



PROHIBITION

Temperance and Prohibition Time Line

by Jane Hedeem

1790–95—The Northwest Territory (including present-day Indiana) prohibits selling liquor to soldiers and furnishing liquor to Native Americans. Although the law is repealed in 1795, modified regulations continue to prohibit the distribution or sale of liquor to Native Americans throughout the territorial period.

1805—The Indiana territorial legislature enacts a law allowing taverns to be licensed to sell liquor by the drink. The sale of alcoholic beverages is regulated by local authorities.

1807—The Indiana territorial legislature enacts a law providing for the regulation of establishments where liquor is served by the drink. Offenses are punishable by revocation of licenses. The legislature also bars the sale of liquor to minors.

1816—Indiana becomes a state and prohibits liquor sales on Sunday.

1818—The sale of alcohol to drunks is prohibited. The state legislature also limits the amount of alcohol that may be purchased on credit.

Applicants for liquor licenses must gather signatures from “freeholders,” or landowners, in the area.

Mid-nineteenth century—Headed by Protestant evangelists who oppose alcohol on moral grounds, the temperance movement gains popular support.

1830—The Indiana Temperance Society is established.

1832—Indiana sets the age of minors at eighteen years.

1842–47—Indiana state legislature enacts local option laws, meaning that localities have the ability to prohibit the sale of liquor in taverns and groceries. By 1847 all Indiana counties except Rush and Harrison use local option laws.

1843—Indiana implements penalties for drunken stagecoach drivers and increases penalties for liquor law violations.

1847–53—Local authorities continue to exercise the local option to prohibit liquor licenses until the practice is declared unconstitutional by the Indiana Supreme Court.

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