Ohioans in Northern Indiana before 1850

Elfrieda Lang*

A century ago six counties in northern Indiana had more Ohio-born inhabitants than native-born Hoosiers. Of the total population for the area, 44,186, or 26.73 per cent, were natives of Ohio as compared to 58,297, or 35.27 per cent, born in Indiana. Thus, in the twenty-one counties within the region the Hoosiers surpassed the Buckeyes by only slightly more than eight per cent.

The area referred to as northern Indiana includes most of the counties north of the Wabash River—that portion of the state which has been designated by geologists as the Northern Moraine and Lake Region. The characteristically rugged topography frequently in evidence throughout this section is to some extent the result of nature's retention of the original forms created by "continental glaciation in the zone of ice wastage." Large areas thus came to appear as flat, monotonous lacustrine plains marked by broad marshes, and extinct marshes broken by low sand ridges or knolls. Wherever drainage was obstructed by high moraines near the headwaters of streams, lakes formed; and wherever drainage developed, a certain amount of leveling took place. The result of this prehistoric processing by the elements was a varied terrain, which offered a challenge as well as a lure to Buckeye citizens.

One should examine in somewhat more detail that wilderness landscape which induced these Ohioans to leave their homes. To the five subdivisions of the Northern Moraine and Lake Region, which extends beyond the limits of the state, geographic names have been applied. Beginning in the northwest corner of the state, the area extending from seven

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1 The counties and the number of Ohioans in excess of Indianians were: De Kalb 1,177, Kosciusko 198, Noble 831, Starke 4, Steuben 115, and Whitley 314. All material in this article unless otherwise indicated is supported by statistics compiled from the Original Returns of the Seventh United States Census, 1850, Indiana. A copy of this census in microfilm is on file in the Documents Division of the Indiana University Library, Bloomington, Indiana.

2 The twenty-one counties studied were: Allen, Cass, De Kalb, Elkhart, Fulton, Jasper, Kosciusko, Lagrange, Lake, La Porte, Marshall, Miami, Noble, Porter, Pulaski, St. Joseph, Starke, Steuben, Wabash, White, and Whitley, with a total population of 165,286 in 1850.
to fifteen miles more or less south of Lake Michigan and
northeastward a few miles along the shore of the lake, covering
approximately 275 square miles, is known as the Calumet
Lacustrine Section. Although at one time this area was
covered by lake waters, it derived its name from the Calumet
River, which crosses the better-developed portion of the
lacustrine plain. A feature of the region is the low sand
ridges which extend parallel to Lake Michigan. These are
"old beach lines marking the successive stages in the with-
drawnal of the lake from the area." East and northeast from
Gary, along the lake, are some of the largest sand dunes in
the United States. This natural barrier, however, did not
deter 223 Ohioans from settling there.

The adjoining region, covering about six hundred square
miles, whose inner margin is approximately fifteen miles
from Lake Michigan on the Illinois-Indiana line and only
two miles on the Indiana-Michigan boundary, is referred to
as the Valparaiso Moraine Section. Since there is a goodly
representation of knolls and sags of the area in the vicinity
of Valparaiso, it derived its name from that city. The
western portion of this Valparaiso Moraine, from twelve to
fifteen miles broad, is composed of three moraine ridges with
practically no level till plain between them. Only a few knolls
emerge more than twenty or thirty feet above the nearby
sags. In Lake County, however, there are knolls of about
seven hundred and fifty feet. From Valparaiso to the north-
east the average width of the moraine is eight miles, and one
knoll towers to the height of 885 feet. The outer margin of
the moraine extends only slightly above the massive outwash
plain which borders it on the south. Along the inner margin
it ascends above the Calumet Lacustrine Plain, and within two
miles has risen one hundred and fifty feet. For ten miles or
less the highest knolls are about three hundred feet above
the surface of Lake Michigan. The basins of the moraine in
Indiana are dotted with a number of small lakes, of which
Hudson in La Porte County and Cedar in Lake County are
the largest. Apparently the region just described was regarded
by Ohioans as more desirable than the Calumet Lacustrine
area, since 1,730 chose the Valparaiso Moraine district.

Another subdivision has been designated as the Kankakee
Lacustrine Section, which is bounded on the north by the
Valparaiso Moraine and on the south by the Tipton Till
Plain. It has been referred to as "a great system of sandy lacustrine plains, outwash plains, valley trains, and local enclosed till plains associated with a great line of glacial drainage and ponding" along the St. Joseph, Kankakee, and Tippecanoe rivers in Indiana. Dunes are common, and are characterized by "a thin deposit of somewhat ridged sand." The Kankakee Marsh, with an altitude of between six hundred and fifty and seven hundred feet above sea level, covers an area of almost a thousand square miles in this section. According to the surveyors' field notes, a large portion of the area near the Kankakee River was entirely marsh. The banks of the stream were very low and lined with a heavy growth of ash, maple, oak, birch, and some elm that grew very tall. An undergrowth of swamp elder and wild rose, which formed this "interminable forest," was covered with water. Because the soil in the forest or swamp was loose yellow sand, it was almost impossible to approach the river except during the winter months when the swamp was frozen.\footnote{Surveyors' Field Notes, North and West, XXII, 430. A complete file of sixty-three volumes of field notes is in the possession of the State Auditor's Office, Indianapolis, Indiana.}

Since 7,508 Ohioans settled in the Kankakee Lacustrine Section, some may have been shrewd enough to gamble on what might be found in those marshes. Uriah Biggs, in one of his surveyor's reports, noted that there were "large beds of rich ore," in the marshes. Another early surveyor, Jeremiah Smith, said that the upland, rolling parts between the Kankakee and Yellow rivers consisted of a white sandy soil which was so loose in some places that a person would sink an inch or two in walking over it. While the land was uninviting to the capitalist and speculator, to the poor man and the squatter it held out some inducements, he thought, because a claim staked out by the latter in all probability would not be encroached upon by the former.\footnote{Ibid., XIX, 225-27, 262-63.} Some Ohio emigrants may have held views similar to those of Smith in this respect.

Northeastern Indiana, which constitutes the fourth subdivision, has been called the Steuben Morainal Lake Section. It received this title because a county by that name in the locality contained "moraines of both the Saginaw and Erie ice-lobes" as well as many lakes. The Mississinewa Moraine, which extends through northeastern Wabash, Whitley, east-
ern Noble, and western and northern Steuben counties, "is the largest and best defined moraine in Indiana." A large portion of its area may be referred to as crumpled, because the surface resembles "a sheet of paper which has been carelessly crushed in the hand and then spread out." The region where the ridges are steeper, sharper, and arranged in somewhat parallel lines has been designated as corrugated. "Similar features very much exaggerated produce what may be called gouged or chasmed country, found in perfection southwest of Columbia City." Moreover, the roads are by necessity as crooked as cows' paths, winding as they must around the marshes. In every direction are steep descents and ascents, the handiwork of nature's unusual creation. As this is the largest subdivision, it is only natural that it should have had, in 1850, the largest number of Ohioans—28,738.

The surveyors' reports for northeastern Indiana were very discouraging. Impassable swamps, and as E. H. Lytle pointed out, a lake in the area filled with pond lilies and patches of rushes, did not add to the landscape. Another region of blown-down timber and between one and three hundred acres of an impenetrable growth was uninviting. These sights apparently did not deter Ohioans from settling in this area of the state, especially De Kalb County, which had over eleven hundred more Buckeyes in 1850 than Hoosiers. Kosciusko County also had more Ohioans than Indianians in that year. Yet the region between the Eel and Tippecanoe rivers was very wet. John Hendricks, one of the surveyors for this district, was convinced that the land was good and less interrupted with swamps and marshy prairies than some other areas; and because of a heavy, luxuriant growth of timber, he believed, it was well suited for future improvements. The spirit of adventure may have endowed the immigrant with the determination to overcome the obstacles produced by nature.

A more encouraging report was that of David Hillis about land east of the Michigan road in Marshall County, because the land was generally level and dry. The most favorable account, however, came from the pen of Arthur

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5 Ibid., North and East, XXXVIII, 230, 331; XXXIX, 240.
6 Ibid., XXXII, 326.
7 Ibid., XXIX, 179.
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St. Clair Vance on a township north of the Tippecanoe River in Noble County. Much of the land was very heavily timbered with tall, large sugar maple trees. Since this county had 831 more Ohioans than Indianians in 1850, they may have been attracted to the region because of the rich black soil, which averaged from six to eight inches in depth. Just as encouraging a report was made by William Brookfield, who stated that the western part of Allen County, near the present site of Fort Wayne, contained much fine land and timber.

About one hundred and twenty square miles in Allen County has been identified as the Maumee Lacustrine Section. Almost completely featureless, the lacustrine plain, covering also a large area in Ohio, was once “occupied by an ice-dammed lake,” Glacial Lake Maumee, which had its outlet near Fort Wayne. Although this is the smallest subdivision, it was the choice of 1,448 Ohioans. The fertility of the soil in this area as well as in certain regions of the Steuben Morainal Lake Section may account for a larger population per square mile.

The total number of Ohioans for the five subdivisions of northern Indiana was 39,647, a lower figure than the total for the twenty-one counties included. This is due to the fact that townships in the counties studied which did not fall within the subdivisions described were omitted. It has not been deemed advisable to consider only a portion of a county for the study as a whole. There is a difference of 4,539 in the figure between the total number of Ohioans in northern Indiana and that given for the five subdivisions. The map which indicates the five subdivisions of the northern part of the state also shows the distribution of Ohioans in that section of the Hoosier State. Because only a small section of Huntington County falls within the northern Moraine and Lake Region it has not been included in the study.

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8 Ibid., XXXIV, 191.
9 Ibid., XXXVI, 172.
It is unlikely that very many of the Ohioans who had settled in northern Indiana by 1850 were acquainted with the surveyors' field notes. Since many of these reports were unfavorable, the immigrant must have obtained information of a more favorable nature from other sources. Among these could have been the letters written by the representatives of the American Home Missionary Society in Indiana. Martin M. Post, one of these missionaries, wrote in 1830 that Logansport was one of the most valuable places in the state for the use of “water pressure.” He claimed that the “fertile prairies and woodlands” along the “beautiful Wabash River” and other water courses, as well as around the “pure clear springs and crystal lakes” in St. Joseph County, would become “the busy haunts of civilized man.”

On the other hand, James Chute, who had been commissioned to the Fort Wayne district, in 1831 pointed out advantages and disadvantages. He stated that provisions cost nearly twice as much as in the Ohio settlements. This he attributed to the fact that the inhabitants had depended wholly on the Indian trade and had neglected the cultivation of the land. Nevertheless, the population increased as did the demand for supplies, and living became more expensive. Because of the fertile soil, farms were appearing, and it was Chute's opinion that the Fort Wayne region would exert a “powerful influence upon the surrounding country.” He doubted whether any place in the West offered greater inducements to the farmer, and a surplus in produce at any time could be transported to the New York market without much difficulty.

Notwithstanding the fact that there were attractions which caused some Ohioans to move to northern Indiana, there were also obstacles which discouraged others. Just when they began to cross the boundary line is not known. From the county histories, it is obvious that some families had lived in southern Indiana before removing to the northern part of the state.

In view of the fact that before 1850 no record was made


of the place of birth in the census, it is somewhat difficult to obtain an exact report of the nativity of many who settled in northern Indiana. In order to compile the data here submitted, a record has been made of every name in the 1830 and 1840 census as well as of every settler before 1841 mentioned in the county histories, which in some instances provide biographical information. The names have then been checked against the 1850 census. Some exceptions to results obtained in this manner, but otherwise unmeasurable, should be recognized. These, however, will not materially or substantially alter conclusions reached. From the sources used, it has been discovered that 159 Ohioans had settled in the area between 1820 and 1830. This number was increased to 9,198 by 1840. During the next decade the tide of emigration had brought the population of Buckeyes to about forty-five thousand. This increase was probably not so great as would appear at a glance, for by 1850 more accurate figures were available.

Most of the immigrants from Ohio were comparatively young. An analysis of the ages of Ohioans in northern Indiana revealed that slightly less than five per cent were above forty, over thirteen per cent were between thirty and forty years old, and over eighty-two per cent were below the age of thirty. Many of the parents born in another section of the United States or in a foreign country had used Ohio as a stepping-stone to the Hoosier State. Of these 12,152 men and women who had children born in Ohio and had moved to northern Indiana by 1850, the largest number, 58.05 per cent, came from the Middle Atlantic States. The Southern States followed with 24.86 per cent. New England with 8.30 per cent had the smallest number. Eleven foreign countries were represented with 8.79 per cent.

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13 The distribution of ages was 9,615 or 21.76 per cent below ten; 15,470 or 35.03 per cent between 10 and 19; 11,177 or 25.30 per cent between 20 and 29; 5,903 or 13.36 per cent between 30 and 40; 1,996 or 4.52 per cent between 40 and 89; and 25 or .06 per cent age unknown.

14 In this group 126 came from Delaware; 552, from New Jersey; 1,663, from New York; and 4,713 from Pennsylvania—total 7,054.

15 The distribution for the states south of the Mason and Dixon Line was as follows: Alabama 1, District of Columbia 4, Georgia 9, Kentucky 286, Maryland 750, North Carolina 157, South Carolina 64, Tennessee 53, and Virginia 1,717—total 3,021.

16 Every New England state was represented and with the following number: Connecticut 225, Maine 61, Massachusetts 242, New Hampshire 58, Rhode Island 29, and Vermont 356—total 1,009.

17 These countries were: Canada 51, England 115, France 42, Germany 613, Ireland 159, Isle of Man 5, Norway 1, New Brunswick 1, Scotland 19, Switzerland 32, and Wales 2—total 1,068.
The stay in Ohio of these people who had such diversified backgrounds varied from one to twenty-five years. This state did not necessarily make its deepest imprint upon those who had lived there the longest. Customs and traditions of other sections and countries continued to be a part of their lives and their children’s lives. Evidence of this is still readily recognized in customs, architecture, and colloquialisms. As an illustration may be cited the story of a group who emigrated from Medina County, Ohio, to Fulton County, Indiana. In 1835, they sent their representative, Joseph Sippy, on a prospecting trip to Indiana in order to investigate the possibilities of settling there, and, if favorably impressed, to purchase government lands. Sippy returned to Ohio with a glowing report of the possibilities which this region of “luscious berries, rich nuts, an abundance of wild game, and springs of clear water,” held in store for those “eager to find homes and establish civilization.” Consequently, on the first day of June of the next year, a colony of forty-seven men, women, and children, as well as their ox-drawn wagons loaded with scanty household possessions, began the trek for the Hoosier State. During the westward journey of more than thirty days, some time each day was devoted to the singing of “Guide Me, Oh Thou Great Jehovah.” When the wagons halted and the leader announced, “This is the place,” these God-fearing men and women knelt and offered prayers to their Heavenly Father for having guided them safely to their destination. This act as well as that of sending a prospector was a typical custom of New England families who sought new homes in the West.

In 1838 a town was laid out and named Newark in honor

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18 The number of years spent in Ohio was determined on the basis of the birth of children as given in the 1850 Original Census Returns.
19 Joseph Sippy was born in Virginia and his wife was born in Pennsylvania. Some of the other members of the group were born in Pennsylvania and the New England States. There is some possibility that the parents of the Pennsylvanians may have been natives of New England. The choice of a county in Ohio whose pioneers were mostly Yankees, some of whom had lived in New York and Pennsylvania before coming to Ohio, would lead one to conclude that probably some members of the colony who emigrated from Medina County to Fulton County may have been of New England ancestry. Original Returns of the Seventh United States Census, 1850, Indiana; N. B. Northrop, Pioneer History of Medina County (Medina, Ohio, 1861), 33, 89, 95, 212; Bakin & Battey, History of Medina County, Ohio (Chicago, 1881), 224.
of the old place in Ohio from which the colonists had emigrated. After the town was platted, the post office was moved to another village one-half mile east. From time to time new settlers came from Ohio, but the name of the town, varying from that of the post office, created numerous problems. When George McCloud from Medina County, Ohio, therefore, became the village postmaster, he suggested Akron at the time legal proceedings were instigated to change the name. In an old church record the name of Akron first appeared in January, 1855. This new honor to Ohio, however, carried the stigma of annoyance to later citizens, because the tracks of the Chicago and Erie Railroad which passed through both Akron, Ohio, and Akron, Indiana, frequently carried freight billed for the Indiana town to that in Ohio.

The older members of the 1836 party which had migrated from Ohio represented other sections of the country and brought some of the traditions of these areas to Indiana. Years of birth of the children of this party, which can be determined from the census, indicated that some of these families had lived in Ohio for over ten years. Probably because of some pleasant experiences in the Buckeye State, they were desirous of naming their small settlement in honor of the town which they had left in Ohio.

A settlement in Elkhart County also was named for a town in Ohio. These families, however, had lived a number of years in Indiana before leaving a more permanent trace of their former home. One cold night in January of 1836, Enoch Wright, a native of Virginia, and Isaac Alshire, nativity unknown, both of whom had emigrated with their families from Preble County, Ohio, decided to found a town. To provide a site, each agreed to donate several acres of land. An official survey was made in March by James R. McCord, a native of Pennsylvania and county surveyor, the town was platted, and it was called New Paris.

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20 Henry A. Barnhart (ed.), *An Account of Fulton County From Its Organization* (Dayton, Ohio, 1923), 136-41. The Newark here mentioned may have been a small town not marked on the maps of Ohio. It should not be confused with Newark in Licking County.

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did not change the nostalgia for and remembrance of a former settlement.

Although no towns in De Kalb County may have been founded honoring Ohio, its first settler, John Houlton, was a native of that state. He came in September, 1833, with three hired men, a yoke of oxen, a crosscut saw, and a froe. Some colonies also chose De Kalb County. One arrived the first part of October, 1836, from Trumbull County and another came in 1837 from Morrow County. While a considerable number from Ohio came to Indiana in parties, there were some, endowed with an abundance of adventure, who started out alone on foot with knapsacks on their backs containing what worldly goods they possessed.

Whether the Buckeyes came in groups, as families, or alone, they were well represented in northern Indiana by 1850. Some made their entrance onto the state political stage and assumed such leading roles as senators or representatives while others took their places in the audience and applauded loudly or ridiculed the performance of the actors. Of the seven senators, two were Whigs; three Democrats; and two did not designate a political party. Two members of the upper house engaged in farming and five joined the ranks of professional men, three of whom were lawyers and two physicians. The political status of the representatives was equally divided, with eleven Democrats and eleven Whigs. This group represented a great variety of occupations. The farmers were in the majority with twelve. Of the remaining ten, four were merchants; two, lawyers; one was a physician; one, a tailor; one, a clerk; and one, a printer.

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22 John Houlton was born in Highland County, Ohio, on September 21, 1804. On February 5, 1833, he married Sarah Fee, who died on July 12, 1839. He died on June 2, 1875. Inter-State Publishing Co., History of De Kalb County, Indiana (Chicago, 1885), 296-301, 618-20. The 1850 Original Census gives Pennsylvania as the birthplace of Houlton. His own reminiscences, however, state Ohio. A recent publication has a slightly different spelling for his name—Houghton. Willis W. Carey, History of Spencerville (n.p., 1952), 5.

23 Froe is a steel wedge which was used for splitting logs.

24 Inter-State Publishing Co., History of De Kalb County, Indiana, 779, 515-16, 721.

25 Among the senators from 1836 to 1850 were James H. Buell, physician; Joseph W. Chapman, lawyer and Democrat; Abraham Cuppy, farmer and Democrat; Gustavus A. Everts, lawyer; William G. Montgomery, physician and Whig; Matthew Rippey, farmer and Democrat; Williamson Wright, lawyer and Whig.

The representatives from 1836 to 1850 were Seneca Ball, mer-
When the constitutional convention assembled in Indianapolis in October, 1850, three Ohioans who had settled in northern Indiana were members of that august body. The most outstanding man in this group was Horace P. Biddle of Logansport, formerly of Hocking County, Ohio, a lawyer and Whig who had lived in Indiana ten years. Early in the convention a recommendation for the abolition of the Grand Jury System brought Biddle to his feet to deliver an eloquent speech in defense of the system. He declared: "Take away juries and you take from the people that which, of all others, is most especially their privilege—the right to try facts." If he could be convinced that kings could rule without parliaments, that presidents could govern without congress, and that governors should dictate laws without the sanction of legislatures, then he would be willing to take courts without juries.

26 Baker & McFarland, "Members of the Convention to Amend the Constitution of the State of Indiana, Assembled at Indianapolis, October, 1850, Giving Name, Age, Post Office, County Represented, Nativity, Years in State, Boarding House, Occupation, Politics, Married or Single, and Remarks," a broadside.

27 Horace P. Biddle was born in what is now Hocking County, Ohio, on March 24, 1811. His parents, Benjamin and Abigail Biddle, were natives of Connecticut, who had immigrated to the Hocking Valley in 1802. From 1860 to 1872, he probably did his best work as Judge of the Circuit Court of the Ninth Judicial District. In 1874 he was elected Judge of the Supreme Court from the Fifth Judicial District. He was also a linguist. Poems and music from his pen were published. George I. Reed, Encyclopedia of Biography of Indiana (2 vols., Chicago, 1899-1899), II, 170-72.

Of the remaining two members, little can be said. Robert Work, a farmer and Democrat, thirty-nine years of age, of Butler in De Kalb County, had been in the state seventeen years. His only recorded contribution in the convention was a motion to lay an amendment on the table.\(^{29}\) James Garvin apparently was a silent member and only listened. He was forty years of age, a farmer and Democrat, of Palestine in Kosciusko County, who had been in the state sixteen years.

One of the secretaries of the convention was George L. Sites from Fort Wayne. He was twenty-six years of age, a lawyer and Democrat, who had been in the state only three years.

Another matter of vital significance which attracted considerable attention at the constitutional convention was education. Since the men already mentioned made no speeches on that subject, there is some likelihood that they may not have had any particular opinions on this matter. Others, however, considered it of paramount importance and several months before the convention assembled, newspapers published articles on the common schools.

While the framers of the 1816 Indiana Constitution were interested in “spreading the opportunities, and advantages of education,” they failed to make available the means to accomplish their purpose.\(^{30}\) It was, therefore, up to the members of the 1850 Constitutional Convention to remedy the situation and make possible free education for the inhabitants of Indiana. To arouse interest, articles signed “Delta” appeared from time to time on the common schools. The writer claimed that if the government was bound to support the child in certain cases and take care of its physical wants, it was bound also for the enactment of laws to educate the child, “for to preserve its mere animal life without providing for its higher interest” was a curse. He continued by declaring: “Better that life should become extinct than that the child should grow up in ignorance, upon which error and all its fearful consequences depend.”\(^{31}\)

In view of the fact that there was no free education in Indiana until after the Constitution of 1851 was approved, it is significant to note that of the 22,246 between the ages of

\(^{29}\) Ibid., 841.


\(^{31}\) *Indiana State Journal*, May 8, 1850. Articles on the common schools signed by “Delta” appeared in this triweekly from May 6 to July 24, 1850.
5 and 19, who had been born in Ohio and were living in northern Indiana, 12,511 were listed as having attended school in 1850. In sixteen counties more than fifty per cent of the Ohioans between the ages of five and nineteen were in school and in only five counties less than fifty per cent in that age group attended school. The schoolroom also had been sought by 264 above the age of twenty. Only 38 below the age of twenty were unable to read or write. Between the ages of twenty and twenty-nine, 1300 were unable to read or write; between thirty and thirty-nine, 903; and above forty, 332; making a total of 2,573 Ohioans living in northern Indiana in 1850 who were illiterate. The total population of Buckeyes in the area under consideration above the age of twenty was 19,076 of which 13.49 per cent could neither read nor write. It is apparent that to a large percentage of these early pioneers the development of the mind was as important as the clearing of the land to raise crops. The school in a number of cases was some distance from the home. Fields, dense forests, and streams had to be crossed; and in addition to all this when the children arrived at the school, it was necessary to pay for what little knowledge might be absorbed in the approximate three months' term. Because of the many farm and home chores which awaited the boys and girls, time did not hang heavy upon their hands during their long nine months' vacation.

Literate or illiterate, many early pioneers from Ohio were doubtless filled with the spirit of adventure or the *Wanderlust*. Others came in the hope that in time they might enjoy a higher standard of living in this new territory where it would be possible to purchase more fertile land at a lower rate per acre than in Ohio. Those who desired to enter the political arena may have been of the opinion that the opportunities in the Hoosier State were greater than in the Buckeye State where they might have to encounter considerable competition. Regardless of what the reasons may have been, approximately forty-five thousand Ohioans with diversified backgrounds had chosen northern Indiana by 1850. Some came in ox-drawn wagons as small colonies or families, and the more adventurous unattached came on foot, knapsack on back. The majority of the immigrants were young, and, no doubt, possessed the energy and foresight to overcome such barriers as existed on the frontier. Once in Indiana many Ohioans entered upon a political career on the local level. Only a small number, however, were successful in obtaining a role in administering the affairs of the state.