

Carroll County, Election Records, 1828–1829

Chelsea Sutton and Elena Rippel

On January 7, 1828, the Indiana General Assembly created Carroll County. After this act, residents began to build their new county's government from the ground up, electing officials, organizing a court system, establishing a capital, and constructing government buildings. In an April election, seventy-six residents elected two associate justices, a clerk, a recorder, and three county commissioners. The commissioners were responsible for laying out the county by selecting a site for the capital and creating townships. They also appointed other county positions such as treasurer and constable and took care of other administrative work. In June a justice of the peace was also elected. However, the courthouse was not built until 1831. In 1828 courts were held in Daniel Baum's home; in 1829 they moved to a schoolhouse.¹ Elections also appear to have been held in people's houses, showing the makeshift nature of early democracy.

The Carroll County Historical Society and Museum houses documents labeled as poll books and election returns.² Transcribed below, the election returns include the justice of the peace election in June 1828; the 1828 presidential election in November between Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams; and the election of state representatives and some local officials in August 1829. Townships represented include Carroll County's original three townships—Rock Creek, Deer Creek, and Tippecanoe—as well as Eel, which was briefly under Carroll County's jurisdiction before becoming part of Cass County.³ Some of the documents list the names of all voters. Others list the results of the elections, verified by appropriate officials. These documents represent the creation of new local governments and participation in national politics from the American frontier in Indiana.

Notes

1. John C. Odell, *History of Carroll County, Indiana: Its People, Industries and Institutions* (Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen and Company, 1916), 73–76; Internet Archive, <http://www.archive.org>.

2. Poll Book, Rock Creek Township, Carroll County, June 7, 1828; Justice of the Peace Election Results, Eel Township, Carroll County, June 7, 1828; Election Returns, Deer Creek Township, Carroll County, November 3, 1828; Election Returns, Tippecanoe Township, Carroll County, November 3, 1828; Poll Book, Deer Creek Township, Carroll County, August 3/5, 1829. From the Collections of the Carroll County Historical Society and Museum.
3. T. B. Helm, *History of Carroll County, Indiana, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers* (Chicago: Kingman Brothers, 1882), 120; Internet Archive, <http://www.archive.org>.

Poll Books and Election Results from Carroll County, 1828–1829

Poll Book for Rock Creek Township, June 7, 1828

A list of voters names taken at the Election holden [?] at the House of Aaron Meriman Township of Rock Creek County of Carroll and State of Indiana on Saturday the Seventh day of June AD 1828 For the purpose of Electing a Justice of the Peace in and for said Township

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Joseph Patterson | 11. John Searfo[ss?] |
| 2. Aaron Hicks | 12. Moses Scott |
| 3. Aaron Merriman | 13. David McCombs |
| 4. Christopher McCombs | 14. Moses Hicks |
| 5. [I?] Sam Atkinson | 15. Eli Cotner |
| 6. William Siers | 16. John Mitchael |
| 7. William Cummins | 17. Manuel McCombs |
| 8. John Crook | 18. John Mikesel |
| 9. Alexander Siers | 19. John Hisler |
| 10. David Lucas | |

Election for Justice of the Peace, Eel Township, June 7, 1828

We the Inspector and Judges of the Election held at the house of Alexander Chamberlain in the Township of Eel, County of Carroll and State of Indiana on Saturday the Seventh day of June A.D. 1828 for the purpose of Electing a Justice in and for said Township Do certify that at said Election William Scott received twenty votes which was all the votes given for Justice of the Peace.

Witness:	Inspector and Judges:
Clerks:	Daniel Beel
L. B. Duret	Gillis M[c?]Bean
H. B. McKeen	Cyrus [Faber/Jaben?]

Election Returns, Deer Creek Township, November 3, 1828

We the inspector and Judges of the presidential Election held at Daniel M[c?]Cain's in Deer Creek Township Carroll County State of Indiana for the purpose of electing five electors to meet at Indianapolis to elect a President and vice President do certify that Joseph Ore, John [Walls/Watts?], Joseph Bartholomew, Isaac Montgomery and Amariah Morgan, received each twenty one votes for s, d [said] Electors on the administration [ticket?]

Also that Benjamin V. Beckes, Ratliff Boon, Jesse B. Durham, William Low and Ross Smiley received each twenty seven votes on the Jacksonian [ticket?]

Clerks:	Wm. G. Bishop, Inspector	Judges:
John Carey		Aaron Dewey
Wm Martin		Robert C[ade?]

Election Returns, Tippecanoe Township, November 3, 1828

A List of voters names taken at an Election held at the house of Nathaniel Hamilton. Township of Tippecanoe County of Carroll State of Indiana on Monday the third day of November AD 1828 for the purpose of Electing Electors for president and vice president

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. James S. Kely | 10. Jacob Zook |
| 2. Thomas Hamilton | 11. James Hamilton |
| 3. Daley Babcock | 12. Thomas McMillen |
| 4. Nathan Hamilton | 13. Hiram Lulor |
| 5. Nathon Rose | 14. Joseph Dunham |
| 6. David Hamilton | 15. George [Difdendeffer?] |
| 7. Jese [Solomon?] | 16. [blank on return] |
| 8. Silez Atchison | 17. John C. Matcaf |
| 9. William M[ce?]rey | 18. Alexander Smith |

Poll Book, Deer Creek Township, August 3/5, 1829

List of voters, Election Returns for 1829, Filed in my office August 5th 1829

D. F. [Vandevanter?] Clk

A poll Book for the annual Election Held at the school House in Delphi and Deer Creek Township and County of Carroll on Monday the third day of August A.D. 1829 For the purpose of Electing one Senator and two Representatives to the State Legislature and one probate Judge and one [commissioner?] for the County of Carroll.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 1. | Graham Roberts | 38. | [Daniel?] Frasier |
| 2. | James Miller | 39. | James McCain |
| 3. | Wm Odell | 40. | H. R. Millray |
| 4. | Samuel Wells | 41. | Jesse Jackson |
| 5. | Nathanie[l] Hamilton | 42. | Thomas Birk |
| 6. | Samuel Williams | 43. | Jacob Baum |
| 7. | Robert Cade | 44. | Henry Baum |
| 8. | John Custer | 45. | David Lucas |
| 9. | Abner Robinson | 46. | Jacob Mitchell |
| 10. | Hue Graham | 47. | David Baum |
| 11. | George J. Baum | 48. | Alexander Siers |
| 12. | Ethan Alen | 49. | John Ruhls |
| 13. | John Little | 50. | Jonathan Justice |
| 14. | Edward C[ae?]ley | 51. | Wm George |
| 15. | John M. Ewing | 52. | Jediah Johnston |
| 16. | Thomas Hamilton | 53. | Thomas Perry |
| 17. | David Hamilton | 54. | Peter Babcock |
| 18. | James Hamilton | 55. | John Kisler |
| 19. | Moses Thompson | 56. | John Ballerd |
| 20. | Henry Robison | 57. | Samuel E. Carpenter |
| 21. | John Carey | 58. | Thomas Strain |
| 22. | Wm Carey | 59. | John G[ivens?] |
| 23. | Wm Hanna | 60. | Joshua Whicher |
| 24. | David McCain | 61. | James Crawford |
| 25. | Joseph Swalls | 62. | John M. Gillum |
| 26. | Simon Marsh | 63. | James Laughlin |
| 27. | Wm Willson | 64. | Thor Gillum |
| 28. | [Hugh Manary?] | 65. | John Brigs |
| 29. | John Swalls | 66. | Elias Lowder |
| 30. | Joseph Jackson | 67. | John Hays |
| 31. | John Odle | 68. | John M. Pinkston |
| 32. | David Beard | 69. | Richard McGriff |
| 33. | Ephraigm [Davison/Danison?] | 70. | James McD[o/a]wel |
| 34. | James Odell | 71. | Thos. Sturlin |
| 35. | George M. [Cannon?] | 72. | Wm Bishop |
| 36. | Wm Hues | 73. | Albert [Heneri?] |
| 37. | Philip Ro[hraugh?] | 74. | Wm McCord |

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 75. | Wm McCrary | 88. | Moses Alldredge |
| 76. | John McMillon | 89. | Jacob Hart[ar?] |
| 77. | Isaac Griffith | 90. | Thomas H. Young |
| 78. | James McG[iliard?] | 91. | Joseph McCain |
| 79. | Aaron Dewey | 92. | Samuel Wise |
| 80. | Jeramiah Ballerd | 93. | Daniel Lenen |
| 81. | Stephen A. Miller | 94. | Elisha Brown |
| 82. | Daniel [---] | 95. | [---man] [Lessly?] |
| 83. | John Rohrabaugh | 96. | Samuel Ernest |
| 84. | George Diffendaffer | 97. | [Darel/Paul?] McCain |
| 85. | Stephen Guyle | 98. | John Coonse |
| 86. | John Adams | 99. | Joel B. McClellen |
| 87. | Henry Peck | | |

We the undersigned Inspector and Judges of an Election held at the School House in Delphi as above and within Specified and for the purposes therein Designated do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct statement of the number and names of the qualified Electors who were polled at said Election.

August the 3rd 1829

Clerks:
Graham Roberts
James Miller

William [Young/George?],
Inspector

Judges:
Hugh Graham
Stephen A. Miller

[Online Connections](#)

[Regional Sources and Stories](#)