

INDIANA BOROUGH

At the northern terminus of the Indiana branch of the Pennsylvania railway, nineteen miles from its intersection with the main line, and seventy-two miles northeast of Pittsburg, is Indiana, the county-seat of Indiana county and one of the most pleasant and healthy towns of this State. Indiana is near the geographical centre of the county and is eligibly built upon rising ground. Its wide streets and side-walks, beautiful residences and substantial business-blocks, and handsome churches and superior schools, all indicate the progressive character and high standing of its people. Indiana comprises the separate boroughs of Indiana and West Indiana and contains a population of over two thousand. It is the shipping-point for over two-thirds of the county, and exports lumber, bark, grain, live stock, leather and straw-board. It contains good county buildings, eight churches, one of the largest and finest State Normal schools in the United States, excellent public schools, eight hotels and three banks. It is lighted with gas, has good water-works and supports a fire department. It has three planning-mills, two foundries, three flouring-mills, a wagon-works, two tanneries and one of the largest straw-board mills in this country. Indiana is situated in north latitude 40 degrees 38 minutes and 2 degrees 8 minutes west longitude from Washington City. It was laid out in 1805, and was incorporated on March 11, 1816.

Fergus Moorhead settled on the Isaac Moorhead farm, west of the site of Indiana, in 1772, and in 1776 a white man settled on the James P Carter farm adjoining one of the present borough boundary lines, but the Indians burned his cabin and drove him away. In 1795 Conrad Rice came to the James P. Carter farm and found Fergus Moorhead, Thomas Allison, Timothy O'Neil, George Trimble, Gawin Adams, James Kelly and James Thompson, residing within the vicinity of the site of Indiana.

George Clymer owned a body of three thousand and fifty acres of land, which included the site of Indiana. He conveyed two hundred and fifty acres (portions of tracts warranted in the names of James Gall, John Beck and William Brown) of land through his agent, Alex. Craig, on which tract Thomas Allison and Alex. Taylor laid out the town of Indiana. After reserving three acres for the public grounds, the town was laid out into two hundred and twenty-five lots and ninety-two out-lots. "Originally the public grounds, where the courthouse stands, extended from Philadelphia to Water street, and from Clymer street to Sutton Alley, nearly three acres. The square upon which the Lutheran, Presbyterian and United Presbyterian churches stand, originally extended from Clymer street to Vine street, and from Church street to the southern limits of the town, embracing about two acres and a half. Unfortunately, many years ago building lots were sold off these public squares, to save the county a pittance of taxes; and thus was the beauty of the town marred and the comfort of the inhabitants impaired. This was worse than a crime—it was an unpardonable blunder. The proceeds of the sale of the town lots were applied to the erection of the county buildings, and thus the old court-house (a most creditable building in its day) and the old jail were built without taxation, and without costing the people a farthing.: The first jail was of hickory logs and had a clapboard roof. The stone county jail was commenced in 1806 and completed in 1807.

The contractor was Rev. John Jamison, and the building was two stories high and 30x36 feet in dimensions. James Mahan had charge of the mason work and Thomas Sutton of the carpentering. The court held its sessions in the upper rooms of the jail until

the erection of the old court-house in 1809. The present court-house (a picture of which appears opposite page 180), a most substantial and beautiful building, was completed in 1871, at a cost of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

There were no banks up to 1855, when Hogue & Co. opened a private bank, which was succeeded by the banking firm of Sutton & Stewart, who did business from 1858 to 1864. On January 2, 1864, "The First National Bank" was organized; "The Indiana County deposit Bank" was organized on December 4, 1869; and "The Farmers' Bank" commenced operations March 24, 1876.

Palladium Lodge, No. 346, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was chartered February 19, 1849, and Indiana Lodge, No. 313, Free and Accepted Masons, was chartered January 11, 1858, and constituted April 7, 1858. The charter members of Palladium Lodge were: J. G. Caldwell, Charles Slaysman, John Hunter, W. B. Clark, D. Peeler, W. C. Boyd, T. S. Searle, J. H. Shryock, W. McCoy and A. R. Marlin. The charter members of Indiana Masonic Lodge were: Robert Crawford, James Sloan, James G. Caldwell, James Johnson, John Eason, Harry White, James Bailey, W. B. Marshall, Robert Walkinshaw, Charles Swoyer, Thomas St. Clair, M.D., William Reed, M.D., William Crawford and George Sedgwick. Indiana Lodge, No. 21, Ancient Order of United Workmen, was instituted July 2, 1872, and Clymer Lodge, No. 281, Knights of Honor, was instituted August 12, 1874, and named in honor of George Clymer. Post no. 28, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized on June 28, 1874, and its charter members were: D. S. Porter, B. B. Tiffaney, D. F. Heasley, A. h. Mitchell, J. T. Gibson, J. B. Work, A. H. White, M. J. Shannon, R. M. Birkman, James McGaughey, J. M. Sutton, J. H. Hill, E. D. Cherry, A. S. Thompson, E. E. Allen, G. R. Lewis, T. C. Ramey and A. C. Braughler.

Henry Shryock erected the first building on the site of the town in 1805. it was round log cabin (about the centre of East Philadelphia street) and was used for several years as a tavern. Samuel Young and William Coulter next built cabins. In the spring of 1806 James Moohead and Peter Sutton each erected a two-story hewed tavern building with a shingle roof. The first man to see goods was Samuel Young in 1806, and the first regular merchant was John Dennison, who opened a store during the same year. Between 1806 and 1810 Robert Nixon and John Sutton opened stores, and the population increased from fifty in 1808 to one hundred and twenty-five in 1810. In 1833 the town contained sixty dwellings, five taverns, eight stores and three churches. In 1856 the population had increased to over one thousand, and on the 5th of June of that year the Indiana Branch railroad was completed. From the opening of that road until the present time the borough had increased steadily in population, manufactures and wealth.

The population of Indiana at each census from 1820 to 1860 has been: 317, 433, 674, and 963.

The burgesses of Indiana from 1816 to 1880 were: 1816, James McKnight; 1818, James M. Kelly; 1819, John Taylor; 1820, John Taylor, Esq; 1821, John Douglass; 1822 Robert Nixon; 1824, James McCahan; 1827, William Lucas, Esq; 1828, James Moorhead; 1830, William Banks, Esq; 1831, James Thompson; 1832, Fergus Cannon; 1834, James Thomas; 1835, James M McKennan; 1836, Fergus Cannon; 1837, Woodroe Douglass; 1839, Daniel Stanard; 1840, James McKennan; 1841, Woodroe Douglass; 1843, James M Stewart; 1844, William McClaran; 1845, I. M. Watt; 1846, Samuel Moorhead; 1847, Charles B. Campbell; 1850, J. M. Watt; 1851, James Sutton; 1852, John

Myers; 1853, James Todd; 1855, William M. Stewart; 1856, E. P. Hildebrand: July 13, 1856, S. A. Douglass appointed; 1857, James Sutton; 1859, John H Lichteberger; 1860, F. M. Kinter; 1861, William H. Coleman; 1862, Adam Row; 1863, A. W. Taylor; October 16, 1863, S. A. Douglass; 1864, J. M. Watt; 1865, George W. Bodenhamer; 1866, T. S. Nesbit; 1867, J. S. Nesbit, 1868, J. G. Caldwell; 1870, James Turner; November 8, 1873, G. S. Christy; 1874, J. A. Smith and 1877, M. F. Jamison

The burgesses of West Indiana from 1870 to 1880 were: 1871, James Clark, Esq; 1872, A. L. McClusky; 1875, John Sutor; 1876, Griffith Ellis.

Between 1850 and 1870 the Cumberland Valley, Columbia and other mutual insurance companies did some little business in the county. Up to 1870 the standard fire insurance companies had scarcely a foothold in Indiana county, when in April of that year H. S. Thompson established his present agency, and in 1872 moved into the Deposit bank building, which he now occupies on Main street, in the borough of Indiana. Mr. Thompson has for some time been a notary public and is well qualified to represent the leading insurance companies who have secured his services. He then (1872) represented the Insurance company of North America, of Philadelphia; the Home, of New York and Farmers' Insurance company of York, Pa., and has also become the representative of the Aetna, of Hartford, and Continental, of New York, in addition to the Royal, Phoenix and Guardian fire companies of England and Travelers' Life and Accident company, of Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Thompson is a pleasant, straightforward gentleman as well as a practical and successful business man, energetic and careful, without display or boasting, and represents companies which afford every element of security, as well as reasonable rates of insurance to the public. Between 1870 and 1872 the late Capt. George E. Smith, who located in the county in 1835, established a general insurance office on Water street, in West Indiana. In 1884, R. A. Paul & Son opened an insurance office. They are now located at the corner of Sixth and Philadelphia street, and represent the Fire association, the American Fire and the Franklin Fire insurance companies of Philadelphia; the Liberty, of New York; the Artisan, of Pittsburgh; two companies of Allegheny city, and the Commercial, Union and Lancashire companies, of England. R. A. Paul & Son represent substantial and leading companies, and by extensive experience, fair dealing and promptness have won a permanent reputation as reliable business men.

The first paper of Indiana county was federal sheet called the *American*, and issued by James McCahan in 1814. In 1821 the *Indiana and Jefferson Whig* was established in the interests of democracy. In 1828 the *American* was merged into the *Whig*, which in 1832 became Anti-Masonic, under the name of the *Free Press*. In 1834 the *Free Press* became the *Indiana Register*, which was purchased by Jonathan Row (see his sketch), and after various changes passed in 1863 into the hands of George Row (see his sketch), who, in 1869, sold it to Major R. M. Birkman, who merged it into the *Blairsville Press* and issued it as the *Indiana Progress*, which he sold in 1880 to William Black, who afterwards disposed of it to A. T. Moorhead, its present editor and proprietor. In 1834 the *Inquirer*, a democratic journal, was issued by Fergus Cannon. In 1840 the Liberty or Abolition party had its rise and the old Anti-Masonic warrior, James Moorhead, again entered the editorial ranks and established the *Clarion of Freedom* in the interest of the antislavery cause. This paper afterwards became the *True American*, which was issued as a know-nothing journal until 1852, when it became republican in politics and supported that party until its consolidation, in 1866, with the *Register*. In

May, 1855, James Moorhead and his son, James W. Moorhead, started the *Independent*, an educational, temperance, anti-slavery and anti-know-nothing journal. On January 9, 1857, its veteran editor, James Moorhead, died and in 1860 his son sold the office. The *Messenger* was founded in 1856 by Judge Silas M. Clark, J. M. Thompson and John young as a democratic paper. It was independent in 1860 and in 1862 became republican. The initial number of the *Indiana Times* (see sketch of Horace M. Lowry) was issued on September 4, 1878. The *Indiana Democrat* (see sketch of Franklin Sansom), the only democratic paper in the county, was established on May 4, 1862.

The initial number of the *Indiana County Gazette* was issued on Wednesday, August 13, 1890, by the Indiana Publishing Company, which is composed of thirty of the business men of the county. It aims to give late and accurate news, especially concerning the development of the county. Its editor is Warner H. Bell, who was formerly city editor of the Pittsburgh *Post*. After the late war George Row introduced many city methods into the printing business at Indiana, and advocated in his paper the establishment of the present State Normal school.

The Indiana post-office, under the management of Fannie W. Nixon, ranks high as one of the most systemically and best conducted offices in the State. Her predecessor was A. t. Moorhead, the courteous and successful editor of the *Progress*, who, in 1876, invented the celebrated revolving book and goods rack of to-day, which he used as a revolving letterrack.