

ORIGIN OF THE TERM *Hoosier*

[The following item relative to the origin of the term *Hoosier* clipped from the *Pittsburgh Statesman* by the Logansport *Canal Telegraph* of May 17, 1834, was discovered and sent to the *Indiana Magazine of History* by Esther U. McNitt of Indiana State Library. It is one of the earliest, though not the earliest, of the several explanations that have been offered in regard to the origin of the appellation *Hoosier*, so universally used to designate a citizen of Indiana. This statement by the *Pittsburgh Statesman* was not noticed by the late Jacob P. Dunn in his very full treatment of the question which appeared in his work, *Indiana and Indianians*, 1121-1155. See also Dunn, "Origin of the Word Hoosier", in *Indiana Magazine of History*, I, 86-96, and "The Word Hoosier," in *ibid.*, VII, 61-63. Other matter pertaining to this question may be found in *ibid.*, IX, 27-28; XVII, 305-6; XXV, 101-103; Indiana Historical Society, *Publications*, IV, No. 2.]

¹⁷ Placerville is about 40 miles east of Sacramento. The diarist wrote *35 miles*, but he probably meant to set down *350 miles*.

yellow flowers. There is plenty of good grass for the Cattle. All well in camp. Passed threw a long rough rocky road crossing a small stream a number of times and come very near upsetting. Companys should prepare well before going threw on account of the jolting

Aug 13 Camped On the Humbolt after coning some twenty eight miles to the second post office. No water but slough [?] and no timber but plenty of grass. Plenty of Sho Shonee Indians but they are mixed with french and Diggers Indian. they are very dirty and nasty having no clothing. Grass is good but [no] timber. the valey here is fertile and levell. No game. All well in camp. Musketoe[s] bad

Aug 14 Camped on the Humbolt after coming some twenty miles over a very levell road traveling all the tine in the valey. the valey is very wide with high mountains on both sides of the river. Before coming or getting to camp in crossing a sloug[h] we mired two teams but got them out safe. Good grass and plenty of willow to burn. All well in Camp. Musketoes are bad

Aug 15 Camped At the third station without wood, but there is a good spring of cold water at the station. The valey is wide here but very sandy and is covered with Greece wood and sage. There is a little grass a bout three miles from the post along the river. There [i]s some three or four road[s] that can be traveled. There is plenty of Alkali here. It is 35[350] miles from here to Placerville¹⁷. All well in camp and John Strasser is on a spree

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