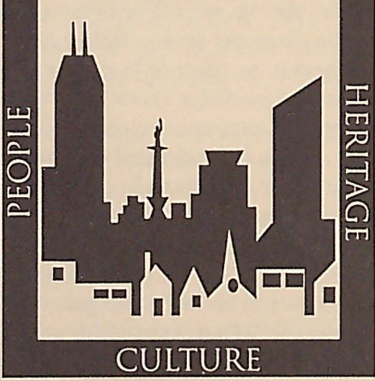


ENCYCLOPEDIA OF INDIANAPOLIS



Presented by the
POLIS Research Center

at
**Indiana University-
Purdue University
at Indianapolis**

Spring 1994 *Volume 3 • Number 3*

Populating Indianapolis

Following the removal of most Native Americans by 1821, white settlers began to occupy land along the banks of White River, Fall Creek, and Pogue's Run. Most were former residents of Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky; New Englanders and African-Americans also came, but in smaller numbers.

The construction of canals, roads, and railroads made the capital city more accessible. By 1850 Indianapolis had grown to 8,091 residents, nearly two-thirds of which were native-born primarily from Kentucky, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. African-Americans constituted over 6 percent of the population and European immigrants, especially Germans and Irish, 35 percent. Neither group was particularly welcome among the predominantly white Anglo population. By mid-century, ethnic and racial tensions were clearly evident in Indianapolis.

The quickened economic tempo during the Civil War stimulated a rapid rise in population—from 18,611 in 1860 to 75,056 by 1880—making Indianapolis the nation's 24th largest city. By 1880 roughly 86 percent of city residents were natives of the United States; 14 percent were foreign-born. Most of the immigrants were German or Irish who also settled primarily on the city's south and west sides. They had come to build railroads and canals or to escape revolution and famine in their homelands.

By the late 19th and early 20th centuries other immigrant groups were present. Jews from Russia, Poland, and the Ottoman Empire settled around Morris and Meridian streets. Italians, many of whom were fruit and vegetable vendors, lived southeast of the Circle. Serbs, Macedonians, and Romanians worked for railroads, foundries, and meatpackers and, like the Greeks, opened small businesses on the near west side. Slovenes, Poles, and Hungarians

moved into Haughville where they too worked in foundries and factories. A small but growing number of Middle Easterners and Asians also resided in Indianapolis. Syrians congregated along one southwestside street, while the Chinese operated laundries along Fort Wayne, Massachusetts, and Indiana avenues. Ethnic enclaves formed an arc around three sides of the Mile Square. The north side remained the city's affluent, white, native-dominated district, a location that was attractive to upwardly mobile immigrants and their descendants.

In 1910 over 42,000, or 18 percent, of Indianapolis residents were African-Americans or immigrants. African-Americans numbered 22,000, or 9 percent of the total population, the highest percentage of any city north of the Ohio River. Blacks migrated primarily from Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and rural Indiana and occupied housing north of Kingan and Company and around the Atlas Engine Works along Indiana and Martindale avenues. Indianapolis civic leaders tended to deny the presence and contributions of its ethnic groups and advertised Indianapolis as a "100 percent American town." Homogeneity was touted as the city's strength, although 27 of every 100 native-born residents were part of an ethnic subculture—they were either black or had an immigrant parent.

Between 1890 and 1920 the city's population tripled from 105,436 to 314,194. An emerging automotive industry and wartime manufacturing drew new residents from rural and small town Indiana. The proportion of foreign-born declined from 13.6 percent to 5.4 percent, attributable in part to World War I and immigration restrictions of the 1920s.

The Great Depression slowed the city's growth. After earlier decennial increases of 34

Continued inside

Director's Notes

The final stages of a project as large and complex as the *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* seem never to end. New tasks insinuate themselves into carefully laid editorial plans: another fact to check, another entry to rewrite. But all projects must end, and so it is with this one. Final copy is at the press, with publication less than six months away.

Actually the project is not ending but simply assuming new form. Much remains to be done before the bound book appears. The editorial staff will spend countless hours proofreading and correcting galleys and page proofs. Then indexers will pore through the volume's 900,000 words to create a useable finding aid to its contents. And we will continue to make appeals for the \$200,000 needed to support the staff until we bring this monumental effort to conclusion.

It is never too late to contribute financially to this work. Even after the *Encyclopedia* graces

home and office shelves, we will be busy working to create an electronic version with greatly expanded content in an effort to keep pace with the city's need for knowledge about itself. We will be developing a companion pictorial encyclopedia with a much more detailed timeline. We will continue our work to make the encyclopedia part of the educational experience for Indianapolis learners of all ages.

But if it is never too late for you to support our efforts, it soon will be too late to gain recognition in the published volume for any financial contribution. The encyclopedia will achieve its promise as an indispensable resource for this city for years to come. I invite you to associate yourself with this most comprehensive effort-to-date to examine the city, an association that will gain the thanks of anyone who loves Indianapolis. ■

Populating Indianapolis — from page 1

to 60 percent, the 1940 population was only 23 percent larger than the 1920 population. The foreign-born comprised only 2.7 percent while African-Americans rose to 13.2 percent.

World War II and subsequent years brought major changes. The total population increased 10.4 percent between 1940 and 1950, and another 11.5 percent over the next decade; many of the new residents were natives of the Upper South. The African-American population, however, increased twice as rapidly as the general population between 1940-1950 and five times faster than the city between 1950-1960. By 1960 African-Americans accounted for 20 percent of the city's residents.

Reflecting a decreased movement of immigrants to central Indiana, the foreign-born comprised slightly more than 2 percent of the city's 1950 population. At the same time, Americanized descendants of immigrants vacated traditional neighborhoods for the more affluent

outlying districts. The Jewish community essentially relocated from the south and near north sides to the northern boundaries of Marion County. Ethnic neighborhoods, except for African-Americans, quickly faded as groups dispersed throughout the city.

Although Indianapolis lost population for the first time in its history between 1970 and 1980—a 5.9 percent decline—the contemporary city has become home to an increasingly diverse population. In 1970 natives of Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Cuba numbered 1,200; by 1990 first- and second-generation Hispanics numbered 8,450, or 1.1 percent of the county's residents. Likewise, the Asian contingent has grown from 2,500 in 1970 to over 7,500 in 1990; Asian Indians were the largest single group, followed by Chinese, Filipinos, Koreans, and Japanese. During the 1980s the African-American population increased 6.6 percent and comprised 22 percent of the 1990 population. In 1980 approximately three-fourths of Marion County residents had an ancestral tie to Germany, England, Ireland, France, Italy, or Poland.

How cosmopolitan is Indianapolis, the nation's twelfth largest city? The demographic profile reveals a diverse population, though one not as ethnically diverse as other northern industrial urban areas. Often mischaracterized as an ethnically homogeneous city, the Hoosier capital reflects a mix of peoples and cultures, one that has enriched the city's history and culture since its founding. ■

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Meet the Contributing Editor - Demography/Ethnicity

Professor James J. Divita is the contributing editor for the Demography/Ethnicity section of the *Encyclopedia*. A native of Chicago, Divita holds a bachelor's degree in history from DePaul University and a PhD. in history from the University of Chicago. He has taught history at Marian College in Indianapolis since 1961 and currently serves as the chairman of the History and Political Science Department. Divita is a specialist in Indianapolis religious and ethnic history, particularly its Catholic, Italian, and Slovenian communities. His 1988 book,

Ethnic Settlement Patterns in Indianapolis, used federal census data to determine when and where European and Asian immigrants, African-Americans, and upland southerners settled in the state capital.

Divita has written the overview essay for the Demography/Ethnicity section, as well as several general entries. The section will provide a comprehensive look at ethnic groups, settlement and immigrant aid organizations, and individuals who have played important roles in Indianapolis ethnic history. ■

The Urban Agenda: IUPUI on the Circle

The POLIS Research Center and the School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI continue a series of lunchtime discussions hosted with the cooperation of the Associated Group at its headquarters

at 120 Monument Circle, Conference Room A. All discussions are presented free of charge and are scheduled from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Neighborhoods in Indianapolis: A Survey of Community Attitudes and Perceptions

Thursday, April 7, 1994
Roger Parks, Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs and Center for Urban Policy and the Environment

Musical Heritage of Indianapolis

Wednesday, May 18, 1994
Stan Denski, Department of Communications, IUPUI; Anita Plotinsky, Indiana University Center on Philanthropy; and Marianne McKinney, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra

For more information, please call Lamont Hulse, (317) 274-2458.

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Timeline

Populating Indianapolis, 1818-1993

1818 The Treaty of St. Mary's (Ohio) removes several tribes of Native Americans from central Indiana, opening the land to white settlement.

1847 Local residents begin relief efforts to assist the Irish affected by the potato blight that was sweeping Europe.

1848 Julius Boetticher begins the *Volksblatt*, the first German language newspaper in the city.

1849 The first Jewish immigrants settle in Indianapolis and establish a synagogue in 1856.

1851 German immigrant Diedrich A. Bohlen begins his architectural career in the Indianapolis office of Francis Costigan.

Exiled Hungarian leader Louis Kossuth visits Indianapolis to raise funds for Hungarian independence.

1854 The Maennerchor, a German-American male singing society, is founded. Still in existence, it is considered one of the oldest choral groups in the nation.

1856 The City Council adopts a resolution allowing German pupils in local schools to have instruction in their own language.

1859 Germans organize the German-English Independent School to educate their children in German and to preserve their native culture.

Germans Christian Frederick Schmidt and Charles Jaeger establish the first successful brewery in the city.

1863 Kingan and Company, a meatpacking company from Belfast, Ireland, opens a factory along White River and recruits Irish laborers.

1866 Local Irish residents join the Fenian Brotherhood to attack British Canada and support Irish independence.

1868 Danish immigrants organize Trinity Lutheran Church, reputed to be the first Danish congregation in the U.S.

1870 A local branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians is formed to provide mutual aid to those of Irish nationality.

1890s National Malleable Castings Company recruits Slovenes abroad to work at its Indianapolis foundry.

1894 Germans build Das Deutsche Haus (now the Athenaeum) to accommodate German-American cultural activities.

1895 Irish immigrant Thomas Taggart begins the first of three terms as mayor of Indianapolis.

1896 William H. Block, an immigrant from Trepezin, Hungary, moves to Indianapolis from Cincinnati and opens a department store on Washington Street.

1904 Prince Pu Lun, reputed heir to the Manchu throne, visits Indianapolis at the request of friend William Fortune.

1905 Russian Jewish immigrant Louis Shapiro opens a grocery amidst the city's southside Jewish community.

1909 The Altenheim, a home for aged persons, founded by Germans affiliated with Zion Evangelical Church.

John H. Holliday and James A. Collins found the Immigrants Aid Society to serve the needs off recent immigrants.

Italians organize the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in their southside community.

1918 The Board of School Commissioners ends the teaching of German, declaring that "public schools...should not assist in perpetuating the language of an alien enemy in our homes and enemy viewpoints in the community."

The Marion County Council of Defense organizes an Americanization Day parade, which is attended by numerous ethnic groups demonstrating their patriotism.

1924 Social worker Mary Rigg becomes director of American Settlement, a consolidation off the Foreign House and Presbyterian Cosmopolitan Chapel offering day nursery, public health programs, and Americanization classes for immigrants on the city's southwest side.

1926 Queen Marie and the Romanian royal family visit Indianapolis and are honored at special ceremonies at the public library and the Romanian Orthodox Church.

1927 The *Macedonian Tribune* begins publishing as the official organ of the Macedonian Patriotic Organization.

1939 The Jewish Federation establishes a public relations committee, later known as the Jewish Community Relations Council, to inform the non-Jewish community about Judaism and situations in Nazi Germany.

1960 The Greek community constructs a new church—Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church—on the city's north side and opens a cultural center in 1981.

1971 The Hispanic community establishes the Hispanic Center/El Centro Hispano to provide social services and cultural activities.

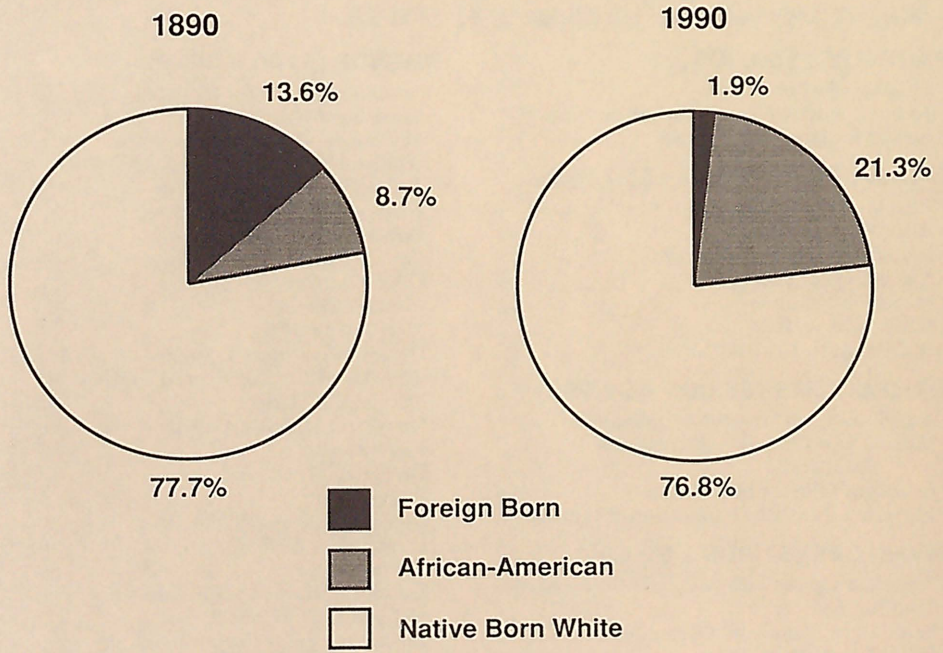
1972 The International Center of Indianapolis is founded to provide special services to the city's many local ethnic groups.

1972 The International Festival, an annual celebration of ethnic cultures, begins.

1980 The Ancient Order of Hibernians reintroduces the annual St. Patrick's Day parade and program after an absence of several decades.

1993 The Jewish Community Center estimates that nearly 1,000 Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union have settled in Indianapolis, including 208 individuals arriving in 1993.

Ethnic Diversity in Indianapolis, 1890 and 1990



Source: U.S. Census

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