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THE INDIANA JUNIOR HISTORIAN

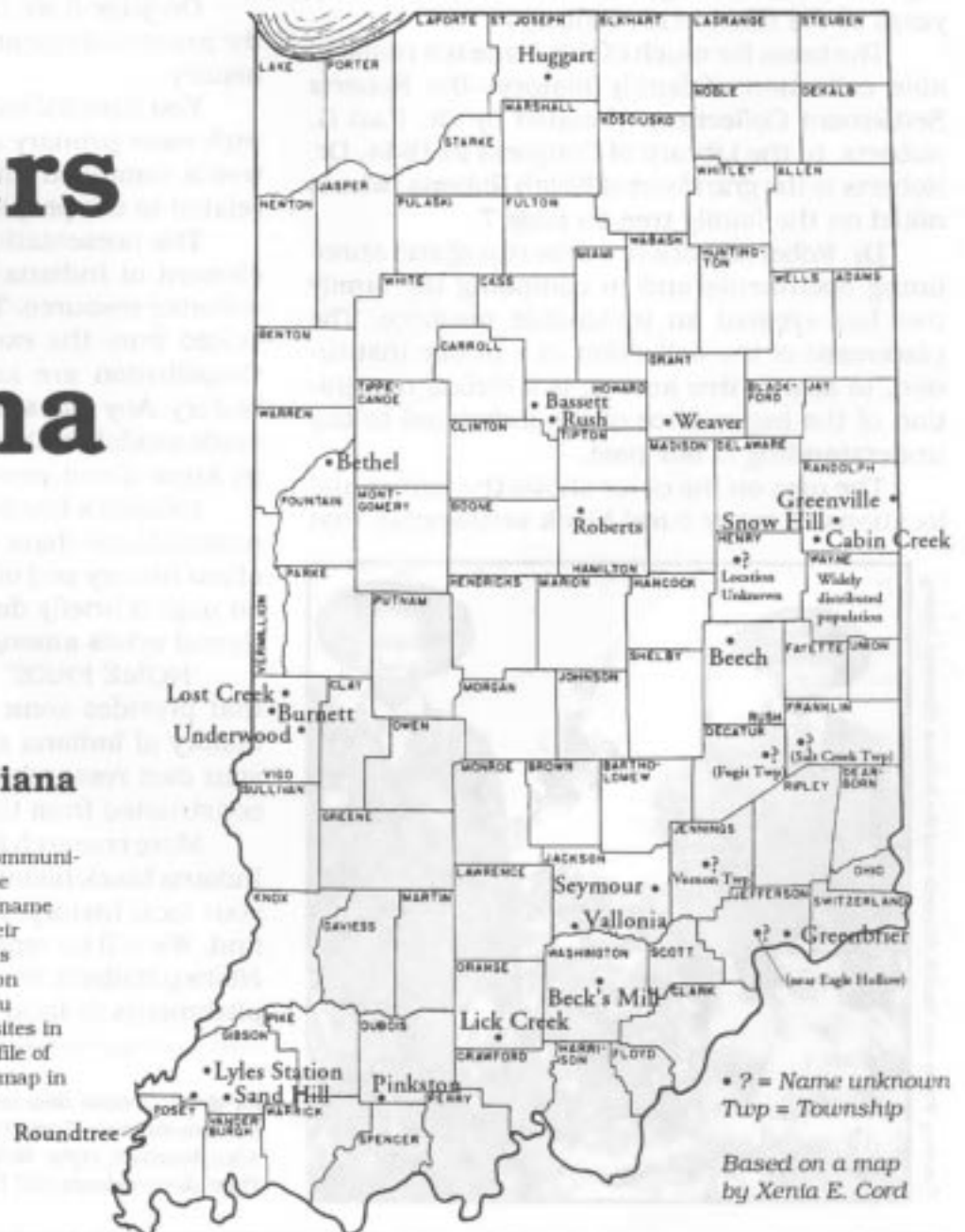


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Black Settlers in Indiana

Black Rural Communities in Indiana before 1860

Locations are approximate; named communities have been documented by reliable evidence. Communities of unknown name are noted in smaller type; clues to their existence have been located in various resources, which can be supplied upon written request. The Historical Bureau welcomes evidence of these or other sites in Indiana. The Bureau will maintain a file of information and publish an updated map in the future.



Focus

Most students in Indiana learn about pioneers who settled the state. Few students, however, have learned that some of those pioneers were black.

This issue of the *Indiana Junior Historian* focuses on the free black settlers who founded settlements throughout the state. Blacks also came to established cities and towns in Indiana, especially those along the Ohio River, in the early years of the nineteenth century.

The basis for much of this issue is a remarkable collection of family history—the Roberts Settlement Collection—donated by Dr. Carl G. Roberts, to the Library of Congress in 1944. Dr. Roberts is the grandson of Elijah Roberts, who is noted on the family tree on page 7.

Dr. Roberts' work in transcribing and annotating documents and in compiling the family tree has created an invaluable resource. The placement of the collection in a public institution, to assure free access, is a strong recognition of the importance of the individual to our understanding of our past.

The map on the cover shows the names and locations of many rural black settlements that

have been documented. It provides a starting point for your investigations. Has there been a black settlement in your area?

Page 3 provides an overview of why blacks settled in Indiana. The black settlement near Madison, described in the 1830s by an English traveler, is probably typical of many such communities.

The letter on page 4 is a piece of evidence that a historian can use to build a description of the conditions and attitudes that existed during this period.

On page 5 we have provided some clues to the process of research into your own local black history.

You have a chance on pages 6 and 7 to work with more primary sources. The Roberts family tree is combined with excerpts from documents related to the people on the family tree.

The presentation on page 8 introduces an element of Indiana history that can provide a valuable resource. The Negro Registers that resulted from the exclusion clause in our 1851 Constitution are important sources for black history. Any that still exist should be located and made available. Does your county have any? Let us know about your investigations.

Indiana's black settlers—and citizens of all nationalities—have been, and are, key elements of our history and our future. "Against All Odds" on page 9 briefly demonstrates that a common thread exists among all people.

"HOME FREE" on page 10 is a board game that provides some key information about the history of Indiana and the Roberts family. Add your own research to the game or to a timeline constructed from the cards.

More research and resources are needed for Indiana black history. You can help by pursuing your local history. Please let us know what you find. We will be reporting results in our *Indiana History Bulletin*. We want to include your accomplishments in local history research.

Ex-slaves whose descendants settled in Lost Creek Settlement, near Terre Haute, Indiana. Left, Frank and Alice Maxwell; right, Wiley and Eliza Edwards. Their descendants still live in Lost Creek Township.

Courtesy Walter and Beulah Edwards and the Indiana Historical Society



Black Settlements in Indiana

During the years from 1820 through 1850, black pioneers helped to settle Indiana and other areas of the former Northwest Territory. Many were free black farmers and landowners from Virginia and North Carolina who helped to build at least thirty black farming communities in Indiana.¹

These farmers and their families left the South because freedoms were being taken from them, and they were afraid for their safety. Laws passed in North Carolina in the early 1800s restricted free blacks from moving across state and county lines and allowed free black children to be taken from parents and bound out as servants. After the 1820s, white North Carolinians discouraged education for free blacks. An 1831 law prohibited free blacks from preaching. Laws in Virginia also began restricting free blacks.

In addition, land was becoming scarce in North Carolina, Virginia, and other parts of the South. As families grew, fathers had fewer acres to pass on to sons and grandsons. Many people—black and white—began looking for new, cheap lands farther west.

Black settlers chose to move to the Ohio frontier, particularly Ohio and Indiana, because the states formed under the 1787 Northwest Ordinance were free states. Indiana and Ohio were also near southern slave states making escape to freedom easier. Many Quaker families lived in Indiana. They were more tolerant of blacks and were often good neighbors to new black settlers.²

In the 1820s and 1830s in Indiana, much of the land was owned by the United States. Any settler could purchase this land for \$1.25 per acre by filing a claim

at the closest land office and paying cash. Indiana began to fill with settlers, first in the south, and then progressing northward.

By 1850, Indiana's population reached 988,416. Blacks made up only 1.14% (11,262) of Indiana's population. Only Ohio, in the former Northwest Territory, had a larger percentage of black residents. At this same time, 95.5% of all Hoosiers lived on farms. Only 4.5% of the population lived in towns and cities.³

Notes

¹Vincent, "African-Americans," p. 3.

²Gregory S. Rose, "The Distribution of Indiana's Ethnic and Racial Minorities in 1850," *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 87 (September 1991), p. 246.

³Donald B. and Wynell S. Dodd, *Historical Statistics of the United States, 1790-1970* (University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1976), Vol. 2, p. 6.

An Englishman, E.S. Abdy recorded his experiences in *Journal of a Residence and Tour in the United States of North America, from April, 1833 to October, 1834* (London: John Murray, 1835), Vol. 2.

Included in his tour was Madison, Indiana; on pages 365-67, he describes a black farming community four miles from Madison.

... The next day I set off, on foot, for the colony—the existence of which I had never before heard of. On arriving at the first house, which belonged to a man of the name of Crosby, I was received with civility, but some little coldness by his wife, till I informed her that I was an Englishman . . . They had come from

Kentucky, she said, about thirteen years before; and, at first, had been well received and well treated; but for the last three or four years, they had "met with so much scorn and disdain," that she began to regret she had ever left her native place, though she had been exposed there to the risk of losing her children, many in the neighborhood having been carried off to the south by kidnappers. She and her husband had lately been so much pestered and plagued by the whites with offers, and all sorts of inducement, to give up their farm, and go to Liberia, that they were almost tired out . . .

The settlers are from Virginia and Kentucky. Some are liberated slaves—others have

bought their own freedom, and the rest were originally freemen. Their number amounts to 129, making eleven families, which are rapidly increasing. The colony extends a mile and a half in length, and half a mile in breadth. They grow wheat, and rye, and hemp, and a little tobacco. Crosby has two farms, consisting of 137 acres, about one-fourth of which is under cultivation. He had raised, the year before, 300 bushels of oats and 140 of wheat. His stock was composed of six milch cows, four horses, and other animals, making in all fifteen head. There were eight or ten hives of bees near the house. He had eight children.

Long Jim's Letter to Willis, 1830

This excerpt is from a letter written soon after February 15, 1830 by Long James Roberts, from Monroe County, Indiana to his cousin Willis Roberts, in Beech Settlement, Rush County.

In 1829 the cousins and their families moved to Indiana from North Carolina. Willis became homesick and wanted to take his family back to North Carolina. This plan caused Long Jim to write this passionate plea to Willis, reminding him of the grave dangers that could befall his family.

Willis apparently returned to North Carolina alone for a visit in the summer of 1830 and came back to Indiana in the late fall.

Source: Carl G. Roberts notes to the Roberts Settlement Collection, copies, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

You Become the Historian

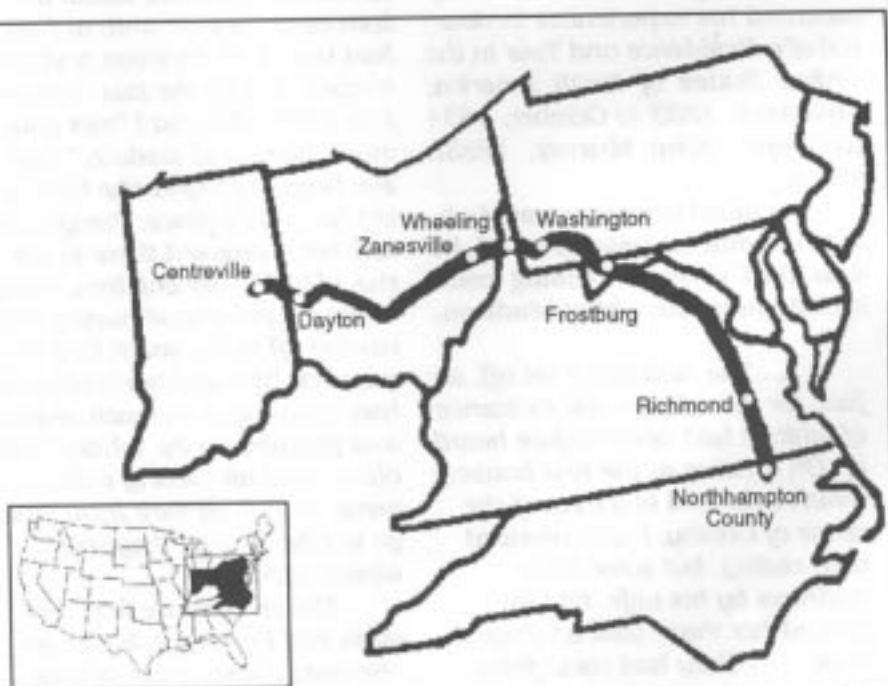
- Carefully read the excerpt. Sometimes historians have a difficult time reading old documents because of the style of writing; note that many of the words were spelled phonetically, as they were heard.
- Based on your reading in this issue of the *IJH*, why is Long Jim worried about taking the children to North Carolina?

... it seams veary plaine to me thate you are now A going to mak one of the woste moves that you ever mad in many ways the first is thate you are A taking your Cildren to and old Country that is wore out and to Slaive one . . . I thinke it the Best fore me when I am out of Such a County to stay A way and I want you as my friend to Lok at thies thinges and remember how times hase altered Sence you Could remember and to thinke thate you are A going to take youre Small Children to thate place and . . . how Sune you may Be taken A way frome them . . . I would not this night if I had Children take them to Such a place and thare to Stay fore the Best fiv farmes in 3 miles Round whare we Come frome fore I think that I Should Be going to Sum thing to Bringe them to See trobble and not enjoy ther Selves as A free man . . . when I think of it I cante tell how enny man of Couller Can thinke of going thare with Small Children it hase bin my intension ever Sence I had nolieg of Such if I Lived to Be A man if god wose wiling I would leav Such a place . . .

Help Willis Return To North Carolina

Long Jim's letter ends with a waybill, or a list of 45 towns that Willis should travel through to get to North Carolina. Only a few of the towns have been used here.

- Look carefully at the map. Trace the route that Willis took. Can you identify the states in which the towns are placed?
- Why do you think Long Jim wanted Willis to travel in the northern states as long as he could?
- As an extra research riddle, take a look at the town of Wheeling. What state was Wheeling in at this time? Where would you go to find this type of information?



The People Behind the Facts

The job of a historian is to find and present the facts of history and what those facts mean—research, writing, and interpretation. Hard work and good luck are important parts of doing good history. The information about the Roberts family in this issue of the *Indiana Junior Historian* is available because at least two historians worked to find, collect, and record all possible information about the Roberts families' settlements in Indiana.

Dr. Carl G. Roberts was lucky that some of his relatives had saved family papers from grandparents and great-grandparents. He collected his family letters and records, and he interviewed relatives who remembered the earlier times. Dr. Roberts knew that these family records provided important facts about black families in early Indiana, and he knew that other historians would want to have access to his family information. Dr. Roberts, therefore, gave his Roberts family papers to the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C.

Stephen Vincent, former black history archivist at the Indiana Historical Society, became interested in the Roberts family history. When he went to graduate school in history, he chose the Roberts family as the subject for his doctoral dissertation.

Vincent used the Roberts collection in the Library of Congress and copies of it available in the Indiana Division of the State Library. He checked the information from the Roberts collection using other records from the early 1800s. He read county histories. He located U. S. government land sale records in North Carolina and Indiana to determine who owned the land. He located church attendance records and cemeteries to check birth and death dates. He read census reports and looked at old county maps.

As Vincent gathered information about the Roberts family, he also noted information about what it was like to be a free black living in North Carolina and Indiana in the early 1800s. Putting all the information together helped Vincent better understand the Roberts family and how they lived in Indiana.

Searching for historical information can be both exciting and frustrating. Sometimes historians cannot find the answers to their questions. Families often throw away old letters and papers, and many courthouses with their records have burned down. Sometimes family records are in a basement or attic but are not accessible to historians.

Often facts from different sources do not agree.



Historians then must look for more sources to compare information. Often, no more information is found. Then, historians must carefully assess the available information and make reasonable conclusions without having all the answers. When the conclusions are written, other historians can read and debate them, often providing more information to help answer questions.

This issue presents information and sources about free blacks in Indiana, but it is very limited in scope. More information is needed from all parts of the state.

YOU Can Be a Historian

You can be a historian and search for information about the history of blacks in your county or community. Where would you look?

- Your local library will have published histories of your county.
- Is there a local historical society in your county? Prepare a list of questions to ask the director or curator.
- Your courthouse may have records of births, deaths, and land ownership.
- Are there black churches, businesses, or other organizations in your community now? Ask for their help.
- If you have a County Historian, invite him or her to help you find other sources of black history in your county.
- Ask everyone you contact, if they know of resources elsewhere in the state.

If you find new information, be sure to arrange for copies of your findings to be deposited with your library and historical society. Let us know, too!

Researching the Roberts Family

Only a small portion of the Roberts family tree is reproduced here. The complete document records five generations beginning in the 1700s. Information on the family tree came from the hundreds of personal documents that were kept,

then gathered, and preserved by family members. Parts of a few of those documents have been quoted here to show some details of the lives of these black pioneers. The family tree was compiled by Dr. Carl G. Roberts.

Quotations from the Documents

A legal document, Free Papers of Dolphin Roberts, March 10, 1828, Northampton County, North Carolina
This is to certify that I James Davis of the County and State aforesaid, have known Dolphin Roberts the Bearer of this Certificate from a child, and that I also have known Willis and Martha Roberts his parents for upwards of Twenty five Years and They were then called and I believe them to be at this time called free people . . . The said Dolphin Roberts is about Twenty four years of age about six feet high, Strait Black hair Black eyes, rather light complected for a Mulatto . . .*

*A white neighbor and friend.

A letter, February 1, 1830, James Davis*, Northampton County, North Carolina to Willis Roberts, West Liberty, Rush County, Indiana

. . . was Sorry to find your family had been very Sick tho on the mend, & yet sorryer to hear that you wore so much dissatisfied with the Country youare in, . . . I hope you will use your utmost to reconcile your self as thier is no doubt but it will be the better for your Children . . .

A letter, no date, James Roberts, Indiana to Elias Roberts, North Carolina

. . . Elias [&] Prissillar I [never] have got innny answer from the letter I sent you about last Crismas I wont to no whether you got it or no . . . I have live this year like I wont to leiv as to eating for I hav had a plenty and some to spar and I ecspet to mak aplenty this year for I have got aplenty of hogs now and I wont to no if you think that I shod be better of thar then I am here . . .

A letter, March 17, 1833, Ransom Roberts, Northampton County, North Carolina to Willis Roberts and James Roberts, Rush County, Indiana

. . . prisillar Roberts had a great sun born oCtober last by the name of Willis and live about eight weeks an dide to long James Roberts I may in form you that your farther is very loe in dead at the pint of death he Can not stand it muCh longer . . .

A letter, August 10, 1833, Hansel Roberts, Northampton County, North Carolina to James Roberts, Henry County, Indiana

. . . I will inform that your farther died the 21st day of June last, I will State to you that I was with him from the first to last as long as he lived and hope put him away in as decent maner as was in our power. . .

A receipt, September 4, 1846, Daniel Oncall to Elijah Roberts, Noblesville, Hamilton County, Indiana

This is to certify that I have this day sold to Elija roberts Mantel clock and do agree if said clock fail to coop good time for one year with proper regulation and good usage to either repair said clock or furnish one of asimiliar kind . . .

A letter, August 25, 1852, Willis Roberts, Van Buren County, Michigan to Stephen Roberts, Boxley, Hamilton County, Indiana

. . . I ant giting along very fast But i am doing very well . . . the most money that I ever mad thar clear was fifty dollars when I was in my prim and last year what I mad clear was one hundre and sixty dollars in this country . . . we can Live all Joining if you was hear . . . sixty achors on the road can Be Bort for three hundred dollars and fore years to pay it in . . .

*Eli Archey
farming at
Beech
Settlement,
Rush
County,
circa 1910.*

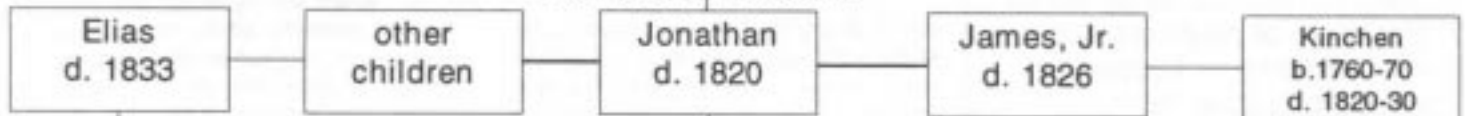


Indiana Historical Society, Negative C4895

Sources for the family tree: Roberts Settlement Collection, copies, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library; Vincent, "African-Americans."

James Roberts

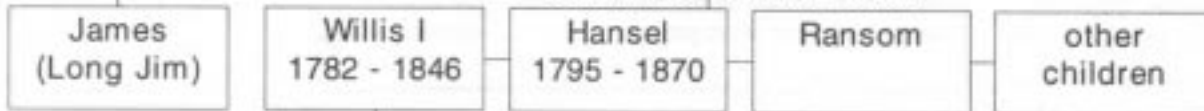
Children of James Roberts



m. Mary (Scott)
d. 1823
Wealthy landowner
in North Carolina.

m. Kisa (Copeland)
Cherokee, French-
Canadian Mulatto.
Lived at
Pleasant Hill,
North Carolina.

Grandchildren of James Roberts



m. Vinie
2 sons
3 daughters
Came from North
Carolina to Rush
County, Indiana
in 1829.

m. Marthaline
(Hunt) born in
North Carolina.
Rented out his
farm and left
North Carolina in
1829. Settled in
Rush County,
Indiana.

m. Priscilla (Hunt)
1789 - 1859
8 sons/1 daughter
m. Keziah (Corbin)
widow of Elijah.
Moved to Rush
County, Indiana
in May 1835,
then to Roberts
Settlement in
October 1835.

He and his
descendants
remained
in North Carolina.

Grandchildren of James Roberts

Anthony
1795 - 1896

m. Betsy (Scott) from
North Carolina.
Came to Rush County,
Indiana in 1830.

Elijah
1795 - 1848

m. Keziah (Corbin)
who later
m. Hansel.
Came to Henderson,
Ohio in 1825; then
to Rush County in
1830; then to Roberts
Settlement in Hamilton
County.

Great grandchildren of James Roberts



Moved to Rush
County, Indiana
in 1829 with his
father, then on to
Roberts Settlement.

m. Mary Davenport
(Scott) 1818-1905.

other
children

YOU Become the Researcher!

- Carefully read any quotation on page 6. Remember that spelling was based on what was heard, so try reading out loud and write down the passage in standard spelling.
- Locate on the family tree the individuals mentioned.
- What does the quotation tell you about each person's life? Find as much other information as you can on these pages and page 10 about those people.
- Do the same for each quotation, perhaps dividing into groups and reporting out to the whole class.
- How does life today differ? How would you react now to such situations? What today might equal the documents or the situations on these pages?



The 1851 Constitution and the Negro Register

Article 13 of the 1851 Indiana Constitution stated "That it shall not be lawful for any negro or mulatto to come into, settle in, or become an inhabitant of the State." People of color living in Indiana before Article 13 was ratified were allowed to stay.

The Constitution said laws should be passed to carry out the provision, known as the exclusionary clause. The act—or law—excerpted to the right, was approved June 18, 1852.

The excerpt from the Ohio County Negro Register is an example of how the law was carried out. The Indiana State Archives, which supplied this document, has registers for only four counties: Clark, Franklin, Ohio, and Switzerland.

The Indiana Supreme Court invalidated Article 13 in 1866.

"An Act to Enforce the Thirteenth Article of the Constitution"

.....
 Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of each clerk of the said circuit courts to provide a suitable book, to be called the register of negroes and mulattoes, in which he shall record the name, age, description, place of birth and residence of each and every mulatto who may present himself or herself before him for the purpose of being registered, and also, the names of the witnesses by whom the right of such negro or mulatto to reside in the State of Indiana shall have been proven.

Sec. 5. When the right of any such negro or mulatto shall have been proven to the satisfaction of such clerk, he shall register the said negro or mulatto in his register of negroes and mulattoes, and shall also issue to such negro or mulatto a certificate, under the seal of the said court, and attested by such clerk, setting forth the facts contained in such register; which certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the facts therein stated . . . and shall be issued to such negro or mulatto without charge.

YOU Review the Sources

- Read the excerpts from the 1852 act to understand what the Negro Register is.
- Given how many Negro Registers we have today, do we know how the law was enforced statewide?
- Read the Negro Register entries. What information is given about the persons being registered? What do you think it must have felt like to be interviewed and examined in such a manner?
- Why are Negro Registers valuable primary sources?
- Today all Americans are required by local, state, and federal laws to register for certain things. For example, when a male turns 18 years of age, he must register with his local draft board. Can you think of other registrations that Americans are required to perform?

From the Ohio County Negro Register

REGISTER OF NEGROES AND MULATTOS			IN		COUNTY.
NAME	Age	DESCRIPTION	Place of Birth	RESIDENCE	NAMES OF WITNESSES
Samuel Barkschew	55	Mulatto, heavy set about 5 feet ten inches high, weighs about 175 pounds July 19, 1854	Warren County Kentucky	Henry Lee Indiana	Thomas A. Belmont
Francis Barkschew	47	Dark-brown-copper about 5 feet high weighs about 160 pounds July 19, 1854	Augusta, Georgia	Henry Lee Ind.	Thomas A. Belmont Saml. Barkschew
Arthur Barkschew	29	Dark-brown-copper about 5 feet high weighs about 145 pounds July 19, 1854	Warren County Kentucky	Henry Lee Ind.	Thomas A. Belmont Saml. Barkschew

Against All Odds

Early black settlers of Indiana did not have the legal rights of white males. They could not vote, serve in the militia, testify in court, or educate their children in public schools. One thing they could do, if they could afford it, was to own land. Living quietly in small communities, free blacks sought all from life that their white neighbors did. They wanted to be with their families in their own homes and raise crops on their own land. They wanted to practice their religion and educate their children. They wanted to live, prosper, and grow old in peace. They asked only for the opportunity to do so.

This was possible for some black families for a time in Indiana because blacks themselves were willing to work hard for a better life. Quakers, an organized religious group that sought humanitarian treatment of the oppressed, also played a role in helping black communities.

With the ever increasing numbers of blacks moving north in the early 1800s, came a growing anti-black sentiment in Indiana. Whites were afraid of being outnumbered by blacks.¹ Also, as land became scarce, whites resented black land owners. Laws insured that blacks remained in their subordinate position in white society.

There was a continuing debate in Indiana and the nation between slavery and anti-slavery supporters. The Fugitive Slave Law in 1850 caused ex-

treme hardships for some blacks, but apparently few Indiana blacks left their homes seeking safety. Some Indiana blacks risked their own freedom to help escaping slaves.

Many Indiana citizens were anti-black. Some felt that the best place for blacks was in Africa. Federal and state laws were passed to encourage colonization to Liberia in Africa. Although some blacks chose to migrate, the majority of blacks throughout the nation opposed colonization. Blacks in Indiana and elsewhere met in conventions and passed and published resolutions against colonization. Having been born in the United States, blacks considered themselves Americans.

The failure of colonization and other repressive measures rested finally with blacks themselves, who were determined to control their own destinies. Most blacks remained in free states, refusing to be intimidated and made productive lives for themselves and their families.

Available sources do not clarify how many blacks left or entered the state during this period, but census figures support a stable population. In 1850, there were 11,262 free blacks recorded in the census in Indiana. Only Benton, Marshall, Pulaski, and Starke counties had no recorded free blacks. The 1860 census indicates that there were 11,428 free blacks in Indiana.²

During the Civil War, 1,537

Indiana blacks served in the Union army. Many were part of the "gallant" Twenty-eighth United States Colored regiment.³

As their histories reveal, Indiana's black settlers have created a valuable legacy for this state and for the nation. There are more histories to be located to enrich that legacy.


Notes

¹Crenshaw, "Bury Me in a Free Land," p. 34.

²Gregory S. Rose, "The Distribution of Indiana's Ethnic and Racial Minorities in 1850," *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 87 (September 1991), pp. 252-53.

³*Indiana in the War of the Rebellion* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1960, reprint), p. 100; Emma Lou Thornbrough, *The Negro in Indiana: A Study of a Minority* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1957), pp. 541-42.

Sources: Interview with Wilma Gibbs, Program Archivist, Indiana Historical Society; Crenshaw, "Bury Me in a Free Land."

Take Timeline Card			Take Timeline Card	1819 Congress authorizes colonization in Africa by black Americans. Go back one space.	180	Take Timeline Card	
1850 Fugitive Slave Law allows slave hunters to capture free blacks. Go back three spaces.			Take Timeline Card			Take Timeline Card	
		HOME FREE				Take Timeline Card	
Take Timeline Card							
	Take Timeline Card		1865 The Thirteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution frees all blacks. Advance two spaces.			Take Timeline Card	

HOME FREE: Going to Roberts Settlement

START

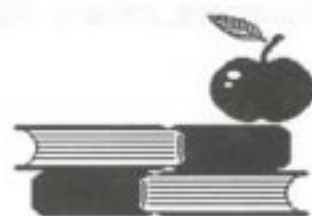


Photocopy and enlarge game board and timeline cards. Paste game board and cards on heavy paper. Shuffle timeline cards before playing. Design your own game piece, roll a die to move around the board, and follow instructions in the squares. Read timeline cards out loud. The object is to try to get the black families "home free" to Roberts Settlement. Reshuffle timeline cards as needed. Make additional timeline cards using facts about your own local history.

Sources: Information has been derived from Vincent, "African-Americans," and other standard sources. The timeline on page 7 of the February 1992 Indiana Junior Historian gives more information on some events.

1816 The first Indiana Constitution prohibits slavery. Advance one space.	1830 Elijah and Anthony Roberts arrive at Beech Settlement in Rush County, Indiana. Advance one space.	1835 Elijah and Hansel Roberts and Micajah Walden go to Indianapolis to purchase initial land for Roberts Settlement. Advance two spaces.	1843 Public schools in Indiana are restricted to white children only. Go back two spaces.
1820 Elijah Roberts gets free papers in North Carolina and begins to plan journey to the Ohio frontier. Advance one space.	1830 Willis Roberts makes the first land purchase by a black settler in Ripley Township, Rush County. Advance one space.	1835 The families of Roberts and Walden come to Roberts Settlement. Advance two spaces.	1851 New Indiana Constitution prohibits blacks from settling in Indiana. Go back two spaces.
1824 Indiana Fugitive Slave Law allows runaway slaves to be caught and returned to their owners. Go back one space.	1831 Indiana General Assembly requires that all blacks in Indiana pay \$500 bond. Go back two spaces.	1840 The population of Beech Settlement reaches 400 people. Advance one space.	1852 Blacks in Indiana required to register with county clerk. Go back two spaces.
1829 Long Jim and Willis Roberts and their families move to Henry County, Indiana. Advance one space.	1833 Eighteen black settlers had purchased 1,563 acres in Beech Settlement. Advance one space.	1840 The black population at Roberts Settlement is estimated to be 7-10 families with 50-75 people. Advance two spaces.	1866 Indiana Supreme Court invalidates Article 13 of the 1851 Constitution. Advance three spaces.

An Apple for Everyone



Student Reading

- Felton, Harold W. *Mumbet: The Story Of Elizabeth Freeman*. New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1970.

This is a true story of how a slave won her freedom in the courts of the state of Massachusetts in 1781. Although the story does not take place in Indiana, it is a very readable story about free blacks. Recommended for intermediate readers.

- Winter, Jeanette. *Follow The Drinking Gourd*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.

All ages will enjoy this beautifully illustrated work about blacks escaping slavery by traveling north and following the stars.

Advanced Reading

- Crenshaw, Gwendolyn J. *"Bury Me in a Free Land": The Abolitionist Movement in Indiana, 1816-1865*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1986.

This is an excellent source for information concerning the abolitionist movement in Indiana. The work is balanced and readable. Chapters include: the colonization movement, underground railroad, relevant slave laws and the Emancipation Proclamation. This well-annotated work is suitable for secondary and adult readers. Also see **Of Special Interest** on this page.

- *Hamilton County Interim Report*. Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory. Ann C. Davis, Survey Coordinator. Indianapolis: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and Indiana Department of Natural Resources, 1992.

This interim report is one of many produced by Historic Landmarks, which has surveyed approximately two thirds of the state. These interim reports locate historic sites and structures geographically and provide historic context. Available at state headquarters of Historic

Landmarks, 317-639-4534.

- Thornbrough, Emma Lou. *Since Emancipation: A Short History of Indiana Negroes, 1863-1963*. Indiana Division American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority, [1963].

This excellent 98 page book is available from the Indiana Historical Bureau and is suitable for secondary and adult readers. Thornbrough presents some background for the abolitionist movement.

- Thornbrough, Emma Lou. *The Negro in Indiana: A Study of a Minority*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1957.

Thornbrough is one of the leading experts in Indiana black history. An excellent general source for the period up to 1900. Suitable for secondary and adult readers.

- Vincent, Stephen A. "African-Americans in the Rural Midwest: The Origins and Evolution of Beech and Roberts Settlements, ca. 1760-1900." Ph.D. diss., Brown University, 1991.

This dissertation traces the growth of the Roberts family and its property holdings, from North Carolina to Indiana, and provides information on legal, civil, and economic conditions. It is an important addition to the history of blacks in Indiana.

Of Special Interest

The following exhibits concerning black Hoosier history may be borrowed at no cost (return shipping required) from the Indiana Humanities Council, 317-638-1500. Each exhibit includes written materials.

- *"Bury Me in a Free Land": The Abolitionist Movement in Indiana, 1816-1865*. An exhibit that illustrates the conflict over blacks and slavery, defines the options considered, and shows the results of decisions made in Indiana through the end of the Civil War.

- *This Far By Faith: Black Hoosier Heritage*. A photographic exhibit including over 50 photographs of

events, people, and places of importance in Indiana history. A booklet by Emma Lou Thornbrough accompanies the exhibit.

- The Indiana Historical Society has an extensive collection of black history resources. *Black History News & Notes* is published quarterly by the Society and contains a wealth of information on blacks in Indiana. Special thanks to Wilma Gibbs, editor and program archivist, for her assistance and cooperation.

- The Roberts Settlement Collection, located in the Indiana Division of the Indiana State Library, contains photocopies of papers, deeds, letters, and other papers of the Roberts family in North Carolina and Indiana. The original documents are located in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

- County histories and special local publications may contain a wealth of relevant information. There are too many works to list here, but seek help from libraries and historical organizations regarding specific local resources, including specialized collections or museums.

Black Genealogy Resources

- Linder, Bill R. *Black Genealogy: Basic Steps to Research*. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, Technical Leaflet 135, issued as part of *History News*, Vol. 36, no. 2 (February 1981).

- The following citations are from *Black History News & Notes*: Harris, William O. "Black Ancestral Research in the Indiana State Library." May 1985; "Researching Your Family History." November 1992; Robbins, Coy D. "Digging for Black Roots in Indiana." August 1981; Scott, Jean Sampson. "The Hurdles of Afro-American Genealogical Research." May 1985.

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The Indiana Historical Bureau was created in 1915 to celebrate the centennial of statehood. It is the duty of the Historical Bureau to edit and publish documentary and other material relating to the history of the state of Indiana, to promote the study of Indiana history, and to work with others engaged in such pursuits. The Historical Bureau provides books, educational resources, and programs for students and teachers. Several are listed below. The Bureau also directs the Historical Marker Program and the care of the Governors' Portraits Collection.

- **BROADSIDES** produces supplemental educational materials based on primary sources for teaching Indiana history. Student packets encourage active participation and skills development with possible integration in various grades and subjects. An extensive teacher guide provides ready information and teaching resources.
- **Indiana Close Up** is a high school local government program affiliated with the national Close Up Foundation. This participatory annual event encourages study and discussion through the Jefferson Meeting on the Indiana Constitution.
- **Indiana History Day** encourages students grades 4 - 12 to research and prepare papers, exhibits, performances and media presentations on an annual historical theme. An emphasis on original research and interpretation allows students to experience the excitement of discovering or developing skills and interests that enrich their education and their lives. It is part of the National History Day network.
- **REACH**—Resources Educating in the Arts, Culture, and History—is a dynamic program that utilizes art and objects to stimulate dialogue and provide hands-on experiences, exploring not only the arts but also the culture and history of Indiana. Its arts-in-education basis encourages on-going planning for involving community resources in the school.

The Indiana Junior Historical Society is a network of history clubs for students in grades 4 - 12. Locally sponsored clubs initiate and participate in activities which encourage the study of Indiana history, often outside the classroom. The Indiana Junior Historical Society program is administered by the Indiana Historical Society, 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202; 317-232-1882.

The Indiana Junior Historian is published nine times each school year by the Indiana Historical Bureau, State of Indiana. It is distributed to members and sponsors of the affiliated clubs of the Indiana Junior Historical Society of which the Indiana Historical Bureau is a co-sponsor.

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The publication is provided free to school media centers and public libraries throughout the state. Individual subscriptions are available for \$7.50 per year.

This material is available to visually impaired patrons in audio format courtesy of the Indiana History Project of the Indiana Historical Society. Tapes are available through the Talking Books Program of the Indiana State Library; contact the Talking Books Program, 317-232-3702.

Single copies are available for 85¢ each plus shipping and handling. Classroom sets (a minimum of 20 copies of an issue) of back issues beginning with the September 1991 issue are available for 30¢ per copy plus shipping and handling. Prices valid through December 31, 1993.

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