

= Harrison County , Indiana =

Harrison County is located in the far southern part of the U.S. state of Indiana along the Ohio River . The county was officially established in 1808 . As of the 2010 census , the county 's population was 39 @, @ 364 , an increase of 6 @. @ 6 % from 2000 . The county seat is Corydon , the former capital of Indiana .

Harrison County is part of the Louisville @- @ Jefferson County , KY @- @ IN Metropolitan Statistical Area .

The county has a diverse economy with no sector employing more than 13 % of the local workforce . Horseshoe Southern Indiana is the largest employer , followed by Tyson Foods and the Harrison County Hospital . Tourism also plays a significant role in the economy and is centered on the county 's many historic sites . County government is divided among several bodies including the boards of the county 's three school districts , three elected commissioners who exercise legislative and executive powers , an elected county council that controls the county budget , a circuit and superior court , and township trustees who oversee government function in the county 's 12 townships . The county has 10 incorporated towns with a total population of over 5 @, @ 000 , as well as many small unincorporated towns . One Interstate highway and one U. S. Route run through the county , as do eight Indiana State Roads and two railroad lines .

Migratory groups of Native Americans inhabited the area for thousands of years , but the first permanent settlements in what would become Harrison County were created by American settlers in the years after the American Revolutionary War . The population grew rapidly during first decade of the 19th century . Corydon was officially platted in 1808 and became the capital of the Indiana Territory in 1813 . Many of the state 's early important historic events occurred in the county , including the writing of Indiana 's first constitution . Corydon was the state capital until 1825 , but in the years afterward remained an important hub for southern Indiana . In 1859 there was a major meteorite strike . In 1863 the Battle of Corydon was fought , the only battle of the American Civil War to occur in Indiana .

= = History = =

Humans first entered what would become Indiana near the end of the last ice age . The region around Harrison County was of particular value to the early humans because of the abundance of flint . There is evidence of flint mining in local caves as early as 2000 BCE ; the stone was used to produce crude tools . Passing migratory tribes frequented the area which was influenced by succeeding groups of peoples including the Hopewells and Mississippians . One flint @- @ working and camping location is known as the Swan 's Landing Archeological Site ; it is among the most important Early Archaic archaeological sites anywhere in eastern North America . Permanent human settlements in the county began with the arrival of American settlers in the last decade of the 18th century .

The area became part of the United States following its conquest during the American Revolutionary War . Veterans of the revolution received land grants in the eastern part of the county as part of Clark 's Grant . Daniel Boone and his brother Squire Boone were early explorers of the county , entering from Kentucky in the 1780s . Harvey Heth , Spier Spencer , and Edward Smith were among the first to settle in the county beginning in the 1790s . Smith built the first home in what later became the county seat of Corydon .

Harrison County was originally part of Knox County and Clark County but was separated in 1808 . It was the first Indiana county formed by the Indiana territorial legislature and not the Governor . The county originally contained land that is now parts of Crawford , Floyd , Washington , Jackson , Clark , Lawrence , Perry , Scott and Orange Counties . The county was named for William Henry Harrison , the first governor of Indiana Territory , and later a General in War of 1812 , hero of Tippecanoe , and the 9th U.S. President . Harrison was the largest land holder in the county at the time and had a small estate at Harrison Spring .

Squire Boone settled permanently in what is now Boone Township in 1806 . He died in 1815 and is

buried in a cave near his home , Squire Boone Caverns . James , Isaiah , and Daniel (son of Squire) Boone settled in Heth Township during the first decade of the 1800s . The county 's first church was built by Boone east of present @-@ day Laconia . The church , which has been reconstructed , is known as Old Goshen . Jacob Kintner settled near Corydon in about 1810 . He was one of the wealthiest settlers and amassed a 700 @-@ acre (2 @.@ 8 km2) tract of land around Corydon , built a large home , and maintained an inn . Paul and Susanna Mitchem became Quakers and immigrated to Harrison County from North Carolina in 1814 , bringing with them 107 slaves they freed after arriving . Although some of the former slaves left , the group became one of the largest communities of free blacks in the state .

The first road was built in Harrison County in 1809 connecting Corydon with Mauckport on the Ohio River . A tow @-@ and @-@ ferry line was operated there by the Mauck family bringing settlers into the county from Kentucky . This road and ferry greatly expanded the county 's economic viability and ease of access to the outside world , leading to a rapid settlement of the area . The county 's population more than doubled in the following decade .

Dennis Pennington , who lived near Lanesville , became one of the county 's early leading citizens and speaker of the territory 's legislature . Corydon began competing with other southern Indiana settlements to become the new capital of the territory after its reorganization in 1809 . Hostilities broke out in 1811 with the Native American tribes on the frontier , and the territorial capital was moved to Corydon on May 1 , 1813 , after Pennington suggested it would be safer than Vincennes . For the next twelve years , Corydon was the political center of the territory and subsequent state . A state constitution was drafted in Corydon during June 1816 and after statehood the town served as the state capital until 1825 .

The first division of the county occurred in 1814 when the northern portion of the county was separated to become Washington County . The county was again divided in 1818 with the western part of the county being separated to become Crawford County . A third division occurred in 1819 when Floyd County was created out of the eastern part of the county . Harrison County 's eastern border has had minor adjustments through land transactions with Floyd County ; the last change occurred in 1968 .

The northern part of the county is known as the barrens , named by the early settlers for the lack timber there . For the first decades of settlement , settlers refused to purchase the land in the barrens because it was considered too far from the timber needed to build homes , fires , fences , and other necessities . The barrens were swept by annual wildfires that prevented the growth of trees . The largest barren ran from the northern edge of Corydon northward to Palmyra , and from the Floyd Knobs in the east , westward to the Blue River . The Central Barren covered most of the upper middle part of the county . As settlement expanded and farming grew in the early 19th century , settlers began to discover that the barrens were among the most fertile farmlands in the state , and they quickly filled up with landholders . As settlement increased , the wildfires were stopped and by the start of the 20th century the uninhabited parts of the barrens had become forested and have remained so until modern times .

A large meteorite fell near Buena Vista on March 28 , 1859 , causing some panic in the area . The site of the impact and a part of the meteorite have been preserved .

In 1860 the first Harrison County fair was held in Corydon . The county fair has been an annual event since then and is the longest continuously running fair in the state . The county fairgrounds were built in the southwest corner of Corydon where the home of Edward Smith formerly stood . The fair 's original grandstand burned in 1960 and the county purchased a new grandstand from the minor league baseball team at Parkway Field in Louisville , Kentucky .

The only Civil War battle fought in Indiana occurred in Harrison County on July 9 , 1863 , between the Harrison County Legion and Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan of the Confederate Army during Morgan 's Raid . Morgan crossed the Ohio River into Harrison County on the morning of July 9 . His crossing was contested by the Legion with artillery on the Indiana shore and an armed river boat . After Morgan opened fire with his own batteries from the opposite shore the legion quickly retreated towards Corydon . The citizens of Mauckport fled the town with most of their valuables . Morgan landed on the east side of Mauckport with two thousand cavalry and marched north burning

homes , farms , and mills . The county militia made a stand to block his advance on the county seat and the resulting conflict is known as the Battle of Corydon . The battle was won by the Confederates and the town of Corydon was then sacked and stores were looted and ransomed . The battle left 4 dead , 12 wounded , and 355 captured . After the battle Morgan continued into northern Harrison County where he looted New Salisbury area with the main body of troops . Crandall and Palmyra were robbed and sacked by detachments . His forces left the county on July 10 ; they were eventually defeated and captured by Union Army .

The railroad reached Harrison County in 1869 . A line was completed across the northern half of county in 1874 running from Floyd County connecting Crandall and then continuing west into Crawford County . A southward extension connecting Corydon to Crandall was completed in 1882 . A train wreck killed three in 1902 . The southern extension connecting Corydon was purchased by the Corydon Scenic Railroad Company in 1989 and operated as a tourist attraction until 2003 when it was closed because of financial difficulties , ending passenger service in the county .

The first county courthouse was a small log building . When Corydon became the territory capital in 1813 , county and territorial officials shared the building . By 1816 a stone building had been constructed , and it served as both Harrison County Courthouse and the state capital building until the capital was moved . As more space was needed , other buildings were constructed to supplement the courthouse . In the 1920s , the latest of these office buildings was razed to make way for a new courthouse ; the old building was acquired by the State of Indiana and preserved as the first state capitol building . The new courthouse was built from 1927 to 1928 at a cost of about \$ 250 @, @ 000 . The building was designed by Fowler and Karges of Evansville and was constructed by J. Fred Beggs and Company of Scottsburg .

The Harrison @-@ Crawford State Forest was started in 1932 when the State of Indiana purchased land in western Harrison County . The 26 @, @ 000 @-@ acre (110 km²) park is the largest state forest in Indiana and surrounds the O 'Bannon Woods State Park and Wyandotte Caves , located in eastern Crawford County .

The Matthew E. Welsh Bridge was completed in 1966 in Mauckport . It connected Harrison County with neighboring Meade County . This is the only bridge over the Ohio River between Tell City and New Albany . In 1969 Dr. Samuel P. Hays donated the 311 @-@ acre (1 @. @ 26 km²) Hayswood Nature Reserve to the county . It was developed in 1973 by the Harrison County Park Board by adding public facilities to the western part of the preserve . It is the second largest nature reserve in the county .

Caesars Indiana opened a casino river boat , hotel complex , and golf course in 1998 , boosting the county 's tourism industry . The casino complex was purchased and became Horseshoe Southern Indiana on July 11 , 2008 .

= = Geography = =

Harrison County is located in the far southern part of Indiana , about halfway between the state 's east and west borders . The Ohio River defines the county 's southern border ; across the river lies the state of Kentucky and the city of Louisville . The Blue River runs along the county 's western border . Six counties are adjacent to Harrison County . Three are in Indiana : Washington County to the north , Floyd County to the east , and Crawford County to the west . The other three are in Kentucky : Jefferson County and Hardin County are to the southeast and Meade County is to the south .

According to the 2010 census , the county has a total area of 486 @. @ 52 square miles (1 @, @ 260 @. @ 1 km²) , of which 484 @. @ 52 square miles (1 @, @ 254 @. @ 9 km²) (or 99 @. @ 59 %) is land and 2 @. @ 00 square miles (5 @. @ 2 km²) (or 0 @. @ 41 %) is water .

Harrison Spring is located west of Corydon ; it is 60 feet (18 m) in diameter and is over 4 @, @ 000 feet (1 @, @ 200 m) deep , making it the largest and deepest spring in Indiana . It rises from a solid rock in a level spot of land , and it outputs enough water to have turned flour mills in the past . Is the largest spring by volume in Indiana producing over 3 million gallons of water daily . The spring derives its name from William Henry Harrison who once owned the land surrounding it .

Harrison County 's surface is covered by many hills and valleys . The Knobstone Escarpment begins in the southeastern part of the county , rising sharply at the Ohio River , and following a course roughly along the eastern edge of the county . The " knobs " are the most significant series of hills in Indiana , with the highest knobs near the Ohio River towering 610 feet (190 m) over the surrounding valley . This is the greatest local relief difference in the state . The Ohio River borders the entire southeastern , southern , and southwestern part of the county . Blue River forms the western border with Indian Creek and Buck Creek as the primary internal drainage systems .

The western part of the county is preserved as the Harrison @-@ Crawford State Forest and the O 'Bannon Woods State Park . The county has extensive cave systems including Squire Boone Caverns , the Binkley Cave System (Indiana Caverns) and smaller , highly decorated caves such as Jewel Box and Devil 's Graveyard caves .

= = = Towns and communities = = =

Corydon , with a 2000 population of 2 @,@ 715 , is the largest town in the county , the county seat , and center of economic activity . Palmyra , located on the northern edge of the county , is the second largest town and had a 2000 population of 644 . Lanesville is the third largest town with a 2000 population of 615 . Milltown had a 2000 population of 932 ; the town sits on the western border of the county and a majority of its population lives in Crawford County . The county 's other incorporated towns , Crandall , Elizabeth , Laconia , Mauckport , New Middletown , and New Amsterdam all have populations under 150 .

There are several unincorporated and formerly @-@ incorporated communities . These include Bradford , Byrneville , Central , Depauw , New Salisbury , Ramsey , Rosewood , Sennville and White Cloud .

The county is subdivided into 12 townships : Blue River , Boone , Franklin , Harrison , Heth , Jackson , Morgan , Posey , Spencer , Taylor , Washington , and Webster .

= = Climate and weather = =

Harrison County is in the humid subtropical climate region of the United States along with most of Southern Indiana . Its Köppen climate classification is Dfa , meaning that it is cold , has no dry season , and has a hot summer . However , it is close to the southern edge of this region . In recent years , average temperatures in Corydon have ranged from a low of 21 ° F (? 6 ° C) in January to a high of 88 ° F (31 ° C) in July , although a record low of ? 31 ° F (? 35 ° C) was recorded in January 1977 and a record high of 104 ° F (40 ° C) was recorded in July 1983 . Average monthly precipitation ranged from 3 @.@ 13 inches (80 mm) in October to 5 @.@ 06 inches (129 mm) in May .

= = Government = =

The county government is a constitutional body and is granted specific powers by the Constitution of Indiana and by the Indiana Code . Executive and legislative power is vested in the Board of Commissioners , and fiscal power is vested in the County Council .

The seven member county council is the fiscal branch of the county government and controls all the spending and revenue collection in the county . Four representatives are elected from county districts and three are elected at @-@ large . The council members serve four @-@ year terms . They are responsible for setting salaries , the annual budget , and special spending . The council also has limited authority to impose local taxes in the form of an income tax , property tax , excise taxes , and service taxes . County income and property taxes are subject to state level approval . In 2013 the council members were Phil Smith , District 1 (R) ; Gary Davis , District 2 (R) ; Gordon Pendleton , District 3 (D) ; Ralph Sherman District 4 (R) ; Sherry Brown , At @-@ Large (R) ; Richard Gerdon , At @-@ Large (D) ; Jim Heitkemper , At @-@ Large (R) .

The Board of Commissioners consists of three commissioners who are elected county @-@ wide in

staggered terms . Each serves a four @-@ year term . One of the commissioners , typically the most senior , serves as president of the board . The commissioners manage the budget set forth by the council , the collection of revenue , enact and repeal ordinances , and managing the day @-@ to @-@ day functions of the county government . The commissioners hold public meetings twice each month to discuss issues affecting the public and receive community input . In 2013 the commissioners were George Ethridge , District 1 (R) ; Kenny Saulman , District 2 (R) ; James Klintiver , District 3 (R) .

Harrison County has a Circuit Court and a Superior Court . The Superior Court handles all adult criminal cases , small claims cases , traffic tickets , and infractions . The Circuit Court handles the rest of the cases in the county , including most of the divorce cases , juvenile matters , CHINS cases , civil proceedings , probate , estates , adoptions , civil commitments , and other civil cases . Judges in each court serve a six @-@ year term . The Judge of the Circuit Court appoints a referee to handle family law cases .

The county has several other elected offices , including sheriff , coroner , auditor , treasurer , recorder , surveyor and circuit court clerk . Each of these elected officers serves a term of four years and oversees a different part of county government . Members elected to county government positions are required to declare party affiliations and to be residents of the county .

Each of the townships has a trustee who administers rural fire protection and ambulance service , provides poor relief and manages cemetery care , among other duties . The trustee is assisted in these duties by a three @-@ member township board . The trustees and board members are elected to four @-@ year terms .

Most of Harrison County falls within State House District 70 , and is represented in Indiana House of Representatives by Republican Rhonda J. Rhoads . Blue River Township in the northernwesternmost part of the county is part of State House District 73 , and is represented by Republican Steve Davisson . The entire county is part of State Senate District 47 , and is represented in the Indiana State Senate by Democrat Richard Young . The county is part of Indiana 's 9th congressional district and is represented in the United States Congress by Republican Todd Young .

= = Economy = =

Harrison County has a diverse economy . Manufacturing industry is centered in the Corydon Industrial Park where automobile @-@ related manufacturing is most prevalent . There is large scale farming throughout the rural areas of the county ; corn and soybeans are the county 's largest crops . A service and shopping district is centered in Corydon . There are several medical facilities in the county including the Harrison County Hospital , two nursing facilities operated by Kindred Healthcare , and a number of private practices .

The county has a developed tourism industry . The main attractions are the historic sites of Corydon , the county 's golf courses , the Horseshoe Riverboat Casino and Hotel , and the area 's two famous caves : Squire Boone Caverns near Mauckport and Wyandotte Caves in adjoining Crawford County . The casino is the county 's single largest source of tax revenue and produced \$ 23 @. @ 5 million in tax revenue during 2007 .

Multiple utility companies serve the county . Electricity is provided by the Harrison Rural Electric Membership Cooperative (REMC) and Duke Energy . Natural gas is provided by the Indiana Utilities Corporation in Corydon and several small distributors provide rural service . Land @-@ line telephone service is provided exclusively by Verizon . Cable television is provided by Insight Communications in some parts of the county . Water is pumped from a number of corporations , the largest being South Harrison Water Corporation and Ramsey Water Inc .

As of July 2009 , the county 's largest employer was the Horseshoe Southern Indiana casino with 1 @, @ 600 employees . Other large employers are Tyson Foods with 550 employees , Harrison County Hospital employs 504 , South Harrison Community School Corporation employs 425 , Blue River Services employs 405 , Wal @-@ Mart employs 400 , North Harrison Community School Corporation employs 311 , ICON Metal Forming employs 200 , Darmic Inc. employs 120 , Kindred

Healthcare employs 115 , Smith Store Fixtures and Lucas Oil Products each employs 80 , Norstam Veneers employs 50 , and Speed Flex employs 41 . An additional 92 businesses employ 5 to 40 workers . In total , 13 % of the workforce is in retail , 12 % in government , 12 % in manufacturing , 11 % in services , 8 % in accommodations and food services , 8 % in agriculture , 7 % in construction , 7 % working for local utilities , 6 % in finance , insurance , and real estate , and 6 % in other trades . The Louisville , Jefferson County , KY @-@ IN Metropolitan statistical area to which Harrison County belongs has an unemployment rate of 10 @.@ 2 % in December 2009 .

= = Transportation = =

Harrison County is bisected by the major east ? west Interstate 64 . The highway has entrances and exits at Corydon and Lanesville . U.S. Route 150 crosses the northern part of the county following the route of the Buffalo Trace .

The north ? south State Road 135 and east ? west State Road 62 are roughly perpendicular and cross each other at Corydon near the center of the county . State Road 64 is an east ? west route through the north central part of the county , crossing State Road 135 in New Salisbury . State Road 111 connects Elizabeth with New Albany in neighboring Floyd County ; the Horseshoe Riverboat Casino is located on the route . State Road 337 crosses the county from the northwest to the southeast , passing through Corydon in the center of the county .

There are two very short Indiana State Roads in the county . State Road 211 runs for about 2 miles (3 @.@ 2 km) east of Elizabeth in the southeast part of county , connecting State Roads 11 and 111 . State Road 462 connects the Harrison @-@ Crawford State Forest with State Road 62 in the southwest part of the county , running for about 3 miles (4 @.@ 8 km) .

Two railroads operate in the county . Lucas Oil Rail Line is a 7 @-@ mile (11 km) shortline railroad beginning in downtown Corydon , moving northward through the industrial park where Lucas Oil 's bottling facilities are located , and thence northward to where it intersects with an east ? west Norfolk Southern Railway line near New Salisbury . The Norfolk Southern line runs across the entire state and passes through the northern part of the county , through the towns of Crandall , Ramsey , and Depauw . It has a small depot in Ramsey .

= = Education = =

The county has 22 schools ; 15 are public schools in 3 school districts , and 7 are private . South Harrison Community Schools is the largest district with 3 @,@ 141 pupils in 2010 . The district covers the southern half of the county and includes Corydon Central High School , Corydon Central Junior High School , South Central Junior & Senior High School , Corydon Intermediate , Corydon Elementary , Heth @-@ Washington Elementary , and New Middletown Elementary . North Harrison Community School Corporation had 2 @,@ 324 pupils in 2010 enrolled in North Harrison High School , North Harrison Middle School , North Harrison Elementary , and Morgan Elementary . Lanesville Community School Corporation is the smallest district serving only Franklin Township . It consists of Lanesville Junior Senior High School and Lanesville Elementary . In 2010 , teachers in the North Harrison district averaged \$ 50 @,@ 800 in annual salary ; South Harrison teachers averaged \$ 48 @,@ 500 ; Lanesville teachers averaged \$ 51 @,@ 500 . North Harrison had a 2010 graduation rate of 81 @.@ 5 % ; South Harrison 84 @.@ 6 % ; Lanesville 91 @.@ 5 % . Lanesville and North Harrison students performed above average on 2010 statewide ISTEP + tests , while South Harrison students performed below average .

The county also has several private schools supported by local churches . St. John 's , a Lutheran school near Lanesville , has 77 pupils . St. Joseph 's , a Catholic school in Corydon , has 87 pupils . County high school students , including those in public , private , and home schools , may attend the vocational school C. A. Prosser school of Technology in neighboring Floyd County as part of their high school curriculum .

= = Notable people = =

James Best was born in 1926 in Kentucky ; at the age of three he went to an orphanage , then was adopted and was raised in Corydon . He joined the Army after World War II . In the 1950s he became an actor , appearing first in a western and then in a variety of film genres . He also appeared many times as a guest star in various television shows including The Andy Griffith Show and The Twilight Zone . He is best known for his role as Sheriff Rosco P. Coltrane on The Dukes of Hazzard .

Arville Funk was born in Harrison County in 1929 and attended school in Corydon . He taught high school history for 10 years starting in 1955 . Like William Zenor , he studied law in New Albany , and returned to Corydon and practiced law ; in 1965 he joined a partnership with Frank O 'Bannon . He was also active with Indiana historical and genealogical societies , and wrote many books about Indiana history . He died in 1990 , and is buried in Corydon .

Frank O 'Bannon was born in 1930 and was raised in Corydon . He attended Indiana University , where he earned degrees in government and law ; he also served for two years in the Air Force . He was a state senator for 18 years and served as the lieutenant governor for 8 years before becoming governor in 1997 . In 2003 , he died in Chicago from complications from a stroke before his term was ended ; he was 73 years old .

= = Demographics = =

As of the 2010 United States Census , there were 39 @, @ 364 people , 15 @, @ 192 households , and 11 @, @ 031 families residing in the county . The population density was 81 @. @ 2 inhabitants per square mile (31 @. @ 4 / km²) . There were 16 @, @ 534 housing units at an average density of 34 @. @ 1 per square mile (13 @. @ 2 / km²) . The racial makeup of the county was 97 @. @ 4 % white , 0 @. @ 5 % black or African American , 0 @. @ 4 % Asian , 0 @. @ 2 % American Indian , 0 @. @ 5 % from other races , and 1 @. @ 0 % from two or more races . Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 1 @. @ 5 % of the population . In terms of ancestry , 31 @. @ 1 % were German , 16 @. @ 5 % were American , 12 @. @ 8 % were Irish , and 12 @. @ 8 % were English .

Of the 15 @, @ 192 households , 33 @. @ 7 % had children under the age of 18 living with them , 58 @. @ 5 % were married couples living together , 9 @. @ 5 % had a female householder with no husband present , 27 @. @ 4 % were non @- @ families , and 22 @. @ 8 % of all households were made up of individuals . The average household size was 2 @. @ 56 and the average family size was 2 @. @ 99 . The median age was 40 @. @ 2 years .

The median income for a household in the county was \$ 47 @, @ 697 and the median income for a family was \$ 59 @, @ 316 . Males had a median income of \$ 40 @, @ 884 versus \$ 31 @, @ 808 for females . The per capita income for the county was \$ 23 @, @ 539 . About 7 @. @ 8 % of families and 10 @. @ 0 % of the population were below the poverty line , including 15 @. @ 7 % of those under age 18 and 5 @. @ 1 % of those age 65 or over .