

FORMATION OF INDIANA'S REPUBLICAN PARTY

1854-1860



COLFAX

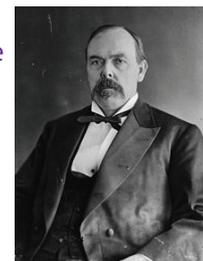
•Indiana Whigs had been united on a platform of internal improvements since the 1830s. By the 1850s, however, they were divided over the slavery question. Most Whigs became Republicans.

•Schulyer Colfax, a former Whig became a Republican around 1854. He was elected Vice President of the U.S. in 1868.

WHIG

• Many democrats, especially in the southern states, supported the extension of slavery into the western territories (as proposed by the Kansas-Nebraska Act, 1854). Some members of the Indiana Democratic Party who opposed the extension of slavery, joined the People's Party that year or as the party became the Republican Party.

• In 1854 Oliver P. Morton left the Democratic Party as he opposed the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He first joined the Know Nothings in 1854. By 1856 he joined the Republican Party and became Governor of Indiana, 1860



MORTON

DEMOCRATIC

•During the 1850s, Indiana's Free Soil Party opposed the extension of slavery. Some members, such as Congressman George W. Julian, were abolitionists, demanding the emancipation of African Americans and even advocating for equal rights.

PEOPLE'S

TEMPERANCE

KNOW NOTHING

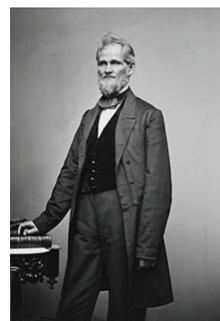
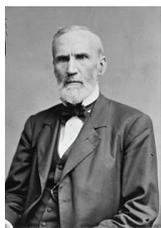
FREE SOIL

•Opposition to the Democratic administration and especially the extension of slavery united various disparate political groups into a new party –called the Republican Party nationally, but called the People's Party in Indiana. In 1854, the young Indiana party was more conservative than the national Republican Party. The People's Party resisted adopting the name "Republican" because of its association with the eastern abolition movement that many Hoosiers saw as too radical.

Temperance Party members opposed sale of liquor.

• The Know Nothing or American Party was a secret order with a complex position on slavery. Some were against slavery extension as they feared African American competition for jobs (some of these members were former Whigs). The party vehemently opposed immigration. Some Indiana Know-Nothings who joined the Republican Party in opposition to the Democratic support of slavery extension, later left the party because Indiana Republicans accepted Catholics and immigrants.

JULIAN

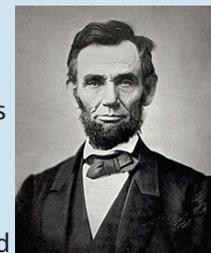


LANE

REPUBLICAN

• **Henry S. Lane** was essential in organizing the People's Party in Indiana. Lane's influence over the older Whigs brought most into the People's Party, while abolitionists joined because of the anti-Kansas-Nebraska Act platform. Lane also helped to convince many Democrats and Know-Nothings who were opposed to slavery extension to join the People's Party. In **1856**, Lane chaired the People's Party Convention in Indianapolis and the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia. **Between 1856 and 1860, the Indiana People's Party platform conformed to the national Republican platform and also became known as the Republican Party.**

• Abraham Lincoln had been a life-long Whig until the repeal of the Missouri Compromise by the Kansas Nebraska Act. He re-entered politics as a Republican, largely to oppose slavery extension. He was nominated as the Republican candidate for president in 1860, largely due to the efforts of Henry Lane.



LINCOLN