

= Indiana Territory =

The Territory of Indiana was an organized incorporated territory of the United States that existed from July 4 , 1800 , until December 11 , 1816 , when the remaining southern portion of the territory was admitted to the Union as the state of Indiana .

The Indiana Territory was created by an Act of Congress and signed into law by President John Adams on May 7 , 1800 , effective on July 4 . It was the first new territory created from lands of the Northwest Territory , which had been organized in 1787 by the Northwest Ordinance . The territory originally contained approximately 259 @, @ 824 square miles ( 672 @, @ 940 km<sup>2</sup> ) of land , but twice decreased in size as it was further subdivided into new territories ( Michigan Territory and Illinois Territory ) .

The territory was first governed by William Henry Harrison who oversaw the negotiation with the native inhabitants to open large parts of the territory to settlement . In 1810 a popularly elected government was established as the territory continued to grow in population and develop a very basic road network , government , and education system . At the outbreak of Tecumseh 's War , the territory was on the front line of battle and Harrison led a military force in the opening hostilities at the Battle of Tippecanoe , and then in the subsequent invasion of Canada during the War of 1812 . Thomas Posey was appointed to the vacant governorship , but the opposition party , led by Congressman Jonathan Jennings , had dominance in the territorial affairs for its remaining years and began pressing for statehood . In June 1816 , a constitutional convention was held and a state government was formed . The territory was dissolved on December 11 , 1816 , by an act of Congress granting statehood to Indiana .

= = Original boundaries = =

The original boundaries of the Indiana Territory included the area of the Northwest Territory west of a line running from the bank opposite the mouth of the Kentucky River northeast to Fort Recovery , and from there due northward along a line approximately 84 deg 45 min W longitude . The territory initially included most of present @-@ day Indiana and all of present @-@ day Illinois , and Wisconsin , as well as fragments of three other states : the part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi River , almost all of the Upper Peninsula of present @-@ day Michigan and the western half of the Lower Peninsula , and finally , a narrow strip of present @-@ day Ohio lying to the north and west of Fort Recovery . This latter parcel became part of the state of Ohio when it was admitted to the Union in 1803 . At the same time in 1803 , the southeast boundary shifted to the mouth of the Great Miami River from its former location at the point opposite the mouth of the Kentucky River . The eastern part of Michigan was added to the Indiana Territory at that time . The area of the Indiana Territory was reduced in 1805 by the creation of the Michigan Territory , and in 1809 by the creation of the Illinois Territory .

= = Government = =

= = = Governors = = =

= = = Legislature = = =

When the Indiana Territory was first created , no provision was allowed for the creation of popularly elected government . Congress granted the President power to appoint a General Court to serve as a legislative and judicial branch of the territorial government . The court consisted of five members , and the President delegated the task of choosing the members to the Governor of the territory . This remained the form of government until 1805 when Congress granted the territory the right to legalize slavery if they so choose . In doing so , they removed the court 's legislative powers , leaving it with

only judicial authority , but still to be appointed by the President through the Governor . The formation of a new legislative council was approved and each county in the territory was granted the right to elect one representative to it . The council had the authority to pass laws , but they all had to be approved by the Governor before they could be enacted .

In 1809 , the makeup of the legislature was altered again by Congress to a bicameral body . A House of Representatives was created and the representation was apportioned by population . The House was then to choose ten candidates from whom the President , through the governor , would choose five to form a council which served as the upper house of the legislature . Thereafter , the structure of the legislature remained unchanged for the remainder of the territory 's existence .

= = = Congressional delegation = = =

The delegate from the Indiana Territory was elected at large in a territory @-@ wide election . The delegate attended Congress with the right to debate , submit legislation , and serve on committees , but was not permitted to vote on legislation .

= = = Other high officials = = =

The federal government paid the salaries of the governor , legislature , and judicial council , but did not provide funds for any additional governmental offices . At first , the territory had very limited revenue and could not afford to fund a large government . As the population increased , and revenues grew , so did the size and scope of the government with new offices being created at different times . The territory 's primary source of revenue was from the sale of federal lands ; the territory collected 3 % of the proceeds of each sale . Property tax and trading ventures with the Native American tribes also provided lesser revenues .

Secretary

Auditor

Treasurer

Attorney General

= = History = =

= = = Background = = =

The Northwest Territory was formed by the Congress of the Confederation on July 13 , 1787 , and included all land between the Appalachia and the Mississippi River , the Great Lakes and the Ohio River . This single territory became the states of Ohio , Michigan , Indiana , Illinois , Wisconsin , and eastern Minnesota . The Northwest Territory act had all the newly acquired territory surveyed according to The Land Ordinance of 1785 for future development by the United States . The act also provided an administration to oversee the territory .

At the time the territory was created , there were only three American settlements in what would later become the Indiana Territory , Vincennes , Kaskaskia and Clark 's Grant . The entire population was under five @-@ thousand Europeans . The Native American population was estimated to be near twenty @-@ thousand , but possibly as high as seventy @-@ five thousand .

In 1785 , the Northwest Indian War began . In an attempt to end the native rebellion , the Miami town of Kekionga was unsuccessfully attacked by General Josiah Harmer and Northwest Territory governor Arthur St. Clair . St. Clair 's Defeat is the worst defeat of the U.S. army by Native Americans in history . The defeat led to the appointment of General " Mad Anthony " Wayne who organized the Legion of the United States and defeated a Native American force at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794 . In 1795 the Treaty of Greenville was signed , taking a slice of eastern Indiana for the United States . Fort Miamis at Kekionga was occupied by the United States , who rebuilt it as Fort Wayne . The powerful Miami nation would consider themselves allies with the

United States after the treaty .

= = = Formation = = =

On July 4 , 1800 , the Indiana Territory was established out of Northwest Territory in preparation for Ohio 's statehood . The capital of the new territory was Vincennes , a former French trading post and one of the only white settlements in the vast territory . The name Indiana meant " Land of the Indians " , and referred to the fact that most of the area north of the Ohio River was still inhabited by Native Americans . ( South of the river , Kentucky had been a traditional hunting ground for the Northwestern and other tribes , and early American settlers in Kentucky referred to the north bank as the land of the Indians . ) In 1768 , several colonies purchased the Iroquois claim to the northwest and established the Indiana Land Company to hold that claim , the first recorded use of the word Indiana . The claim to the land was disputed by Virginia , and the company 's claim was extinguished in a 1798 United States Supreme Court case . Two years later , Congress used the name of the company and applied it to the new territory .

Indiana Territory began with just three counties : St. Clair ( part of present @-@ day Illinois , across the river from St Louis and south of the Illinois River ) , Randolph County ( part of present @-@ day Illinois , south of St. Clair county ) , and Knox ( present @-@ day Indiana , with parts of Illinois , Michigan and Wisconsin ) . There was also an area corresponding roughly to northern Illinois , much of Wisconsin , the northeastern corner of Minnesota , and the western part of Michigan 's upper peninsula that was unorganized .

The first Governor of the Territory was William Henry Harrison . Harrison County was named in his honor ; he gained national fame during his term as a hero of the Battle of Tippecanoe . He later became the ninth President of the United States . Harrison served as governor from May 13 , 1800 to December 28 , 1812 . Harrison did not arrive in the territory to begin governing until January 1801 . John Gibson , the Territorial Secretary , served as acting governor , from the creation of the territory until his arrival . The governor was assisted in governing the territory by a three @-@ member panel of judges , the General Court . The court served as both the highest legislative and judicial authority in the territory and its members were appointed by the governor .

As governor of a territory of the first stage ( as outlined in the Northwest Ordinance ) , Harrison had wide @-@ ranging powers in the new territory , including the authority to appoint all territorial officials as well as the territorial General Assembly , and the authority to divide the territory into districts . Harrison was eager to expand the territory , as his political fortunes were tied to Indiana 's rise to statehood . In 1803 President Thomas Jefferson granted Harrison authority to negotiate and conclude treaties with the Native American tribes in the territory . Harrison oversaw the creation of thirteen treaties , purchasing more than 60 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 acres ( 240 @,@ 000 km<sup>2</sup> ) of land from Native American leaders , including most present @-@ day southern Indiana .

The Treaty of Vincennes was the first treaty Harrison negotiated with his new power . In 1803 he invited the leaders on the local tribes to Vincennes where they signed a treaty recognizing American possession of the Vincennes tract . This area had been captured by George Rogers Clark in the American Revolutionary War from the French . The Treaty of Grouseland in 1805 further secured possession of all of south @-@ western Indiana . Tensions however grew on the frontier and neared the breaking point after the contentious and disputed 1809 Treaty of Fort Wayne , in which Harrison purchased more than 250 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 acres ( 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 km<sup>2</sup> ) of American Indian land in central Indiana and eastern Illinois .

The availability of new cheap land led to a rapid increase in the population of the territory , with thousands of new settlers entering the region every year . Large settlements began to spring up on the periphery of the territory around the Great Lakes , the Ohio River , the Wabash River , and the Mississippi River . Much of the interior , though , remained inhabited by the Native American tribes and was left unsettled .

= = = District of Louisiana = = =

From October 1 , 1804 until July 4 , 1805 , administrative powers of the [ D ] istrict of Louisiana were extended to the governor and judges of Indiana Territory as a temporary measure to govern the newly purchased lands . Under the terms of the act establishing the temporary government , the Governor and Judges of Indiana Territory were supposed to meet twice a year in a " at such place as will be most convenient to the inhabitants thereof in general " . Residents of the new district objected to many of the provisions of the new United States government , including their imposition of common law . Residents had previously lived under continental civil law .

The " district of Louisiana " encompassed all Louisiana Purchase lands north of the 33rd parallel , the present @-@ day border of the states of Arkansas and Louisiana . South of the parallel , the more densely populated " territory of Orleans " was separately administered , largely under civil law .

The [ D ] istrict of Louisiana was governed by Indiana Territory . One Kansas Territory source , recounting Kansas history up to 1855 , states that Kansas , as part of the district of Louisiana , was not only administered by but also " annexed to " Indiana Territory . Whether a temporary act can effect an annexation may depend on its actual duration , and most sources have declined to call Indiana Territory administration an annexation or even to use " annexed to " language . Less persuasively , maps generally fail to reflect the de jure common governance of Indiana Territory and the [ D ] istrict of Louisiana by way of , say , a common color scheme and / or a dotted border .

In any event , the [ D ] istrict of Louisiana soon became part of a separately administered [ T ] erritory of Louisiana , effective July 4 , 1805 .

One of the most notable events during this period was the Treaty of St. Louis in which the Sac and Fox tribes ceded northeastern Missouri , northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin to the United States . Resentments over this treaty were to cause the tribes to side with the British during the War of 1812 in raids along the Missouri , Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and was to spur the Black Hawk War in 1832 .

= = = Politics = = =

In 1803 , Harrison began to lobby Congress to repeal Article Six of the Northwest Ordinance , which prohibited slavery in the original Northwest Territory , in order permit slavery in the Indiana Territory . He claimed legalizing slavery was necessary to make the region more appealing to settlers and ultimately make the territory economically viable . That same year Harrison had indenturing legalized by the General Court . The territory was granted representation in the United States Congress in 1805 , and pro @-@ slavery Benjamin Parke became the territory 's first representative . Parke used his position to get Congress to support Harrison 's appeal . He was able pass legislation to have Article Six suspended for ten years , and the territories covered by the ordinance were granted the ability to legalize slavery . By the same act , Congress removed the General Court 's legislative power and created a legislative council to be elected by popular vote .

Harrison 's attempts caused a significant stir among the many Quakers who had settled in the eastern part of the territory ; they responded by forming an anti @-@ slavery party . In the 1805 election , Davis Floyd of Clark County was the only anti @-@ slavery representative elected to the council . Harrison 's measures to legalize slavery were blocked by the representatives from St. Clair County , who refused to authorize slavery unless Harrison supported their request for a separate territory , which Harrison opposed . In 1809 , the St. Clair County settlers petitioned Congress for the formation of a separate territory . Despite Harrison 's disapproval , the Illinois Territory was created . The same year , Congress granted the Indiana Territory the right to elect a House of Representatives . Harrison found himself at odds with the legislature when the anti @-@ slavery party came to power in that year 's election . They promptly rebuffed many of his plans for slavery and repealed the indenturing laws he had enacted in 1803 .

The capital of the territory remained in Vincennes for thirteen years . After the territory was reorganized in 1809 and the Illinois Territory was split off , Vincennes was then on the far west edge of the Indiana Territory . Due to this , the legislature made plans to move the capital to be more centralized with the population . Madison , Jeffersonville , and Corydon competed to become the

new capital . Harrison favored Corydon , a town he had founded and named , and where he owned an estate . The new capitol building was finished in 1813 and the government quickly relocated to Corydon after the outbreak of the War of 1812 for fear of an attack on Vincennes .

= = = Tecumseh 's War = = =

An Indian resistance movement against U.S. expansion had been growing around the Shawnee brothers Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa ( The Prophet ) that became known as Tecumseh 's War . Tenskwatawa convinced the native tribes that they would be protected by the Great Spirit and no harm could befall them if they would rise up against the whites . He encouraged resistance by telling the tribes to only pay white traders half of what they owed , and to give up all the white man 's ways , including their clothing , whiskey , and guns . In 1810 , Tecumseh , with about 400 armed warriors , traveled to Vincennes where he confronted Harrison and demanded that the Treaty of Fort Wayne be rescinded . Although Harrison refused , the war party left peacefully , but Tecumseh was angry and threatened retaliation . After the meeting Tecumseh journeyed to meet with many of the tribes in the region , hoping to create a confederation with which to battle the Americans .

In 1811 , while Tecumseh was still away , Harrison was authorized by Secretary of War William Eustis to march against the nascent confederation , as a show of force . Harrison moved north with an army of more than one thousand men in an attempt to intimidate the Shawnee into making peace . The ploy failed , and the tribes launched a surprise attack on Harrison 's army early on the morning of November 6 . The ensuing battle became known as the Battle of Tippecanoe . Harrison ultimately won his famous victory at Prophetstown , next to the Wabash and Tippecanoe Rivers . Harrison was publicly hailed as a national hero , despite the fact that his troops had greatly outnumbered the Indian forces , and had suffered many more casualties . The battle earned Harrison national fame , and the nickname " Old Tippecanoe " . The victory opened up central Indiana to settlement and allowed settlers to safely venture beyond the southern periphery of the state .

= = = War of 1812 = = =

The war between Tecumseh and Harrison merged with the War of 1812 when the Indian Confederation allied with the British in Canada . In May 1812 , a meeting of all the tribal leaders in the region was held in the Miami village of Mississinewa hosted by Chief Little Turtle . Most of the tribes decided to remain neutral during the conflict and rejected Tecumseh 's plans of continued rebellion . Despite their rejection , Tecumseh continued to lead his dwindling army against the Americans , and moved farther north where he could be supported by the British army . His followers who remained behind continued raiding the countryside and engaged in the Siege of Fort Harrison , which was the United States ' first land victory during the war . John Gibson served as acting Governor during the War of 1812 while Harrison was leading the army . After Harrison was replaced in June 1812 , Gibson continued as acting @-@ governor until incoming governor Thomas Posey arrived in May 1813 .

Numerous other battles that occurred in the modern state of Indiana include the Siege of Fort Wayne , the Pigeon Roost Massacre and the Battle of the Mississinewa . Most of the Native Americans remained passive throughout the war , but there were many incidents between settlers and the tribes , leading to the deaths of hundreds in the territory . The Treaty of Ghent , signed in 1814 , ended the War and relieved American settlers from their fears of the nearby British and their Indian allies .

= = = Statehood = = =

In 1812 , Jonathan Jennings defeated Harrison 's chosen candidate and became the territory 's representative to Congress . Jennings used his position there to attempt to speed up Indiana 's path to statehood by immediately introducing legislation to grant Indiana statehood , even though the population of the entire territory was under 25 @, @ 000 . Jennings did this against the wishes of

incoming governor Thomas Posey , and there was noted disagreement between the two men on the subject . No action was taken on the legislation at the time , though , because of the outbreak of the War of 1812 .

Thomas Posey was appointed territorial Governor on March 3 , 1813 , and served until the state 's first Governor was sworn into office on November 7 , 1816 . Posey , who was age sixty @-@ two and in poor health , had created a rift in the politics of the territory by refusing to reside in the capital of Corydon , instead living in Jeffersonville to be closer to his doctor . He further complicated matters by being a supporter of slavery , much to the chagrin of opponents like Jennings , Dennis Pennington , and others who dominated the Territorial Legislature , and who sought to use the bid for statehood to permanently end the possibility of slavery in the state .

In February 1815 , the United States House of Representatives began debate on granting Indiana Territory statehood . In early 1816 , the Territory approved a census and Pennington was named to be the census enumerator . The population of the territory was found to be 63 @,@ 897 , above the threshold required for statehood that was stated in the Northwest Ordinance . On May 13 , 1816 , the Enabling Act was passed and the state was granted permission to form a government subject to the approval of Congress . A constitutional convention met in 1816 in Corydon . The state 's first constitution was drawn up on June 10 , and elections were held in August to fill the offices of the new state government . In November of that year the constitution was approved by Congress and the territorial government was dissolved , ending the existence of the Indiana Territory and replacing it with the State of Indiana .

= = Commemoration = =

The Indiana Territory is celebrated at an annual event in Corydon centered on the territorial capitol building . The festival includes actors in period dress who reenact events and pretend to be some of the important settlers of early Indiana . Other commemorative festivals occur in Vincennes and Madison , and the history of the period is noted on historic markers and monuments across the former territory .