

**Jackson County, Names Extracted from
“A History of the Colored People of Jackson County Indiana” (1956)**

K. L. Combs and Chelsea Sutton

The Indiana Historical Society’s William Henry Smith Memorial Library houses many documents catalogued as pamphlets. These may consist of just a few printed pages or several dozen pages and span the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries. The majority of these tracts were printed privately under the direction of city or county agencies, and they freely discuss the views of political parties, fraternal organizations, and area churches. “A History of the Colored People of Jackson County Indiana,” is one such pamphlet that can be valuable to the genealogist and historian.¹

Jackson County, the fourteenth organized county of the Indiana territory, was established in 1815 and named after the recent hero of the Battle of New Orleans, General Andrew Jackson.² Although never the county seat, Seymour has been the largest community in Jackson County since the late 1850s. Established in 1852 upon property then owned by Meedy Shields, an Indiana state senator, the city was named after Henry C. Seymour, the chief engineer of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad.³ In 1854 a shrewd political maneuver by Shields in the Indiana legislature guaranteed that all trains had to stop in Seymour, and the city grew rapidly. Part of that expansion involved the formation of a diverse community and of social organizations such as churches, lodges, and schools that served both white and black constituents.

Edited and published in 1956 by Seymour resident Blanche Maddex Smith, “A History of the Colored People of Jackson County Indiana” attempts to track and detail the churches, lodges, and schools that historically had served the African American community. D. W. Caine, a teacher for thirty-seven years in the African American Lynn Street School and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons (African American), began compiling the pamphlet prior to his death, and Smith saw the project through to completion. Caine and Smith’s manuscript endeavored to

lay out the known history of African American migration and settlement of Indiana, specifically Jackson County. However, for researchers, the names of African American citizens who lived or had lived in the county add even more value to this publication. The following names of individuals are listed under the headings of "Early Colored Settlers," "Religious Life," "Colored Schools," or "Colored Lodges" within the pamphlet. If a person's name appears multiple times under one heading, it only appears once on this list.

Notes

1. Blanche Maddex Smith, "A History of the Colored People of Jackson County Indiana." 1956. Pamphlet Collection, Indiana Historical Society.
2. Robert M. Taylor, Jr., et al. *Indiana: A New Historical Guide* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 1989), 175.
3. Ibid, 177.

Names Extracted from "A History of the Colored People of Jackson County Indiana" (1956)

Foreward

D. W. Caine
Blanche Maddex Smith

Early Colored Settlers in Jackson County

Harrison Mitchell Family	Henry Stewart Family
Gale Family	Murray Family
Coleman Family	Maddex Family
Newby Family	Bass Family
Hill Family	Bates Family
Green Family	Batt Family
Lamb Family	Mayhoe Family
Parks Family	Booker Family
Freeman Family	Smith Family
Jones Family	Bufford Family
Doxey Family	John Lamb
Dudley Family	Hiram Mitchell
Dixon Family	Caine Lamb
Wilson Family	W. L. Payne
Mitchell Family	

Religious Life

Susan Gale
Rev. Harry Thompson
D. G. Allen
W. H. Brown
J. P. Killibrew
Tucker Wilson
C. D. Lamb
T. A. Green
W. Hutchison
N. A. Bell
J. Gaskin
W. A. Mason
J. Overton
Quincy Johnson
Mrs. McClough
Andrew Ferguson
Rev. Slaughter
Aaron Knight
C. P. Smith
A. A. Clark

T. Daniels
Jesse Hill
Millie McCurdy
W. C. Irvin
B. F. Low
J. A. Harper
A. H. Davis
W. C. Barbee
A. J. Jackson
Jonathan Burton
T. Crosslan
J. L. Talbert
T. E. Hardiman
Grafton White
Irene Evans
C. C. Townsend
Edgar F. Maddex
Rev. Benjamin Hines
Rev. Aaronhouse
Rev. W. H. Winters

Colored Schools

John Newby
Rev. Edgar F. Maddex
Richard Brown
Mrs. Alice McCowan
D. W. Caine
Mrs. Lyons
Mrs. Mattie Owens

Mrs. Gilerich
Mrs. Clara Trail
Miss Emmeth Greer
Miss Mary Etta Moody
Daisy Evans
A. M. Short
Frank Lee

Colored Lodges

James Sydney Hinton
Oliver Anthony
John Newby
Wesley Bass
Asbury Goens
Daniel Goens
Solomon Lamb
Charles Coleman
Wesley Lloyd

Alex Goens
D. W. Caine
Jesse Hill
John Carter
R. G. Stewart
David Dahoney
William Payne

Home Coming Events

Rev. Edgar F. Maddex
R. G. Stewart
Volley Jefferson

[Online Connections](#)

[Regional Sources and Stories](#)