

Indiana's Population, 1850-1940, Sources and Dispersal

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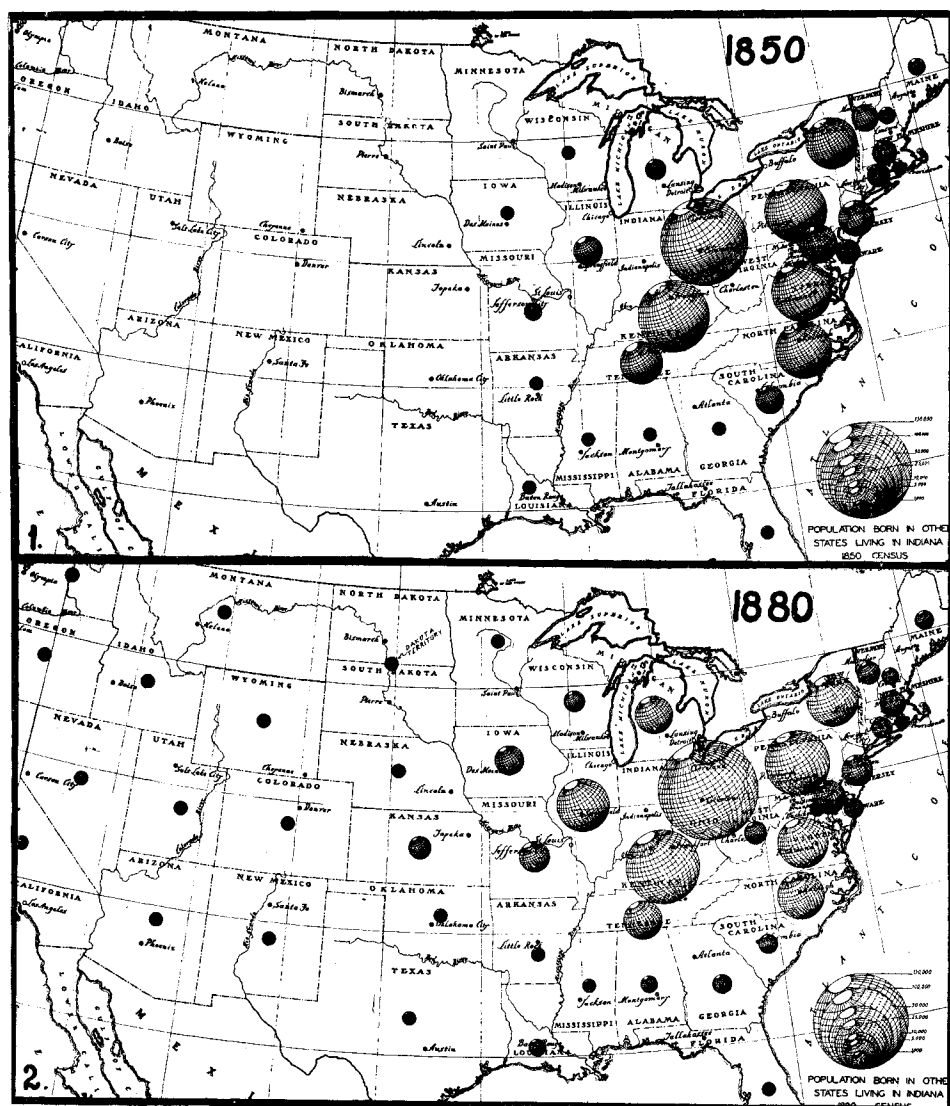
The study in this *Magazine*¹ of the source (place of birth) by state or foreign country of the non-Hoosier population of each Indiana county as shown by the Census of 1870 aroused considerable interest and helped to initiate the making of several supplementary corresponding maps. The first four maps which accompany the present article show conspicuously the source by states of Indiana's American born, non-Hoosier population in 1850, 1880, 1910, and 1930. These maps apply to the population of the state as a whole, not to that of specific counties.

Figure 1 shows that according to the census of 1850,² Indiana contained many natives of states to the eastward, and also of Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia. Ohio supplied the most people to Indiana, 120,000, or more than one-eighth of Indiana's population. About one-fourth of the state's population was born in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and New York. One-half of the state's population was born in Indiana and the remainder in many other states or in foreign countries. Each of the other Eastern states contributed to Indiana's 1850 population.

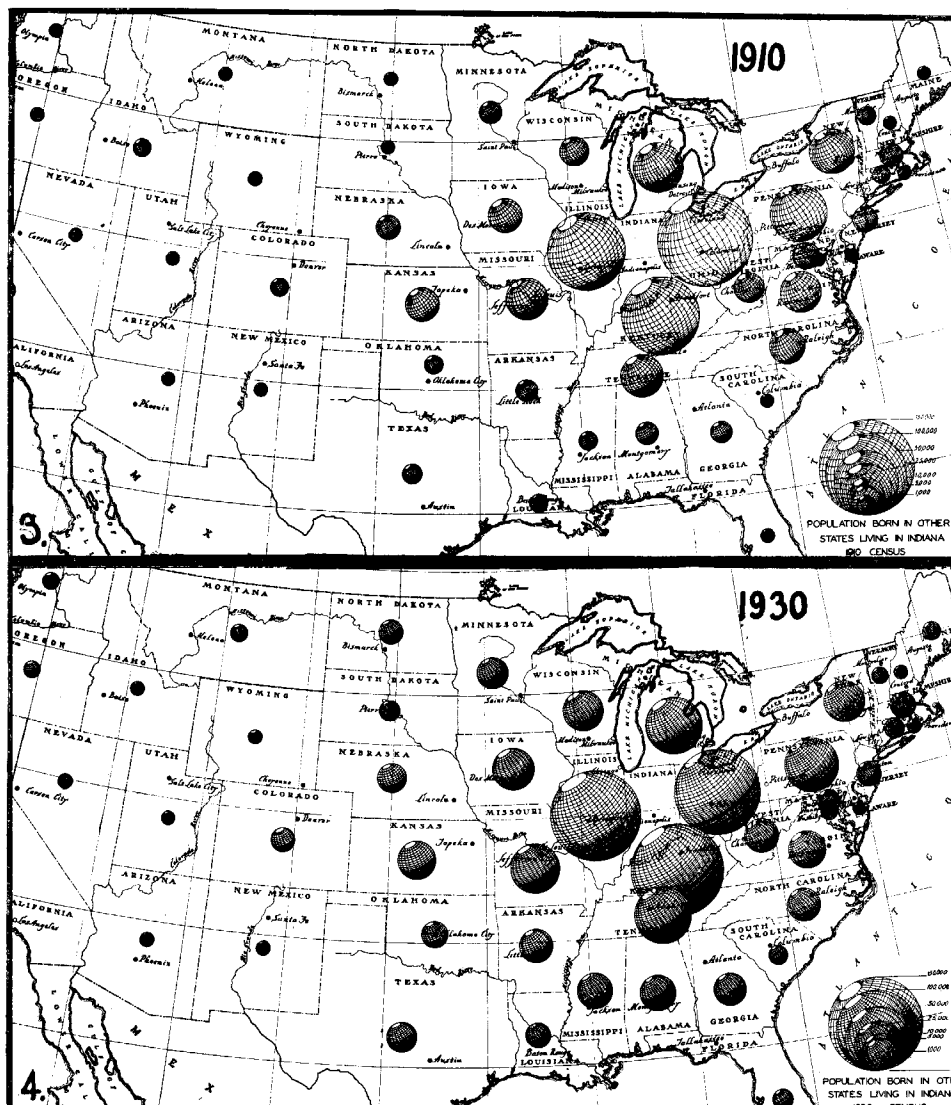
Figure 2 shows that at the 1880 census, Ohio stood higher among the states than in 1850, with 186,000 natives living in Indiana. But Indiana's population had approximately doubled since 1850, and Ohio's contribution had declined from one-eighth to one-ninth, approximately. The contributions of Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and New York in 1880 were approximately as great absolutely as in 1850, which meant that they also constituted about half as large a share of the state's population. The emigration from Virginia and North Carolina declined considerably. On the other hand, natives of Illinois were more numerous in Indiana in 1880 than were the natives of Virginia. Moreover, natives of Michigan had become more numerous than those of Maryland. All of the states were represented in Indiana in 1880.

¹ *Indiana Magazine of History*, XXVI (1930), 126-42, including ten maps.

² *Seventh Census of the United States, 1850*, xxxvi-xxxviii.



Figures 1, 2. Population Born in other States living in Indiana at the 1850 and the 1880 Censuses. Relative number of migrants from each state to Indiana is shown by size of spheres.



Figures 3, 4. Relative numerical contribution to Indiana's population of 1910 and of 1930 made by each of the States.

At the 1910 census³ (Figure 3), Ohio still led, contributing more than in 1850, but as Indiana's population had increased to 2,700,000, the Ohio contingent represented some six per cent of Indiana's population instead of one-eighth as in 1850. There were, likewise, more natives of Kentucky in Indiana in 1910 than there were in 1850 or in 1880, while natives of Ohio were fewer than in 1880. Illinois, however, had in 1910, as many of its sons and daughters in Indiana as Kentucky, while Michigan had two-thirds as many as Pennsylvania and more than New York. The contribution of the South showed no substantial increase, but Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska showed large gains. The latter two of these gains reflected the exodus from those states following dry years there.

Figure 4 shows that by 1930, Ohio had been surpassed by Illinois and especially by Kentucky as the birth-state of people living in Indiana; Tennessee supplanted Pennsylvania and equalled Michigan; and Missouri supplanted New York.⁴

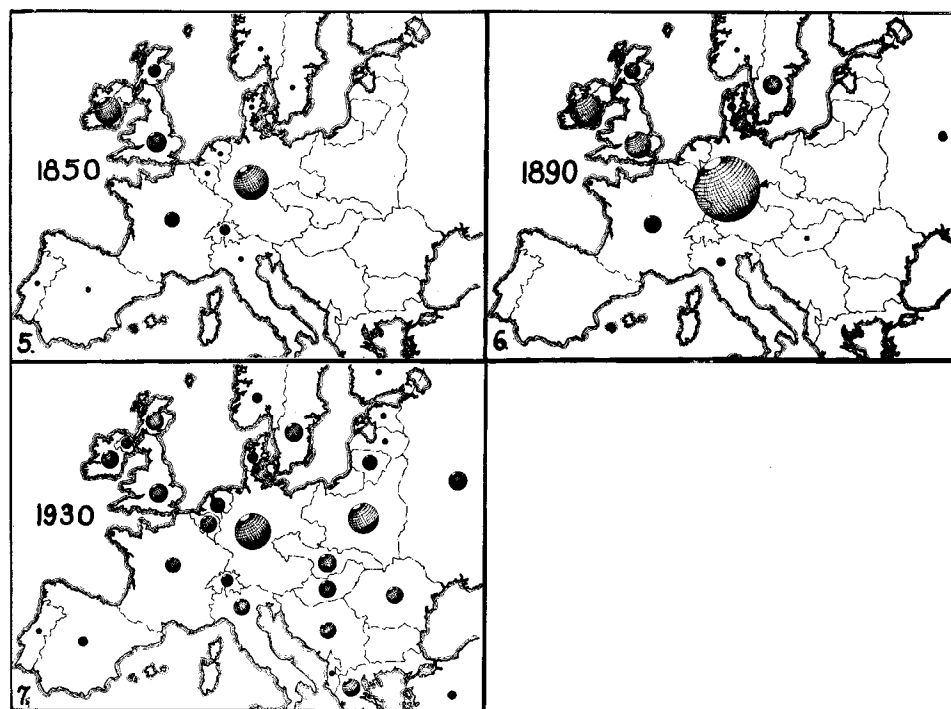
Figures 5, 6, and 7 show conspicuously the sources of Indiana's foreign-born population in 1850, 1890, and 1930.⁵ The very high but decreasing rank of Germany, and the comparative numerical importance of natives of other countries is shown clearly by this series. The spheres in this series represent fewer people than do spheres of corresponding sizes on Figures 1-4 and 11-14. There were about 25,000 Germans in Indiana in 1850, about 85,000 in 1890, 60,000 in 1910, and about 25,000 in 1930. Ireland was second, with about 15,000 in 1850 and 20,000 in 1890; Poland was second in 1930 with about 20,000. In 1930 there were in Indiana about 5,000 natives each of Ireland, Scotland, England, Sweden, and Czechoslovakia. There were 3,000 or 4,000 from each of nine other European countries.

The following series of maps (Figures 8-11) make conspicuous the numerical contribution which Indiana has made to the populations of other states. In 1850 (Figure 8) about 30,000 native Hoosiers were living in Illinois, about 20,000

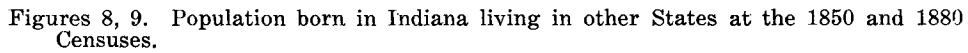
³ *Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910, I, Population*, 730-33.

⁴ *Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930, Population*, II, 154-57.

⁵ *Seventh Census, 1850*, xxxvi-xxxviii; *Eleventh Census of the United States, 1890, Population*, Part 1, pp. 606-09; *Fifteenth Census, 1930, Population*, II, 234-36.



Figures 5, 6, 7. Indiana's Foreign born population in 1850, 1890, 1930: relative number born in each European country shown by size of spheres (Germany 25,000, 85,000, Switzerland 1,000).



in Iowa, and 5,000 to 12,000 in Missouri, Ohio, and Kentucky. The 2,000 Hoosiers in California presumably were part of the Gold Rush of the previous year. By 1880 (Figure 9), the number of Hoosiers living in other states almost equalled the number of natives of other states who lived in Indiana.⁶ Hoosiers were present in every state but the largest numbers were immediately to the west. Illinois had nearly 100,000; and Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri each had from 50,000 to 75,000. Likewise, Ohio, Michigan, and Kentucky each had about 15,000 to 27,000, and California, Oregon, Texas, Arkansas, and Minnesota each from 5,000 to 10,000. Relatively little eastward migration was evident, except to Ohio.

At the 1910 census (Figure 10), a few less than 150,000 natives of Indiana were living in Illinois, while about half as many were living in each of the states of Ohio, Kansas, and Missouri, and less than a third as many, in each of the states of Michigan, Oklahoma, Iowa, and California.⁷

At the 1930 census (Figure 11), although the states which contained many Hoosiers in 1910 continued to rank high, five to the east of Indiana's longitude (Ohio, Michigan, Florida, New York, and Pennsylvania) had gained relatively. The West, except California, had less appeal; the decline in the Prairie and Great Plains states was notable; and the South, except Florida, had not gained. Michigan and Ohio gained approximately as many Hoosiers as did California. Illinois gained about 20,000, although the greater gains of Ohio and Michigan produce an optical illusion that Illinois lost between 1910 and 1930.

These maps illustrate four great principles or laws of population spread: 1) Nearby areas, unless they have few people, tend to supply relatively many migrants. For example, most of the people migrating into Indiana were born in an adjacent or nearby state, except that Michigan and Illinois supplied few to Indiana until their own population became considerable. 2) Migration tends to take place along parallels of latitude rather than north-south. In the earlier years, the movement was predominantly westward; in recent years, the eastward component is significant. The migration of many tens of thousands of families from Kentucky into Indiana is partly an illustration of the westward movement

⁶ *Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Population, I*, 480-83.

⁷ *Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900, I, Population*, 686-87.



Figures 10, 11. Population born in Indiana living in other States at the 1910 and 1930 Censuses.

rather than of northern movement, because the southern part of Indiana, into which most Kentuckians migrated, is west of the northern half of Kentucky. (An appreciable movement from the South before the Civil War into Indiana reflected, in part, a special political condition, a movement from slave states into a free state.) 3) Migrants make up a decreasing percentage decade by decade of the total population. In early years, nearly everyone in Indiana was born elsewhere; in recent years, such people comprise only a relatively small percentage of the state's population. 4) A fourth generalization supported by these maps is that a large share of the population of the United States is relatively mobile. Instead of spending their lives within a few miles of their birthplace, as is true for most of the world's people, many natives of Indiana live in each of the other states, and each of the other states have sent numerous representatives to Indiana.

Thus, by way of summary: In the early decades, many non-Hoosiers migrated to Indiana. At the 1850 census, for example, about one-half of the state's population had been born in other states or in foreign countries. Soon, however, many natives of Indiana migrated to other states. By 1880, this number almost equalled the number of natives of other states living in Indiana. By 1900, about 650,000 Hoosiers were living in other states, and at the 1930 census, about 930,000. Although corresponding data for the 1940 census are not yet available, it is quite probable that more than a million Hoosiers were living in other states, or more than a third as many as were living in Indiana. The number of natives of other states living in Indiana increased much more slowly. In 1850 there were about 390,000, in 1900 nearly 500,000, in 1940, perhaps, about 650,000. Thus while in 1850 only one-half of the people of Indiana were born in Indiana, eighty years later about three-fourths were born in this state, and many more Hoosiers lived in other states than the natives of other states who lived in Indiana (264,000 in 1910, 281,000 in 1920, and 227,000 in 1930). The largest sources of migrants to Indiana have been Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, and Germany. Conversely, the states to the west, notably Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, and California have received relatively many native Hoosiers, as have in recent years Michigan and Ohio.