

**Cole Porter** - Cole Porter, born in Peru, Indiana, wrote his first operetta at the age of 10. He went on to attend Yale University, where he wrote 300 songs before graduating and beginning his Broadway career. Unlike many composers, he wrote the lyrics as well as the music for his songs. His first hit, *Paris*, came in 1928 and was followed by many more. His most famous show, *Kiss Me, Kate*, won the Tony Award for Best Musical in 1948.

**Chris Gonzalez** - Chris Gonzalez (1963-1994), a Griffith, Indiana native, began his activist work by becoming a volunteer counselor for the Gay/Lesbian Switchboard in Indianapolis, which helped teens grappling with their sexuality deal with a wide variety of issues. In 1987, Gonzalez co-founded the Indianapolis Youth Group (now Indiana Youth Group), which worked to protect the mental and physical health of Indiana's LGBTQ+ youth and was the first nonprofit organization in the country dedicated to gay and lesbian issues.

**Stan Berg** - Indianapolis LGBTQ+ activist and IU grad Stan Berg (1950-1991) founded the prolific queer newsletter *The Works* ca. 1981. The Garrett native challenged police harassment and discrimination, demanded attention be paid to the AIDS epidemic, and in 1984 helped organize "Gay Knights" gatherings at Monument Circle. Indianapolis Rev. Wayne C. Olson described Berg as "a role model for folks who are in the closet and are intimidated."

**LCPL Emilio De La Garza** - Born in East Chicago, Indiana, Lance Corporal Emilio De La Garza served as a machine gunner during the Vietnam War. On April 11, 1970, he and his squad were searching for enemy soldiers who had been spotted in the area. De La Garza located a Viet Cong soldier. While trying to capture the enemy soldier, De La Garza saw him pull the pin on a grenade. De La Garza placed himself between the blast and his comrades, sacrificing his life to save theirs. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

**James Dean** - James Dean, born in Marion, Indiana, was raised in Fairmount, Grant County, in a Quaker household. He attended the University of California and majored in drama. He went on to star in films such as *East of Eden* and *Rebel Without a Cause*. Just as he achieved national success, Dean passed away in a car crash on a California highway in 1955 at the age of 24.

**Opha May Johnson** - During WWI, the Marine Corps Reserve made an effort to recruit young women as privates to fill clerical positions at Marine headquarters, freeing up young men for the war front. Kokomo native Opha Johnson became the first woman to enroll in the Marine Corps on August 14, 1918. In 1919, the military issued an order for women to be moved to inactive duty and Johnson lost her job. However, she remained active in the American Legion.

**Elizabeth Richardson** - During WWII, the American Red Cross provided recreational services to far flung service members with mobile lounges carrying fresh doughnuts, cigarettes, coffee, and other comforts from home. Female volunteers staffed these "clubmobiles," serving as everything from dance partner to grief counselor. Mishawaka native Elizabeth Richardson was one such volunteer. On July 25, 1945, she died in the line of duty when her plane crashed.

**Katherine "Flossie" Bailey** - "Flossie" Bailey became involved with the NAACP in 1919 when she founded the Marion chapter of the organization. In 1930, she assumed the presidency of the state NAACP conference. She is best known for her work to bring the perpetrators of the 1930 Maion lynching

of Abe Smith and Tom Shipp to justice. Bailey continued her work with the NAACP and successfully lobbied for new anti-lynching laws in Indiana.

**Sojourner Truth** – Sojourner Truth (1797-1883) escaped enslavement and became a powerful speaker for abolition and women's rights. She spoke in Indiana several times, despite threats of violence and legal prosecution. She defiantly bared her breast in 1858 when a Kosciusko County mob denied her womanhood. In 1861, she denounced the evils of slavery before a Steuben County crowd threatening violence. She returned to LaPorte County in 1881 towards the end of her life.

**Notre Dame vs. the Klan** - Notre Dame vs. KKK - Between 1920 and 1924, the Ku Klux Klan had spread throughout the state of Indiana and was heavily integrating into state and local politics. South Bend was an exception. The heavily Catholic city posed the "biggest unsolved problem" of the state for the Klan. In a ploy to gain traction, Klan officials organized a mass meeting of Klan members from IN, IL, and MI in the city in 1923. As Klan members arrived, Notre Dame students and South Bend citizens gathered to drive them from the city. The Klan used this clash to publish anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant propaganda aimed at the University in their newspaper The Fiery Cross. To combat this smear campaign, Notre Dame turned their wildly successful football team into a media relations machine, showing the nation that Catholics and immigrants were just as worthy of the label "American" as anyone else.

**Indianapolis ABCs** - Segregation in professional baseball kept many talented Black athletes from playing in the major leagues from the late 1800s to 1947. The Indianapolis ABCs began as an independent Black club in 1907. In 1920, they became one of the charter members of the Negro National Baseball League. Star players included Hall of Famers Oscar Charleston, Biz Mackey, and Ben Taylor.

**C.L. Moore** - Indianapolis native Catherine Lucille Moore (1911-1987) was an influential science fiction and fantasy writer. Her first story submission, "Shambleau," published under the name C.L. Moore, appeared in popular pulp magazine Weird Tales in 1933 and gained her literary acclaim. Recognized today as a founding "mother" of Golden Age science fiction, she helped raise the genre to a respectable, credible literary field and influenced male and female writers alike.

**Drunkometer** - In 1938, Dr. Tolla Harger of Indiana University unveiled a device which could measure a blood alcohol level. He called the device the "Drunkometer." Harger worked with the National Safety Council to establish model impaired driving legislation, which was made possible by his device. Indiana was the first state to adopt the legislation in 1939. In 1954, Indiana State Police photographer Robert Borkenstein built upon Hargers' work, making a more portable and effective device - the Brealalyzer.

**Ernie Pyle** - Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Ernie Pyle was born in Vermillion County. He studied journalism at Indiana University but left to start his career before graduating. During World War II, Pyle was a war correspondent and became known for his very intimate style of reporting. On April 17, 1945, Pyle was killed in the line of duty on the island of Iejima, Japan.

**Madelyn Pugh** - Television comedy writer Madelyn Pugh was born in Indianapolis in 1921. She graduated from Indiana University's School of Journalism in 1942 and went on to gain fame as the co-creator and co-writer for the Emmy-award winning television show I Love Lucy. Pugh also helped create sitcoms such as Those Whiting Girls, The Tom Ewell Show, and The Monsters-in-Law and co-wrote the 1968 film Yours, Mine, and Ours.

**Great Flood of 1937** - On January 5, 1937, water levels along the Ohio River in southern Indiana began to rise. By January 18, the Ohio started to overflow its banks as heavy rain continued. On January 23, martial law was declared in Evansville and 4,000 WPA workers were sent to Evansville. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dispatched an entire fleet to the Ohio River via the Cumberland River for rescue and relief work as homes continued to flood and families were left stranded. Residents were evacuated from river towns in the early stages of the flood. Indiana was the only state to avoid drowning deaths, but more than 100,000 people were left homeless by the flood.

**Wes Montgomery** - Wes Montgomery, born in Indianapolis, is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest guitarists in the history of jazz. He was self-taught and the unique style he developed influenced generations of players who followed in his wake. He began playing at age 19, but didn't play regularly around Indianapolis until 30. His album *Echoes of Indiana Avenue* features songs recorded in clubs on the avenue in 1957 and 1958.

**Amos Rusie** - Mooresville native Amos Rusie (1871-1942) caught the attention of scouts when he pitched shutouts against two touring National League clubs while playing with a semi-professional Indianapolis-based team called the "Sturm Avenue Never Sweats." He made his Major League debut in 1889 at age 17 with the National League Indianapolis Hoosiers, where he played 1 season before joining the New York Giants. His fastball, which earned him the nickname "The Hoosier Thunderbolt," contributed to the distance from the pitcher's box to home plate being increased in 1893. During his 10 seasons playing professional baseball, Rusie led the league in strikeouts 5 times, in shutouts 4 times, and in walks 5 times. Rusie was elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1977.

**Fort Wayne Pistons** - Fred Zollner formed the Fort Wayne Zollner Pistons as a National Basketball League (NBL) team in 1941. They were NBL champions in 1944 and 1945. They won the World Professional Basketball Tournament in 1944, 1945, and 1946. In 1948, the team joined the Basketball Association of America and became the Fort Wayne Pistons. The next year, the team became inaugural members of the National Basketball Association (NBA). The Pistons had a solid local following, but as the popularity of the NBA rose, Fort Wayne became too small for the franchise. After the 1956-1957 season, Zollner moved the team to Detroit, where they still compete as the Detroit Pistons.

**Gloria Frankel and the Seahorse** – Intrepid gay rights advocate Gloria Frankel and her South Bend gay club, The Seahorse Cabaret, convinced the city to allow same-sex dancing, withstood police harassment, challenged regulations against LGBT individuals, and endured a firebombing. In the early 1990s, The Seahorse served as a site for free HIV testing and counseling, in an era when many LGBT people felt uncomfortable going to the health department. Frankel passed away in 2007 and the club closed shortly thereafter.

**Charles "Chuck Taylor** - Charles "Chuck" Taylor (1901-1969) was born in rural Brown County. After graduating from Columbus High School, where he was a 2-time all-state basketball team selection, Taylor began a career as a semi-professional basketball player in 1919 with the Columbus Commercial. By the mid-1920s, he became widely known as a salesman and promoter of Converse All Star basketball shoes. In his first year with the company, he suggested changes to the All Stars which provided greater flexibility and support. After his signature was added to the side patch of the shoe, they became known as "Chuck Taylors." He spent his career traveling the country to provide local basketball clinics, make special appearances, and meet with customers at sporting goods stores to promote the shoes.

**Title IX** - In February 1972, U.S. Senator Birch Bayh from Terre Haute introduced amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ban gender discrimination among higher education institutions that received federal aid. President Richard Nixon signed Title IX, co-sponsored by Bayh and Representative Edith Green from Oregon, into law on June 23, 1972, affording women and girls more educational and sporting opportunities.

**Hanover College** - Hanover College started operation as a Presbyterian seminary in 1827 and the General Assembly granted a charter to Hanover Academy in 1829, making it the oldest private college in Indiana. By 1834, 101 students attended Hanover, up from only 6 students in 1827. In 1849, the board of trustees voted to purchase a 200-acre farm 1 mile east of the campus overlooking the Ohio River. That land serves as the centerpiece of the campus today. President Daniel Fisher's long tenure, which started in 1879, brought stability to the college and he oversaw the construction of 5 buildings and the expansion of the student body. After years of steady growth, enrollment plummeted during WWII, but rebounded post-war.

**Katherine Hyndman** - Croatian immigrant Katherine Hyndman became an organizer for the International Workers Order in 1942 and worked to break down racial barriers in Gary, Indiana during the 1940s and early 50s. In 1952, she was arrested for her involvement with the Communist Party. She was released 10 months later when efforts to deport her to Yugoslavia failed. Until her death in 1978, she championed equality and social justice for all Gary citizens.

**James Sidney Hinton** - James Sidney Hinton (1834-1892) was born to a free African American family and came first to Terre Haute in the 1850s before settling in Indianapolis. Hinton saw military service as a path to equal rights for African Americans and recruited Black men to serve in the U.S. Colored Troops. He gained renown as a powerful speaker and in 1880 became the first African American elected to the Indiana General Assembly, serving one term in the House of Representatives.

**Linton Strike** – On April 24, 1919, 13 women staged a walk out at the New Home Telephone Company in Linton, Indiana. When the company brought in replacement workers, the strikers and most of the town rose in protest and rioting broke out. In response, Governor Goodrich declared the town to be under martial law and sent in the Indiana National Guard, sparking further violence. The unrest was settling when New Home agreed to most of the strikers demands, but their union still went unrecognized.

**Lillian Thomas Fox** - Lillian Thomas Fox (1854-1917) was an Indianapolis journalist, clubwoman, public speaker, and civic activist. She was a co-founder of the Woman's Improvement Club of Indianapolis and the Indiana State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. She was also involved in the National Afro-American Council, the Indianapolis Anti-Lynching League, and the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. She started her journalism career with the *Indianapolis Freeman* in the 1880s and joined the *Indianapolis News* in 1900, becoming an early African American contributor to a white newspaper in the state. For 15 years, she wrote a weekly column covering local events in the Black community. Through her work, Fox advocated for civil rights and women's suffrage.

**Ft. Wayne Daisies** - The All-American Girls Professional Baseball League was established during WWII to provide a morale boost and family entertainment to aid the war effort. The league gained popularity throughout the 1940s and the Fort Wayne Daisies debuted in 1945. The Daisies were league champions from 1952-1954. Prominent players included sisters Betty Foss and Joanne Weaver. Games were held first at North Side High School and later at Memorial Park.

**Rhoda Coffin** - Quaker reformer Rhoda Coffin helped establish the Home for Friendless Women in Richmond in 1868. In response to abuse of female prisoners in co-ed penitentiaries, Coffin helped found the Indiana Reformatory Institute for Women and Girls in 1873 in Indianapolis, but resigned amidst complaints of inmate mistreatment. Nonetheless, she continued to work to further the rights of women and those less fortunate, becoming a “full-fledged suffragist” by the 1880s.

**Mary Rigg** - In 1923, social worker Mary Rigg was appointed director of Indianapolis’s American Settlement House (pictured here), founded in 1911 to improve living conditions for and assimilate immigrants. Rigg worked 12-hour days to provide newcomers with a more vibrant life, which included fellowship, recreational facilities, and health services. She encouraged foreigners to practice native customs, and worked to combat discrimination against immigrants for over 35 years.

**Mary Ellingson** - Archaeologist and Johns Hopkins University graduate Mary Ellingson worked on one of the most important excavations in Greece between the World Wars. She wrote about this work in her master’s thesis. A historian recently discovered that David Moore Robinson’s seminal work about ancient Grecian life entitled *Excavations at Olynthus* was lifted from Ellingson’s master’s thesis and passed off as his own. In the 1960s, Ellingson taught at the University of Evansville and died in 1993 without ever receiving credit for her work.

**Henry Richardson, Jr.** – Henry Richardson, Jr. earned his law degree from Indiana University in 1928. Starting in 1932, he served 3 terms as a State Representative in the Indiana General Assembly, where he authored the first fair employment practices law in the country. He was instrumental in amending the state constitution to allow integration of the National Guard and worked to end housing discrimination at Indiana University.