

Jay County, Voter Registration Book for Balbec, Indiana, 1888

Rachel Christine (Fulk) Brown and Natalie Burriss

Voter registration began towards the end of the nineteenth century when the swell of immigrants to the United States began to climb toward a peak. State governments sought to ensure that only citizens were able to vote. County clerks were given voter registration books in which to write the names of male constituents who were twenty-one and met the state's voting requirements.¹ Indiana required its voters to be twenty-one, to have lived in the county for at least four months, and upon registration, to affirm that they would not: vote in another county, register another person to vote, prohibit another person from registering to vote, hire another person to vote, vote without registering, or advise another person not to register to vote under penalty of a jail sentence of one to five years.²

In the nineteenth century, Indiana allowed voters to register with or without party affiliation and also as "floaters."³ The William H. Smith Memorial Library at the Indiana Historical Society houses an 1888 voter registration book from Jay County, located in eastern Indiana. The book lists residents of Balbec who met the state's voting requirements and indicates which political party they associated with: Republican, Democrat, Union Labor, Prohibitionist, or Floaters. At the end of the book, there are tallies for these groups, including voters "doubtful" of the party they indicated. Also, the Floaters did designate a party as well as the fact that they were floating. The tally presents other interesting statistics. There were 201 "Republican Germans," 1 Republican "colored" man, 15 Republican soldiers, 3 "Democratic" soldiers, and 12 first-time voters.⁴ The list of registered voters is extracted below. Editorial additions are in brackets.

Notes

1. Tom Huskerson, “A Brief History of Voter Registration in the United States,” in Electoral Reform, September 8, 2014, IVN [Independent Voter Network], <https://ivn.us/2014/09/08/brief-history-voter-registration-united-states/>. For more on voting laws and who was given the right to vote when, see Alexander Keyssar, *The Right to Vote: The Contested History of Democracy in the United States* (New York: Basic Books, 2000).
2. *The Revised Statutes of Indiana: A Continuation of the Editions of 1881 and 1888, Containing All Statutes of a General Nature Enacted Subsequent to those Editions and Completing the Record of the Laws in Force with Annotations of All Cases Decided, Since the Plate of the Edition of 1888, Construing or Illustrating such General Statues to Date*, vol. 3 (Chicago: E. B. Myers and Law Publishers, 1892), 561, available on Google Books. For more on the history of voting in Indiana, see Ray E. Boomhower, “Vote Early, Vote Often,” on Ray E. Boomhower’s Books blog page, <http://rayboomhower.blogspot.com/2008/11/vote-early-vote-often.html>.
3. R. G. Saltman, *The History and Politics of Voting Technology: In Quest of Integrity and Public Confidence* (New York: MacMillan, 2006), 93, available on Google Books.
4. Balbec, Jay County, Indiana, Voter Documents, 1888–1900, SC 3153, Indiana Historical Society.

List of Voters in 1888 Jay County Voters Registration Book

[R=Republican; D=Democrat; L=Union Labor Party; P=Prohibition Party; F=Floater; Dou=Doubtful]

[A]

Acre, John U S	R / Dou
Acre, Charles	R / Dou
Allen, HB	R
Albertson, Benny	R
Alexander, William	R
Allen, William	L / Dou
Allen, H. B.	L

[B]

Brown, Lorenzo	R / Dou
Barnes, James	R
Budsall, [Joel/Jack]	R
Bunker, [B/Z]	R
Budsall, N. J.	R
Bourne, Chas.	R
Brown, J. W.	R
Borse, Sam	D / Dou
Borse, Nat	D / Dou
Brown, [Lew/Sam]	L F
[Bennett/Bern]	[not marked]
[Brown/Braner]	D
Bouse, Wm Chals.	D F
Banta, R.	D
Brown, [Orlan/Alexander]	L
Bowman, Bob	L F

[C]

Campbell, Alonzo	R / Dou
Campbell, Alex	R
Chang, Charles	R
Confer, Peter	R
Cash, Hamilton	R
Cash, Alonzo	R
Couts, John	R / Dou
Cecil, [H./Tim]	R
Cash, Hamilton Jr.	R
Cory, Joe	L

[D]

Dawly, James	R
Davis, Shade	R
Deweese, B. L.	R
Davenport, O.	R
Dugdale, Wm.	R

Democrats

Davis, King	D
Davis, Joseph	D

[E]

Elliot, Joseph	R / Dou
Eberly, Peter	R
Engle, J. D.	R
Eberly, William	R

Eberly, Daniel	R
Eberly, R R	R
Eberly, Joseph	R
Edmundson, Wm	R
Edmundson, Louis	R
Earhart, Stine	R
Earhart, James	R
Edwards, Jake	R

Democrats	
Ellsworth, Jesse	D / Dou
Edmundson, John	D F

[F]

Fairchild, John	R
Fields, Oli[s/v] [Frelde/Chris]	R / Dou

[G]

Grissim, H[iram?]	R
Glendenny, Willis	R F
Greist, Reuben	R
Hamra, John	R
Garret, [Alvis/Arlis]	R
Grey, Sillian	R
Grissell, Lovell	R
Gove, Joel	R
Grey, John	R
Grassell, H. B.	R
Grassell, Albert J.	R
Grey, D Thos.	R
Grey, E A	[not marked]
Grogg, Edd	L
Grey, F S	L
Grey, Reese	L
Gaskill, Jim	P
Grey, Thos	L

[H]

Hopkins, B. B.	R
Hopkins, Edward	R
Hanna, John	R / Dou
Rosser, Harry	R
Hulzler, Jacob	R
Horn, Wm	R
Horn, Melvin	R
Hall, Abram	R

Hopkins, Ambrose	R	
Hopkins, J. R.	R	
Hunt, S.	R	
[Hanes/Harnes], Ell	P	
Heaulin, Albert	[An "x," indicating a signature, is marked in the "Democrat" box.]	
Heaulin, Geo	D	
Harris, Henry	D	
Heaulin, Steve	D	
Heaulin, Jacob	D	
Harris, John	D	
Harris, Darrel	D	
Harris, Ben	D	
Harris, [Brett/Budd]	D / Dou	
Haines, Ike	L	
Hiatt, Anson	L	
[I]		
Inez, Phineas	R	
Inez, Jonas	R	
Inez, Alf	L	
[J]		
Jones, J.	R / Dou	
[K]		
King, Cyrus	R	
Democrats		
Kelly, Martin	D	F
[L]		
Lewis, Emiry	R	
Roberts, S [---]	R	
Layport, C Mc	R	
Lewis, J. G.	R	
Lewis, Joseph	R	
Lewis, Enon	R	
Lehman, Perry	D	
Lehman, Martin	D	
Linco, Perry	D	
Lines, A. J.	D	F
Lines, Geo.	D	F

[M]

Mason, John	R
Martin, Albert	R
Manley, Robert	R
Mendenhall, Wm	R
Malatt, William	R
Miller, David	R
Manly, [Theo/Thos.]	R
McLean, Jack	D
Gaskill, Jim	P
Marker, Dan	D
McDorman, Jim	D
McDaniels, Joseph	D
Miller, Jacob	D / Dou
McClish ? JNO	D
McCurces, Wm?	L
Marks, Louis	R

[O]

Oulcel[t?] H. J.	R
Odell, James	R
Odell, [Mart?]	R

[P]

Paxson, Wm	R
Paxson, Eli	R
Paxson, B. F.	R
Paxson, P. [L./I./J.]	R
Paxson, J. E.	R
Paxson, P. A.	R
Paxson, J. K.	R
Perry, Phin	R / Dou
Paxson, George	R
Paxson, John	R
Paxson, Wm (of Ben)	R
Paxon, Arthur	R
Pence, Levi	D
Pence, J. R.	D
Pence, D. W.	D
Porlen, R.	D
Pugh, [Barny/Benny]	[L/D]
Penn, Thom	L
Pugh, J. H. F.	L
Pugh, A. J.	L / Dou
Paxson, Joseph	P
Paxson, Walker	P

[R]

Rigby, Sillian	R / Dou
Roberts, Sprunger	R
Roscer, Hary	R
Rigby, Erin	R
Ressler, Wm	R / Dou
Rankin, Chas.	R
Regester, Amos	L
Romans, Jesse	L F
Romano, Joseph	L F
Regester, Theo	L
Regester, Aaron	L

[S]

Shaley, James	R
Sawyer, James	R / Dou
Stevens, J. E. [W./T.]	R F / Dou
Shook, E. A.	R
Showallin, Alonzo	R
Sutton, John	R
Stratton, [—]	R
Sutton, James	R
Sofner, E. [W./H.]	R
Sibray, Nathan	R
Surgant, Adam	R
Suleis, Jim	R / Dou
Sibray, Vance	R
Sibray, John	R
Stratten, [William?]	D
Schmit, Andy	D
Schmit, John	D
Stout, Wm	D/P F
Smith, William	D
Smith, Alf	D
Sebray, Ben	L F
Swarthwood, Jas	L
Sweeney, Geo.	L / Dou
Suleis, Frank	L F
Sibray, Loi	L / Dou
Swarthwood, Wm	L F / Dou
Smith, Dillon R.	[R/P]
[Shim/Shinn], Neely	L
Sullivan, Levi	[not marked]

[T]

Thompson, Geo.	R / Dou
Thomas, Nash	D / Dou
[Thornbury/Thernbuy], [Harv?]	L F / Dou

[U]

[The names in the block under "U" are marked with an "x" by each name in lieu of a signature. No political affiliation is indicated.]

Charles Chaney
Alex Caulfibell
H Cash
Jake Edwards
Lei[t/l] Grey
Joe Lewis
John Paxson
~~J. A. Pugh~~
E. M. Pigby
E[n/m]os Walker
H B Grisell

[W]

Willson, Dan	R
[Willson?]	R
Williams, [Mike]	R
Willson, William	R
West, E. S.	R
Walker, J. S.	R
Wheeler, [Julius/Julian]	R F
Whright, Samuel	R
Woodard, Ezekel	R
White, C J?	R / Dou
Rosser, Harry	R
Wheeler, Thomas	R
White, Harlow	R
Walker, E[n/m]os	R
Wible, J.	R F / Dou
White, H.	R
Willson, Wm Jr.	R
Watt, John	D
Weaver, David	D
Weadd, [Lewis?]	D
Whitely, Jacob	D / Dou
Williams, Luther	L
Wilson, Frank	[not marked]

Ward, Sherman	R
Ward, Charlie	R

[Y/Z]

Nelson, William	R
Edwards, Jake	R
Sebray, Ben.	R
Sebray, John	R
Sebray, Vance	R
Brown, John U.	R
[Suleis?], Jim	R
Paxson, Wm	R

[Online Connections](#)

[Regional Sources and Stories](#)

About Voter and Elections Information in Indiana. The Indiana Secretary of State Election Division manages voter registration records. An online portal offers a voter registration records search, whereby searches can be performed by county, first and last name, and date of birth. The search results will include voter registration status, polling location, provisional ballot information, and locations for county voter registration offices. Campaign finance records are also managed by the Election Division. An online campaign finance database provides access to the financial records disclosed by The region of Fairmount, Indiana, was first settled "along Back Creek in the late 1820s and early 1830s" by North Carolina Quakers who were "escaping the moral blight of a southern society based on human slavery." By the mid-nineteenth century, these Quakers had established an agricultural community around the new town of Fairmount, named for Philadelphia's "Fairmount Park." The Civil War had its effects on the young town, as many citizens fought and several died in support of their Northern cause. Fairmount's growth stalled for a few decades following t Search for Indiana voter registration information. Voter registration information includes how to register to vote, voter registration lists, voter identification requirements, voter turnout, and voter registration updates. Voter Registration Near Me. Use My Location. Voter Registration by County. Adams County. Allen County. Bartholomew County. based on NCERT History Old Books (class 8th to 12th); Download Modern Indian History Tutorial (indian history. 256 PagesÂ·2016Â·1.65 MBÂ·13,212 DownloadsÂ·Indonesian.Â in any country except Egypt where Akhnaton. The Gist of NCERT - Indian History Inner Page.cdr babua History of Medieval India.