

Tippecanoe County, Lafayette Collegiate Institute Pamphlet, 1864–1865

Ruth Dorrel and Freddie Waters

Following is a partial transcript of the 1864–1865 pamphlet from the Lafayette Collegiate Institute, which catalogues its administrators, students, and teachers. The complete pamphlet may be viewed at the Indiana State Library.

The Lafayette Collegiate Institute was a private non-denominational Christian school in Lafayette, Indiana. The school provided primary and preparatory school classes in addition to college-level courses. Curriculum at all grade levels focused on a liberal arts education, while students were to maintain an active Christian and civic life.¹ Similar schools existed throughout the region, and some have endured to the present, such as Butler University, Hanover College, and Franklin College. Unlike the Lafayette institute, these colleges were usually founded and supported by specific Christian denominations.²

The institute shared with its contemporaries a concerted communal effort toward education. The Northwest Ordinance encouraged the governmental support of education, and Indiana's constitution mandated the organization of free and open public education. However, efforts to create free public schools struggled throughout the nineteenth century, and community private schools became common.³ The institute exemplifies the diversity and localization of Indiana's nineteenth-century schools during a time of burgeoning educational opportunity.

Notes

1. Pamphlet, *The Lafayette Collegiate Institute*, 1864, Indiana State Library (ISLO 378 L 161 No. 1).
2. James H. Madison, *Hoosiers: A New History of Indiana* (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press and Indiana Historical Society Press, 2014), 111.

3. Carl Kaestle, “Public Education in the Old Northwest: ‘Necessary to Good Government and the Happiness of Mankind,’” *Indiana Magazine of History* 84, no.1 (March 1988): 60–74; Northwest Ordinance, Section 14, Article 3; Indiana State Constitution, Article 8, Section 1; Madison, *Hoosiers*, 112.

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