Conner continued to assist with treaties that helped the U.S. government gain land from the Delaware in Indiana, including the Treaty of St. Mary's in 1818. Conner's ability to convince tribe chiefs to sign these treaties helped boost his status and he became a respected figure among white settlers in Indiana.

Sources for more information:

Agent of Empire: William Conner and the Indiana Frontier, 1800 - 1855 By John Lauritz

William Conner and the War of 1812

Conner Prairie Interactive History Park

William Conner House

Crispus Attucks High School

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

Opened in 1927, Crispus Attucks High School was the first fully segregated Black high school in Indianapolis. The school was a result of rising pressures from white supremacist organizations, such as the Ku Klux Klan, to fully segregate education within the city. As primary schools had already been segregated, the Indianapolis School Board succumbed to pressures and voted to build the high school in 1922.

Though the school was originally to be named "Thomas Jefferson High School," the Black community within Indianapolis lobbied and successfully named the school after the iconic Black historical figure, Crispus Attucks. Born in 1723, Attucks was an Afro-Indigenous runaway enslaved person. Attucks is best known for his role in the American Revolution. In the 1770 Boston Massacre, he was the first to fall at the hands of English soldiers, becoming the first to die in the American Revolution.

In the 1930s, the school began to grow and quickly became known for its academic excellence and athletic vigor. The school's academic excellence can be contributed to the professional and highly educated staff who came to teach at the school from Black colleges in the South. Athletically, the school stood out. Though they were unable to compete with other public schools in Indianapolis due to the Indiana High School Athletic Associations ban on African American school membership, they would often travel outside of the state or compete with private and religious schools. However, the ban was lifted in 1942, and in 1955, the school went on to win both the all-city and state men's basketball championships. Due to this, they became the first men's basketball team from Indianapolis to win the state championship. Today, the school, its legacy, and its deep connection the city's Black community remain. It is a part of the Indianapolis Public School System and continues to provide to its students and community.

Sources for more information:

Crispus Attucks High School—Indianapolis Encyclopedia

Crispus Attucks High School Digital Indy Collection

Crispus Attucks Museum

Indianapolis Recorder

"Attucks was Ours" - IHS

Eugene V. Debs

Terre Haute, Indiana

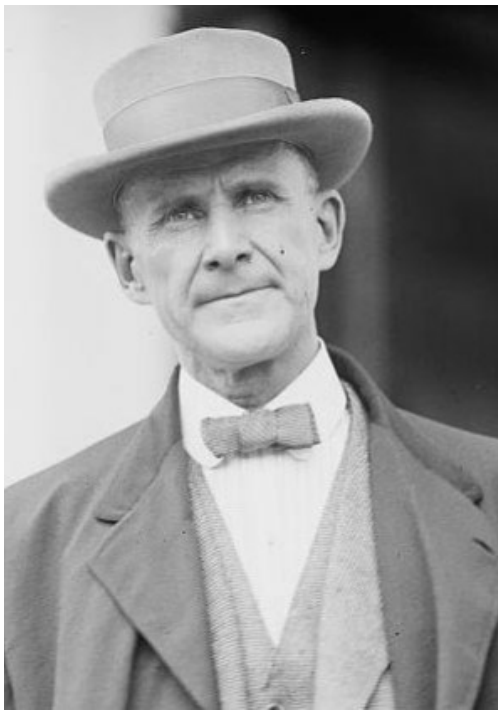

Photo: Library of Congress

Eugene V. Debs was born in Terre Haute, Indiana in 1855 and lived until 1926. Among many things, Debs was a socialist, a political activist and a trade unionist known throughout the state of Indiana and the country for his work and activism with labor movements. Though he was very intellectual, Debs left high school after a year to work on trains. There he helped co-found the Industrial Workers of the World and began to voice his support of the working common man. During the time of Andrew Carnegie and John D. Rockefeller, the working class was struggling while a small few controlled the majority of the nation's wealth. Debs, among many others, were upset by the unfair working conditions and labor wages.

Fueled by this anger of unfair treatment, Debs became a leader of the labor movement as he organized protests and strikes throughout the Midwest. During the Pullman Strike of 1894, Debs was arrested for his involvement and jailed for six months. After his incarceration, Debs was as motivated as ever and became a frequent speaker for the Socialist Party. Eventually, he helped establish the Social Democratic Party of America and ran for President of the United States against Woodrow Wilson, William Howard Taft and Theodore Roosevelt. Though he only received six percent of the vote, his candidacy and the number of votes he received signaled the wealth inequalities shaking America on a national platform.

Today, America honors his work and legacy as one of the major leaders of the labor movement. His writings, speeches and leadership helped demonstrate many inequalities that Americans faced and are still facing to this day. Many of the reforms that Debs pushed for have since been implemented, such as banking reform and child labor laws.

Sources for more information:

Debs Documentary

Eugene V. Debs Foundation

Wabash Valley Visions & Voices Digital Memory Project

Indiana Historical Society

The Bending Cross by Ray Ginger

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Catherine Dinklage

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Photo: The Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette from Newspapers.com

Catherine Dinklage was born in 1875 in Fort Wayne, Indiana and lived until 1940. Though there is not a lot of information available about Dinklage, it is known that she was a prominent suffragist and she was the first woman to hold an elected position in the state of Indiana.

Shortly after the Indiana General Assembly ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave white women across the country the right to vote, Catherine Dinklage was elected to the Fort Wayne City Council, becoming the first woman in Indiana elected to any office. While on the Fort Wayne city council, Dinklage served as both president and treasurer. After being elected, Catherine Dinklage served in her position for four years.

Throughout Fort Wayne during the early 1920's, women were very much taking advantage of their new rights as voters. In the early 1920's, nearly 8,000 women in Fort Wayne and Allen County were registered to vote, a number that was much higher than expected. Many women in Fort Wayne were appointed into more positions of power, such as four women police officers who were appointed in 1921. The League of Women voters circulated information throughout the community to gather support and inspire women to vote. During these early stages of gaining the right to vote, encouraging other women to vote was vital to the success and change for women that would follow. Catherine Dinklage contributed to this movement by not only encouraging women to get out and vote, but by giving her campaign speeches to audiences comprised mostly of women.

Sources for more information:

Winning the Vote in Fort Wayne, Indiana by Peggy Seigel

Newspapers.com

Allen County Genealogical Society of Indiana

Donald W. Duncan

Madison, Indiana

Photo: The New York Times

Donald W. Duncan was born in 1930 and lived until 2009. Though he was a US citizen and known as a veteran of the Vietnam War, Duncan was born in Toronto, Canada. In 1956, Duncan was drafted Into the U.S. Army and in 1961 he was transferred to the U.S. Army Special Forces, also commonly known as the "Green Berets". There he specialized in field operations and intelligence, teaching courses to Special Forces members on intelligence tactics and interrogation methods.

In 1964, Duncan was deployed to the war in Vietnam, helping to organize Project DELTA. The goal of Project DELTA was to conduct six reconnaissance missions in the remote areas of South Vietnam to collect information on the Viet Cong and potential air strikes against the US Army. In order to collect this information, the US Army Special Forces captured at interrogated Viet Cong, tapped communications, bugged their compounds and conducted psychological operations. As a result of his work in Vietnam, Duncan was awarded with the Bronze Star, the Air Medal and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. However, though he was recognized as an important member of the Special Forces, the further he got along into his service the more disillusioned he became with the military in general. Soon he ended his military career, moving back to the United States and joining the anti-war movement.

Duncan was one of the earliest military members to turn against the war and did so dramatically by publishing an article in *Ramparts* magazine declaring "The Whole Thing was a Lie!". In the article he explains the atrocities that the American government was perpetrating during the war and criticizes the military campaign in Vietnam. He would later provide testimonies on American war crimes in Vietnam as the first of three soldiers to testify against their own military.

Sources for more information:

Vietnam Full Disclosure Campaign

"I Quit!" The Vietnam War and the Early Antiwar Activism of Master Sergeant Donald Duncan by Luke Stewart

Library of Congress

Dunes Artists

Photo: Poco Museum

Northwest Indiana

Over the decades, Northwest Indiana has housed a variety of industries such as lumber, steel, brick, glass, popcorn and more. Part of the reason these different industries thrived here are the natural resources that the land provides or provided; clay soil used to make brick, lumber to make pump organs, and sand to make glass jars. Early in the 1900s, at the height of the sand mining activity in the Indiana Dunes, a conservation club - The Prairie Club - was formed with the goal of preserving the Indiana Dunes and its surrounding marsh and woodland. One of the first things done to promote and protect the region was to hire artists. The goal was to capture the beauty of the area and make the dunes more accessible by bringing their work to a larger audience in places like Chicago. One of the most influential and popular of these artists was Frank V Dudley (1868-1957). Dudley was already a notable artist in Chicago when he came to the dunes region, but he soon fell in love with the area and located his studio on the lakeshore. The work of the conservationists began to pay off in 1923 when the State of Indiana established the Indiana Dunes State Park. Dudley's studio suddenly became located in the park itself and, in order to keep his studio in the dunes, Dudley paid the state of Indiana one painting a year for rent.

Dudley frequently exhibited his work in shows throughout the Northwest Indiana region, displaying his art with other Dunes-inspired artists such as: Jacob H Euston (1892-1965), David Sander (1923-1999), William D. Richardson (1876-1936) and many others. Two such artists, Vinol "Vin" Hannell (1896-1964) and his wife Hazel (Johnson) Hannell (1895-2002) moved to Furnessville, Indiana in the early 1930s and began something of an artist colony in the region when they inspired other artists to move to the area with them, including photographer Jun Fujita (1888-1963). Inspired by the space where they lived, many of Hazel's subjects are native species of plants from Northwest Indiana and the clay that she used to make her ceramics was dug from a spot on the Hannell's property. The Hannells were influential in founding the Chesterton Art Center and the annual Chesterton Art Fair (est 1960). Hazel Hannell's long life meant that she was able to usher in a new generation of artists; including Harriet Rex Smith (1921-2017) and Virginia Phillips (1931-2017). Many artists continue to be drawn to the beauty of the region while a fascination with the historic and lasting industries of this area lingers. For example, much of the work of Corey Hagelberg (b. 1983) is a reflection of the dichotomy between nature and industry in this region which he uses, in the spirit of his predecessors, to further conservation and appreciation efforts of the dunes ecosystem.

Sources for more information:

Indiana State Museum

Poco Museum

Hazel Hannell by Lisa Meyerowitz

Landscape Art and the Founding of the National Park Service

PoCo Muse Magazine

Written by Quinn Albert*

Amelia Earhart

West Lafayette, Indiana

Photo: Library of Congress

Amelia Earhart was born in 1897 and lived until 1939. She was born in Atchison, Kansas and is remembered to have a strong passion for adventure from a very young age. Her upbringing was very unconventional for the time, as her mother did not believe in raising her daughters to conform to traditional gender norms. Earhart and her sister would spend their days as children climbing trees, hunting rats with a rifle and sledding. When it was time for Earhart to go to high school, she played a dominant role in picking her own school by canvassing all the area High Schools to determine which had the best science program.

Though she originally pursued medical studies in college, Earhart transferred between schools multiple times. However, she knew during this time that she was determined to learn how to fly. In 1921 after working multiple odd jobs, Earhart managed to save $1,000 to take her first flying lessons. Through many financial and medical crises to come, Earhart stayed committed to her flying, writing newspaper columns promoting flying, and eventually laying out the plans for an organization for female pilots, The Ninety-Nines.

After Charles Lindbergh's solo flight across the Atlantic in 1927, Earhart was approached by a sponsor to be the first female to fly across the Atlantic in 1928. This successful flight, followed by her solo Transatlantic flight in 1932, created a new celebrity image for Earhart, which she used to promote women in aviation for the rest of her life. Her advocacy brought her to Purdue University in 1935 where she served as a visiting faculty member to counsel women on careers in aviation.

Sources for more information:

"A Woman's Place in Science" Speech

Purdue University

National Women's History Museum

Amelia Earhart Official Website

National Archives

Mari Evans

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Bretzman Collection, Indiana Historical Society

Mari Evans was born on July 16, 1919 in Toledo, Ohio. Though her mother died when she was very younger, her father strongly encouraged her to work on her writing abilities throughout her life. Evans moved to Indianapolis in 1947 and soon started to pursue a career in writing and poetry. She gained fame as a part of the Black Arts Movement, which was an effort in the 1960s and 1970s to explore Black culture and history through the arts and literature. From a very young age, she was aware of racism in the country and this led to her becoming an activist interested in social justice issues.

Evans also taught at a variety of American universities starting in 1969. She served as writer in residence at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) and at Indiana University in Bloomington. She taught classes at both universities along with teaching at Purdue University, Washington University in Saint Louis, Cornell University, State University of New York at Albany and Spelman College throughout the seventies and eighties.

Evan's poems often had very short lines and explored community and the power of language. Her work was often very focused on race and Blackness. Her most famous poems are "Speak the Truth to the People", "To Be Born Black" and "I am a Black Woman." Evans also wrote a variety of poetry collections with I Am a Black Woman being her most well known collection. Additionally, while Evans was known for her poetry, she also wrote other material including short stories, children's stories, essays and plays. There is a 30 foot tall mural of Mari Evans on Massachusetts Ave in Indianapolis. Evans died in Indianapolis in 2017.

Sources for more information:

Resistance, Insurgence and Identity: The Art of Mari Evans, Nelson Stevens and the Black Arts Movement by Robert L. Douglas

I Am a Black Woman by Mari Evans

Emory University

IUPUI Special Collections

Eli Farmer

Bloomington, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society, M0098

Eli Farmer was born in 1794 and lived until 1881. Farmer had a long career that ranged from Kentucky to Indiana and covered a diverse range of topics. Although he had limited formal education, Farmer learned how to read and write and converted to Christianity at 1812 at a revival camp meeting. During the War of 1812, Farmer served as a captain in the Kentucky militia although he left before his regiment was formally deployed.

In 1820, Farmer moved to Monroe County, Indiana and started preaching locally. He married Matilda H. Allison soon after and they had one son before she died in 1825. After her death, he began preaching in Greene County, Indiana. While working in Greene County, Farmer established the Bloomfield Circuit which he traveled to preach. Farmer than married Elizabeth W. McClung three years later and together they had several more children. Farmer dedicated a lot of his time to working as a preacher and Methodist circuit rider. After working as a Methodist preacher for over nine years, Farmer broke from the Methodist church and created his own nonsectarian church called Christian Union.

In the 1830s, Farmer worked in several different businesses to help support his growing family. These ventures included a general store, a mill, a salt works and several brick-making kilns. He also was elected to a state senate seat in 1842 and served until 1845 as a Whig turned Republican. He also started the Bloomington Religious Times, a weekly newspaper in Bloomington. It was a platform for Farmer to provide the news of the day and also describe his evolving religious beliefs. Farmer died in 1881 and became famous for his work as a circuit preacher on the Indiana frontier.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

Faith and Fury: Eli Farmer on the Frontier, 1794-1881 by Riley B. Case

Early Methodist Circuits in Indiana by William W. Sweet

Indiana University

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Figueroa Family

East Chicago, Indiana

Photo: Irene Osorio, Indiana Historical Society

Francisco Figueroa and Consuelo Figueroa were married in Mexico in 1923 and came from large land owning families. Shortly after their marriage, the couple immigrated to the United States in order to escape the turmoil of Mexico during the Mexican Revolution and its after affects. At the time, Francisco was studying to become a priest and faced persecution because of his religion in Mexico. In America, they settled down In East Chicago, Indiana where Francisco went to work in the local steel mills, replacing workers who were on strike during the Great Steel Strike of 1919. Francisco's family soon joined the pair in Indiana and Francisco, along with his brothers, opened a printing press. Among the many things this printing press would accomplish, one was printing wrappers for the local popular Mexican-American food brand, El Popular.

With the *Circulo de Obreros Catolicos de San Jose* (the Circle of Catholic workers of Saint Joseph), the family printing press began the publishing of a biweekly newspaper titles *El Amigo Del Hogar*, or "A Friend of the Home". The publication was written solely in Spanish and was used to communicate the changing political and economic climate in Mexico, world events and local information in East Chicago.

As Francisco and Consuelo were working on the publication together on top of their own jobs, the newspaper stopped printing during the Great Depression. However, as Francisco and Consuelo's children grew older, they revived the newspaper during the 1950's. This weekly paper was called "The Latin Times" and was a bilingual newspaper printed in both English and Spanish. Though the paper did not make any money for the family, the Figueroa children consider it an important venture in keeping the community aware of world and local events.

Sources for more information:

WishTV

Indiana Historical Society

Library of Congress

Indiana University

Federated Metals

Hammond, Indiana

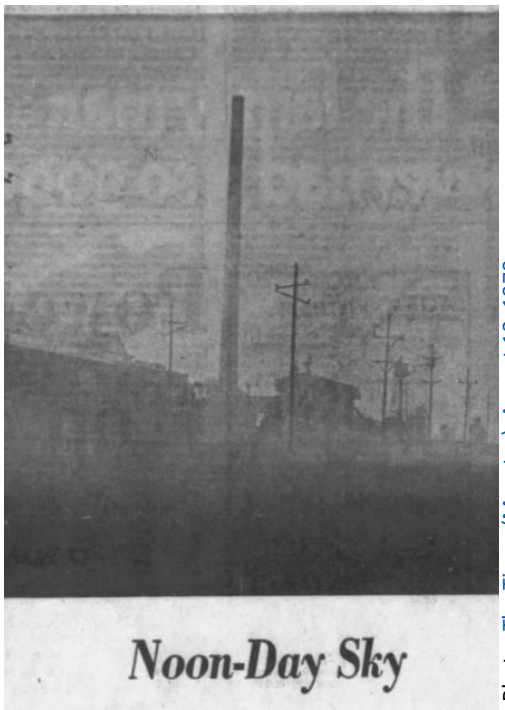

Photo: The Times (Munster), August 13, 1970

Federated Metals was formed in Hammond during 1937. The company manufactured ferrous metals for heavy industry and was a major employer in northwestern Indiana. For decades, this industry was the lynchpin of the regional economy, with its products serving the auto, housing, and oil industries. The plant was known for a diverse workforce which included racial minorities as well as out-of-towners. The materials produced by this plant served as an important contribution to America's war effort during the Second World War. The plant remained an important employer in the region until its closure in 1983.

Practically from its very inception, the Federated Metals plant proved prominent in public discourse, with citizens debating the pros and cons of its impact upon not only the economy, but also upon the environment and quality of life of nearby residents and employees. Strikes occurred throughout the plant's history, as workers fought for improved wages and working conditions. One of the more serious strikes occurred in 1978 and required the services of a federal mediator.

The environmental impact of the plant became a topic of civic debate soon after its construction, remaining so even decades after its closure. Poor air quality and working conditions were a common complaint, as well as accusations that the company used its economic impact along with threats to relocate as leverage to lobby elected officials and avoid complying with environmental regulations. Today, much of the land near or previously occupied by the plant remains contaminated, requiring expensive environmental cleanup operations.

The story of Federated Metals has in several ways mirrored that of the US Steel plant located in nearby Gary. Known as the "Gary Works", this plant, too, has had a profound impact upon the people and environment of the surrounding area. In operation continuously since 1908, the plant dominates the local economy and has had a heavy impact upon the environment.

Sources for more information:

Challenging Corporate Polluters By Andrew Hurley

Northwest Indiana Residents Grapple with Implications of Dead Swans By Lauren Robinson

Pride and Pollutants - Indiana History Blog

Environmental History - Indiana History Blog

Carl G. Fisher

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: The Bretzman Collection, Indiana Historical Society

Born January 12, 1874, in Greensburg, Carl G. Fisher grew up to become an impactful developer of Indianapolis as an economic, transport, and motorsport hub within the United States. An entrepreneur at an early age, he opened a bicycle repair shop in Indianapolis during 1891. He grew interested in the early automotive industry, and in 1900 opened the first automobile dealership in the United States by converting his bicycle shop into the Fisher Automobile Company, eventually selling a range of marques.

He was a flamboyant promoter who drove his cars in various stunts, several of which left him injured. Fisher became an advocate of road and automotive safety measures, including the headlight, something he began manufacturing in 1904. The massive growth in demand for this safety feature led him to open plants across the country, and Fisher grew fabulously wealthy. During the early 1900s he noted the success of large European intercity automobile races at driving safety and reliability innovations - as well as profits. Fisher endeavored to bring the same prestige to Indianapolis. He led the development of a purpose-built racetrack, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, which opened in 1909; the first Indianapolis 500 ran in 1911.

Fisher also saw the potential for long-distance road transportation to replace rail. In 1913 he planned and led the construction of the first road to cross America – the Lincoln Highway was paved and ran from New York to San Francisco, passing through Indianapolis. Unfortunately, he lost most of his money during the Great Depression and believing himself a failure, he passed away alone in 1939.

Sources for more information:

American Experience

Greensburg Daily News

Indiana Historical Society

The Untold Story of Carl G. Fisher by Jerry M. Fisher

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Bill Foley

Indianapolis, Indiana

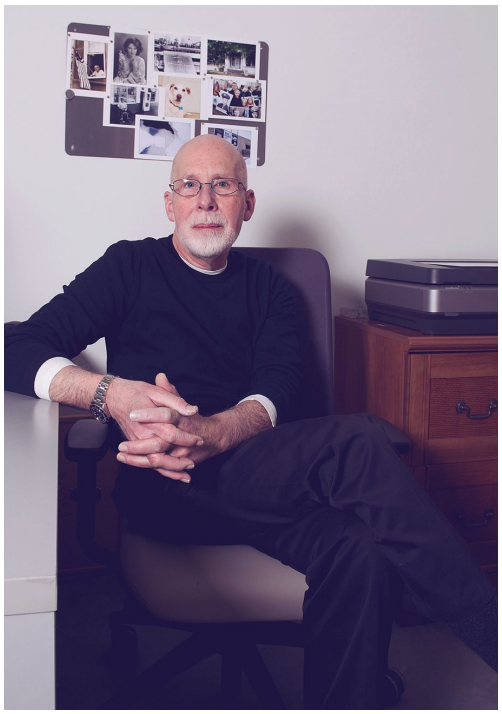

Photo: Indianapolis Monthly

William 'Bill' Foley is a Pulitzer Prize and International Press Freedom Award winning photojournalist who did much of his work in the Middle East during the 1970s and 1980s. He graduated from Indiana University in 1978 before starting his photojournalism career overseas with the Associated Press. Foley was first sent to Egypt by the Associated Press to cover the presidency of Anwar Sadat. In October 1981, Foley was present when Sadat was assassinated and took photos just moments before his death. This photograph was titled "The Last Smile".

In September 1982, Foley also took photos at the Sabra and Shantila refugee camp in Lebanon, both before and after a large scale massacre within the camp. He won the 1983 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography for his photos of the refugee camp post-massacre. From 1984 to 1990, Foley took up a contract with *Time* and covered stories that included Operation Desert Shield, the Iran-Iraq War and Nelson Mandela's first visit to New York City. Foley also did work for a variety of companies including the Children's Aid Society based in New York and the UK-based Save the Children. He also worked to free Beirut Associated Press journalist Terry A. Anderson from Hezbollah. This action helped him earn one of the first International Press Freedom Awards in 1991.

Bill Foley also worked at several different universities including Marian University, IUPUI School of Journalism and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. In 2015, the Indiana State Museum exhibited a series of Foley's work entitled Art Meets News. Foley currently lives in Broad Ripple, Indiana.

Sources for more information:

Contact Bill Foley

Bill Foley's Photography

Indiana State Museum Exhibit

USA Today

Roy Halston Frowick

Evansville, Indiana

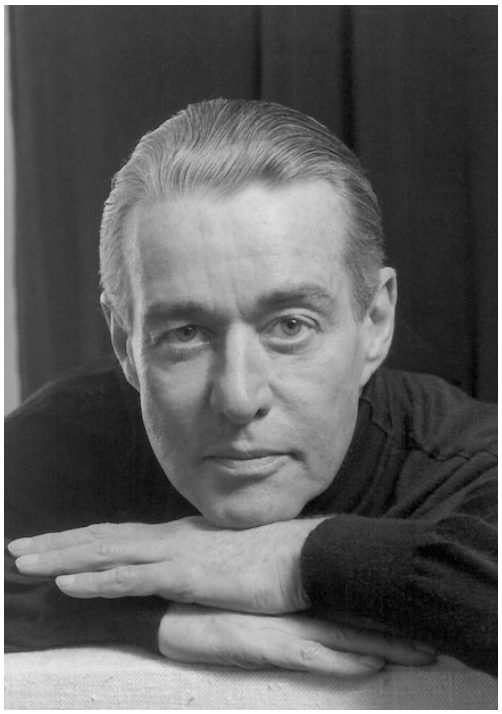

Photo: Halston Style on Display

Born on April 23, 1932, Roy Halston Frowick grew up in Des Moines, Iowa and moved to Evansville, Indiana at the age of ten. Growing up, he loved sewing clothes for his mother and sisters which led him to take some classes at Indiana University before enrolling at the Art Institute of Chicago to study fashion. He became one of the most iconic fashion designers of the 1970s and 1980s. He was known for simple, yet elegant designs. As his career grew, Halston dropped his first and last names and used his middle name as both his primary name and his brand name.

Halston started off designing hats and became famous when he designed the pillbox hat worn by Jackie Kennedy at her husband, John F. Kennedy's, inauguration in 1961. After moving to New York City, Halston transitioned into designing his own clothes and opened his first boutique on Madison Avenue in New York. He was one of the first fashion designers to create a giant brand out of his name alone, which he was eventually able to sell and market. The "Halstonettes" soon became a part of the Halston brand and included many models who were reoccurring in Halton advertisements. The Halstonettes traveled with Halston, attending galas and acting as his muses. The group reflected ethnic diversity as Halston was one of the first major designers to hire models of different races to walk in his shows and appear in ads.

Halston lost credibility in the fashion world in the late 1980s after he signed a $1 billion deal with J.C. Penny, a mid-priced clothing store to create a new line for them. Most fashion designers and high end stores saw this as a sell-out and quickly dropped Halston. In 1988 Halston was diagnosed with AIDS and he died two years later from complications related to the disease.

Sources for more information:

Simply Halton by Steven Gaines

Halston Style on Display

Halston: An American Original by Elaine Gross

Halston by Steven Bluttal

Halston Documentary

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Gary Convention

Gary, Indiana

Photo: The Times of Northwest Indiana

On March 10th, 1972, around ten thousand African Americans gathered in Gary, Indiana for three days at the National Black Political Convention, also referred to as the Gary Convention. Representing a wide spectrum of political parties and ideologies, the event was held at Westside High School and sought to address African American participation in politics. One major goal of the convention was to raise the number of black politicians elected to office, increasing the representation of African Americans in government, and create an agenda for future political change. Some of the issues presented on this agenda included the establishments of a national network of community health centers, the elimination of capital punishment and the establishment of a universal basic income and raising the minimum wage.

Some of the notable participants in the convention included mayor Jesse Jackson, a civil rights activist, Charles C. Diggs Jr., a House Representative, Bobby Seale, co-founder of the Black Panther Party, Betty Shabazz, Malcom X's widow and Amiri Baraka, an activist and poet. While planning the convention, organizers had a difficult time finding a city willing to accommodate thousands of politically-engaged black Americans. Mayor Richard G. Hatcher of Gary, one of the first African American mayors of a major U.S. city, volunteered Gary to host the convention. The convention itself also faced challenges in running, such as a bomb threat nearby, and needed additional security to ensure the safety of the participants. In the end, a steering committee was formed, a plan of action was explored and the convention also issued the Gary Declaration, stating that the American political system was failing black citizens and a transition to independent black politics was the way to fix it

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Eyes on the Prize—PBS Film

Black Past

The Defeat of Black Power by Leonard N. Moore

We Have No Leaders by Robert Charles Smith

Gennett Recording Studios

Richmond, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

During the 1910s and 1920s, jazz music attained popularity throughout the United States and across the globe. This music, hailing from the American South, has its roots in Black American culture and tradition. As it spread in popularity, jazz constantly evolved through the assimilation of new musical techniques. The talent of Black, white, female, and Jewish musicians contributed to the dynamism and evolution of the genre. Jazz is still evolving today, and its influence can be heard in hip-hop and rock 'n' roll.

One of the earliest American recording studios associated with jazz music was Gennett Records of Richmond, Indiana. Harry, Clarence, and Fred Gennett were the owners of the Starr Piano Company in Richmond. Hoping to capitalize upon the growth of the early recording industry, they opened a record label under the Starr name in 1915, before renaming it to Gennett in late 1917. During the 1920s, many of the most famous jazz musicians came from around the United States to record music under the Gennett label. Among these were Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, and Bix Beiderbecke.

Artists associated with other genres also recorded under the label, such as Gene Autry, a country/Western singer. Hoagy Carmichael, from Bloomington, is a famous Hoosier to have recorded at the studio. In addition to publishing records under their own name, Gennett also manufactured records under contract for other recording labels to increase their revenue. This drive for profit meant that despite Gennett's association with Black and Jewish recording artists they were also willing to press records for the Ku Klux Klan record label. The economic turmoil of the great depression and rationing of materials during the Second World War led to hard times for the studio, which closed in the late 1940s.

Sources for more information:

Gennett Studios and the Birth of Recorded Jazz
by Rick Kennedy

Indiana Historical Society

Public Broadcasting Service

Wayne Net—Cradle of Recorded Jazz

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Francis Godfroy (Palaanswa)

Miami County, Indiana

Photo: Smithsonian American Art Museum

Godfroy (*Palaanswa)* was an influential leader (*akima)* of the Myaamia people from approximately 1812 until he died in 1840 and was named a war chief in his later years. His leadership, first demonstrated during the conflicts along the Mississinewa River in 1812, continued throughout his life, supporting Myaamia efforts to resist removal and retain historic homelands in Indiana. He is buried in the Godfroy Cemetery in Miami County, Indiana.

Godfroy was born in a Myaamia village near present-day Fort Wayne in 1788, the son of *Saakacaahkwa* and Jacques Godfroy, a French merchant. His principal community was at the mouth of the Mississinewa River, where he initiated a trading business and settled his family in the years after the War of 1812. Godfroy represented a younger generation of Myaamia leaders, who established their authority during and after the American War of 1812. Despite pursuing a diplomacy of neutrality during the war, Americans pursued unprovoked hostilities against Myaamia villages along the Mississinewa and Wabash Rivers. Godfroy organized and led a counterattack against the Americans, along with another young leader, Jean Baptiste de Richardville, to turn back the assaults.

After the successful completion of the War of 1812, the U.S. turned its interests to a rapid acquisition of lands ceded by the British at the conclusion of the American Revolution and the War of 1812. The lands, occupied by Myaamia and many other Native nations, were parceled and distributed by the terms legislated in the Northwest Land Ordinance of 1787. In addition, President Thomas Jefferson completed the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory in 1803 and urged Indiana's territorial governor, William H. Harrison to use all means necessary to acquire the Myaamia homelands for American expansion. Godfroy, as a multi-lingual trader and respected leader was uniquely qualified to negotiate the best outcomes for his people under tremendous political and economic pressure.

Godfroy built a trading post at the mouth of the Mississinewa River known as Mount Pleasant and worked in partnership with Richardville to establish a profitable business and diplomatic relationship with the Americans. As a trader, Godfroy understood the value of the property and negotiated the sale of tribal lands at treaty councils in 1818, 1826, 1834, and 1838. As a mediator, he was also able to obstruct the efforts of American agents to force rapid land cessions and the removal of the Myaamia. For his efforts the Myaamia were granted larger annuities for ceded lands, exemptions for some families to remain in their homelands, and postponed their removal until 1846. At the time of his death, Godfroy planned to travel to Kansas to confirm the new Myaamia lands were suitable for his people.

Sources for more information:

Godfroy, Francis

Aacimotaatiiyankwi: Stories from the Land

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Myaamia National Archives

Written by Dawn G. Marsh*

The Golden Age of Indiana Literature

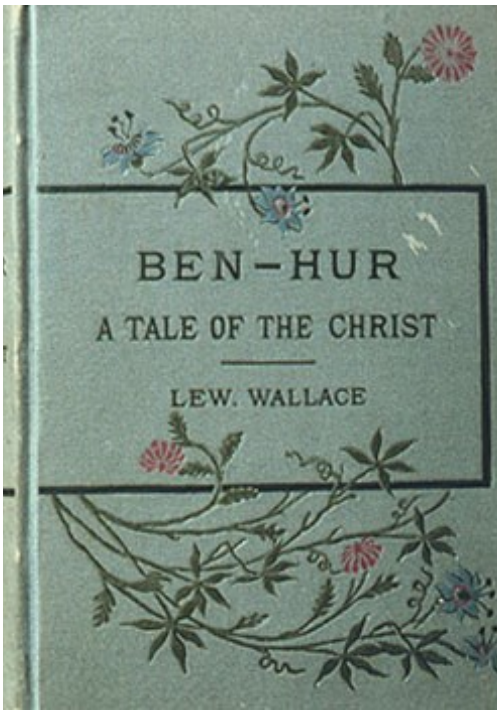

Photo: Roger C. Adams

The Golden Age of Indiana Literature is a period of Indiana history between 1880 and 1920 where Hoosier authors excelled in writing nationally and internationally acclaimed literary works. Many famous authors such as Lew Wallace, James Whitcomb Riley, Gene Stratton Porter, Booth Tarkington, Edward Eggleston, Theodore Dreiser, Meredith Nicholson and many more were active during this period of history. During this time period, Indiana was ranked second to New York among all of the states in the number of best selling books over the past forty years.

The Golden Age of Indiana Literature produced over 150 works, many of which are still read frequently today. During this time period, Lew Wallace became known for writing the best selling novel of the 19th century, *Ben-Hur.* James Whitcomb Riley became one of the country's most well-known poets and Gene Stratton Porter connected people to nature through her poetry, short stories and children's books. Meredith Nicholson wrote three best sellers and his work was deeply influenced by his sense of place in Indiana. Each of these authors and many more helped establish American literature during the 19th century.

Overall, this period of time is where arts and culture flourished in Indiana. Not only did these authors share timeless works that have still remained prominent in our culture today, they helped to establish a narrative for the culture of Hoosier life during this period. This literary boom coincided with Indianapolis' own golden age where a lot of growth and development was happening in the city. The work of all these authors foster the creation of a midwestern cultural identity and defined what it meant to be a Hoosier in the 19th century.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

Indiana University

For more information about Indiana authors during the Golden Age, try exploring sources from the many authors who were writing during this time such as James Whitcomb Riley, Meredith Nicholson, Lew Wallace and Gene Stratton Porter!

Helen Gougar

Lafayette, Indiana

Photo: Tippecanoe County Historical Association

Helen Gourgar was born in 1843, lived until 1907, and was a lawyer, temperance and women's right advocate, and a newspaper journalist. Though she was born in Michigan, she resided most of her life in Lafayette, Indiana. There she began work as a teacher in Lafayette's public school system and she became a school principal in 1863. She was admitted to the Tippecanoe County bar in 1895 and was among the first female lawyers in the county.

In the 1870's and 1880's, Gougar worked as a newspaper journalist writing the weekly colum "Bric-a-Brac" for the *Layfayette Courier*. This column produced a series of essays that shared her speeches and expressed her views on women's suffrage and temperance. Her unapologetic writing style became the trademark of her work. In 1881 she began to write and edit for *Our Herald* newspaper, eventually becoming the owner of the paper.

In 1881 after attending the National American Women Suffrage Association's annual convention, Gougar returned to Indiana with a new purpose. She began to get more involved in state politics and lobbied for the passage of legislation allowing women to vote. Though she failed to get legislation passed, she appeared before members of the Indiana General Assembly in an urge for them to support a bill allowing women to vote in national elections.

In November 1894 after failing to secure enough backing from politicians on women's suffrage, Gougar attempted to vote in the presidential election. When the country refused to let her vote, Gougar sued the board, representing herself in court and became one of the first women to argue a case before the Indiana Supreme Court. Though she lost the case, her work gained statewide exposure for women's suffrage issues.

Sources for more information:

Stanford Law

Tippecanoe County Historical Association (contact for collection)

Where the Saints Have Trod by Robert C. Kriebel

Indiana Historical Bureau

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

W.C. Handy

Evansville, Indiana

Photo: National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

W.C. (William Christopher) Handy, known as the Father of Blues, was born in 1873 and lived until 1958. Handy was one of the most influential songwriters in the United States. One of many musicians who played the distinctively American blues music, Handy did not create the blues genre and was not the first to publish music in the blues form, but he took the blues from a regional music style (Delta blues) with a limited audience to a new level of popularity.

Handy was born in a small town in Alabama called Florence. His father was a pastor of a church and Handy's musical style was inspired by the music he would sing and play there. Though he was such a good musician, Handy worked a day job as a teacher at the Teachers Agriculture and Mechanical College. In his time off from his job, he organized a small string orchestra and taught musicians how to read music. Handy was an educated musician who used elements of folk music in his compositions. He was scrupulous in documenting the sources of his works, which frequently combined stylistic influences from various performers.

As an adult, Handy organized and played in the Lauzetta Quartet. When the quartet eventually disbanded, Handy went to Evansville, Indiana. In Evansville, Handy joined a successful band that performed throughout the neighboring cities and states. Following his career in music, he took many jobs. He sang first tenor in a minstrel show, worked as a band director, choral director, cornetist and trumpeter. Handy eventually became so well known in the blues scene that so greatly influenced American culture in the 1920s and 1930s that F. Scott Fitzgerald referenced his style in The Great Gatsby.

Sources for more information:

W.C. Handy Foundation

Memphis Music Hall of Fame

University of North Alabama

Memphis Public Libraries

The New York Public Library

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Bertita Harding

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: The Indianapolis News at Newspapers.com

Bertita Harding was born in 1902 in Germany and lived until 1971. From a very young age, Harding began to travel the world as her father's work took her from Germany, to Hungary and finally to Mexico. Through her travels and privileged schooling, Hardin became fluent in five languages, German, Spanish, English, Hungarian and French. In an effort to improve her English, Harding was sent to Wisconsin University to attend college where she would soon meet and marry Jack Harding. After graduating, the couple settled down in Indianapolis, Indiana and Harding became a naturalized American citizen.

Growing up, Harding was always intrigued and inspired by stories she heard from her travels. One story in particular stuck with her, the story of Carlotta and Maximilian, Emperor and Empress of Mexico. Though she had been pursuing a career as a concert pianist since arriving in the United States, Harding left her position to begin writing novels of the legends she loved. At age 28, Harding published her first book *Phantom Crown: The Story of Maximilian and Carlota of Mexico*. The book sold well and in the following years Hardin began to publish more books about foreign royalty which helped establish her as a prominent author.

As her star rose, Harding began to travel the country on a lecture circuit, speaking to large crowds about her travels. These lectures took her listeners on vivid tours through Mexico and Europe without ever having to leave to United States and letting those who listened to her travel the world vicariously through her.

Sources for more information:

Yale University Archives

Indiana Historical Bureau

The Life and Works of Bertita Carla Camille Leonarz Harding by Kathy Kirry Wockley

Works by Bertita Harding

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Ida Husted Harper

Franklin Township, Indiana

Photo: Library of Congress

Ida Husted Harper was born in 1851 in Franklin Township, Indiana and lived until 1931. When she was a young girl, her family moved to Muncie, Indiana for her schooling. She attended Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana for a short time before leaving to become a teacher in Peru, Indiana. In addition to being an educator, Harper was later a journalist for the *Terre Haute Saturday Evening Mail,* an editor at the Terre Haute *Daily News*, one of the first instances of a woman holding the position of editor, and an active women's suffrage advocate.

As an advocate for women's suffrage, Harper developed a close friendship with Susan B. Anthony. Through this friendship, she became actively involved with the work of the National Woman Suffrage Association (NWSA), eventually becoming the secretary of the Indiana chapter and writing monthly columns about suffrage activities. Through her position on the NWSA, Harper organized many conventions, which eventually led to women gaining the right to vote in municipal elections in the state of Indiana.

Among the many things that Harper accomplished, she was also the author of Susan B. Anthony's biography, an editor and author of the *History of Woman Suffrage*, an accomplished orator who would speak at women's rights gatherings and lecture and a successful newspaper columnist. In 1916, Harper moved to Washington D.C. where she would be in charge of the Leslie Bureau of Suffrage Education, an editorial dedicated to increasing education on women's suffrage and public opinion. Through her work at the bureau, popular support of the Nineteenth Amendment increased, leading to its passage in 1920.

Sources for more information:

Works by Ida Husted Harper

Vigo Public Library

A Forgotten Feminist: The Early Writings of Ida Husted Harper by Nancy Baker Jones

Iowa State University

Benjamin Harrison

Indianapolis, Indiana

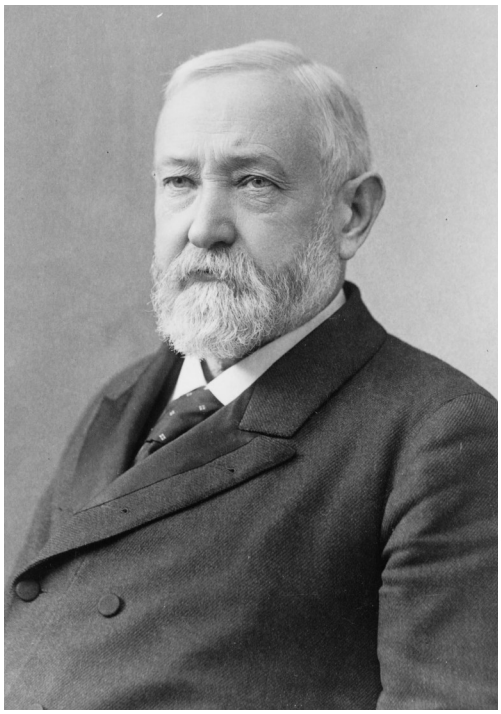

Photo: Library of Congress

Benjamin Harrison was born in 1833 and lived until 1901. Following in his grandfather William Henry Harrison's footsteps, he was a politician and lawyer who would go on to serve as the 23rd president of the United States from 1889 to 1893. Though he was born and attended school in Ohio, Harrison moved to Indianapolis, Indiana with his wife, Caroline Scott Harrison, shortly after he finished college. There he began to practice law and established himself as a prominent attorney in the Indianapolis community. Harrison was particularly known for being a skilled orator and became know as "one of the state's leading lawyers".

While living in Indianapolis, the American Civil War broke out and Harrison enlisted in the Union Army. There he became a Colonel of the 70th Volunteer Infantry and he further established himself as a pillar of Indianapolis. After returning from the war, Harrison began his political career by running for governor of Indiana in 1876. Though he was unsuccessful in his campaign, shortly after the Indiana General Assembly elected Harrison into the U.S. Senate where he served from 1881 to 1887. Largely because of Democratic gerrymandering, Harrison did not win a reelection to the Senate and returned to Indianapolis to continue practicing law.

In 1888, Harrison was chosen as the Republican nominee for the presidential election. Though he received fewer popular votes than the incumbent Grover Cleveland, he carried the Electoral College and won the election. His presidency saw unprecedented economic legislation, the creation of the national forest reserves and the admittance of six western states into the union. Though unsuccessful, Harrison also fought for more federal education funding and voting rights enforcement for African Americans.

Sources for more information:

Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site

Indiana Historical Society

Indiana State Library

Library of Congress

The New York Times

Caroline Harrison

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Library of Congress

Caroline Lavinia Scott Harrison was born on October 1, 1832 in Oxford, Ohio to a professor of science and mathematics and his wife. While her father was teaching at Farmer's College near Cincinnati, Ohio, Caroline met one of her father's students, Benjamin Harrison. The two started dating and were married in 1853. Caroline studied at the Oxford Female Institute, where she studied English literature, theater, art and painting and received a degree in music.

After her marriage to Benjamin Harrison, the happy couple moved to Indianapolis, Indiana where Benjamin wanted to finish his law studies and set up his first practice. Those early years were rough as Caroline suffered from various medical issues that stemmed from a bout with pneumonia. During the American Civil War both Harrisons were heavily involved in the Union war effort with Benjamin recruiting a regiment of over 1,000 men from Indiana and fighting with them as an officer. Caroline, on the other hand joined local groups like the Ladies Patriotic Association and the Ladies Sanitary Committee. These organizations helped directly care for wounded soldiers and also helped raise money for their care and supplies.

In 1888 Benjamin Harrison was elected President of the United States and Caroline Harrison became the First Lady of the United States. In this role, Caroline organized a number of projects including a massive renovation of the White House, raised the first Christmas tree in the White House, raised funds for various causes and helped found the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Caroline died of tuberculosis on October 25, 1892 in the White House and was returned to Indianapolis where she is still buried.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site

Library of Congress

The White House Historical Association

Indiana Historical Society

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

William Henry Harrison

Vincennes, Indiana

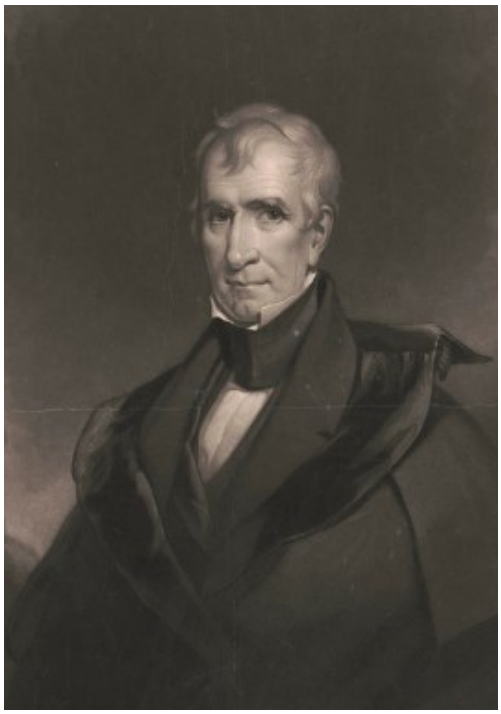

Photo: Library of Congress

William Henry Harrison was born in 1773 and lived until 1841. Harrison was born into a political family in Charles County, Virginia and his father was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Studying medicine, he attended Hampden-Sydney College and the University of Pennsylvania. In 1791, Harrison joined the United States Army and was sent to the Northwest Territory. The Northwest Territory included modern-day Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. There he was present at the Battle of Fallen Timbers and the signing of the Treaty of Greenville. After completing his military service in 1798, Harrison accepted a position as the Secretary of the Northwest Territory where he held the position for one year before being chosen as the representative of the territory. Eventually Harrison would again be promoted to the governor of the Indiana Territory in 1800.

Through his leadership in Indiana, Harrison outlawed slavery north of the Ohio River and ended the requirement of land ownership for adult white men to be able to vote. He also worked as the Superintendent for Indian Affairs in the American Northwest where he convinced many Native Americans to give up their lands to the United States government. At the beginning of the War of 1812, Harrison was put in charge of protecting the American settlements in the Northwest. At the Battle of the Thames, Harrison emerged victorious in protecting the U.S. territories. In 1840, Harrison ran for president against incumbent Martin Van Buren. Harrison won in a landslide victory but died of typhoid fever only 31 days into his term. His death sparked a crisis, as the Constitution was unclear about who would succeed him, and eventually set the precedent of the transfer of the Presidency.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

Library of Congress

White House Historical Association

Hoosiers and the American Story by James H. Madison and Lee Ann Sandweiss

Richard Hatcher

Gary, Indiana

P0303_BOX63_FOLDER1

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

Richard Hatcher was born in Michigan City, Indiana in 1933. He graduated from Indiana University in 1956 with degrees in political science and criminal law and in 1959 earned his Juris Doctor from Valparaiso University. Moving to Gary in 1960, he quickly established an effective civil rights practice and helped form Muigwithania, a social organization of Black professionals that quickly established itself as an independent, progressive force in local politics.

Hatcher successfully ran for Gary city council-at-large in 1963 and became the first freshman elected to serve as council president. This was a time of tremendous change in Gary with the breakup of the old ethnic Democratic machine, major demographic changes, and heated conflicts against segregation in housing, hospitals, parks, and employment. With a growing Black population and a split in the White vote, Hatcher managed to win the city's 1967 Democratic mayoral primary. With this victory Richard Hatcher became, along with Carl Stokes of Cleveland, the first elected Black mayor of a major US city.

Hatcher successfully attracted large sums of federal money through the Model Cities program, much of it used to improve housing conditions for seniors and low-income families. The Hatcher years also saw the creation of the Gary/Chicago Airport, a downtown convention and transportation center, and the expansion of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore into Gary.

The Hatcher years also saw a dramatic rise in crime, an equally dramatic decline in population, the movement of major businesses to suburban Merrillville, and a worldwide downturn in the steel industry. Gary was also effectively stunted from future southward expansion with the passage of special state legislation that granted suburban Merrillville an exemption from being annexed into Gary.

Throughout his administration Richard Hatcher proved to be adept at attracting national attention. He served as the president of the United States Conference of Mayors in 1980-81, chairman of Jesse Jackson's 1984 and 1988 presidential campaigns, and from 1981-84 as Vice-Chairman of the Democratic National Committee. After five terms in office, Richard Hatcher was defeated in the 1987 mayoral election by Calumet Township assessor Thomas Barnes.

After his time as mayor Hatcher returned to private practice and also taught law and political science at Valparaiso University, Cambridge, Roosevelt University, and Indiana University Northwest in Gary.

Sources for more information:

Richard Hatcher's Gary

City of the Century: A History of Gary, Indiana

African-American Mayors: Race, Politics, and the American City

Mayor Richard Hatcher of Gary

Black Power: Gary Style: The Making of Mayor Richard Gordon Hatcher

Written by Samuel Love*

Lewis Hine

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: International Photography Hall of Fame

Lewis Hine was an American photographer born in 1874 and lived until 1940. Born in Wisconsin and schooled in Chicago and New York, Hine lived in many places throughout the United States in his lifetime. Though he was a student of sociology, he liked using photography as an educational medium and a tool for social change and reform. Early in his career, Hine would photograph thousands of immigrants arriving on Ellis Island everyday and painted a vivid picture of the experiences of an American immigrant. This work inspired him to pursue a career in documentary photography.

After becoming the photographer for the Russel Sage Foundation, Hine began to photograph working class America in factories throughout Pennsylvania, most notably Pittsburg. Shortly after, Hine became the photographer for the National Child Labor Committee and traveled across the country documenting the working conditions of child laborers in an effort to put an end to it. The many places that Hine documented included the Glass Works factories in Indianapolis. His job was not easy, Hine frequently received threats and faced life threatening situations to pursue his work.

The photographs and stories that Hine was able to capture throughout his time as the National Child Labor Committee's photographer helped with the establishment of the Children's Bureau in 1912 and the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938. His photography which showed the horrible working conditions and treatments of minors inside factories exposed the American public to the brutal truth about child labor. Through his photography, Hine was able to demolish a harmful and unjust system in the United States.

Sources for more information:

University of Illinois

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

The New York Public Library

International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum

Library of Congress

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Isaac Hodgson

Indianapolis, Indiana

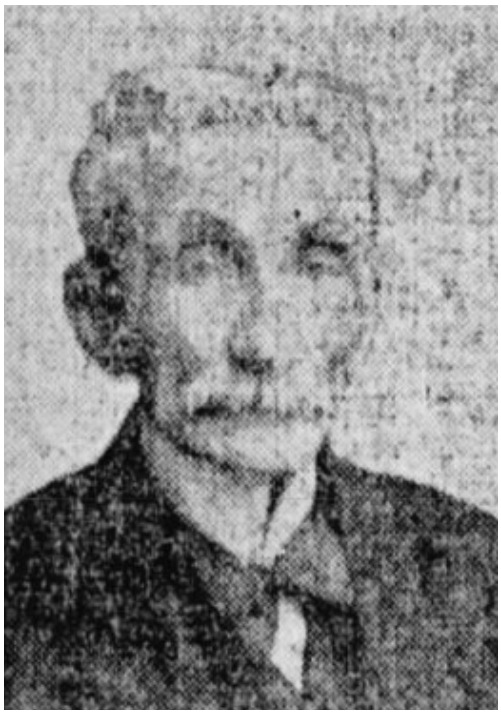

Photo: Star Tribune at Newspapers.com

Isaac Hodgson was born in 1826 and lived until 1909. He was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland as one of eleven children and finished school early, leaving to study architecture at the Royal Academy in London at just sixteen years old. There he went to work right away under the mentorship of Sir Charles Lanyon, who he worked for over the next three years. After completing his studies, Hodgson immigrated to the United States in 1848, moving to Louisville, Kentucky in 1849. There he worked as an assistant architect, establishing himself by working on a number of state governmental buildings.

In 1855, Hodgson left Kentucky and settled in Indianapolis, where he advertised himself as "Architect and Superintendent". As one of the early architects of Indiana, he began to establish himself in the state by first designing a number of courthouses in the area. Throughout his time in Indianapolis, Hodgson designed six Indiana courthouses including the ones in Bartholomew, Jennings, Morgan, Henry and Marion counties. He was also one of eight charter members of the Indiana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Following his work in Indiana, Hodgson then moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota to open an architectural firm with his son, Isaac Hodgson Jr. Together they designed the Industrial Exposition Building in 1886 before relocating their firm to Omaha, Nebraska in 1887. After their move to Nebraska, not much is known about Hodgson and his son. During the financial crisis of the early 1890's, evidence shows that Hodgson went through a transitional period with his firm, but the rest of his history and contributions seem to be lost for now.

Sources for more information:

A Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men of the State of Indiana

Early Architects and Builders of Indiana by Lee Burns

Nebraska State Historical Society

Oregon Historical Society

Hoosier Cabinets

New Castle, Indiana

For a Single Dollar

You and 99 Other Women Can Join

THE HOOSIER CABINET CLUB

The old way before the "HOOSIER" came

The new Way — A Hoosier Cabinet makes a Model Kitchen

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WILL ADMIT 100 TO THIS HOOSIER CABINET CLU

How the Club Will Modernize 100 Kitchens

Here Is the Club Plan in a Nutshell

Now 100 More Fort Wayne Women Will Have Model Kitchen

WILL YOURS BE ONE OF THEM?

Leave the Drudge Trail

Will You Be a 'Hoosier' Memb

PICKARD HOUSE FURNISHING CO.

HOOSIER KITCHEN CABINETS

HER GUARDIAN

Photo: The Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette at Newspapers.com

Prior to the 1920's, built-in kitchen cabinets were not a common occurrence in most American homes. Around the 1890's, kitchen workstations that included cabinet storage became the solution for storing food and other equipment in the kitchen. These cabinets were unique, as they not only offered storage on top for bowls, pans and kitchen utensils, they also had a pull-out shelf which could be used as a workspace for meal prep. One of the first companies to manufacture these kitchen workstations was the Hoosier Manufacturing Company in New Castle, Indiana.

Though the Hoosier Manufacturing Company was not the only company to produce these types of cabinets, they were one of the most commercially successful companies. One way in which the company was so successful was that it created its own dealer network in addition to selling directly from the company. However, the true genius behind the Hoosier Manufacturing Company was their advertisements.

Advertisements from the Hoosier Manufacturing Company sold the cabinets as and important time saver in the kitchen. Major advertisement campaigns were run by the company in newspapers and national magazines where the reader was most likely to be a woman, such as *Ladies' Home Journal* and *The Saturday Evening Post*. By 1920, the Hoosier Manufacturing Company had sold over 2 million cabinets and were a household name throughout the country. Though they weren't the only ones making the cabinets, their overwhelming popularity and success through advertising meant that these cabinets would be forever referred to as "Hoosier Cabinets".

Sources for more information:

Hoosier Cabinet Tour

Hoosier Cabinet Museum

Indiana Public Media

Hoosiers and the American Story by James H. Madison and Lee Ann Sandweiss

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Hoosier Group

Brown County, Indiana

Photo: Indianapolis Museum of Art

During the late 19th century and early 20th century, a group of Indiana Impressionist painters would become known as the "Hoosier Group". Members of this group included artists T. C. Steele, Richard Gruelle, William Forsyth, J. Ottis Adams and Otto Stark. Though each of the members of the group came from diverse backgrounds, they became a cohesive unit by attending art school in Munich in the late 1880's. After their completion of art school, the five returned to Indiana and began to paint renditions of the Indiana landscape.

During the time that the Hoosier Group was active, Indiana was currently going through a period of great prosperity. At the turn of the century, Indianapolis was booming with new locally owned businesses and the city especially benefitted from the patronage of fine art appreciators in the upper class. The mid 19th century also saw the rise of Impressionism, an art style that depicted the changing characteristics of light and typically depicted short, colorful brushstrokes. This allowed the Hoosier Group to dominate the Indiana art scene through the 1920's. The Hoosier Group's art was exhibited regularly throughout Indiana and the country and many members also took up teaching positions which helped spread the popularity of their art.

However, as popular art styles changed, the Hoosier Group and their old-fashioned style of painting saw their sales and popularity decline. However their art work lives on to this day depicting the beauty of Indiana landscapes and sharing a rich history of art culture and ideas.

Sources for more information:

Richmond Art Museum

T.C. Steele State Historic Site

Martinus Andersen and the Hoosier Group of Artists by Barry Morton and Elizabeth Morton

IUPUI Special Collections & Archives

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Hoosier National Forest

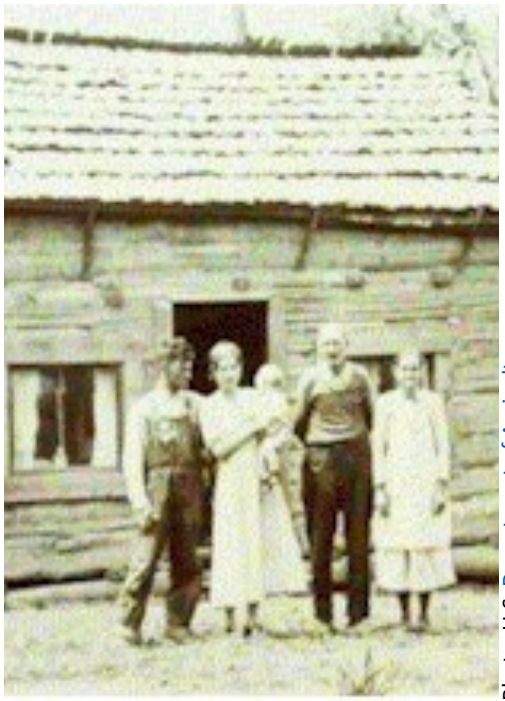


Photo: U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Hoosier National Forest encompasse lands first inhabited by Native Americans more than 12,000 years ago. These people were the first to begin logging and clearing the vast old growth forests of hickory and oak which covered the hilly terrain of Southern Indiana. By the time of first contact with European American settlers during the 17th and 18th centuries, clearings and settlements dotted the land. Native American inhabitants during this time included members of the Miami and Potawatomi nations.

Engagement between native tribes and settlers – as well as deforestation – intensified after Indiana's admittance in 1816 as the 19th state in the Union. Around this time and into the middle of the 19th century, treaty negotiations between Native American groups and the US Government saw native communities continually being moved westwards, out of Indiana. Among the new settlers were African Americans from Southern and Eastern states.

Settlers saw cleared land as vital to their farming operations. The resultant timber was used to construct their homesteads. By the 1930s, a century of farming and deforestation had left hills exposed and eroded. Many farmers simply abandoned their fields, moving elsewhere. Concerned, in 1935 Governor Paul McNutt pushed for the National Forest Service to begin acquiring these lands, the resultant area eventually encompassing parts of 9 counties. With reforestation and reclamation of the land, the area has become a haven for wildlife and forest species.

The fate and use of the lands encompassing the Hoosier National Forest continues to be a topic of negotiation, with state, local, and environmental leaders debating future logging endeavors. The different communities of people which have inhabited the land, as well as the changes in land use over time are a story shared with other areas of Indiana.

Sources for more information:

USDA: Hoosier National Forest

Looking at History: Indiana Hoosier National Forest Region
By Ellen Sieber and Cheryl Ann Munson

Conservation—Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter

Indiana Dunes

Photo: U.S. Flickr: Indiana Dunes National Park

Indiana Dunes refers to a pair of large parks containing the beaches, sand dunes, and interdunal wetlands along Lake Michigan. More broadly, the term encompasses a complex regional ecosystem of beaches, wetlands, woodlands, and prairie; administered not only by state and federal agencies, but also city and county park systems, non-profit organizations, private land trusts, and private land owners across northern Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties. Home to almost 1200 native flowering vascular plant species, the Indiana Dunes ranks as one of the most biodiverse regions in the country.

The oldest dunes formed approximately 14,000 years ago, while the modern shoreline is believed to have formed 2000 years ago. Archeologists have found little evidence for pre-contact permanent settlements in the dunes but note that the Native American presence dates back thousands of years. When the land that would become Indiana transferred from France to Britain in 1763 and from Britain to the United States in 1783, the Potawatomi, Miami, and Sauk tribes had been hunting, fishing, and collecting medicinal plants in the dunes at the southern shore of Lake Michigan for centuries.

Not until the late 19th century did the Indiana Dunes begin to attract attention for their recreational, ecological, and potential industrial possibilities. The development of the railroad allowed for the industrial-scale extraction of sand, for use as landfill in rapidly growing Chicago and in the glassware industry. The demand for Indiana sand exacted a toll on the landscape. Hoosier Slide, once Indiana's tallest dune at 200 feet, was reduced to a mere heap by 1900.

A group of Chicago activists, led by the Prairie Club, began organizing to preserve the Indiana Dunes. Despite the support of the National Park System's first director Stephen Mather, the appropriation bill stalled in Congress. Preservationists had more success with the state of Indiana, leading to the establishment of the Indiana Dunes State Park in 1925. The 2182 acre park was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1974 and is Indiana's most visited state park.

Two competing visions for the Indiana shoreline emerged in the second half of the 20th century, with advocates for each vision appealing to the federal government. Development advocates pushed for total industrialization of Indiana's shoreline, hinging their plans on the construction of a publicly-funded deep-water port in Porter County. Preservationists returned to the idea of a national park. A compromise led to the creation of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore in 1966. Four major expansions of the National Lakeshore grew the park from an initial 8330 acres to over 15,000. Reflecting the enduring popularity and significance of the Indiana Dunes, the park was redesignated as the Indiana Dunes National Park in 2019.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Dunes National Park

Indiana Dunes State Park

Conservation—Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter

Calumet Beginnings: Ancient Shorelines and Settlements at the South End of Lake Michigan

Written by Samuel Love*

Indiana School for the Deaf

Indianapolis, Indiana

The Indiana School for the Deaf is a school for the deaf and hard of hearing located in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was established in 1843 by William Willard, originally called the Willard School after him, who was a deaf teacher from Columbus, Ohio. After moving to Indianapolis, William Willard and his wife Eliza proposed the idea of the school to the Indiana General Assembly, recruited twelve students to the newly formed school, and served as the first two teachers at the school. Overtime the school began to grow and in January of 1846, the Willard School was established as the sixth school in the state of Indiana for the deaf and the first Deaf school to provide free education to deaf and hard of hearing students. It also won the best deaf school in America award in 2011 and 2014.

Photo: Indiana School for the Deaf

The location of the school has changed throughout the years before the school finally settled on an 80-acre property on East 42nd Street. After the name was changed to the Indiana School for the Deaf, the school and the buildings on the campus were then added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. Currently, the Indiana School for the Deaf is a residential school where students reside in dormitories throughout the week. It offers programs across all age groups, from infants to high schoolers.

The Indiana Deaf History Museum also resides on the property of the Indiana School for the Deaf. The museum works to collect and preserve state history of the deaf citizens of Indiana and provide the public with deaf heritage experiences. It contains a large collection of publications produced by the school, provides educational and digital resources, and offers assistance with genealogical research.

Sources for more information:

Indiana School for the Deaf Website

Indiana Deaf History Museum

IUPUI University Library

National Register of Historic Places

Indianapolis Indians

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: IndyStar

Though there were early attempts at establishing a professional baseball club in Indianapolis as early as the 1870's, the current Indianapolis Indians franchise wasn't founded until 1902. The Indianapolis Indians were one of the early members of the American Association , a Minor League Baseball league, and originally played their first seasons at several ballparks across Indianapolis. In 1929, over twenty years into the history of the Indianapolis Indians, Norm Perry took ownership of the team and built their first stadium on 16th Street in 1931. Though this stadium would be renamed many times, it served as the home of the Indianapolis Indians until 1996.

In 1952, the Cleveland Indians took ownership of the Indianapolis team. After a rough couple of years with little victories and low fan turnout, Cleveland explored moving the team to another major city. However, Robert E. Kirby purchased the team in an effort to keep them in Indianapolis, conducting a large-scale media campaign selling shares of Indianapolis Indians stock to the community at just $10 a share. *The Indianapolis Star, The Indianapolis News* and the *Indianapolis Times* challenged the community to save baseball in Indianapolis by buying shares of the team. Ultimately, the campaign was successful with over 6,600 investors purchasing over 20,000 shares, allowing the Indianapolis Indians to be a community-owned team.

In 1969, Max Schumacher was named the team's President. Currently he holds about 40 percent of the Indianapolis Indians stock. Under his presidency, the team became a profitable venture for Indianapolis and moved to their current home at Victory Field in 1996.

Sources for more information:

Indianapolis Indians Official Site

A Player to Be Named Later—Documentary

Historic Indianapolis

Baseball in Indianapolis by W.C. Madden

Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Speedway, Indiana

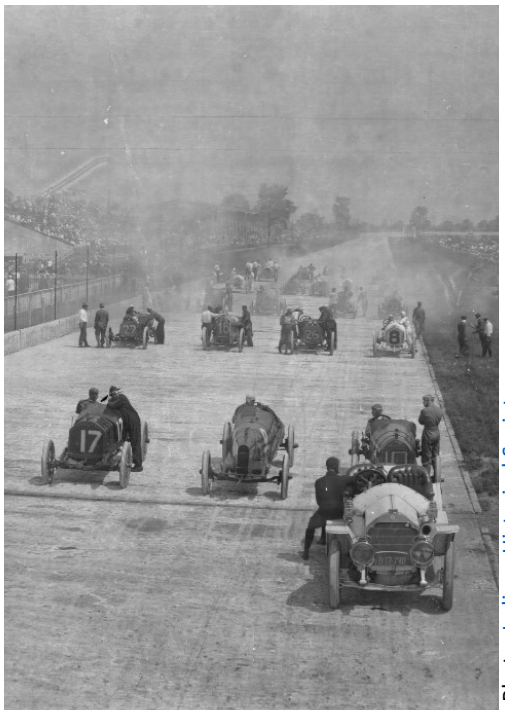


Photo: Indiana Historical Society

At the turn of the 20th century the automobile had existed for a mere 15 years but had seen quick developments in speed and reliability. Races such as the Vanderbilt Cup were held in major cities in Europe and America. Governments and promoters would offer large prizes to the winners, spurring them to develop better and faster vehicles. A prominent local business magnate and promoter, Carl G. Fisher, active in the budding automotive industry, aimed to bring such an event to Indianapolis.

Instead of being held on public roads where safety was difficult to control, the races would take place entirely within a purpose-built racing circuit, a concept almost unheard of at the time. Fisher oversaw the construction of a massive, 2.5-mile track - larger than anything in existence. When it opened in 1909, short races were held weekly on a crushed stone track. Accidents and deaths were common during the first few races, leading the AAA sanctioning body to threaten a ban of the track. Fisher's solution was to pave the track using millions of bricks, leading to the nickname "the Brickyard." This solution, in addition to the construction of concrete retaining walls, improved the safety of the track.

However, the strong attendance of early crowds quickly dwindled to a small crowd of diehards. Fisher recognized that reducing the schedule to just one massive event would increase the prestige of the event in the eyes of spectators and competitors alike, while also proving an even stiffer test of automotive reliability. Held on May 30th, 1911, the Indianapolis 500-Mile Sweepstakes Race was a grand success, and within a few years was attracting drivers and marques from around the globe. The Indianapolis 500 became an annual tradition, run to this day.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

Indianapolis Motor Speedway

National Register of Historic Places

Roaring Though the Century

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

The Indianapolis Recorder

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Indianapolis Recorder Collection, Indiana Historical Society

Established in 1895 by George P. Stewart and William H. Porter, the *Indianapolis Recorder* began as a two-page church bulletin covering relevant news and events. Popular church sermons were included with biographical sketches of community members. By 1916, the two-page church bulletin had grown into a four-page newspaper. Now focusing on other racial issues in the community, the *Recorder* published articles pushing for the end of racial discrimination, spoke out against the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana and endorsed similarly aligned politicians.

As different eras of history passed, the newspaper's readership continued to grow and the paper focused on the important issues of the time. During World War II, the *Indianapolis Recorder* focused on African American support of the war effort, integrating the armed services and the success of soldiers like the Tuskegee Airmen. Throughout the 1950's and 1960's, the paper reported on civil rights issues, sharing information about Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcom X.

Today, the *Indianapolis Recorder* is still running and has expanded in size and readership. It has many sections including News, Opinion, Around Town, Health, Business, Religion, Sports and Education. It still includes issues in the community, particularly issues impacting African American readership, and as it always has in the past, it continues to be delivered weekly. The *Recorder* also has a prestigious Journalism and Writing Seminars program which gives minority high-school students hands-on experience in journalism. Today, the *Recorder* is the longest published African American paper in Indiana and the nation's fourth oldest surviving African American newspaper.

Sources for more information:

The Indianapolis Recorder Website

Hoosier State Chronicles

Indiana Historical Society

Indiana Public Media

Library of Congress

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

The Indianapolis Times vs. The KKK

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Bureau

The Ku Klux Klan, a white supremacist organization that was originally founded in the aftermath of the American Civil War, again rose to prominence in the 1920's. It was particularly powerful in Indiana where it was led by Grand Dragon D.C. Stephenson. It is estimated that approximately 30% of all native born, white men in Indiana had joined the Klan and there were over 250,000 members in Indiana alone. At its peak, KKK members included the governor of Indiana and more than half the state legislature, making the Indiana Klan the largest Klan organization in the country. However, in 1925 D.C. Stephenson kidnapped and raped a young schoolteacher named Madge Oberholtzer, who ultimately died from her wounds. Stephenson was arrested and tried for the crime and the resulting scandal led to the collapse of the KKK in Indiana and nationwide.

While in prison, Stephenson solicited a pardon from Indiana governor Edward L. Jackson. When his pardon was denied, Stephenson started communicating with the Indianapolis Times where he revealed a variety of political scandals. The Klan was deeply entrenched in Indiana politics and Stephenson revealed which members of state and local government were under the Klan's influence. These revelations led to the dismissal or resignation of the Indiana governor, the mayor of Indianapolis, most of the Indianapolis city council and a variety of other lower level governmental officials.

The Indianapolis Times' investigation into the role of the Klan in Indiana politics earned them a Pulitzer Prize and helped eliminate the control of the Klan in this area. Subsequent efforts to revive the Klan in the state, efforts that still continue today, have all been unsuccessful.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Indiana State Library

Grand Dragon: D.C. Stephenson and the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana by M. William Lutholtz

Hoosier State Chronicles

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Indianapolis Union Station

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

Beginning in the late 1830s, rail transportation quickly grew to prominence in a state eventually known as "the Crossroads of America." Railroad corporations created a patchwork of lines in the state, with little thought about how the multitude of transportation links could be combined into a larger whole. Nowhere was this more apparent than in Indianapolis. The first line to reach Indianapolis only opened in 1847. Competing railroads began opening soon after. Each operated as a separate company with stations in separate parts of the city. In 1848 the city, recognizing such an arrangement would soon result in traffic and transportation issues in the rapidly expanding state capital, came up with an idea to ensure all rail traffic departed from a central location.

The city formed a local railway, the Indianapolis Unition Railroad Company, to connect the by-then 4 local railroads. The plan was to build a "union depot," with city tracks connecting all the railroads - a plan unique in world history up to that time. Construction began in June 1850 and was completed in September of 1853; at which time it was the only such station of its kind unifying separate railways under one roof. The original Union Station building was soon outgrown, and a large new station was completed in its place during 1888.

After the Second World War, the affordability of automobiles led to a decline in intercity rail travel. Rail lines closed, and large parts of the station were abandoned. In 1984 the city renovated and adapted the abandoned areas of the station for business and other uses, such as a marketplace. The world's first central station is now a community meeting place as well as a stop on the Amtrak *Cardinal* line.

Sources for more information:

The Great American Stations

Indiana Historical Society

Indianapolis Union and Belt Railroads by Jeffrey Darbee

National Register of Historic Places

Interurbans in Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

Developed in the late 1800s, interurbans were electric passenger trains that traveled to and from towns and cities. Introduced to Indiana in 1898, the first interurban line ran from Alexandria to Anderson and was a total of 11 miles long. The Interurban system throughout the state rapidly expanded and at its height, Indiana's interurban system grew to be at total of 1,800 miles. It was one of the largest systems, only second to Ohio, and served 62 of Indiana's 92 counties. Though interurbans could transport an individual across state lines through connecting stops, individuals would need to rely on steam engines for national travel.

The introduction of interurbans to Indiana fundamentally changed the state. As the trains were powered by electricity, where interurbans were found, so was electricity. Prior to their introduction, much of the state did not have electricity. However, many of the Interurban companies had their own electric companies, and due to its expansion throughout the state, communities had access to electricity for the first time.

On January 16th, 1900, the first interurban entered Indianapolis. Soon after, Indianapolis became a hub for all interurban activity within Indiana. The system connected towns and cities within a 120-mile radius of Indianapolis and extended another 200 miles out to connect to others. Such a large system required a centralized location where all services could be carried out, and in 1904, Traction Terminal began serving as Indianapolis's hub and main interurban station.

Eventually, the interurban system began to decline. Many factors, such as the popularization of automobiles and the growing interstate and highway systems contributed to the decline of the interurban system. By the early 1930s, interurban travel became less popular, and 1941, interurbans no longer operated in Indiana.

Sources for more information:

- Interurbans: Intercity Electric Railways
- Interurban Railway Materials
- Interurbans in Marion County, Where Were They?
- The Electric Railway: Indiana's Interurbans Resources
- Indianapolis Traction Terminal

Charles Francis Jenkins

Richmond, Indiana

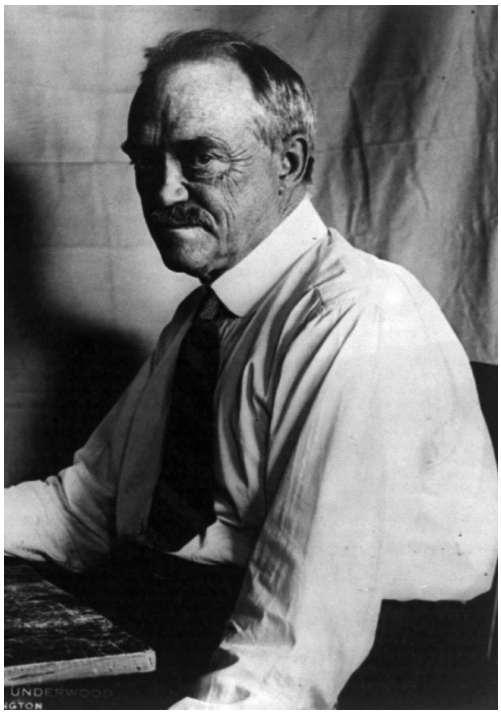


Photo: Library of Congress

Charles Francis Jenkins was born in 1867 and lived until 1934. Though he was born in Dayton, Ohio, he grew up and attended school in Richmond, Indiana. He attended Earlham College in Indiana and then accepted a position as a stenographer for the federal government in Washington D.C. in 1890. When he wasn't working, Jenkins liked to work on his own inventions. One of his first inventions was working on a motion picture projector, which he completed in 1892, although the projection itself was too small to be viewed by a large audience.

In 1895, Jenkins left his job with the federal government and began to work on his inventing full-time. He entered into a business partnership with Thomas Armat and the two men began to work on improving Jenkins' first invention. After completing their project during the second half of 1895, the two men began to charge people to view motion pictures played on their projector and many credit this instance as being the introduction to the modern movie theater as we know it today. However, the men would sell their patent to the invention to Thomas Edison, causing many people to credit Edison with the invention of the motion picture projector.

All of Jenkins' following inventions would also have to do with motion pictures and television. Many scholars argue that Jenkins was the first person to invent a television in the United States, though his invention of the television used mechanical rather than electronic technologies. He was also the first to broadcast a television station, known as W3XK. In total, over 400 patents were issued to Jenkins over the years

Sources for more information:

Ohio History Connection

The Franklin Institute

National Library of Australia

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Jim Jones

Crete, Indiana

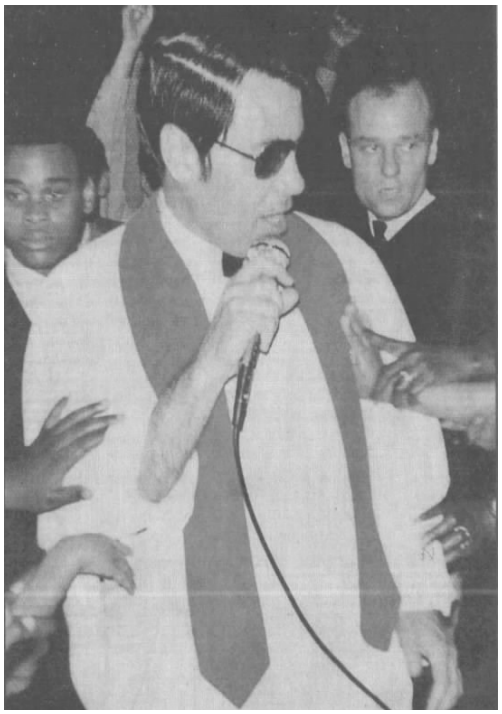


Photo: Palladium-Item at Newspapers.com

Jim Jones was born in 1931 in Crete, Indiana and lived until 1978. He was an American civil rights preacher and cult leader of the infamous Peoples Temple which started in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Peoples Temple was a religious movement and cult which promoted elements of Christianity mixed with socialist ideology and racial equality. Most notably, the Peoples Temple is known for the November 18, 1978 mass murder-suicide which took place in Jonestown, Guyana at the Peoples Temple commune.

Prior to establishing the Peoples Temple, Jim Jones was a civil rights activist who was frequently outspoken about racial discrimination. In 1960, he was appointed as the local director of the Human Rights Commission in Indianapolis and appeared on many radio and television programs speaking about civil rights. He worked throughout Indianapolis to racially integrate churches, restaurants, theaters, parks and even the Indianapolis police department. In 1977, Jones received a Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian award for his work in Indianapolis.

One of Jones many talents was his ability to speak to a crowd. Many described Jim Jones as a charismatic leader who was able to determine exactly what listeners wanted to hear and give it to them in ways that they understood and drew them in. That same charisma led 918 to take their own life in Jonestown in the largest mass suicide in history. Despite the dark history of the Jonestown Massacre and the negative impacts that the Peoples Temple had, Jim Jones' capabilities as a public speaker and leader were monumental in impacting history. Understanding how communication played a role and the relationship between Jones and his followers allows us to better understand the events of November 18, 1978.

Sources for more information:

San Diego State University

American Experience — PBS

Jonestown — ABC Documentary

The Road to Jonestown: Jim Jones and Peoples Temple by Jeff Guinn

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

George Washington Julian

Wayne County, Indiana

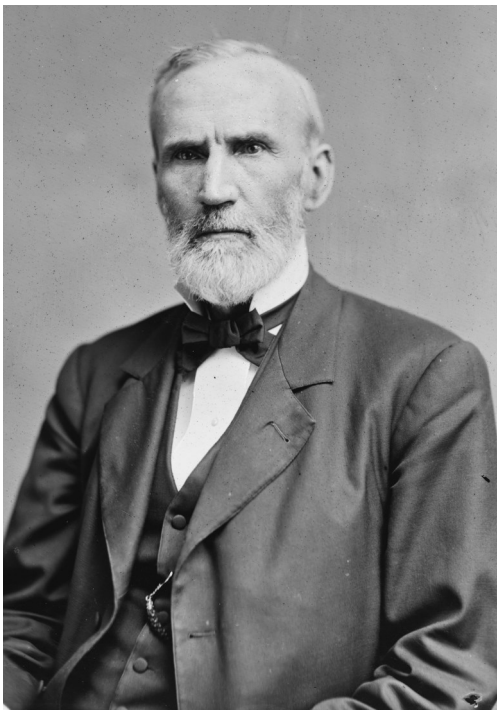


Photo: Library of Congress

George Washington Julian was born in 1817 in Centerville, Indiana. He lived in Centerville for most of his life, where he maintained a law practice after being admitted to the Indiana Bar in 1840. He had strong moral convictions and those convictions shaped both his life and his work. He was particularly committed to abolition, equal rights, land reform and women's suffrage. Because of these beliefs, Julian frequently swapped political parties. He defended himself by stating that he never changed his beliefs, but instead, the political parties changed what they stood for.

In 1849, Julian was elected as the U.S. Representative of the Fourth Indiana Congressional District as a member of the Free Soil Party. The Free Soil Party was staunchly against the expansion of slavery and eventually the institution of slavery itself. Julian frequently spoke out against slavery and attended a variety of abolitionist meetings.

Julian also supported land rights and advocated for the Homestead Bill, a proposal that would distribute public land to settlers for them to 'improve' and create 'homesteads'. This bill ultimately failed and was never passed. In 1852, Julian was nominated to run as Senator John P. Hale's running mate in the presidential election that year. They both ran for the Free Soil Party, the strongest third party running that year.

When not practicing politics, Julian maintained his law practice and served as a lawyer on a number of fugitive slave cases. In later life, President Grover Cleveland appointed Julian as the Surveyor General of New Mexico. Julian died in 1899 and is buried in Crown Hill

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Indiana Historical Society

Indiana State Library

Works by George Washington Julian

Library of Congress

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Kekionga

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

Located where the confluence of the now-named Saint Joseph and Saint Mary's rivers forms the Maumee River, Kekionga was for generations the capital of the Miami people. Kekionga's first encounter with Europeans came in the late 1600s when French trappers travelled through the area, establishing trading posts in Kekionga. Its location made for an excellent place from which to monitor the supply of goods and trade, and the French decided to build fortifications at this location. After the defeat of the French during the French and Indian War (1756-1763), Canada and other French-claimed possessions were "ceded" to the British. The Miami were not part of the negotiations.

The Americans recognized the value of Kekionga and established intentions of controlling it, despite the opposition of some in the government who believed this would provoke the Native American inhabitants of the area. Others argued that Kekionga needed to be captured to ensure peaceful relations. In late 1791 General Arthur St. Clair led a campaign to capture Kekionga. The subsequent defeat of his force came as an extreme shock to the US government.

However, campaigns taking place elsewhere were going poorly for Native Americans, several nations of which had allied with one another. Defeat led to the Treaty of Greenville, which saw Native Americans cede much of their lands, including Kekionga, to the American government. Kekionga had already fallen to American forces led by General Anthony Wayne in September 1794. Wayne oversaw the construction of a new fort, named in his honor. Today the city of Fort Wayne exists where once was the Miami capital, Kekionga.

Sources for more information:

Frontier Indiana by Andrew Cayton

Indiana Memory

Kekionga! by Wilbur Edel

The Life and Times of Little Turtle by Harvey Carter

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Robert F. Kennedy Speaks

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: IndyStar

On April 4, 1968 after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Robert F. Kennedy delivered a speech in Indianapolis, Indiana. Kennedy was currently on the campaign trail during the Democratic presidential primaries and was scheduled to speak at two Indiana universities when news broke that Martin Luther King Jr. had been assassinated. Though many were concerned for the safety of the democratic hopeful, Kennedy decided to attend a rally being held by the African American community in Indianapolis that night. Putting his campaign aside, Kennedy addressed the public with calls for peace and hope in light of the dark situation.

Kennedy started his speech by informing the public that King had been killed and many in attendance that day were not yet aware of the news. Kennedy reacted with empathy to the audience, citing the assassination of his brother a few years prior, and reminded the crowd of King's message of nonviolence, compassion and love. He urged the public to not be divisive in the situation, but to come together stating "what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness, but is love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be white or whether they be black". Rather than the anticipated riots, Kennedy managed to calm the crowd in Indianapolis.

Throughout the country, riots tore apart cities like Chicago, New York City, Boston and Detroit, but Indianapolis stayed calm through it all. His speech to the crowd in Indianapolis is considered to be one of the greatest public addresses of the modern era.

Sources for more information:

JFK Presidential Library and Museum

Kennedy King Memorial Initiative

Statement on the Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

Robert F. Kennedy and the 1968 Indiana Primary by Ray E. Boomhower

Indiana Historical Society

Karl Kae Knecht

Evansville, Indiana

Photo: University of Southern Indiana

Karl Kae Knecht was born on December 4, 1883 in the Dakota Territory and grew up in Illinois. Knecht moved to Indiana when he started working as a cartoonist at the Evansville Courier in 1905. Knecht trained at the Chicago Art Institute for three years before he published his first cartoon. In 1906 after graduating from the Chicago Art Institute, Knecht started a job as a cartoonist at the Evansville Courier. Knecht worked at the Courier for over fifty years, drawing cartoons, taking photos and writing columns and reviews. Knecht became the staff photographer in 1917 when the paper bought their first camera. He also started writing the column, "Say, Kay! What of Folks, Shows, Animals N' Such" which appeared weekly from 1919 until 1954. In 1952 Knecht was named director and Vice President of the paper. He served in that position until 1960.

Knecht also worked a lot with the circus, where he often worked as a clown. He helped to organize the Circus Fans Association, served as their secretary-treasurer and president and produced its magazine, White Tops. In the late 1920s, Knecht was given a pair of lions. With them, he helped found the Mesker Zoo in Evansville. The zoo opened in 1928 with two lion cubs, some antelope and an elephant. Today the zoo has several hundred animals and continues to see thousands of visitors annually.

Karl Kae Knecht supported a variety of charitable causes and sometimes used his cartoons to bring these causes to people's attention. He retired from the Courier in May 1960 and died on July 28, 1972.

Sources for more information:

Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library

Syracuse University

Indiana Memory

Hoosier State Chronicles

Etheridge Knight

Indianapolis, Indiana

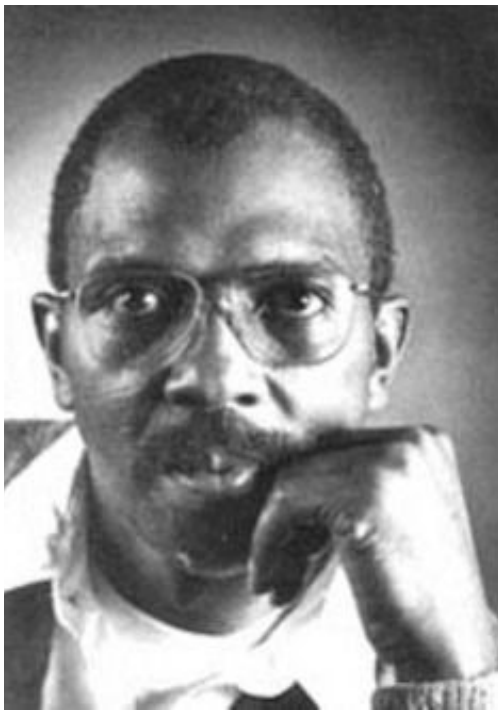


Photo: Indiana Historical Society, M0798

Etheridge Knight was born in 1931 in Corinth, Mississippi and lived until 1991. He dropped out of high school and joined the army to serve in the Korean War. While serving overseas, Knight was wounded by shrapnel, which introduced him to morphine. Knight moved to Indianapolis, Indiana because his family had moved there while he was serving in Korea. Because of his new drug dependency, Knight started to abuse and sell drugs. In 1960 he was arrested and convicted of robbery for which he was sentenced to eight years in Indiana State Prison.

While in prison, Knight rediscovered his love of poetry. As a youth, Knight had learned 'toasts', narrative style poetry which relates a story. He built on this experience while incarcerated by reading a lot of material and dedicated himself to poetry. Knight also started corresponding with other Black authors of the time including Dudley Randall and Gwendolyn Brooks. His first collection was called Poems from Prison and was published the day that he was released from prison.

Knight continued writing and publishing poems even after he was released from prison and became an important part of the Black Arts Movement which worked to inspire and develop Black cultural identities and make them distinct from the default and dominant white power structure. Knight was briefly married to Sonia Sanchez, another Black poet, but they divorced in 1970, two years after their marriage. Knight worked as an artist in residence at several universities including the University of Pittsburgh. He died in 1991 and is buried in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sources for more information:

Poetry Foundation

Poems from Prison by Etheridge Knight

Indiana Historical Society

Butler University

Poems by Etheridge Knight

Eva Kor

Terre Haute, Indiana

Photo: The New York Times

Eva Mozes Kor was born in 1934 and lived until 2019. She was born in Romania and was a part of the family of the only Jewish residents in the area. She had three siblings, Edit, Aliz, and Miriam, who was her twin sister. In 1940 when Eva and Miriam were only five years old, the Hungarian armed guards occupied her village and in 1944 her and her family were transported to a regional ghetto and then later Auschwitz. Upon their arrival at Auschwitz when Jews were being selected for work, a guard determined that Eva and Miriam were twins, taking them away from the rest of their family. This would be the last time that Eva would see her mother.

Ten months into their imprisonment in Auschwitz, Dr. Josef Mengele collected Eva and Miriam from the camp. In Dr. Mengele's hands, the twins were subjected to many involuntary and invasive tests, from taking measurements of their naked bodies to drawing large amounts of blood and injecting them with foreign substances. At one point, Eva became extremely ill after one of the tests and was only given two weeks to live, however she was able to recover and return to the testing a few weeks later.

When Auschwitz was liberated and the war was over, Eva and her sister were among 180 children being tested on to survive the camp. In 1960, Eva married Michael Kor, a fellow Holocaust survivor and moved to the United States. There she began locating other survivors of Mengele's experiments, opened the CANDLES Holocaust Museum in Terre Haute, Indiana and promoted Holocaust education in schools throughout the state. She is known not only for her activism, but also for her ability to forgive those who had hurt her and fight for a better future.

Sources for more information:

CANDLES Holocaust Museum

Eva: A-7063—Documentary

Surviving the Angel of Death by Eva Moses Kor and Lisa Buccieri

USC Shoah Foundation

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Eli Lilly and Co.

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

Colonel Eli Lilly founded the Eli Lilly and Company, a pharmaceutical company, in 1876. He served as the president of the company until he died in 1898. The original building was a two-story rented lab on Pearl Street. The building does not exist today. By the end of the first year sales were over $4,000 (over $100,000 with inflation in 2020).The company boomed in the twentieth century, with extensive expansions of the plant and production in 1911.

One thing Eli Lilly and Company were known for is their innovation to pharmaceutical technologies and innovations. One of the first innovations included gelatin-coated pills and capsules and added fruit flavorings for ease of use. Eli Lilly, the grandson of the founder, graduated from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and spent time after that trying to improve production while cutting costs to increase profit. One difference he made was adjusting the machine that filled the bottles of medication so it would change depending on the size of the bottles, which meant less wasted medication that would overspill smaller bottles. This added up to over $7,000 saved a year from unusable product.

In 1997, the company became the largest company in Indiana and is well known for its philanthropic activities. In the beginning this included remaining active with the Commercial Club of Indianapolis (now Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce" and the Charity Organization Society. The Lilly Endowment, which supports many non profits, was created in 1937 by Josiah K. Lilly Sr. and his sons Eli and Joe. Eli Lilly and Company also created the Eli Lilly and Company foundation in 1968. Currently, Eli Lilly and Company has offices in 18 different countries and their drugs are sold across the globe.

Sources for more information:

Manufacturing Pharmaceuticals

State of Indiana

Pharmaphorum

Lilly

Indiana Historical Society

Abraham Lincoln

Spencer County, Indiana

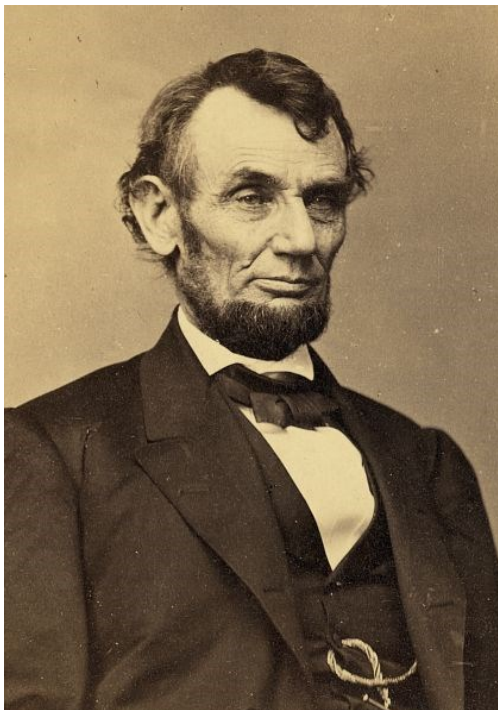


Photo: Library of Congress

Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809 and lived until 1865. He was known for being the 16th President of the United States and arguably one of the best communicators in American history. Though he was born in Kentucky, he was raised in childhood and adolescence in Spencer County, Indiana. As an adult, Lincoln later moved on to live in Illinois near Decatur.

Despite being largely self-educated, Abraham Lincoln was an avid reader and a lifelong learner. He worked hard to raise his status in society before eventually entering the political arena in 1832 as a candidate for the Illinois General Assembly, though his lack of education and money led to him losing the election. However, Lincoln continued to educate himself and eventually decided to become a lawyer, teaching himself the law and continuing his self-education.

Eventually, Lincoln was elected into the Illinois state legislature and admitted to the Illinois bar where he started practicing law. He was known for being a very capable lawyer and an excellent orator. Following this, he was eventually elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Throughout his career, Lincoln was outspoken about the abolition of slavery and suffrage to many who were not white male landowners.

After his election as President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln challenged the country to look toward the abolition of slavery. He gave many speeches on the matter, one of which was the Gettysburg Address which would become the most quoted speech in American History. His abilities as a communicator and leader of the country led to many great successes in American history.

Sources for more information:

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

Northern Illinois University

The Abraham Lincoln Association

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation

Allen County Public Library Lincoln Collection

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Little Turtle

Churubusco, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

Born between 1747 and 1752 in modern day Whitley County near Churubusco, Mihšihkinaahkwa – Little Turtle of the Miami nation would grow up to become one of the most respected members of his tribe. Growing up along the Eel River, Little Turtle was known as a serious and diligent person. His military aptitude was recognized at a young age, and by the time he reached adulthood he had been appointed as a war chief, eventually rising to command the leading division of his tribe.

After the American Revolution American forces sought to occupy the land of the Miami - the conflict saw Little Turtle defeat American forces in numerous battles. The most decisive of these was the Battle of the Wabash on November 4, 1791, during which Little Turtle led his troops to destroy 5 American regiments under the command of Arthur St. Clair. The Americans lost almost 1000 people killed, captured, and wounded in what was the greatest defeat the American army ever suffered against Native American forces.

Little Turtle defeated American forces in several more battles, but the Miami was still losing on other fronts. In 1795 Little Turtle supported the decision to sign the Treaty of Greenville, which limited Miami use of their land. His standing in his community suffered as he began to advocate that tribal nations adopt Western customs in order to survive. In 1796 he met with George Washington, who gifted him a sword, and he also grew acquainted with Thomas Jefferson and John Adams during their presidencies. In 1802 he delivered a speech to the Senate which convinced them to enact laws prohibiting the harmful sale of alcohol to Native American communities. He remained a controversial figure and died in Fort Wayne on July 14, 1812.

Sources for more information:

Kekionga! by Wilbur Edel

The Life and Times of Little Turtle by Harvey Carter

National Archives

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Carole Lombard

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Photo: Los Angeles Times

Carole Lombard (born Jane Alice Peters) was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1908 and lived until 1942. Her career as an actress was a highly successful one, as she was the highest paid star in Hollywood in the 1930's, however Lombard also made a name for herself during the World War II era during her war bond tours.

From a very young age, Carole Lombard wanted to be a movie star. She started to study dancing and acting during her childhood and was cast in her first movie called *A Perfect Crime* at age 13. After her first movie, Lombard dropped out of school at age 15 and began pursuing her acting career full-time. Though she would star in over twenty movies throughout the 1920's, her big break in acting didn't come until the 1930's when she starred in *Twentieth Century.* As her star began to rise, Carole Lombard met and married Clark Gable, "The King of Hollywood".

However, Carole Lombard's life was an unfortunately short one. After the attacks on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, America was soon to be entering the Pacific theater of the war. A few days after the Pearl Harbor attack, the Hollywood Victory Committee was formed with Lombard's husband, Clark Gable, serving as the chairman. This committee allowed actors and radio performers to contribute to the war effort by attending bond drives and meeting with the troops to improve morale. Unfortunately, Gable was forced to cancel his appearance at the bond drive event and Lombard went in his stead. That evening at the bond drive in Indiana, Lombard raised over two million dollars for the war effort but was tragically killed in a plane crash on her return trip to Los Angeles.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Carole Lombard, the Hoosier Tornado by Wes D. Gehring

Screwball: The Life of Carole Lombard by Larry Swindell

Carole Lombard Documentary

Indiana Historical Society

John T. McCutcheon

Tippecanoe County, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

John Tinney McCutcheon was born in 1870 and lived until 1949. He was born near South Raub in Tippecanoe County and spent most of his early childhood in the rural areas surrounding Lafayette, Indiana. In Lafayette, McCutcheon attended Purdue University where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in industrial arts. At Purdue, he helped establish the student newspaper the *Exponent* and also co-edited Purdue's first yearbook, the *Debris.* In the early years of his career, McCutcheon moved to Chicago, Illinois working as an artist for the *Chicago Morning News.*

Eventually as his art moved from illustrations to cartoons, McCutcheon gained some notoriety and took a position as a cartoonist for the *Chicago Tribune* where he would remain until his retirement in 1946. McCutcheon's cartoons would appear on the front page of the *Chicago Tribune* throughout his career and covered a wide range of topics, including local, national and international politics, war, journalism, societal changes and economic hardships. He was also able to travel frequently throughout his career covering many notable events including presidential campaigns, the Spanish-American War and World War I. Not only was McCutcheon a respected cartoonist, he also became known for his works as a wartime correspondent.

In 1932, McCutcheon was awarded with a Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning for his work "A Wise Economist Asks a Question". Some of his other famous works include "Injun Summer", his "Bird Center" cartoons, "The Colors", a wartime cartoon and "The Mysterious Stranger". Due to his widespread success, McCutcheon was respected and known as the "Dean of American Cartoonists".

Sources for more information:

Purdue University

Indiana Historical Society

The John T. McCutcheon Digital Exhibition

Chicago Public Library

Syracuse University

Middletown Studies

Muncie, Indiana

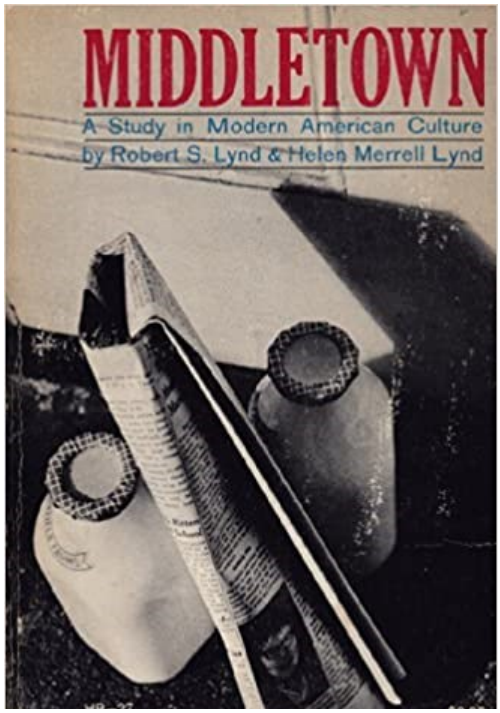


Photo: Minnetrista

Published in 1929, *Middletown: A Study in Modern American Culture* was a sociological case study of the white residents of Muncie, Indiana conducted by Robert Staughton Lynd and Helen Merrell Lynd. "Middletown" in this case was created to mean an average American small city while concealing Muncie as the identity of the city being studied. In their study, the Lynds were particularly interested in exploring the cultural norms of Muncie as a typical American town and use their findings to better understand how to influence social change in the greater United States. In 1937, the Lynds followed up their study with an additional assessment titled *Middletown in Transition: A Study in Cultural Conflicts*. While research for the first book was conducted during the prosperous 1920's, the second book looked at Muncie during the second half of the Great Depression.

During the first anthropological study, the Lynds tried to avoid any biases and pass their findings off as neutral observations about the culture of the people living in Muncie. The second study revealed to be slightly more biased and has received criticism for its Marxist-leaning views. Additionally, both studies have received criticism for only focusing on the white population of Muncie, though the researchers argue that that African American population was too small of a sample size to reach reasonable conclusions.

Today, the Middletown Studies are still conducted by the Center for Middletown Studies at Ball State University, building on the scholarship started by the Lynds. It continues to analyze community trends and culture of a "typical American city" and the amount of data collected over the years provide a wealth of insight into American life and culture.

Sources for more information:

Center for Middletown Studies

American Radio Works

Middletown Digital Oral History Collections

PBS Interviews

Indiana Public Radio

Migrant Farmworkers

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

From tomatoes to pickles to the iconic corn of Indiana, the state's agricultural character has long been one of its defining characteristics. However, often invisible are the thousands of migrant farmworkers who have traveled from other states and countries to labor in farming communities across the state for over a century. Overwhelmingly, these have been migrant farmworkers from the Southwestern U.S., especially Texas and Latin American countries.

Indiana's agricultural economy represented a large-scale industry. To meet the increasing demand for goods required an ever-increasing demand for field workers. Similar to the shortages in industrial labor, the First World War and subsequent immigration restrictions limited the availability of workers from Eastern and Southern Europe. The agricultural sector advocated for a guest worker program, which recruited ethnic Mexicans to labor in fields until the program ended in 1921. In 1942, the United States and Mexico again entered a binational labor agreement entitled the Bracero Program. This program provided the legal apparatus to recruit thousands of migrant farmworkers into Indiana until it ended in 1964.

The presence of migrant farmworkers initiated numerous investigative reports by journalists, state agencies, ministries, and non-profit organizations. In 1920, the Migrant Ministry (later known as the National Farm Worker Ministry) organized relief measures across fifteen states to alleviate the precarious situation of migrant workers and their families. These measures established literacy programs and liaisons between migrant communities and schools and provided childcare, food, and clothing. In 1974, a report revealed that in Indiana, despite working often fourteen hours a day for a whole week, a household could earn less than $1,600 in six months of stoop work. Indiana, like other states, noted that migrant workers and their families lived in hazardous, overcrowded, and inadequate conditions.

The mistreatment of farmworkers led to mobilization on their behalf and by the workers themselves. In 1965, the Associated Migrant Opportunities Service, Inc., was incorporated by the Indiana Council of Churches, the Roman Catholic Archdioceses of Indianapolis, Lafayette, Gary, and Ft. Wayne-South Bend. AMOS became instrumental in advocating for the state health department to enforce housing regulations in migrant camps. Additionally, AMOS helped migrants buy homes, moving them outside of labor camps. The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), founded in Toledo, Ohio, became an active midwestern organization rooted in picketing and organizing for fair wages and improved contracts in Indiana. They demonstrated against Morgan Packing Company in Warren, Indiana, and numerous college campuses set up boycott committees during FLOC's boycott against Campbell Soup Company in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Migrants: blighted hopes, slighted rights

South Bend Civil Rights Heritage Center

Midwest Migrant Farm Worker Photograph Collection, Indiana Historical Society

Indiana Historical Society Blog

Written by Emiliano Aguilar*

James Mooney

Richmond, Indiana

Photo: American Anthropologist

Born on February 10, 1861 in Richmond, Indiana, James Mooney went to local schools and was predominantly self-taught. He was a voracious reader and traveled great distances to get materials about Native Americans, generally written by other white people. His interests focused largely on Southeastern Native Americans, as well as those in the Great Plains. In 1885, Major J. W. Powell, who had recently founded the Bureau of American Ethnology, offered Mooney the position of anthropologist, directly under himself. Mooney spent the rest of his career working with the Bureau of American Ethnology where he studied Native American Tribes. While he specialized in the Cherokee and Kiowa tribes and their history and culture, Mooney ultimately studied a variety of Native Tribes and became well known for his general knowledge of all Native Tribes.

Mooney is best known for his book *The Ghost-Dance Religion and The Sioux Outbreak of 1890* which chronicled the new religious tradition among the Sioux that broke out in the late 19th century called the Ghost Dance. This was the first full-scale study of a nativist religion arising out of a cultural crisis. The second half of the 19th century was a period of wide spread Indian Removal and saw a lot of fighting between Native Tribes and white soldiers as the various Native Tribes were forced onto reservations. This religious movement was based on a belief that by performing this ritual, the Sioux would be able to drive white people from this land and help restore the Sioux to their ancestral homeland. Mooney helped to chronicle this movement and was known for his unbiased and scientific approach to chronicling the lives of the Native Americans he studied.

Sources for more information:

The Ghost-Dance Religion and The Sioux Outbreak of 1890 by James Mooney

National Museum of Natural History

Field Museum of Natural History

Bureau of American Ethnology

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

New Harmony

New Harmony, Indiana

Photo: Visit New Harmony

During the early part of the 19th century, the town of New Harmony, Indiana was the location of two consecutive attempts at the creation of a Utopian society. Utopian societies can be described as an ideal society that does not yet exist in reality where benevolent governments work to ensure the safety and general welfare of their citizens.

The first attempt at the utopian society, Harmonie (1814-1825), was founded by the Harmonie Society. The Harmonies Society was a group of Separatists from the German Lutheran Church that first were established in Harmonie, Pennsylvania. The leader of this first group of utopia builders was Johann Georg Rapp. Rapp acquired a large tract of land in modern-day New Harmony, Indiana, with the purpose of building a second community in Indiana. The Harmonists were very successful in the ten years that they spent in New Harmony, achieving vast economic success that was very unheard of. Throughout the rest of the country, New Harmony was known as “the wonder of the west.”

Eventually, the Harmonists made the move back to Pennsylvania along the Ohio River and sold the land of New Harmony to Robert Owen who would use it for a communitarian experiment. Robert Owen’s dream of Utopia was one of a perfect society with free education, no class discrimination and personal wealth. Writing about his dream society, Owen was able to convince many prominent scientists and educators to come settle in the new New Harmony. Though Owen was able to recruit many people to join his community, it ultimately ended up in failure for many reasons, largely because it had grown too big, lacked sufficient housing and never produced enough to become self-sufficient.

Sources for more information:

Yale University

Indiana State Archives

Indiana University

New Harmony Documentary

Indiana State Library

Meredith Nicholson

Crawfordsville, Indiana

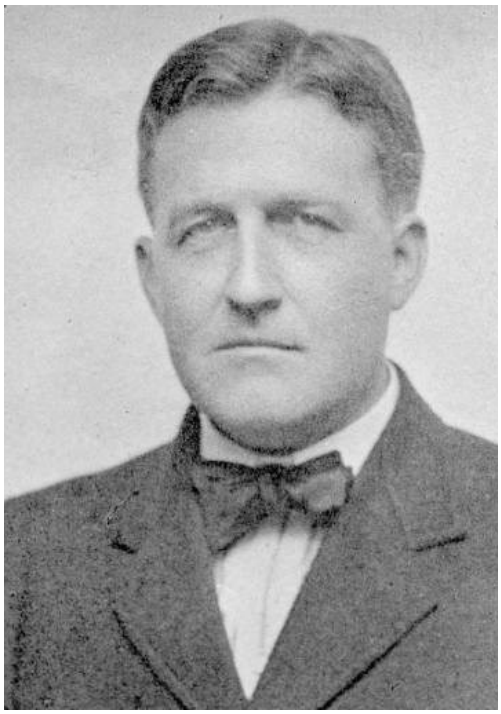


Photo: Indiana Historical Society, P0411

Meredith Nicholson was born in 1866 in Crawfordsville, Indiana and lived until 1947. Along with being a city councilman in Indianapolis and an envoy to Paraguay, Venezuela and Nicaragua, he was also a best-selling author and poet who wrote during the Golden Age of Indiana Literature. Three of his books went on to become national bestsellers, including *The House of a Thousand Candles*, *The Port of Missing Men* and *A Hoosier Chronicle.*

Though he was a talented writer, he struggled in math and ultimately dropped out of high school during his first year. His writing career, flourished, however, and he began writing for popular news outlets such as the *Indianapolis Sentinel*, the *Indianapolis News* and the *Indianapolis Star.* In addition to writing the news, Nicholson also wrote his poetry and prose avidly, releasing a new book every year. Later in his life, after the Great Depression hit, Nicholson would stop writing and devote his time to politics. He had a short career as an Indianapolis politician, but his dedication to the Democratic party was recognized by Franklin D. Roosevelt and he was selected as a diplomat over three ministries.

Nicholson is described as a true Hoosier. His work on the book *The Hoosiers* highlighted Indiana and gave an in-depth cultural history to the state. His life and work were greatly influenced by his deep sense of place, the culture and values of Indiana during the 19th century are reflected in his prose. Along with the many other authors who contributed bestselling literature during the Golden Age of Indiana Literature, the work of Meredith Nicholson helped to establish and define a midwestern cultural identity and solidify what it meant to be a Hoosier.

Sources for more information:

Works by Meredith Nicholson

Indiana Historical Society

Indiana Humanities

Meredith Nicholson: A Writing Life by Ralph D. Gray

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Thubten Jigme Norbu

Bloomington, Indiana

Photo: Indiana University

Thubten Jigme Norbu was born in 1922 and lived until 2008. He was born in a small mountain village of Taktser in the Amdo County of Eastern Tibet and was the eldest brother of the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso. Norbu was recognized as the Taktser Rinpoche, a Tibetan lama of the Gelugpa school of Tibetan Buddhism, and was a writer, civil rights activist and a professor of Tibetan studies. He was one of the first high-profile Tibetans to go into exile after the invasion of the People's Republic of China and was the first to settle in the United States.

When he arrived in the United States, Norbu dedicated his time to educating the world about the atrocities happening in Tibet and the actions of the People's Republic of China. He worked continually for Tibetans-in-Exile and served as the Representative of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government-in-Exile to Japan and North America. He also received a teaching position at Indiana University as a Professor of Tibetan Studies. In 1979, Norbu founded the Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center (TMBCC) in Bloomington, Indiana. Not only was the TMBCC the home of Norbu, his wife and three sons, it also served as a library of Tibetan works and a collection of Tibetan works of art. The mission of the TMBCC was to not only preserve Tibetan and Mongolian cultures in the United States but to provide community for exiles living in the U.S.

In 1995, Norbu co-founded the International Tibet Independence Movement and helped organize three walks for Tibet's independence, including a 7-day walk from Bloomington to Indianapolis and a 45-day walk from Washington D.C. to the UN in New York City.

Sources for more information:

Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center

Interview with Thubten Jigme Norbu

Tibet is My County by Thubten Jigme Norbu and Heinrich Harrer

Remembering the First Rangzen Marcher by Jamyang Norbu

Nuremberg Trials

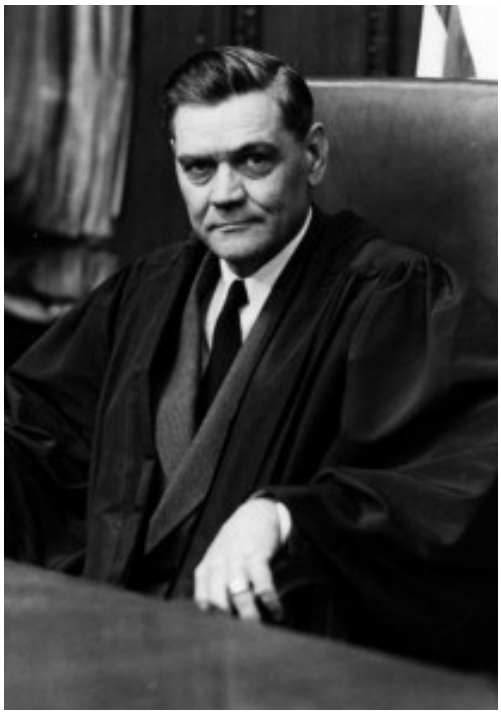


Photo: LSU Law Digital Commons

Both during and after the completion of World War II in September 1945, the Allied nations were debating how to punish the Nazi powers under international law and laws of war after an Allied victory. They eventually determined to hold military tribunals to judge the main perpetrators, those who were the political, military, judicial and economic leadership of Nazi Germany and those who planned and participated in the Holocaust and other war crimes. The first trial was held in Nuremberg, Germany from November 1945 to October 1946. This military tribunal was overseen by a panel of judges from each of the major Allied nations; America, Russia, England and France. This trial judged 24 of the highest Nazi party members that had been captured.

After Germany was divided into a Western and Eastern block, the United States of America decided to hold additional trials for other people that they considered to be war criminals. These trials are commonly referred to as the Subsequent Nuremberg Trials. Hoosier judges were present at two of these trials.

Curtis Grover Shake, from Vincennes, Indiana, presided over The United States of America vs. Carl Krauch, et al., which is more commonly known as the IG Farben Trial. IG Farben was a chemical company that manufactured a variety of items for the Nazi party including Zyklon B, which was used to kill millions of people during the Holocaust.

Frank Richman was from Columbus, Indiana and he was one of the judges in The United States of America vs Friedrich Flick, et al. also known as the Flick trial. Flick KG was another manufacturing company that used slave labor to create various supplies for the Nazi military.

Sources for more information:

Hoosier Justice at Nuremberg by Suzanne S. Bellamy

United States Holocaust Museum—1, 2, 3

Indiana Public Media

University of Colorado Boulder

Indiana State Archives

Melba Phillips

Gibson County, Indiana

Photo: American Institute of Physics

Melba Phillips was born in 1907 and lived until 2004. She was born in Gibson County, Indiana and knew from a very young age that she wanted to grow up to be a physicist. After graduating from Indiana's Oakland City College, she earned a master's degree in physics and began her doctoral studies at the University of California, Berkley studying under Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer at a time when few women pursued careers in science. After her graduation from the PhD program, Phillips continued to work with Oppenheimer, developing an early theoretical contribution to nuclear physics that explained the behavior of accelerated nuclei of radioactive hydrogen atoms. The published findings of their work would be called the Oppenheimer-Phillips effect and is still considered an important contribution to quantum theory today.

After the dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan during World War II, Phillips called for the demilitarization of scientific discovery and spoke out against the use of nuclear warfare. In 1952, during the McCarthy era where the United States government hunted any communist ties hidden in the United States, Phillips invoked her Fifth Amendment rights when asked about being a member of the Communist party and was dismissed from her positions at Brooklyn College and the Columbia Radiation Laboratory.

As a leading physics educator, Phillips earned many awards and citations throughout her lifetime for contributions to science education. She is especially known for developing and implementing physics curriculum and advocating for women at the forefront of science. At the age of 97, Phillips died in Petersburg, Indiana from coronary artery disease.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

American Institute of Physics

The University of Chicago

American Association of Physics Teachers

Indiana Commission for Women

Simon Pokagon

South Bend, Indiana

Photo: Keystone-Mast Collection, UCR/California Museum of Photography, University of California at Riverside

Simon Pokagon was born to Potawatomi chief Leopold Pokagon in 1830 and lived until 1899. When Simon was an adult, he became the next Chief of the Potawatomi's of southwestern Michigan, though he also became well known for being a well-educated Native American author during the nineteenth century and an activist and advocate for the Potawatomi people and Native Americans.

In 1893, Pokagon was in attendance at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Upon his arrival he learned that no Native American had been asked to serve as a dignitary for the fair, though representatives from all over the world were present. Insulted by this, Pokagon wrote *The Red Man's Rebuke* written entirely on birch bark, challenging the way that Native Americans were looked at and treated by the white society. Soon, his work gained national and international attention, making Pokagon a world celebrity and Pokagon was asked to speak at the Exposition.

As an activist for the rights and treatment of Native Americans, Pokagon worked toward trying to get reparations for the unfair treatment and treaties signed with many tribes and the United States government. Twice he met with President Abraham Lincoln and he also met with President Ulysses S. Grant to try and establish fair considerations for past Native American relations. Throughout his life, Pokagon's writings reflected his work and demonstrated the pride that came with being a Native American as well as the struggle he faced living in a white man's world. Through his writing, his voice as a Native American advocate shone through and was able to connect white society to the struggles and harsh treatment of his people.

Sources for more information:

The Red Man's Rebuke by Simon Pokagon

Birch Bark Boolets

Ohio State University

Chief Simon Pokagon: "The Indian Longfellow" by David H. Dickason

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Cole Porter

Peru, Indiana

Photo: Library of Congress

Cole Porter was born into a wealthy family 1891 in Peru, Indiana and lived until 1964. He was a classically trained musician, lyricist and composer who followed his love of music into a career in musical theatre. After attending school at Harvard and serving briefly in the military during World War I, Cole Porter began to write and compose musical numbers for Broadway. He began to gain success for his work during the 1920's and by 1930 he was one of Broadway's most popular composers. Among his best-known shows are Anything Goes (1934), Kiss Me, Kate (1948), Can-Can (1953), Silk Stockings (1954), and High Society (1955), and among his most renowned songs are "Begin the Beguine," "Let's Do It," "Brush Up Your Shakespeare," and Yale's "Bulldog! Bulldog! Bow, wow, wow!"

Porter's life took a tragic turn when in 1937 he was in a terrible horseback riding accident and both his legs were crushed by a horse. Initially, Porter was unable to walk and suffered from chronic pain, which led the doctors to suggesting he have his legs amputated. However, Porter refused and instead underwent thirty-four surgeries through the rest of his life in order to restore function to his legs. The bacterial infections that came with the initial accident and following surgeries rendered him unable to walk for the rest of his life and he was confined to a wheelchair.

Despite mobility, Porter still held many successes in musical theatre. Many popular artists such as Judy Garland and Frank Sinatra have borrowed from the Cole Porter songbook and done renditions of their own. Additionally, he was one of few composers at the time whose music and lyrics were equally important.

Sources for more information:

Cole Porter: A Biography by William McBrien

PBS

From Inspiration to Archive: Cole Porter's "Night and Day" by Matthew Shaftel

Songwriters Hall of Fame

Yale University

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Potawatomi Trail of Death

Northern Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

In 1818, two thirds of the territory in Indiana belonged to the American Indians. Frontiersmen looked toward the government to open up territorial lands for settlement. In 1830, Congress passed the Indian Removal Act allowing President Andrew Jackson to forcibly remove Native Americans to open up the frontier for westward expansion. In 1832, the U.S. government entered negotiations with Potawatomi leaders with the Treaty of Tippecanoe. According to the treaty, a reserve would be established for the Potawatomi along the Yellow River, and they would receive an annual payment in exchange for their land and assistance moving to new lands in Indiana Territory. Three of the four Potawatomi chiefs in Northern Indiana signed the treaty. Chief Menominee did not, citing it as fraudulent. He accused the negotiation agents of getting the chiefs drunk and getting their consent while intoxicated. In 1836, the U.S. government repealed this treaty with another treaty at the Yellow River, forcing Potawatomi to sell their reservation land and move west. The Potawatomi people were given the deadline of August 5, 1838, to vacate their land. Some Potawatomi left before the deadline, but Chief Menominee and other Potawatomi people stayed. White settlers began occupying Menominee's village in anticipation of their departure. Some agents and militia moved into Menominee's village and arrested him and other tribal leaders. Under the armed guards, 850 Potawatomi were rounded up, including Menominee, and marched to Kansas on September 4, 1838. The exodus of the Potawatomi was ill planned. Over 40 Potawatomi died, mostly children, due to the heat and lack of food and water. Those remaining arrived in Osawatomie, Kansas on November 4, 1838.

Sources for more information:

Potawatomi Trail of Death

Potawatomi Trail of Death Association

Fulton County Historical Society

Hoosiers and the American Story
By James H. Madison and Lee Ann Sandweiss

Indiana Historical Society

Madelyn Pugh

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: The New York Times

Madelyn Pugh (Davis) was born in 1921 and lived until 2011. She was born in Indianapolis, Indiana and first became interested in writing when she served as the co-editor of the Shortridge High School newspaper alongside Kurt Vonnegut. She later attended the Indiana University School of Journalism and began her career in radio writing in Indianapolis.

During the second World War, Madelyn and her family moved to California. Due to the war, there was a shortage of qualified male writers which led a lot of women, like Madelyn Pugh, to step up in their place in the workforce. Madelyn started her career in California as a writer for radio, but after meeting Bob Carroll, she began to work as a writer for television shows such as *The Steve Allen Show* and *My Favorite Husband*.

Perhaps the most influential television program that Madelyn was able to write for was *I Love Lucy*. Madelyn met Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz before the show began and wrote a vaudeville act for them, which later became the act that led to the pilot episode of *I Love Lucy*. Madelyn served as a show writer for *I Love Lucy* and the various spin-offs of the series for over 40 years, receiving multiple Emmy nominations for her work in writing.

I Love Lucy was a groundbreaking sitcom that changed American television forever. *I Love Lucy* was the most watched sitcom in a time when sitcoms were fairly new to television. Most importantly, *I Love Lucy* pushed the boundaries of what was and wasn't allowed to be aired on TV and Madelyn Pugh played an influential role in writing powerful, relatable and memorable characters and storylines that have stood the test of time.

Sources for more information:

Archive of American Television Interview

The Writer Speaks — Interview with the Writers Guild Foundation

Laughing with Lucy: My Life with America's Leading Lady by Madelyn Pugh Davis

Indiana Broadcast Pioneers

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Ernie Pyle

Dana, Indiana

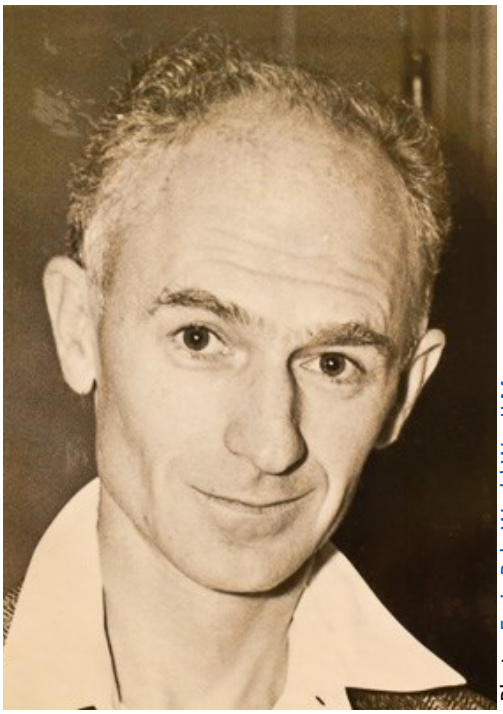


Photo: Ernie Pyle World War II Museum

Ernie Pyle was born in 1900 in Dana, Indiana and lived until 1945. He was a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and war correspondent during World War II. Though he grew up on a farm, Pyle had a dream of a more adventurous life and soon after graduating from high school he enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve during World War I. The war ended before he could be transferred, however, so after his enlistment Pyle decided to attend Indiana University to study journalism and economics. There he began his first journalism job working as a reporter for the *Indiana Daily Student*. However, he quickly learned that he did not enjoy being bound to his desk while he was writing.

Dropping out of Indiana University a semester before graduation, Pyle moved to LaPorte, Indiana to work as a reporter for the *LaPorte Herald.* Eventually, as his style of writing became more well-known, Pyle moved to Washington D.C. to join *The Washington Daily News* where he wrote a well known aviation column. However, his true inspiration came from writing about people and soon he left his job to travel across North and South America writing human interest pieces about the people he met and the places he saw along his travels.

What Pyle is remembered best for, however, are the years he spent his time as a war correspondent during World War II. Starting in 1940, Pyle traveled to many different places including Europe, North Africa and Asia to follow the many different battles and write about the experiences and soldiers fighting there. His stories about the average American soldier connected the people back home to the firsthand experiences of the frontlines of the war. His work made a name for soldiers who might have otherwise remained unknown.

Sources for more information:

Indiana University

Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Public Library

The Ernie Pyle WWII Museum

Writings of Ernie Pyle Documentary from C-SPAN

The Soldier's Friend: A Life of Ernie Pyle by Ray E. Boomhower

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Jean Baptiste Richardville (Pinšiwa)

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Photo: Smithsonian American Art Museum

Richardville (*Pinšiwa*) was the Principal Chief of the Myaamia people from approximately 1816 until his death on August 13, 1841. His leadership was instrumental during the tumultuous decades of American expansion into Indiana Territory culminating in the removals of the Myaamia Nation in 1846, after his death.

Richardville was born in *Kiihkayonki,* a Myaamia village on the west bank of the Maumee River (*Kociihsasiipi*) at present-day Fort Wayne in 1761. He was born to Tahkamwah (Marie Louise Richardville) and Joseph Drouet de Richardville. His mother was an influential *akimaakwia (female leader)* and his father was a Canadian trader. Richardville was born into an influential Myaamia family with ties to both Pacanne and Mihšihkinaahkwa (Little Turtle). Through these kinship ties, he rose to a position of leadership. Similarly, his father, an influential trader in Indiana territory and Canada, exposed his son to Euro-American trade negotiations and business acumen. Richardville spoke multiple languages and for several years resided in Quebec with his father but returned to his mother's family.

In the early period of Indiana's statehood, the U.S. turned its interests to a rapid acquisition of lands ceded by the British at the end of the American Revolution and the successful conclusion of the War of 1812. President Thomas Jefferson completed the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory in 1803 and urged Indiana's territorial governor, William H. Harrison to use all means necessary to acquire the Myaamia homelands. Richardville was uniquely qualified to negotiate the best outcomes for his people under tremendous political and economic pressure.

Between 1818 and 1840, Richardville actively represented his people in multiple meetings and councils and was a signatory on five treaties negotiated between the U.S. and the Myaamia. His position in these negotiations initially began with the complete and utter refusal to cede lands and move west stating, "There I shall never go, nor will my people." As the years passed, Richardville and his people witnessed the forced and voluntary removals of Native communities in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. As an intermediary who understood the changing political landscape, he was able to successfully negotiate delays and concessions.

Richardville was unable to stop the juggernaut of U.S. expansion he encountered. He was, however, successful in preventing the removal of the Myaamia longer than any other Native community in Indiana and negotiated for and secured lands in Indian territory for his people. As each successive treaty encroached further and further into Myaamia heartland, Richardville arranged for the payment of outstanding Myaamia debts to traders, the retention of some Myaamia lands into individual allotments, and secured provisions that allowed certain Myaamia families the right to remain in Indiana. Richardville and other Myaamia leaders awarded private sections of land and provided a home for extended families and refugees from Kansas who returned to their homelands.

Sources for more information:

Richardville, Jean Baptiste

Aacimotaatiiyankwi Stories from the Land

The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Myaamia National Archives

Written by Dawn G. Marsh*

James Whitcomb Riley

Greenfield, Indiana

Photo: Library of Congress

James Whitcomb Riley was born in Greenfield, Indiana in 1849 and lived until 1916. Though he had trouble focusing on his school work, Riley loved to read and write from a very young age, particularly poetry. He began to practice his writing as a young adult after leaving school by becoming a sign maker and submitting poems to local newspapers. Eventually, he found his way onto the staff of the *Greenfield News*. Following a brief amount of time working at his father's law office, Riley then moved on to writing for the *Indianapolis Journal.* Alongside his work as a newspaper writer, Riley also traveled across Indiana along the lecture circuit and would read poetry at universities and theaters. Not only was he a skilled speaker, but he was also great at imitating Indiana dialects which eventually earned him the title of the "Hoosier Poet".

During the 1880's, Riley's fame began to rise and by the 1890's, he was a bestselling author. His collection of children's poems called *Rhymes of Childhood* sold millions of copies and he achieved high status and fame in society for his work. Throughout his lifetime, Riley published over fifty volumes of poetry that provided a whimsical and childish insight into small -town America and midwestern life.

Overall, his greatest achievements with his writing has been helping to establish a midwestern cultural identity and beginning what would be called the Golden Age of Indiana Literature. Riley is still highly regarded to this day in Indiana, through the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association and the James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for children, and throughout the world as "America's best-loved poet".

Sources for more information:

James Whitcomb Riley Museum Home

Indiana State Library

Indiana Historical Society

James Whitcomb Riley Recordings

Works by James Whitcomb Riley

Bob Ross

Muncie, Indiana

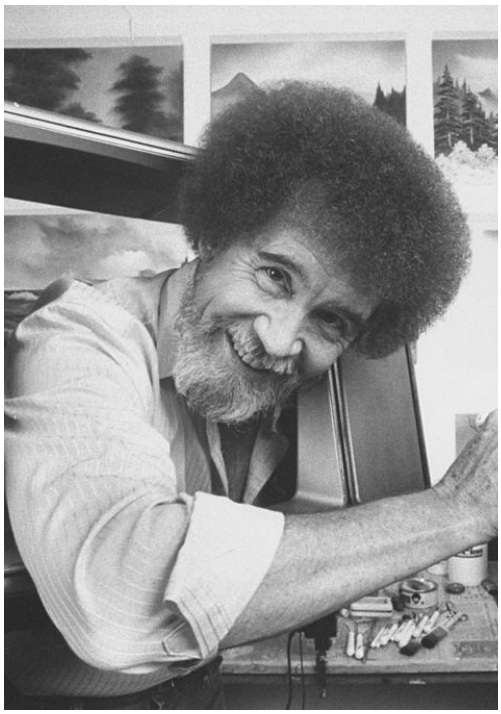


Photo: Bob Ross Inc.

Bob Ross (Robert Norman Ross) was born in 1942 and lived until 1995. He was a beloved painter, art teacher and the creator and host of the PBS television show *The Joy of Painting*. Though he was born and raised in Florida, he spent a large part of his career in Muncie, Indiana where *The Joy of Painting* was filmed.

After joining the United States Air Force at 18-years old, Bob Ross learned how to paint in his free time and was exposed to many scenic landscapes in his travels across the United States that became his inspiration for his work, particularly in Alaska where he was stationed. In his television show, Bob Ross instructed on different painting techniques to create the beautiful landscapes he saw in his travels. While he gave people the opportunity to paint along with him by naming each of the paints he was using, he also taught techniques that could be used to create your own paintings.

Throughout the 11-year run of *The Joy of Painting*, Bob Ross did not take a pay check or sell any of the paintings that he made on his show. Rather, he donated each of the paintings to PBS stations across the country so that they could be auctioned off in fundraisers to support the public broadcast station.

Through his show, Bob Ross connected thousands of Americans to art and nature in the comfort of their own homes. He believed that everyone had the ability to create art, even those who did not consider themselves artists. Through telecommunication, Bob Ross brought art, inspiration and happiness into the homes of many Americans and is still remembered today for his impact in the art world.

Sources for more information:

Bob Ross: The Happy Painter — PBS Documentary

Happy Clouds, Happy Trees: The Bob Ross Phenomenon by Kristin G. Congdon, Doug Blandy, and Danny Coeyman

Bob Ross Inc.

Minnetrista

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Eero Saarinen

Columbus, Indiana

Photo: Library of Congress

Eero Saarinen was born in 1910 and lived until 1961. Originally born in Finland, Saarinen and his family immigrated to the United States when he was just thirteen years old. There he was raised in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan where he received a prestigious art education taking classes in sculpture and furniture design at the Cranbrook Academy of Art. Through his coursework he began to develop a passion in furniture design and ended up attending the Académie de la Grande Chaumière in Paris. In 1934 he returned to the United States to study at the Yale School of Architecture.

When he returned to the United States, he took up a job at his father's architectural firm, Saarinen, Swansen and Associates. He first began to gain recognition through his work at his father's firm as he designed many prize-winning pieces of furniture, such as his Tulip chair. During his time at the firm, he also designed the Gateway Arch National Park in St. Louis, taking first prize for the competition in 1948. He and his father had both entered the competition separately, though Eero would be the one to win it. With the recognition that came with his successful works, Saarinen was invited the design for many nationally known corporations and universities such as John Deere, IBM, CBS, Vassar, Yale University and many more. After his father's death in 1950, Saarninen would go on to opening his own architectural firm.

In Columbus, Indiana, Saarinen is known for being the architect of three major projects: the Cummins Inc. Irwin Conference Center, Miller House and Garden and the North Christian Church.

Sources for more information:

Library of Congress

Yale University Archives

The National Building Museum

Saarinen's Work in Columbus, Indiana

Canadian Centre for Architecture

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Sanborn Maps

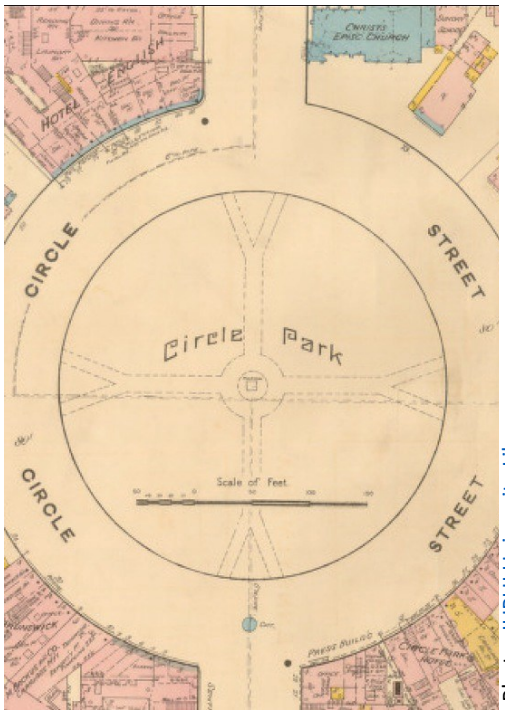


Photo: IUPUI University Library

The Sanborn Map Company was a publisher of detailed maps of over ten thousand U.S. cities and towns throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. Sanborn maps were first created to allow fire insurance companies to assess liabilities in urbanized areas in the United States. The collection consisted of many large-scale maps dating from as early as 1867 which detailed the industrial, commercial and residential makeup of cities. Sanborn maps not only laid out historical buildings and enterprises, they demonstrated important, minute details such as dimensions and names of streets, property boundaries, locations of water mains and much more. For of the wealth of information they provide and the long span of history that they cover, Sanborn maps are unrivaled in the information they can provide on the structure and use of buildings throughout many American cities.

In the late 18th century , insurance maps in London began to become more commonplace to allow insurance companies to assess fire risks in potential investments. By the mid 19th-century, this process was adopted by American insurance companies. Daniel Alfred Sanborn began in work in the United States creating insurance maps in 1866 and within a couple of decades, his company became the largest and most successful map company. By 1916, the D.A. Sanborn National Insurance Diagram Bureau was operating as a monopoly. However, between the 1930's and the 1950's, new methods of tracking liabilities for insurance companies began to develop and the profit of Sanborn maps began to fall. Eventually, Warren Buffet purchased a large portion of the company's shares and new maps ceased to be created in 1961. Now the maps can be largely found in archives and special collections across many cities and are largely used by the Census Bureau, municipal planning agencies and historians..

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

Library of Congress

IUPUI University Library

Indiana State Library

University of California Berkeley

William Edouard Scott

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: New York Public Library

Born in Indianapolis in 1884, William Edouard Scott was a famous African American painter who painted Black people in an uplifting way. This was a part of the Harlem Renaissance and a movement known as the New Negro. This movement fought to break away from the servile and subjugation of depictions of Black people in artwork to this point. His style was conservative rather than abstract and he was generally conservative in his portrayals of blackness. Scott was well known for his portraits, Haitian scenes and murals, especially those depicting Black people. Overall, his work challenged the standard depiction of African Americans in art during the first half of the 20th century.

William Edouard Scott studied at Manual Training High School in 1903 after which he moved to Chicago to study art. He painted several murals around the city and then moved to France to continue studying art techniques. Because he was working outside of the United States, Scott was able to advance his own career further due to less racial prejudice. After completing his formal training, Scott earned a Rosenwald Foundation grant to travel to Haiti and paint Black life there. One of his favorite places in Haiti to paint were the lively markets. Many of his paintings there set standards of equality, not just between the people in the painting, but also between the viewer and those in the painting. He also did some painting in Alabama to study African Americans in different communities.

He displayed his works in a variety of locations and exhibitions that spanned different movements from the Harlem Renaissance to the Civil Rights Movement. He also painted murals in parks all over Chicago as a part of the Illinois Federal Art Project under FDR's New Deal. Scott died in May 15, 1964.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Public Media

Michael Rosenfeld Gallery

Illinois Historical Art Project

Chicago Public Library

The Johnson Collection

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

The Seahorse Cabaret

South Bend, Indiana

Photo: St. Joseph County Public Library

In 1971, South Bend, Indiana resident Gloria Frankel opened the very first LGBTQ club in South Bend called The Seahorse Cabaret. Frankel was an LGBTQ activist throughout the 1970's and 1980's who worked to build a tightknit community among LGBTQ people within South Bend, raise awareness for HIV/AIDS and improve the civil rights of LGBTQ people in the city and in the state. Through advertising and word of mouth, news of the Seahorse Cabaret began to spread around South Bend and the club became extremely successful. Not only did it become a safe space for gay patrons, it was also used to host pageants which created a community for drag performers and transgender people as well.

However, though the Seahorse Cabaret was meant to be a safe haven for the LGBTQ community, there were still many prejudices and discriminatory laws that patrons faced outside of the bar. Many patrons reported being harassed or made uncomfortable by police who would patrol outside of the bar, simply because it was a gay bar. Throughout the 1970's, 1980's, and even into the 1990's, the bar was frequently raided by police. Many people who went to the bar could face jail time or losing their jobs for being openly gay. A city-ordinance even prohibited same-sex dancing in South Bend until 1974 where people caught engaging in the act could be arrested. Frankel herself worked with city lawmakers to abolish this law in 1974. In the 1980's, the Seahorse Cabaret was burnt down by a group of arsonists, however Frankel was able to rebuild shortly after with the support of the LGBTQ community. Despite the hardships that the club faced, it remained open and served as a model for many other LGBTQ bars to open throughout Indiana.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Indiana University South Bend Archives

Then and Now: The Origins and Development of the Gay Community in South Bend by Ben Wineland

Michiana Women Leaders

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

May Wright Sewall

Photo: IndyStar

Indianapolis, Indiana

May (Mary) Wright Sewall was born in 1844 and lived until 1920. She was born and raised in Wisconsin and was both homeschooled by her father and attended public school. Her father, Philander Wright, believed that women and men should have equal opportunities and contributed to May's education, encouraging her to pursue higher education as well. Sewall attended college at Northwestern Female College in Evanston, Illinois studying education and soon married Edwin W. Thompson, who was also an educator. The pair moved to Franklin, Indiana where they would continue their careers as educators and school administrators. Shortly after they moved to Indianapolis, Indiana to teach at Shortridge High School.

After Edwin's death in 1875, May met and married Theodore Lovett Sewall in October of 1880. Their marriage was considered to be an equal partnership, something unique for the time period, and the two were very liberal-minded, hosting parties and gatherings for Indianapolis' liberal, intellectual community. Theodore encouraged May's interest in the women's movement and social reform, specifically educational advancement for women and women's suffrage.

Sewall became best known for her work with the women's suffrage movement, especially her ability to organize diverse groups of women to work together toward common interests. In 1878 she helped form the Indianapolis Equal Suffrage Society and became active in campaigns for female suffrage both in Indiana and nationally. In addition to many titles she held, she also served as president of the International Council of Women, she became a chairman of the National Council of Women and she helped organize the World's Congress of Representative Women.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

May Wright Sewall: An Indiana Reformer by Jane Stephens

Fighting for Equality by Ray E. Boomhower

The Indianapolis Propylaeum

Indiana Commission for Women

Red Skelton

Vincennes, Indiana

Photo: Library of Congress

Red Skelton was born in Vincennes, Indiana in 1913 and lived until 1997. Growing up in an extremely impoverished family, Skelton began working doing odd jobs at the early age of seven and eventually dropped out of school around thirteen or fourteen. Though growing up was not particularly easy for him, Skelton had a natural ability for making his friends and family laugh. Early on in his life he began to pursue this talent as a potential career as a performer, leaving home and taking on roles in as many theater and circus roles as he could get. Throughout his young teenage years, Skelton traveled the burlesque and vaudeville circuit performing throughout the Midwest.

After his marriage to Edna Stillwell, his vaudeville partner, Red Skelton's star began to rise and he began to take on more and more work in vaudeville, radio and movies. In 1937 his radio career began, first with guest appearances and then with his own regularly scheduled show. In 1938, he made his first movie debut and would continue to star in a total of 19 films throughout the 1940's and 1950's. However, Skelton's dream was to eventually make it to television at a time when television was still relatively new. In 1951 his dream came true with the premier of his comedy variety show, The Red Skelton Show. The show received very high ratings and ran until 1971.

Throughout his life, Red Skelton was dedicated to making others laugh. Though he came from hard beginnings, his life's work was spent in the plight of making everyone he interacted with happy. His legacy as a performer is well remembered, leaving behind very big shoes to fill.

Sources for more information:

Red Skelton Official Website

Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy

Indiana Historical Society

Red Skelton: The Mask Behind the Mask by Wes Gehring

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Frances Slocum

Peru, Indiana

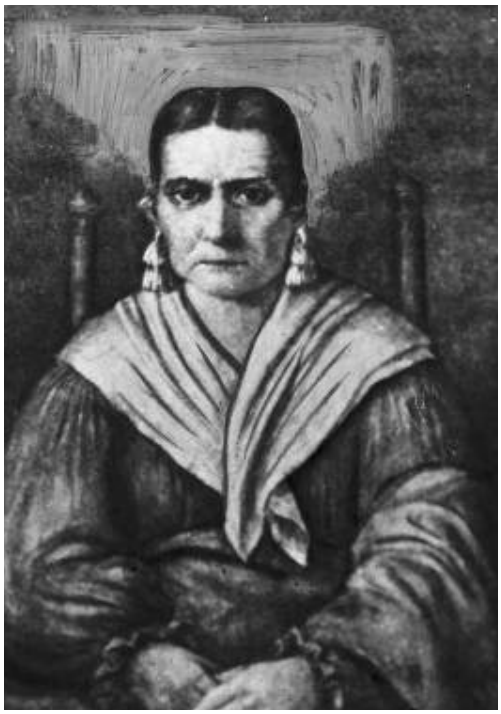


Photo: Bass Photo Co. Collection, Indiana Historical Society

Frances Slocum (Maconaquah) was born in 1773 and lived until 1847. Born into a Quaker family in Rhode Island, Slocum was later captured by members of the Delaware tribe in Pennsylvania when she was just five years old. After her capture, the tribe took her back to Indiana where she was raised among the Delaware people. When she got older, Slocum married Shepoconah, a man who would become the Miami tribe chief and she joined the Miami tribe, relocating to Peru, Indiana.

As an adult, after being raised for the majority of her life by the Delaware and Miami people, Slocum made contact again with her Quaker family who wanted her to return home. However, Slocum decided to stay with her Miami family in Indiana as she had fully assimilated into the Native American culture and started her own family.

After the passage of the Indian Removal Act in 1830, the Miami tribe signed treaties with the U.S. government that threatened them with removal and loss of their land in Indiana, pushing them to federal territory west of the Mississippi River. However, with Frances Slocum's ties to the white community, her presence among the Miami allowed for the tribe to further delay their removal. As a white woman, Slocum was able to obtain multiple land grants that allowed the Miami tribe to own hundreds of acres of land that they lived on in Indiana.

Through communication and appeals to the U.S. government, Slocum was able to exempt over half the members of her tribe from removal in Indiana. Many were also able to return to Indiana after their removal. These individuals would be the ones who would establish the present-day Miami Nation of Indiana.

Sources for more information:

Biography of Frances Slocum, The Lost Sister of Wyoming by John F. Meginness

Hoosiers and the American Story by James H. Madison and Lee Ann Sandweiss

Indiana Historical Society

Indiana Historical Bureau

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Small Town U.S.A.

Alexandria, Indiana

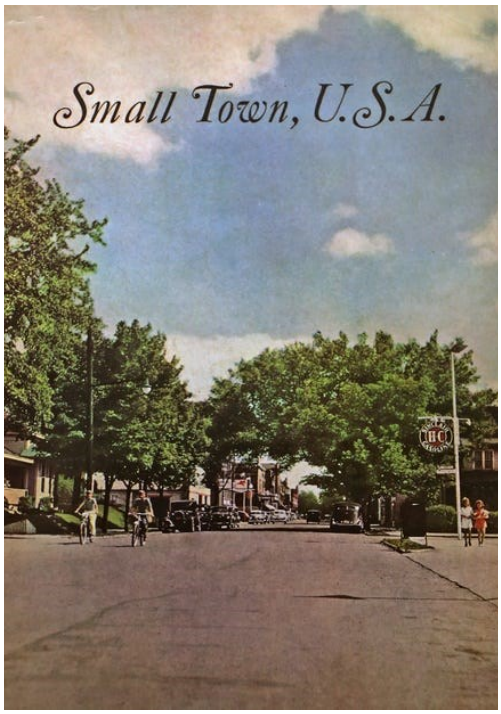


Photo: IndyStar

During World War II, fame and prosperity was brought to the small town of Alexandria, Indiana in the form for wartime propaganda, *Small Town U.S.A.* All across the country, men were being shipped off to fight in a brutal war against the Nazis. Many allies of the United States during the war had gathered preconceived notions about who the United States was based on movies and television coming from the country. In an effort to promote a better image of the US, the US government created a plan to share a book highlighting the peaceful, small town American lifestyle.

The government began by surveying hundreds of American towns all throughout the country and the United States Office of War finally settled on Alexandria as "the typical American town". In the spring of 1943, writer Betsy Emmons and photographer David Eisendrath were dispatched to this small town in Indiana to record the life and community there over a two week period. Though historians aren't exactly sure why Alexandria was chosen, it won out over many other tiny towns throughout the Midwest and brought a new notoriety to Alexandria.

The booklet was distributed in 1943 by "This Week" magazine, telling the story of America. It told the story of agriculture and industry, hundreds of men in service and in war-related industries, church suppers, garden clubs and beautiful tree-lined streets. Similar propaganda would be continued to be run throughout the beginning of US entrance into the war with six other publications like this one to follow. In 1993, the booklet was reintroduced as a 50th anniversary addition and to this day, Alexandria, Indiana is still referred to as "Small Town U.S.A."

Sources for more information:

IndyStar

Alexandria Monroe Historic Museum

Culture and Propaganda by Sarah Ellen Graham

The Herald Bulletin

Sterilization Laws in Indiana

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

In 1907 J. Frank Hanley, the Governor of Indiana, signed the first eugenics based sterilization law in the United States. Eugenics, the study of how to arrange reproduction within a human population to increase the occurrence of heritable traits or characteristics regarded as desirable, became large in the Progressive era, well before World War II. The belief at the time was that being poor, mental problems, and criminal behavior were connected to genetics and able to be passed down in families.

Eugenics in the United States included research on families to "breed" out undesirable traits, better baby contests, and sterilization of individuals the state determined should not have children. This allowed certain individuals institutionalized for mental disorders and prisons, especially poor individuals, minorities, and women to be sterilized against their consent and not be allowed the choice to have children. Some of these individuals were not even told the procedure took place, and remained unaware until they later tried to have families. Dr. Harry C. Sharp performed sterilizations in prisons on men by pioneering vasectomy procedures.

The Indiana Supreme Court deemed the law unconstitutional in 1921 through *Williams et al. v. Smith,* due to the Fourteenth Amendment. A new one was passed in 1927 by Governor Edward Jackson when eugenic practices began picking up through the rest of the country. The second law would not be repealed until 1974 by which time 2,500 sterilizations were carried out, although improper record keeping means that the exact number is unable to be verified.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Indiana Medical History Museum

Indiana State Library

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Gene Stratton-Porter

Wabash County, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society, P0391

Gene Stratton-Porter was born in 1863 in Wabash County, Indiana and lived until 1924. Among many things, Stratton-Porter was an author, a nature photographer, a silent film producer and an environmental advocate. From a very young age, Gene Stratton-Porter was very interested in wildlife, particularly birds. She was also an avid reader interested in art and music and learned to play many instruments. Though she didn't do so well in school and eventually dropped out, she still devoted a lot of her young life to the arts and nature.

After marrying her husband Charles Porter in 1886, Stratton-Porter began to take up writing professionally as a way to earn her own income independently and express herself. The nature she observed at her home in the Limberlost Cabin were the inspirations of her many short stories, novels and essays. Throughout her career, Stratton-Porter wrote twenty-six books, a few of which became best-sellers. In addition to writing, Stratton-Porter also took up photography and art, taking photographs and drawing sketches of the wildlife that inspired her.

Gene Stratton-Porter's connections to nature eventually led her to becoming more active during the growing conservation movement in Indiana. Overall, through her work she wanted to instill her love of the environment in others and draw attention to environmental issues, such as oil drilling and deforestation. She fought alongside other conservationists to protect the wetlands of northeastern Indiana by petitioning the Indiana legislature and helping to establish the Izaak Walton League, a national conservation group.

Sources for more information:

Voice of the Limberlost Documentary

Indiana Historical Society

The Indiana Historian by The Indiana Historical Bureau

Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Polly Strong

Vincennes, Indiana

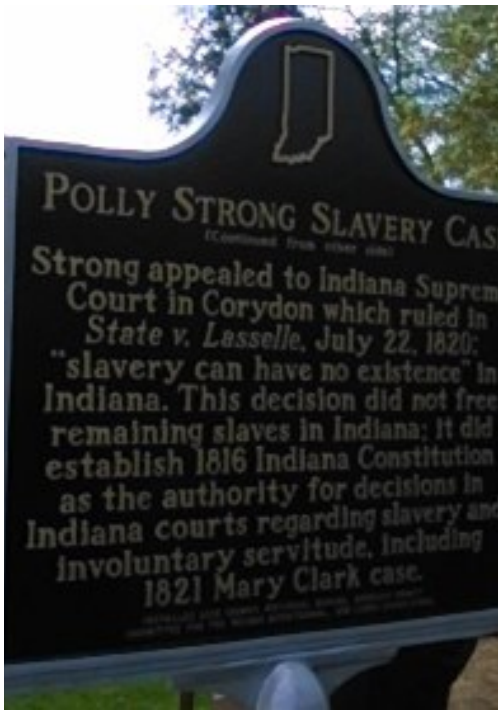


Photo: Indiana Historical Bureau

Polly Strong was born into slavery in 1796. In 1806, Polly was purchased by Hyacinth Lasselle, a prominent white slave owner and innkeeper in Vincennes, Indiana. However, the 1816 Indiana Constitution outlawed all slavery in the state of Indiana, though Polly Strong still remained enslaved. At the time of the passing of the 1816 Indiana Constitution, many were in disagreement over whether the outlawing of slavery included all those already in slavery or if it only prevented the selling and buying of new slaves. In 1820, Polly pursued legal action by the Knox County Circuit Court to free her from slavery, however the court ruled in Hyacinth Lasselle's favor.

Following her attempts to free herself in the local courts, Polly turned to the Indiana Supreme Court in Corydon, Indiana to plead her case. The case *State v. Lasselle* occurred on July 22, 1820 where the courts ruled in Polly Strong's favor, freeing her from slavery. Though the decision of this case did not free all the remaining slaves in Indiana, it set the precedent for all legal cases of this manor in the state—"slavery can have no existence in Indiana".

Despite the Knox County Circuit Court ruling, Polly Strong continued to fight for her own freedom and by doing so, helped establish freedom for many others throughout the state of Indiana. By bringing her case to the Supreme Court, she made many aware that slavery was still happening throughout the state despite it being outlawed four years prior. She communicated a problem in the law and actively worked to have it changed. The ruling on her case allowed many others to seek their own freedom, including Mary Clark the following year.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Indiana State Library

Indiana Law Review

Almost a Free State by Paul Finkelman

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Syrian-Lebanese Peddlers in Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Photo: Fort Wayne Gazette (1898) Found in *Traces*

Peddlers are salespeople who offer their customers a variety of small goods, often by knocking on people's doors or approaching passers-by on city streets. Many of the first Syrian-Lebanese immigrants to the city of Fort Wayne, Indiana, got their start in peddling. From 1880 to 1920, Southern and Eastern Europeans, Latin Americans, and Middle Easterners joined Hoosiers of northwestern European, African American, and Native American descent to labor in factories and on farms during a period of rapid economic growth in the state. Despite their presence in many different industries, Middle Easterners became particularly well-known as street peddlers, selling tapestries, lace, buttons, needles, thread, collar stays, and seam rippers from a pushcart or a backpack.

By World War I, Arabic-speaking Christians and Muslims from what are today the countries of Syria and Lebanon had established vibrant communities in Indianapolis, Terre Haute, Michigan City, and Fort Wayne, which was once erroneously dubbed "the largest Syrian colony outside of New York" by a reporter for the *Indianapolis Star*. Though Syrian-Lebanese communities in the other cities would grow to be much larger, Fort Wayne played an especially prominent role as the earliest major railroad transit point from Indiana to other Midwestern locales for recently-arrived migrants. In 1898 Syrian Orthodox Christian Bishop Raphael Hawaweeny said that the city was home to 424 Orthodox peddlers, second only to New York. This estimate counted the number of Arabic-speaking peddlers who came through Fort Wayne, not the number of people who actually stayed there. In addition, it only surveyed the Orthodox Christians, not the Melkite, Maronite, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Christians as well as Sunni and Shia Muslims who arrived. By 1900, a more accurate estimate of the permanent Arabic-speaking residents of Fort Wayne was likely 100 to 150. The majority of them rented rooms in large downtown brick buildings located near the Allen County Courthouse from the two most successful Syrian-Lebanese merchants in town, Salem Bashara and Kaleel Teen.

For such a small population, however, they made a sizeable impression on this German-majority city whose total population was 45,000 in 1900. Middle and upper-class residents of Fort Wayne were sometimes shocked that Syrian-Lebanese women as well as men peddled, believing that their proper place was in the home. All these peddlers, often referred to as "Orientals" or Asians, faced prejudice, discrimination, and sometimes violence.

Because most members of this Arabic-speaking community lived and worked together, however, they were able to offer one another protection and support. They found joy especially on Sundays, when this community of mainly Christians gathered together to eat Levantine food and sometimes dance after attending religious services at one of the Catholic parishes or another church. They passed along their folksongs, legends, and traditions to their children, who recorded some of them for other Arab Americans in the 1960s.

Sources for more information:

"Immigrants, Cars, Cities, and a New Indiana"

Traces Magazine

Smithsonian – Interview with Elizabeth Beshara

Smithsonian – Folk song performed by Charles Bojrab

Becoming American by Alixa Naff

Written by Edward E. Curtis IV*

Chuck Taylor Converse All Stars

Brown County, Indiana

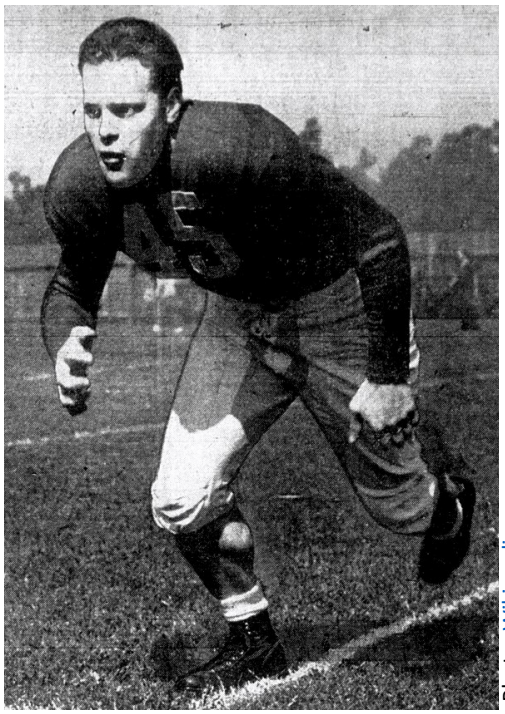


Photo: Wikimedia

The Converse Rubber Shoe Company, located in Massachusetts, was founded 17 years after James Naismith invented basketball with a soccer ball and two peach baskets, in 1908. The original owner was 47 year old Marquis Mills Converse. Originally their shoes they were known for were rubber galoshes, designed to protect the feet in wet weather. In order to boost sales they started designing canvas shoes with a non-skid rubber bottom, to prevent layoffs of their employees during the warmer dry summer season. They also produced other items like rubber automobile tires. After the company filed for bankruptcy due to the economic collapse the company was sold in 1939 to the Stone family, and then sold again in 1972 to the Eltra Corporation.

Charles "Chuck" Hollis Taylor was born on June 24, 1901 in Brown County, Indiana. He played as a guard on the Columbus High School basketball team where he became a two-time all-state team selection. On May 26, 1950 he married actress Ruth Adler until their divorce in 1957. He married Lucille Kimbrell on December 11,1962, until his death on June 23, 1969 in Port Charlotte, Florida.

Chuck Taylor was hired in 1922 by S. R "Bob" Pletz of the Converse Rubber Company to be a salesman and coach for the shoe's club team the Converse All Stars. Although the original shoe, the Converse All Star, had been designed earlier, he helped refine the design to give better support and flexibility and the star-shape logo patch was added that eventually carried Chuck Taylor's signature. The team promoted the shoe by traveling to different towns in the Midwest region.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

Chuck Taylor Collection

Smithsonian Magazine

Indiana Public Library

Marshall "Major" Taylor

Indianapolis, Indiana

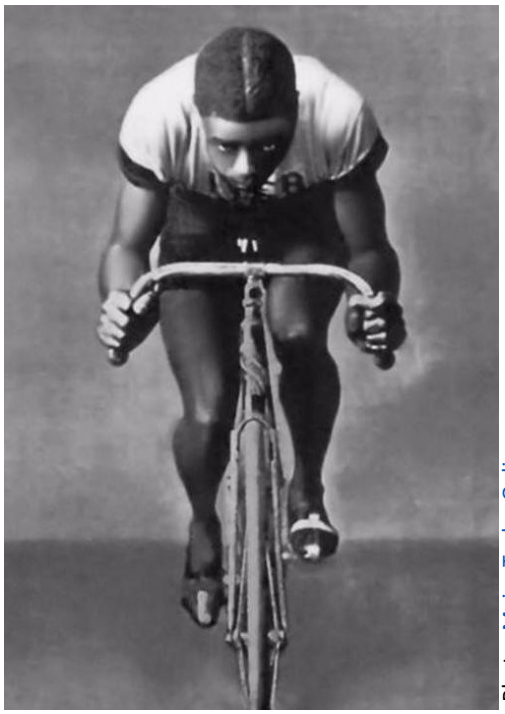


Photo: Major Taylor Online

Marshall "Major" Taylor was a world-champion cyclist, winning the 1-mile sprint event at the 1899 world track championships to become the first Black American to achieve a cycling world championship and just the second Black athlete to win a world championship in any sport. During his career he set dozens of world records, becoming one of the greatest American sprint cyclists of all time. All of this he achieved while battling racial discrimination from many of his competitors and members of the public.

Born on November 26, 1878, in Indianapolis, Marshall Taylor was born to parents working as servants to a wealthy white Indianapolis family. Taylor's interest in cycling began after receiving a bicycle from this family as a gift. He learned to master numerous tricks and feats, catching the attention of a local cycle shop owner. In addition to servicing and selling cycles, Taylor was paid to perform tricks outside to attract customers. In 1893 Taylor was introduced to a cycle manufacturer who introduced him to sport cycling. He immediately began winning races, but also attracted hostility from many quarters on account of his race.

In 1895 at age 18 he relocated to Massachusetts, where he felt there would be better opportunities to compete. This proved correct – Taylor began winning numerous high-profile races and became one of the best riders in America. As he continued winning races and setting records his fame grew, culminating when he won the 1899 world championship. Despite this, he continued to be discriminated against, sometimes being banned from competition all together. After his retirement in 1910 he fell into ill health and poverty, dying in obscurity at age 53 in 1932. Only decades after his death did his legacy of challenging racial discrimination and his prowess as an athlete begin to garner public commemoration.

Sources for more information:

Bridgewater State University

Library of Congress

Major Taylor Association

The World's Fastest Man by Michael Kranish

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Tecumseh

Anderson, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

Born to a Shawnee family originating in Virginia, Tecumseh or "Shooting Star" grew up in a turbulent time. Experiencing the force of the British colonists at a young age, Tecumseh's father died in a battle against the colonists in 1774 along the Ohio River. Tecumseh suffered from consequences of westward expansion in his youth and made it his mission to combat. He was brother to the "Shawnee Prophet" Tenskwatawa.

The Treaty of Greenville was signed in 1791, giving most of the Ohio territory to the American settlers. This pushed Indigenous tribes to move into the Indiana Territory. Tecumseh organized an Indian federation to unite tribes to protect their lands. The mission of the federation was that all the land was considered common property and none of it should be sold without the consent of all.

A series of battles between Indiana territorial governor William Henry Harrison and Tecumseh broke out. Harrison sought to defeat Native Americans to open Indiana lands for settlers. Tecumseh fought to protect native lands to prevent westward expansion. Harrison attempted to negotiate treaties with Tecumseh, but he was unsuccessful. Tecumseh's brother was killed at the Battle of Tippecanoe under Harrison's command. At their last fight at the Battle of the Thames, Tecumseh died on October 5, 1813. Native Americans were unable to hold back the resistance to white settlement. Tecumseh is remembered for his military wit and fierce courage on the battlefield.

Sources for more information:

Explore Tippecanoe County

Tecumseh: A Life By John Sugden

Tecumseh

Tecumseh and the Shawnee Confederation
By Rebecca Stefoff

Battle of Tippecanoe Subject Guide

Carmen Velasquez

Marion, Indiana

Photo: Velasquez Family, Indiana Historical Society

Maria Carmen Velasquez was born in 1921 and lived until 1985. At a young age, Velasquez was impacted by polio and spent a large part of her childhood in hospitals and convalescent homes until she was a teenager. At this time she was living in Chicago, Illinois and the time she spent receiving medical care helped to spark an interest in the advocacy work she would pursue as an adult. In the 1930's, Velasquez would meet her future husband, Albert Velasquez. Shortly after their marriage in 1941, the couple moved to Indiana where they eventually settled down in Marion, Indiana. Carmen and Albert Velasquez began to start a family once arriving in Indiana and had ten children, in total. In the late 1960's, after the birth of her last child, Velasquez began her advocacy work after meeting with laborers on the farm fields of Grant County.

During this time period, the Chicano Civil Rights movement was rising and people of Mexican decent began working to fight racism, encourage cultural revitalization and achieve community empowerment through rejecting assimilation. Vasquez met with the Mexican laborers to discuss their needs and help find donations for struggling families. As her work expanded, Velasquez began to make connections with other community organizations, such as St. Paul's Church and the Third Order of St. Francis Priests. In the early 1970's, Velasquez began to work on writing the articles of incorporation to develop an organization called Associated Migrant Opportunity Services, Inc, also known as AMOS, which helped advocate for better working and living conditions and more resources for migrant workers. In the early 1980's, Velasquez retired from her advocacy work and she passed away in 1985 at the age of 64.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

Women4Change

Indiana Commission for Women

University of Notre Dame (AMOS)

Vincennes

Knox County, Indiana

Photo: Indiana Historical Society

The lands of Vincennes have been home to Native Americans long before the establishment of the city in 1732 by the French as the oldest continuous settlement in Indiana. The French saw the Wabash as vital to their fur trade; the establishment of a military settlement and fort at Vincennes was their attempt to protect this trade from the British. However, the defeat of France during the French and Indian War would see the region ceded to Britain as a result of the Treaty of Paris in 1763.

During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress saw the British control of Vincennes as a threat to American revolutionaries in Illinois and Kentucky. Fearing that these territories could fall to the British, 170 American militia led by George Rogers Clark set out in early February 1779 from Kaskaskia in western Illinois. When these men reached Vincennes in late February, they were able to capture the town with zero casualties after convincing the British commander they were much larger in number. Clark was hailed as a hero and today Vincennes is home to the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, which recognizes Clark, Vigo, and some of the early history of the city.

Upon the creation of Indiana Territory in 1800, Vincennes was chosen as the site of the first territorial capital. Because of its central location in the south of the territory, and due to the economic potential of sitting alongside the Wabash River, the city had made the ideal candidate. Vincennes remained the capitol until 1813, during which time the territorial legislature met in four different places. As the location of the first capitol, Vincennes has also been the location of many other Indiana "firsts": the first bank, the first university, the first newspaper, the first Catholic church, and the first medical society.

Sources for more information:

City of Vincennes

Frontier Indiana by Andrew Cayton

Indiana Historical Bureau

Indiana Memory

Kurt Vonnegut

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of Estrellita Karsh in memory of Yousuf Karsh

Kurt Vonnegut Jr. was born in 1922 and lived until 2007. He was an American author who wrote for over 50 years, publishing famous novels and short stories such as *Slaughterhouse-Five, Cat's Cradle, Mother Night* and *Harrison Bergeron.* Kurt Vonnegut was born and raised in Indianapolis, Indiana and attended Shortridge High School where he wrote for the student paper, *The Echo*.

Raised during the depression, Kurt Vonnegut saw a lot of hardship at home in his family life. With the crash of his father's business and his mother's battles with addiction, Kurt developed a pessimistic humor found throughout many of his works. Kurt grew up through both World War I and World War II and enlisted in the army during the second World War, only to be captured immediately by the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge. Many of his experiences as a POW inspired his most popular novel, *Slaughterhouse-Five.*

Eventually, Kurt's writing took off in America and he became a well-known voice for the era. While using humor and satire to make his audience laugh, Vonnegut connected people to many issues in the world by exploring themes such as economic injustice, the horrors of war and the fear of losing one's purpose. Many of his novels posed the ultimate question "what is the point of life?". Though his novels have a controversial history, with *Slaughterhouse-Five* being banned in many schools and libraries, they are also still read across the country by many school children today. Throughout his life, Kurt Vonnegut also acted as an advocate for free speech, a champion of the arts and humanities and a proponent of socialism.

Sources for more information:

Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library

Kurt Vonnegut's America by Jerome Klinkowitz

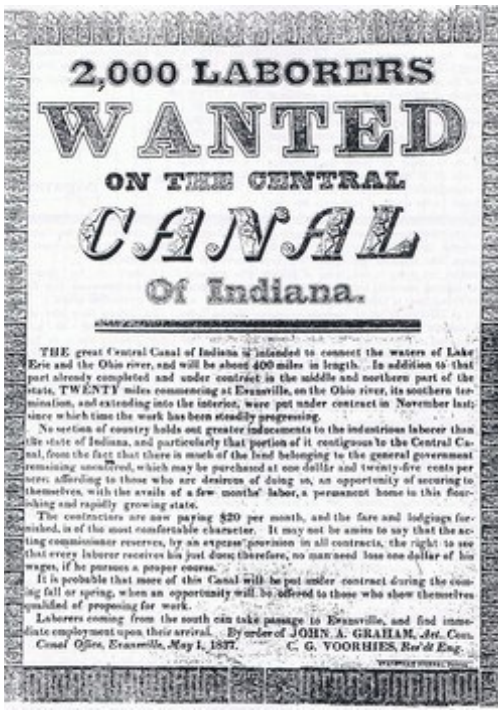
So it Goes — BBC Documentary

Front Row — BBC Radio Show

Conversations with Kurt Vonnegut by William Rodney Allen

Building the Wabash and Erie Canal

Evansville, Indiana



2,000 LABORERS

WANTED

ON THE CENTRAL

CANAL

Of Indiana.

THE great Central Canal of Indiana is intended to connect the waters of Lake Erie and the Ohio river, and will be about 400 miles in length. In addition to that part already completed and under contract in the middle and northern part of the state, TWENTY miles commencing at Evansville, on the Ohio river, its southern termination, and extending into the interior, were put under contract in November last; since which time the work has been steadily progressing.

No section of country holds out greater inducements to the industrious laborer than the state of Indiana, and particularly that portion of it contiguous to the Central Canal, from the fact that there is much of the land belonging to the general government remaining uncultivated, which may be purchased at one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre; affording to those who are desirous of doing so, an opportunity of securing to themselves, with the avails of a few months' labor, a permanent home in this flourishing and rapidly growing state.

The contractors are now paying $20 per month, and the fare and lodgings furnished, is of the most comfortable character. It may not be amiss to say that the acting commissioner reserves, by an express provision in all contracts, the right to see that every laborer receives his just dues; therefore, no man need lose one dollar of his wages, if he pursues a proper course.

It is probable that more of this Canal will be put under contract during the coming fall or spring, when an opportunity will be afforded to those who show themselves qualified of proposing for work.

Laborers coming from the south can take passage to Evansville, and find immediate employment upon their arrival. By order of JOHN A. GRAHAM, Act. Com.

Canal Office, Evansville, May 1, 1837. C. G. VOORHIES, Res'd Eng.

Photo: Hoosier State Chronicles

During the winter of 1827, The United States Congress introduced a land grant for the construction of a canal that would link the Great Lakes to the Ohio River. This canal would be an artificial waterway, essentially manmade, which would serve as a shipping canal that could give traders a passage from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. This canal would actually be a combination of four smaller canals: the Miami and Erie Canal from Toledo, Ohio to Junction Ohio, the original Wabash and Erie Canal from Junction to Terre Haute, Indiana, the Cross Cut Canal from Terre Haute to Worthington, Indiana and the Central Canal from Worthington to Evansville, Indiana. At the beginning of 1828, the Indiana General Assembly accepted this grant and began to appoint commissioners of the project.

By 1832, construction of the longest canal ever built in North America began. However, this monumental task was not without hardship and faced many financial and labor woes. The Panic of 1937 hurt Indiana's internal improvements, slowing progress on the canal, and recruiting laborers who were willing to do hard, dirty and hot work was a difficult task. Advertisements and agents for the project specifically recruited many immigrants, particularly the Irish, offering $10 per month for their labor.

The canal was finally completed and began operation in 1843. However, it was only operational for about a decade before it became too much of a financial burden to operate due to the fact that the canal had to be regularly dredged and that canal boats were significantly slow. Eventually, parts of the canal would be sold or paved over to make room for highways.

Sources for more information:

The Filth of Progress: Immigrants, Americans, and the Building of Canals and Railroads in the West by Ryan Dearinger

Hoosier History Live!

Hoosier State Chronicles

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Madam C. J. Walker

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Madam C.J. Walker Collection, Indiana Historical Society

Madam C. J. Walker (Sarah Breedlove) was born in 1867 and lived until 1919. She was an entrepreneur, philanthropist and activist who is most famously credited with being the first female self-made millionaire in America, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. Born into a family of six children in Louisiana, Walker was the first child in her family to be born into freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation. As a child, she faced many adversities as she was orphaned by the age of seven and working as a domestic servant by the age of ten. Eventually, Walker moved to St. Louis where she would become a laundress. Her work at the laundry combined with other contributing factors such as poor diet and illness had detrimental effects to her hair, which inspired her to learn more about hair care.

Walker made her fortune by developing and marketing a line of cosmetics and hair care products for black women and establishing her own business in Indianapolis, Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company. Walker sold her hair care products door to door, teaching other black women how to groom and style their hair using her products. Walker was also a political and social activist and a large advocate of black women's economic independence. She established Lelia College in order to train "hair culturists" using the "Walker System" building a national network of licensed sales agents who earned large commissions for their work. Between 1911 and 1919 Walker's company employed several thousand women as sales agents. Soon, through the use of an army of sales women and brilliantly targeted advertisement campaigns, Walker's products became famously known throughout the U.S.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

Madam Walker Family Archives

National Archives

On Her Own Ground by A'Lelia Bundles

National Women's History Museum

Lew Wallace

Crawfordsville, Indiana

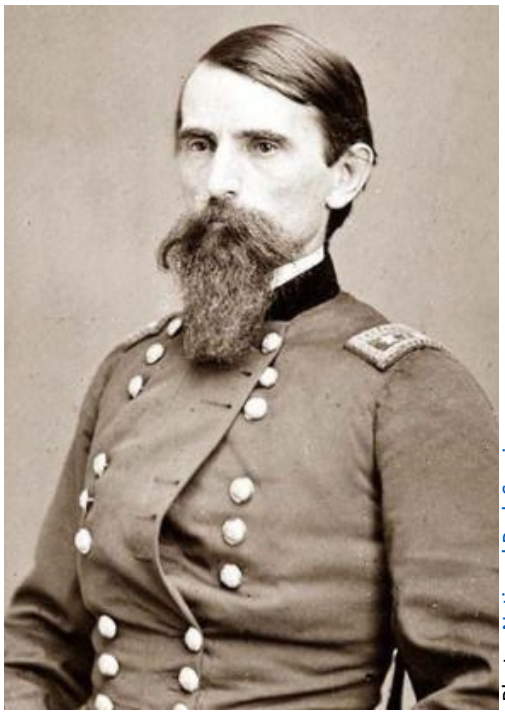


Photo: National Park Service

Lew Wallace was born in 1827 and lived until 1905. From a very young age, Lew Wallace had a natural affinity for the arts, particularly writing. Though Wallace had disciplinary problems throughout his schooling, his teachers recognized him as an excellent writer. As a young adult, he began studying law at his father's law office, which was soon put on pause when he joined the United States Army to serve in the Mexican-American War. After returning from the war, Wallace was married and began practicing law. Later he would rejoin the army to support the Union during the Civil War and following the war, he would become the governor of the New Mexico territory.

Though he was trained and experienced in law, Wallace took to writing as a hobby and diversion from his work. He began writing novels fairly early in his life, though these early novels wouldn't be published until he was much older. During his time as governor of the New Mexico territory, Wallace wrote and published his most popular novel, *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ. Ben-Hur* was the best-selling novel of the 19th century and drew from his experiences serving in the army. It has since never been out of print and has been translated into at least twenty different languages.

Due to the success of *Ben-Hur*, Lew Wallace is remembered to this day as a famous American novelist. His writings contributed to the Golden Age of Indiana Literature, which helped define the culture and identity of Indiana throughout the 19th century. His stories covered themes of love, betrayal, revenge and forgiveness and have withstood the test of time, still being read today.

Sources for more information:

Seven Authors of Crawfordsville, Indiana by Dorothy Ritter Russo and Thelma Lois Sullivan

Lew Wallace: An Autobiography

The Sword and the Pen by Ray E. Boomhower

General Lew Wallace Study and Museum

Indiana Historical Society

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Zerelda G. Wallace

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Passaic Daily News at Newspapers.com

Zerelda G. Wallace was born in 1817 and lived until 1901. Born and schooled in Kentucky, Zerelda and her family eventually moved to Indianapolis in 1830 where her father could continue his medical practice. In 1836, Zerelda married David Wallace who would go on to be elected as the sixth governor of Indiana, with Zerelda serving as the First Lady of Indiana.

As the First Lady of Indiana, Zerelda took to practice her interest in social reform. She was an excellent public speaker who was a strong activist in the temperance and women's suffrage movement. All throughout the United States, Zerelda held speaking engagements giving speeches on the topics of temperance and suffrage. By the late 1870's, Zerelda was elected as the president of the Equal Suffrage Society of Indianapolis, serving on the executive team with May Wright Sewall. Under her presidency, the Equal Suffrage Society engaged in lobbying, letter-writing campaigns, gathering signatures for petitions and giving speeches in favor of women's suffrage.

In 1880, Zerelda lobbied the Indiana General Assembly and spoke before them frequently to approve a suffrage amendment. While the assembly voted in favor of the amendment and the Indiana House of Representatives approved the amendment by majority vote, the Indiana Senate did not hold a vote and it ultimately was not passed. Throughout her life, Zerelda was a strong activist and advocate for women's suffrage in both Indiana and on a national platform. Though she did not live to see the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, her role in supporting women's suffrage and communicating the issues were vital in its eventual passage.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History

Reports and Hearings on Woman Suffrage

Indiana State Library

Hoosiers and the American Story by James H. Madison and Lee Ann Sandweiss

Joseph Ward

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Indiana History Blog, Indiana Historical Bureau

Joseph Ward was born in 1872, lived until 1956 and was an African American surgeon and hospital administrator. While he was born in Wilson, North Carolina he moved to Indianapolis as a young man in search of better opportunities. Ward attended Shortridge High School and worked as the driver of a white physician, George Hasty. By the 1890s Ward had graduated from Indiana Medical College with a medical degree and was practicing medicine in the Circle City.

In 1907, Dr. Ward opened Ward's Sanitarium and Nurses' Training School on Indiana Avenue. Because he was African American, Dr. Ward was blocked from treating black patients in city hospitals which is led him to establish the sanitarium and school. He also convinced City Hospital to allow African American nursing students to attend courses, which helped these students pass the same state licensing test as white students. This ultimately opened up professional opportunities for African American women.

Dr. Ward was a vibrant part of the African American community in Indianapolis and he served during World War I as a ward surgeon at Base Hospital No. 49 as a part of the 92nd Division Medical Corps. He was one of only two African Americans to be awarded rank of Major in WWI. In 1924, Dr. Ward became the first African American commander of the segregated Veterans Hospital No. 91 in Tuskegee, Alabama. This was a difficult decision because of the hostility of local white residents and the growing KKK presence. Dr. Ward ran the hospital until 1937, when he moved back to Indianapolis and resumed his private practice. He died in Indianapolis in 1956.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Indiana Historical Bureau Blog

Hoosier State Chronicles

African-American Hospitals and Health Care in Early Twentieth Century Indianapolis, Indiana by Norma B. Erickson

Amanda Way

Winchester, Indiana

Photo: IndyStar

Amanda Way was born in in 1828 in Winchester, Indiana and lived until 1914. In addition to serving as a Civil War nurse, Way was also one of the many pioneers of the women's suffrage movement in Indiana. Her advocacies included many social reform issues however, and Way was also a strong temperance advocate and a member of the Winchester Total Abstinence Society, leading the women of Winchester in a whisky riot in 1854.

During her early years as a suffragette, Way attended an antislavery meeting in Greensboro which ultimately resulted in her organizing a women's rights convention for later that year. At this convention, the Indiana Woman's Rights Society was born and Way was elected to serve as their treasurer. She would later be elected president of the Society in 1855 and proposed one of the first petitions to the state legislature for women's suffrage in Indiana in 1857.

After the Civil War, where she served as a battlefield and hospital nurse, Way was back to work on working toward social reform in Indiana. While many women were not allowed to speak in public, Amanda Way held many speaking engagements across the state of Indiana to promote women's rights and suffrage. Throughout her life, Amanda Way worked to promote suffrage and temperance in Indiana and throughout the country. Eventually, her work would become recognized when she was nominated by the Prohibition Party as a candidate for the U.S. Congress and the first Hoosier woman to run for Congress. Though she was not elected, her work as one of the pioneers of women's suffrage in Indiana helped to ultimately lay the groundwork in women gaining the right to vote.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Bureau

Indiana Commission for Women

Randolph County Historical Society

History of Woman Suffrage by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Ryan White

Kokomo, Indiana

Photo: The Indianapolis Star at Newspapers.com

Ryan White was born in 1971 in Kokomo, Indiana and lived until 1990. From a very young age he was diagnosed as a severe hemophiliac, meaning that any minor injury he sustained would bleed profusely. Treatment of this disease at the time involved weekly injections of plasma. During one of his regular injections in 1984, Ryan White was treated with contaminated blood which resulted in him falling ill with pneumonia. After closer examination from doctors, White was diagnosed with AIDS and given six months to live. Though the medical community had been researching the disease for some time, this research had not yet become common public knowledge and many people misunderstood what it meant. This ignorance led to increasing problems in White's life.

Though AIDS could only be transmitted through bodily fluids, the community's fear of the disease created a lot of backlash against White and his family. After recovering from his pneumonia, White tried to return to school but many parents and teachers of the school protested White being allowed to attend. Over one hundred parents and teachers signed a petition to have White removed from the school and facing the pressure of the community, eventually the school obliged. This led to lengthy lawsuits from the White family against the school board.

Eventually, White's family was victorious in their lawsuit and White was able to return to school. However, the legal battle he faced became popular news, turning White into a celebrity and advocate for AIDS research. At the time, AIDS was highly stigmatized and associated with the gay community, however perceptions began to change through Ryan White's story and the Ryan White CARE Act was passed.

Sources for more information:

Ryan White: My Own Story by Ryan White

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis

Ryan White Letters

Ryan White Documentary

Health Resources & Services Administration

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

George Winter

Logansport, Indiana

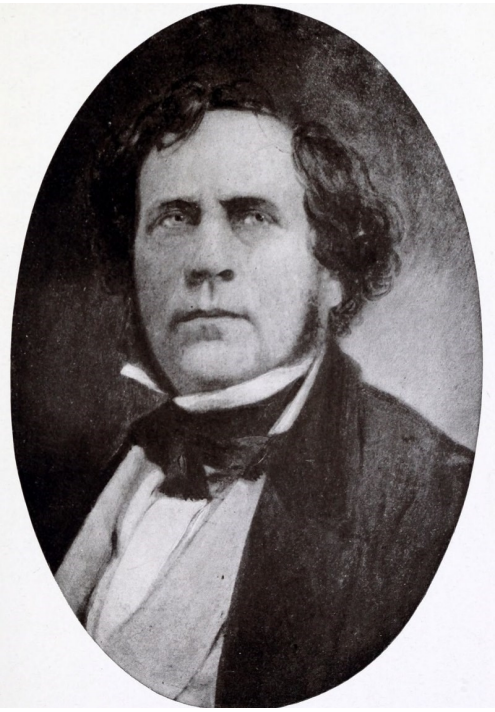


Photo: *Arts and Artists of Indiana* by Mary Q. Burnet

George Winter was born in England in 1809 and lived until 1876. In 1830, Winter and his family immigrated to the United States and in 1837, they settled in Logansport, Indiana. From a very young age, Winter was exposed to art and given a strong art education. Though he may have tried to enter a formal arts school, he was largely self-taught by painting reproductions of art that was exhibited throughout London's museums. After his immigration to America, he had many successful exhibitions of his art throughout New York and Ohio, but eventually he was drawn to Indiana.

During his first visit to Logansport, Indiana, Winter first learned about the Indian Removal Act and specifically the removal of the Potawatomi from Indiana to the Kansas territory. Here he began to make sketches of the Potawatomi's during the legal proceedings with the U.S. government. In addition to the sketches he made, he also kept detailed journals and recordings of the people and events that he was drawing. After the lengthy trials, Winter was present to witness and draw the events of the Potawatomi Trail of Death in 1838 when the removal of Native Americans began and the Potawatomi's were forced to march to their new reservation in the Kansas territory.

Overall, George Winter preferred to draw the Potawatomi people as he was inspired by their plight and was able to connect with them on a personal level. His art captivated the true spirit of the Potawatomi people and portrayed them in a sympathetic light, providing a detailed visual record of the Potawatomi and Miami tribes in northern Indiana during the 1830's and 1840's.

Sources for more information:

Purdue University

Meet George Winter: Pioneer Artist, Journalist, Entrepreneur by Kitty Dye

Haan Museum of Indiana Art

Indiana Historical Society

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Women's Franchise League of Indiana

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Indiana State Library

Prior to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, women in the United States did not obtain the right to vote. Many woman-led groups in Indiana formed in efforts to gain women this right. Though the primary goal was to achieve the right to vote nationally, groups first began pursuing the right to vote for women in local and state elections. One of these groups was the Women's Franchise League of Indiana. Formed in 1911, the organization's goal was to educate women in civics, encourage their civic participation, and elect them into local offices. Headquartered in Indianapolis, the organization quickly attracted members, and by 1912 there were 36 branches in total including chapters in Muncie, Porter County, and Vincennes.

Their efforts originally began prior to the organization's official founding. In 1909, the group aided Mary E. Nicholson, helping her to become the first female elected to the Indianapolis School Board. The organization's efforts did not stop there. In 1917, the Women's Franchise League of Indiana aided in pushing lawmakers in the Indiana General Assembly to pass the Maston-McKinley Partial Suffrage Act. Though overturned, the law allowed women to vote in local elections such as school and local government elections. Thousands of women across Indiana registered to vote before the law was struck down.

With the incoming ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment, the Women's Franchise League of Indiana dissolved in 1920 to form Indiana's chapter of the League of Women Voters. Established nationally in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a national organization with chapters in all 50 states and a mission to empower women and protect their right to vote. When the Women's Franchise League of Indiana formed their chapter of the national organization, they had grown to include 112 chapters from around the state.

Sources for more information:

- Indiana and the 19th Amendment
- Indiana Women's Suffrage Centennial
- Members of the Women's Franchise of Indiana, 1915-1917
- Women's Suffrage Indiana
- League of Women Voters of Indianapolis

Woman's Improvement Club

Indianapolis, Indiana

Photo: Library of Congress

In 1903, the Woman's Improvement Club was founded by Lillian Thomas Fox, Beulah Wright Porter and another prominent African American women of Indianapolis as a literary group aimed at self-improvement and personal growth. Fox, who served as the president of the group, was an activist and a journalist for the *Indianapolis News*. Porter at the time was a principal in the Indianapolis Public Schools and a former teacher and physician. The other founding members of the club also played prominent roles in Indianapolis as educators, professional women, social workers and wives to businessmen, physicians and clergymen. Some members, however, were also servants, cooks and domestic workers. The club was purposefully kept small at twenty members so that they could work closely together on projects.

In the beginning, the club studied women's issues and racial pride and solidarity, reading the works of African American writers and leaders. They also hosted lectures from prominent African American leaders such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells. As the club began to progress, they expanded their scope to philanthropic work in their community, focusing on the care and treatment of African American tuberculosis patients.

Tuberculosis was known for having a higher mortality rate among African Americans, however at the time there were no places for treatment of black tuberculosis patients. The club began to raise money and awareness for the cause, eventually opening up the Oak Hill Camp, the first treatment center for African American tuberculosis patients. Many other projects would follow and the Woman's Improvement Club was known to be a leader in the effort to provide medical care to black patients in Indianapolis.

Sources for more information:

Indiana Historical Society

Indiana Public Media

The Woman's Improvement Club of Indianapolis: Black Women Pioneers in Tuberculosis Work, 1903-1938 by Earline Rae Ferguson

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INDIANA

Frances Wright

New Harmony, Indiana

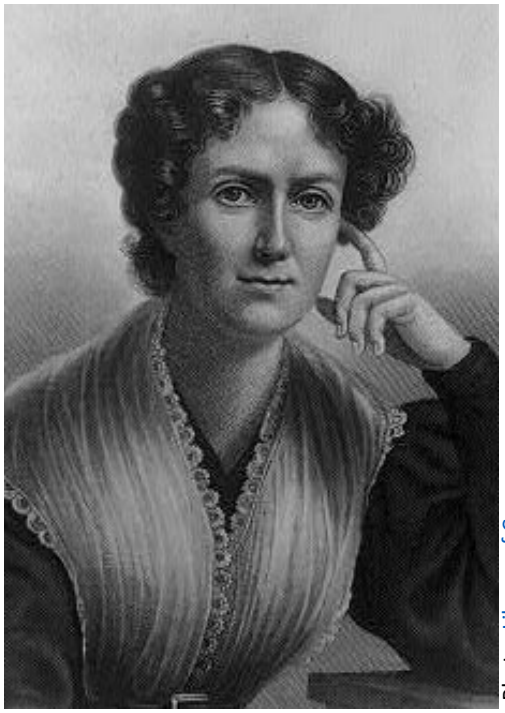


Photo: Library of Congress

Frances Wright was born in 1795 and lived until 1852. Growing up, "Fanny" was raised in a family of political radicals, which contributed heavily to her progressive ideas and advocacies. However, after being orphaned as a child, Wright would eventually be placed in her great-uncle's care, moving to Scotland and attending school in Glasgow. There she became an avid reader, especially interested in the works of famous Greek philosophers, and she also gained an interest in the American democratic form of government.

As an adult, Wright became close friends with Marquis de Lafayette and became to take trips to the United States where she met with other prominent politicians, such as Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Andrew Jackson. While on a visit in 1825, Wright made a visit to George Rapp's utopian community in New Harmony, Indiana. This visit to the utopian society inspired her to establish her own utopian community in Tennessee. As Lafayette returned back to France, Wright decided to stay in the United States where she gained her citizenship and continued her work as a social reformer.

Throughout her life and career, Wright advocated many different progressive causes for the time. She was a strong believer in universal education, the emancipation of slaves, birth control, equal rights, sexual freedom, legal rights for women and liberal divorce laws. She was also very vocal about her opposition to organized religion and capital punishment. Not only did Wright travel across the United States to major cities to hold lectures on her advocacies, she also published collections of her speeches in the book *Course of Popular Lectures*. Many found her beliefs to be controversial, but Wright did find some support after joining the Working Men's Party in 1829.

Sources for more information:

Memoir of Frances Wright

Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame

Monticello

Iowa State University

National Women's Hall of Fame

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