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. 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. 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. 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
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.


**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  
2. Aaron Hicks  
3. Aaron Merriman  
4. Christopher McCombs  
5. [I?] Sam Atkinson  
6. William Siers  
7. William Cummins  
8. John Crook  
9. Alexander Siers  
10. David Lucas  
11. John Searfo[ss?]  
12. Moses Scott  
13. David McCombs  
14. Moses Hicks  
15. Eli Cotner  
16. John Mitchael  
17. Manuel McCombs  
18. John Mikesel  
19. John Hisler
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
Gillis M[c?]Bean
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 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:
John Carey
Wm Martin
Wm. G. Bishop, Inspector
Aaron Dewey
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
2. Thomas Hamilton
3. Daley Babcock
4. Nathan Hamilton
5. Nathan Rose
6. David Hamilton
7. Jese [Solomon?]  
8. Silez Atchison
9. William M[ce?]rey
10. Jacob Zook
11. James Hamilton
12. Thomas McMillen
13. Hiram Lulor
14. Joseph Dunham
15. George [Difdendeffe?]  
16. [blank on return]
17. John C. Matcaf
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
2. James Miller
3. Wm Odell
4. Samuel Wells
5. Nathanie[l] Hamilton
6. Samuel Williams
7. Robert Cade
8. John Custer
9. Abner Robinson
10. Hue Graham
11. George J. Baum
12. Ethan Alen
13. John Little
14. Edward C[ae?]ley
15. John M. Ewing
16. Thomas Hamilton
17. David Hamilton
18. James Hamilton
19. Moses Thompson
20. Henry Robison
21. John Carey
22. Wm Carey
23. Wm Hanna
24. David McCain
25. Joseph Swalls
26. Simon Marsh
27. Wm Willson
28. [Hugh Manary?]
29. John Swalls
30. Joseph Jackson
31. John Odle
32. David Beard
33. Ephraigm [Davison/Danison?]
34. James Odell
35. George M. [Cannon?]
36. Wm Hues
37. Philip Ro[hrabaug?]
38. [Daniel?] Frasier
39. James McCain
40. H. R. Millray
41. Jesse Jackson
42. Thomas Birk
43. Jacob Baum
44. Henry Baum
45. David Lucas
46. Jacob Mitchell
47. David Baum
48. Alexander Siers
49. John Ruhls
50. Jonathan Justice
51. Wm George
52. Jediah Johnston
53. Thomas Perry
54. Peter Babcock
55. John Kisler
56. John Ballerd
57. Samuel E. Carpenter
58. Thomas Strain
59. John G[ivens?]?
60. Joshua Whicher
61. James Crawford
62. John M. Gillum
63. James Laughlin
64. Thor Gillum
65. John Brigs
66. Elias Lowder
67. John Hays
68. John M. Pinkston
69. Richard McGriff
70. James McD[o]wel
71. Thos. Sturlin
72. Wm Bishop
73. Albert [Heneri?]?
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[illiard?] | 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 Rohrbaugh | 96. | Samuel Ernest |
| 84. | George Diffendaffer | 97. | [Darel/Paul?] McCain |
| 85. | Stephen Guyle | 98. | John Coonse |
| 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 qualifyed Electors who were polled at said Election.
August the 3rd 1829

Clerks: Graham Roberts
James Miller

Judges: William [Young/George?], Inspector
Hugh Graham

Online Connections
Regional Sources and Stories

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