

Society and the extension office began in mid-September and ended Oct. 7, 1966.

"Our Indiana," the story of the development of the state from pre-historic days, was presented by Rex Potterf, librarian emeritus of the Fort Wayne-Allen County Library.

Beginning in the Geological past, three billion years ago when this area, from the Appalachians to the Rocky Mountains was a vast, shallow, turbulent interior sea, through the glacial period, until after 20,000 years, Indiana was covered by a dense evergreen forest. The climate became warmer and a sturdy hardwood forest replaced the evergreens.

CROSSROADS OF THE NATION

In 1727 when the first pioneers settled at Vincennes the area which is now "Our Indiana" abounded in all manner of natural resources.

Primitive Indiana was a vast aviary. Bird life was lush and beautiful, with 403 varieties of feathered life living in the state.

PASSENGER PIGEON

The most lamented of now extinct Hoosier birds is the passenger pigeon, a grain-eating bird. The last of this species died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914. A stuffed passenger pigeon may be seen at the Fort Wayne Historical Museum.

THE OLD NORTHWEST

"The Old Northwest: Proving Ground of the American Federal Union" was the subject of the second seminar meeting and was presented by Dr. Don Carmony, Department of History, Indiana University, and chairman of the Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission.

When independence was won, several Eastern states had claims to territory in the region stretching westward to the Mississippi—claims based on royal charter and colonial grants—but by 1786 they had all surrendered to the union their rights in the territory north of the Ohio River.

The Northwest Ordinance, spirit of the new enterprises adopted in 1787, made provision for territorial governors chosen by the Congress, and later by the President.

The Northwest Ordinance contained more than a plan of government. It stipulated that religious freedom should prevail throughout the region, that the inhabitants should enjoy the right of trial by jury, and schools and the means of education should be encouraged.

A crowning provision of the Ordinance, so vital to the growth of liberty, was the article which read, "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in said (Northwest) territory otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, where the party shall have been duly convicted.

MILITARY HISTORY

The third topic in the series, "Military History of Northern Indiana," was presented by Fort Wayne attorney, Louis Bloom, past president of the Allen County Historical Society and Marine Corps Reserve officer.

The military post at the confluence of the St. Mary's and St. Joseph rivers, named Fort Wayne, was established by Anthony Wayne in 1794, following his victory over the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

This area was a favorite resort for the Indians when the white men first arrived. It soon became a center of fur trade, first for the French, then for the British.

The French built the first post there, probably as early as 1721, and they remained in possession until 1760 when their garrison surrendered to the British.

During Pontiac's uprising the British retired and there was no military establishment thereafter until Wayne's fort was built as an outpost of American authority. In 1802 the garrison numbered 64 with Col. Thomas Hunt as commandant.

The Miami Indians were the most numerous tribe in the vicinity. Their principal villages were at the forks of the Wabash, southwest of Fort Wayne, at the site of present day Huntington; and on the Mississinewa River, in present Grant County, north and west of Marion.

The Eel River Miami resided on Eel River, a branch of the Wabash, southwest of the fort, and the Wee were down the Wabash near present Lafayette.

Delewares were on the White River below the site of Muncie,

and Pottawatomi were around the lower end of Lake Michigan, on the St. Joseph of the Lake, and were moving down the Wabash.

The victory of Gen. "Mad" Anthony Wayne at Fallen Timbers brought peace to the frontiers and paved the way for the advance of civilization. The establishment of the post at Fort Wayne put new obstacles in the path of the British in the valleys of the Wabash and Maumee, and led the way to the final abandonment of the Northwest by their troops and garrisons.

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY MIGRATIONS

The fourth and last seminar meeting in the series was conducted by Philip Mow, Winona Lake, a member of the faculty of the history department of Warsaw Community High School.

With charts and visual aids Mr. Mow explained how drastic and cyclical changes in climate made Indiana at times a steamy, lush and tropical jungle; at other times it was for long periods a harsh desert of ice which covered thousands of square miles.

Most of the pioneers of this area came from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia, with a few settlers from New England. The thick forests of hard woods soon rang with the sound of the axe of the pioneer. He erected a rude cabin to shelter his family, cleared land and planted crops.

Migration to Kosciusko County continues in 1967. Its economy no longer dependent on agriculture, Kosciusko County's industrial plants are attracting more people each year. In the period from 1960 to 1963 the population increased by 3,000.

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