

CONTRASTS AMONG INDIANA COUNTIES IN THEIR  
YIELD OF PROMINENT PERSONS.

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## I. HOOSIERS SKETCHED IN "WHO'S WHO."

In *Who's Who in America*, vol. 14, 1926-1927, there are sketches of 913 persons who gave their birthplace as Indiana. All but one of these persons indicated, by county or town, where their birthplace was located.

The distribution of the birthplaces of these 912 Hoosiers has been studied in various ways, in an effort to learn more concerning the conditions conducive to the production of leaders.

In respect to the center of the state's population in 1870, 522 were born south of the latitude of the center of population and 388 north, 513 were born east of the longitude and 397 west. The southeast quarter of the state's population produced 301, the southwest 221, the northeast 212, and the northwest 176. Hence the southeast quarter did nearly half again as well as the northeast or southwest and not far from twice as well as the northwest quarter.

In proportion to population at the 1870 census, the geographic region "Northern Indiana" produced one notable for each 2,330 persons, "Central Indiana" one for each 1,500, and "Southern Indiana" one for each 2,120.

Within the diverse region, "Southern Indiana" there is considerable contrast. The unglaciated south-central area did poorest, yielding one notable for each 2,280 persons at the 1870 census on the average. The area west of it yielded one for each 2,120 and the area to the east one for each 1,770 persons on the average. Within unglaciated Indiana, three subdivisions are recognized: the limestone belt or "Mitchell Plain," with a productivity of one notable for each 2,000 people; the "Crawford Upland," a rather rugged belt just west of the limestone belt, which yielded one notable for each 2,400 people; and, finally, the "Norman Upland," just east of the limestone belt, which yielded one notable per 2,670 people. The southeastern portion of the state also has three subdivisions, of which the one farthest east, next to Ohio, did best, yielding one notable per 1,570 people, in contrast with one per 1,960 in the next and one per 1,900 in the "Scottsburg Lowland."

The nine most populous counties of Indiana in 1870 yielded 257 of the 912 notables or at the rate of one per 1,290 people. This is an appreciably higher rate than that in the best geographic region, "Central Indiana" (one per 1,500). However, there were ten counties which yielded more notables in proportion to population than did the nine most populous counties, on the average. This was despite the fact that the best county of the state, Wayne, with a record of one notable per each 800 people, was one of the most populous ones. The best counties and the thousands of people at the 1870 census per notable were, in order, Wayne (.8); Johnson (.9); Scott (.9); Putnam (1); Jasper (1.1); Montgomery, Hendricks, Marion, Switzerland, Monroe

(1.2); Carroll, Whitley, Dearborn (1.3). Figure 1 gives for all the counties the number of 1,000 people at the 1870 census per notable born in that county.

**Yield of Cities and Towns.** Slightly more than half of the *Who's Who* notables born in Indiana were born in county seats; 466 out of 912. The combined population of the county seats in 1870 was 466,000, or 27 per cent of the state's population. In other words, the county seats yielded notables at nearly three times the rate, in proportion to population, that the rest of the population did. The county seats of the central part of the state did best, yielding a notable per 514 people, on the average. The county seats of "Northern Indiana" averaged one notable per 680 persons and those of "Southern Indiana" one per 700 persons. In respect to the subdivisions of "Northern Indiana," the northeast, Lake and Morainal sub-region, with one notable per 620 people, did notably better than the northwestern, Kankakee sub-region, with one per 960 people. Among the subdivisions of "Southern Indiana," the county seats of the Wabash Lowland yielded one notable per 800 people, the unglaciated section one per 620 people, and the southeastern section also one per 620 people.

While for the average of the state, the 27 per cent of the people living in the county seats yielded as many notables as the 73 per cent of the population living elsewhere in the county, the proportion born in the county seats was much greater in many of the counties of southern Indiana. For example, all of Washington County's 5 notables were born in Salem, all of Vanderburgh's 21 were born in Evansville, 10 of Monroe County's 12 were born in Bloomington, 7 of Knox County's 8 were born in Vincennes. The ratio between the county seat and the rest of the county in certain other counties is as follows: Spencer 4 to 1, Posey 5 to 3, Floyd 12 to 1, Ohio 3 to 1, Union 3 to none, Vigo 17 to 5, Clark 5 to 2.

The section of the state where the population outside of the county seats did best, relatively, in producing notables was the east central and northeast. The people outside of the county seats were about half as productive, in proportion to population, as were those of the county seats, in several of these counties, and in a number of them the county seat was relatively unproductive. But in most such cases the county seat was an insignificant place.

In nearly all of the counties of Indiana the largest city in 1870 was the county seat, but there was an interesting exception. In Clark County, Jeffersonville, the present county seat, was then much larger than Charlestown, then county seat (population 8,000 vs. 2,200), but Jeffersonville yielded no notable while Charlestown yielded five. Jeffersonville contained the state prison; it was also more industrial and less pleasantly located than Charlestown.

Comparison has been made of the productivity of the larger cities of the three regions. The 11 cities of "Northern Indiana" having a population of 2,000 or more in 1870 yielded 72 notables, or one per 750. The 13 such cities in "Central Indiana" yielded one notable per 670 people while the 14 such cities of "Southern Indiana" yielded one per 970 people. The average for the cities of the state was one notable per 780

people. Cities of 2,000 or more population in 1870 which did especially well in their yield of notables, in proportion to population, are as follows: Crawfordsville, Franklin, Greencastle, Muncie, Richmond, Shelbyville (each one notable per 300 to 400 population); Cambridge City, Charlestown, Columbus, Kendallville, Lawrenceburg, and South Bend (each one notable per 400 to 500 people.)

Comparison with the yield from all county seats reveals the interesting fact that in all three regions the cities of over 2,000 population did less well than did the county seats. As the larger cities were practically all county seats, it follows that the smaller county cities did notably better in the production of these notables in proportion to population than did the larger cities.

Comparison between the group "all cities over 2,000 in 1870" with the group "the cities with 8,000 population or more in 1870" reveals the fact that these ten largest cities yielded notables at the rate of one per 905 people, on the average. In other words, the largest ten cities yielded notables at only about four-fifths the rate of the next 28 cities in size, and only about two-thirds the rate of the smaller county seats, on the average.

The nine college towns of Indiana in 1870 (Indianapolis being omitted) yielded notables at the average rate of one per 530 people, almost twice as many as did the 10 largest towns without colleges in 1870, which had a ratio of one per 1,100.

Among the county seats, Paoli, yielded most notables in proportion to population, 6 notables per 600 population, or one per 100. The county history states that two-thirds of the early settlers were Quakers. The Lindleys, progenitors of Chancellor Lindley, of the University of Kansas, were the first settlers.

The 12 notables yielded by Bloomington, were descended almost wholly from a small group of Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who settled there at an early date, and retained and nurtured the State University.

The excellent showing of Richmond and other parts of Wayne County is related to the large Quaker element in the population and in numerous high-class English emigrants.

**Comparisons with other conditions.** Comparisons have been made between the maps showing the county contrasts in productivity of notables and various other maps. The Census Bureau maps of density of population 1840-1890 afforded some suggestive correspondences. The densest group of counties in 1840 (extending from Wayne to Floyd) nearly all produced many notables, except Ripley, but part of the least dense counties also did well. The area of the Miami Indian Reservation has done poorly.

In 1870 the northern part of the state which was especially dense in population was that between Michigan City and Indianapolis, in which area fewer notables have been produced, in proportion to population, than in the areas to the east or west.

In 1880 the unglaciated area of the state first stands out conspicuously as being less densely populated than adjacent areas. Except Bloomington, Paoli, and Salem, this unglaciated region has done poorly in producing notables.

In 1890 the areas just east of the unglaciated area fell to a similar density of population. Except for Scott county, this area has done relatively poor in yielding notables.

In brief, a comparison between the maps of density of population and of the yield of notables in proportion to population discloses no close relationship, altho there are suggestions that areas of comparatively sparse population are somewhat less favorable to the production of notables than are adjacent counties which are somewhat more densely populated. However, there are so many local exceptions to this generalization that it receives little support from the evidence here available. Density of population as such appears to be far less significant than concentration of population (urbanization). Although many densely settled rural counties yielded more notables in proportion to population than did neighboring less densely settled rural counties, nevertheless they did less well than most nearby counties which possessed an attractive town or city, in spite of a smaller total population.

The great importance of mothers of notables and of women teachers of notables has often been commented on. It has also been noticed by R. M. Harper that certain areas in Georgia in which women predominated in the population produced more notable men than areas in which men predominated. Thus it is not entirely surprising, but nevertheless is very interesting, to note the complete agreement between the Indiana county map of production of notables (fig. 1) in proportion to population and the census map which shows the sex ratios for 1900. All of the counties in which women and girls were more numerous than men and boys did conspicuously well in producing notables. As such counties are characteristically those from which there has been an emigration of men, it is not surprising to note that all of the Indiana counties, except Brown County, which lost population between 1890 and 1900 did well in the production of notables. But during the next decade many counties which did poorly in yielding notables lost population. Hence, it follows that the counties which most quickly responded to unsatisfactory agricultural conditions and most promptly sent many men to the cities were those who produced relatively many leaders. This prompt response is in accord with other evidence of the superior alertness and mobility of the parents of notables. They are quick to see unsatisfactory conditions and soon afterwards are on the outlook for opportunities to better their lot.

There is no obvious relationship between the distribution of foreign-born in Indiana in 1870 and the production of notables, partly because there were relatively few foreign-born here then.

The map of illiteracy in 1900 is, in general, the converse of the map of yield of notables (fig. 1).

The census map of 1900 showing the average size of family is also closely comparable with figure 1. The counties with the smaller average families did better than the counties with the largest average families, without exception. This condition also suggests alertness on the part of communities which yield notables in adopting new methods and higher standards of living.

The eight poorest counties on the 1900 map of per acre value of

farm products all did poorly in yielding notables. Also, counties which did poorer than their neighbors in producing crops produced fewer notables except Randolph and Hancock.

Similarly, the counties with a low per square mile production of farm products did relatively poorly. This was conspicuously true of Starke and Pulaski counties, which yielded no notables, and of Ripley, and of all of the counties of the unglaciated area except Monroe County.

None of the counties producing relatively few notables did much manufacturing in 1900, when manufacturing was first becoming important in Indiana. All of the counties producing manufactures worth over \$25,000 per square mile produced a fair share of notables, but only Wayne and Marion counties were among the state's leaders in regard to both manufacturing and notables in proportion to population.

Maps showing the ratio between commitments (for the average of 1918-1927) to the three state penal institutions in proportion to population (figs. 2, 3, and 4) have been compared with figure 1, the yield in notables in proportion to population. The counties of the Wabash Valley stand low (unfavorable) on all four maps, while most of the counties of north central Indiana stand relatively high (favorable), as do most of the counties at the southeast corner. However, several counties in south-central Indiana which yielded relatively many notables also send relatively many prisoners to the state prison, penitentiary, and penal farm. Possibly this merely indicates a higher degree of law enforcement.

**Comparisons Between County Yield of Notables and of Indiana University Graduates:** The distribution of *Who's Who* notables born in Indiana may advantageously be compared with the distribution of graduates of Indiana University, since both groups differ from the general population in possessing greater ambition, intellectual alertness, persistence, and social mobility. Therefore, data as to recent graduates supplement and strengthen the findings as to *Who's Who* notables. For the ten years 1918-1927, the graduates from each county, each county seat, from other cities, and from elsewhere in the county have been tabulated. Separate record has also been made as to those graduating with honors.

In the ratio coming from the county seats, the situation is closely similar in respect to both the *Who's Who* notables and the students who graduate. About two-thirds of the students come from the county seats, which had in 1920 a combined population of only about one-third of the state's population. Furthermore, the ratio from the county seats is greater in most of the counties with small county seats than from those with large ones. The proportion from the county seats is larger in "Southern Indiana" than in "Central or Northern Indiana," but smallest in northeastern Indiana, just as it was in respect to notables.

Of the students graduating, the largest percentage (4.8 per cent) graduating with honors came from northern Indiana. Central Indiana came next, with 4.3 per cent, and southern Indiana stood lowest with 3.1 per cent, or if Bloomington, in which the University is located, be excluded, with 2.7 per cent. This is not simply a matter of selection of distance, as the proportions of the population of "Northern" and

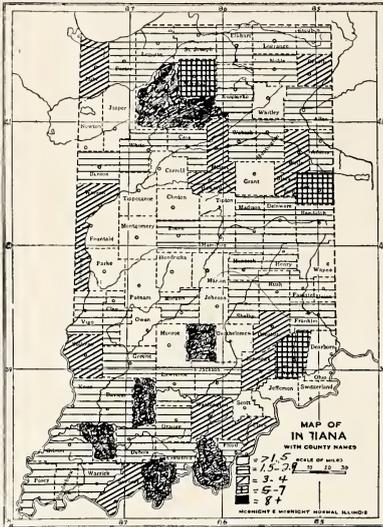
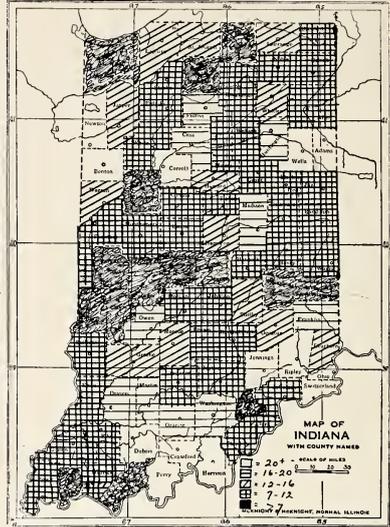


Fig. 1—Number of 1,000 persons in 1870 per notable sketched in *Who's Who in America*, vol. 14, who gave his birthplace in these counties.



"Central Indiana" attending Indiana University is larger than that of most of "Southern Indiana" except Monroe County and its immediate vicinity.

Thus the data on the percentage of the students from each of the counties and towns graduating at Indiana University in the decade 1918-1927 and the percentage receiving honors shows significant correspondence with the data as to notables. In each case the county seats did conspicuously well, and the smaller county seats better in proportion to population than the largest ones. Also south-central and southwestern Indiana did relatively poorly in both regards, except Bloomington. Also northeastern Indiana did conspicuously better than northwestern. However, southeastern Indiana did less conspicuously well in respect to students than it did in respect to notables. But Bloomington has been until very recently comparatively inaccessible from southeastern Indiana, with the result that many of the students from that section have attended other institutions. Furthermore, it is likely that, accompanying the decrease in population since 1870, there has been an emigration from southeastern Indiana of enough capable people to reduce the percentage of superior people in the population. This hypothesis is supported also by the evidence as to insanity, it will be recalled, as well as by considerable biographical data.

## II. INDIANA WOMEN SKETCHED IN WHO'S WHO.

Indiana was the native state of 47 women sketched in volume 12 of *Who's Who*. They were born in 28 of the 92 counties. Three counties yielded 13 persons: Marion five, Vigo four, and Morgan four. None of the 47 were born in the 17 unglaciated counties of southern Indiana, which region, according to its population in 1870, should have contributed seven. The portion covered by the Illinoian glacier, but not by the Wisconsin, yielded only 9, which is only about one-half its proportion. The southwestern part of the state produced only 4, 3 of whom were born in or near Evansville. The northern half of the state, north of the latitude of the center of the state's population in 1870, produced one-third of the 47. The triangular area extending southeast from near the center of the state yielded 20 of the 47. Out of the 47, only 17 attended Indiana colleges, only 6 receiving B.A. degrees and 3 doing graduate work.

## III. STARRED SCIENTISTS.

Fifty living, or recently living scientists, starred by the vote of their fellow scientists in Cattell's *American Men of Science*, 1906, 1910, 1921, or 1927, were born in Indiana, coming from 33 counties. (Fig. 5.) Six counties produced 3 each and 6 others 2 each. Their distribution in respect to the center of population in 1870 is as follows: north of latitude of center 14; south of same 36; east of longitude of center 33; west of same 17; northeast quarter 9, northwest quarter 6, southeast quarter 25, southwest quarter 11. The unglaciated region, one-fifth of the state with fully one-fifth of the population in 1870, produced 9 of the 50 or less than one-half of its due proportion, although it contains Indiana University. The numerous well populated counties of the Wabash Lowland in the southwestern part of the state produced none.

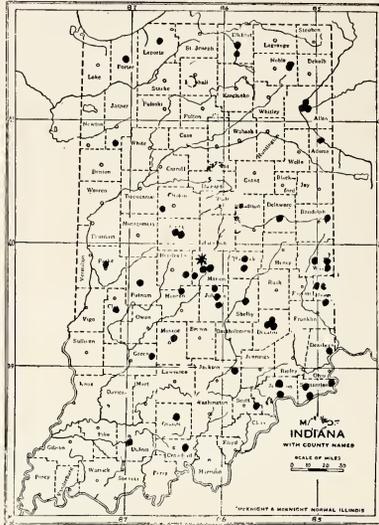


Fig. 5—Birthplaces of the 50 starred Scientists born in Indiana.

The many towns and counties along the middle and upper Wabash were almost equally sterile as were the counties along the lower Ohio River, below Madison. The southwestern unproductive area is contiguous to a similarly unproductive area in southeastern Illinois and in western Kentucky. These regions were settled early chiefly by people from Kentucky or other southern states. People with southern ancestry spread northward up the Wabash during the years of canal construction. In contrast with the unproductiveness of the southwestern counties is the fine showing of most of the southeastern counties. Thirteen starred scientists were born in Marion and adjacent counties in the fertile central part of the state, 6 in the Quaker community near Richmond, and 7 in the extreme southeastern corner of the state near Cincinnati. These southeastern counties were settled about as early as the southwestern counties, but more largely by people from Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, and New England. The relative unproductivity of the northern half of the state appears related to its later settlement, in a large part by newly arrived immigrants from Germany or Ireland and by the northward spread of the people from southwestern counties. The great migration from New England gave Indiana few settlers, because of geographic conditions. However, 3 of the 4 Hoosiers first starred in 1927 were born in northeastern Indiana (Adams, Allen, Elkhart counties), and the fourth in southeastern Indiana (Franklin County).

In respect to towns, seven of the 50 scientists gave their birthplace by counties, and presumably were born on farms. Only 2 were born in Indianapolis, which was a city of 48,000 in 1870. None were born in the then Indiana's second largest city (Evansville) or the fourth (Terre Haute). Three were born in Fort Wayne and 2 each in Richmond and Greensburg.