

HISTORY OF INDIANA

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649033058

History of Indiana by John T. McCutcheon

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The author has referred freely and p-
iratically to the excellent History of Indiana
by Julia Henderson Levering, the History
of the Indiana Commonwealth by J. P.
Dunn and the History of Indiana by Mrs.
Thomas A. Hendricks.

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CHAPTER I

EARLY INHABITANTS. LITERATURE, MANNERS, AND CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE



IF THE early history of Indiana prior to the coming of the Indians, very little is known. There are no ancient coins or architectural ruins from which the antiquarian may construct a picture of the life and customs existing in the centuries that antedate the dawn of history and tradition. There are no fossils, either alive or dead, to guide the historian, no prehistoric low-browed skulls that might aid us in determining the character of the people who roamed the dank wastes of the

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early post-deluvian days. That the state was peopled there can be no doubt. It is a modest presumption that if there were people anywhere, there must have been some in Indiana. And that they were intelligent must also be presumed by the fact that they settled in Indiana.

It requires little more than an amateur's imagination to picture in the mind's eye the stalwart and hairy historians of the Stone Age jotting down their literature upon the Bedford stones, or hewing the trees that were in time to carbonize into our great coal fields.

Of this period it is not possible to speak with accuracy. Even the Mound Builders have left incomplete records of their occupation. A knoll here and there, a slight uplift in the scenery, and that is all. If they ever transcribed their thoughts it was done upon the ephemeral mud slabs that time and geological ages have so utterly effaced. They left no literature worth mentioning. Where their bones reposed there is nothing