

This Territory shall be admitted into the Union



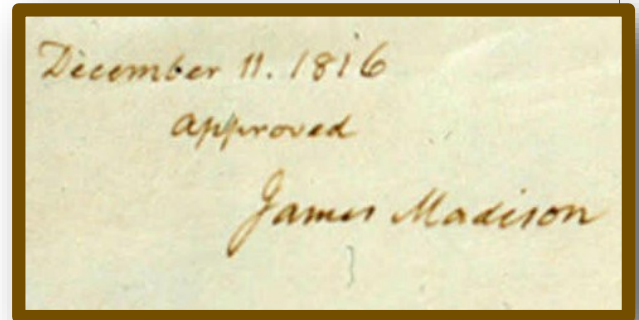
INDIANA STATE LIBRARY

This Week in Indiana History

December 11th, 1816: Indiana Statehood Day

On this day, President Madison signed the Congressional Resolution for Indiana's admission "into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, in all respects whatever."

Indiana's road to statehood first began in December 1811 when the Indiana Territorial General Assembly petitioned the U.S. Congress for admission as a state, but insufficient population and a war looming with Britain pushed the matter off. By August 1814, a new territorial census proved the population exceeded 60,000, the threshold for statehood set by the Northwest Ordinance. On December 11, 1815, the



Excerpt from 1816 Resolution for Statehood

Territorial Assembly wrote a Memorial petition asking Congress to vote on the matter again. Territorial Rep. Jonathan Jennings' committee submitted a bill for an Enabling Act for Indiana to begin the process to become a state. Once it was passed by Congress and signed by President Madison on April 19, 1816, the Enabling Act set out the steps to proceed toward statehood. This included holding an election on May 13, 1816 for the 43 delegates to attend the Indiana Constitutional Convention in

June 1816.

View these resources to learn more!

Indiana Documents Leading to Statehood, Indiana Historical Bureau, website:
<http://www.in.gov/history/2451.htm>

Road to Indiana Statehood Digital Collection, online:
<http://ulib.iupui.edu/collections/ISC>

"Indiana Statehood," *The Indiana Historian*, Sep. 1999, Indiana Historical Bureau, online:
<https://www.in.gov/history/files/instatehood.pdf>

Once Indiana's new Constitution was sent to Congress, a special August election was held for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, 29 State Representatives and 10 State Senators. All requirements for statehood were met. With President Madison's signature, the Congressional Resolution became official on December 11, 1816, a date celebrated ever since as Indiana Statehood Day.

do mutually agree with each other to form our selves into a free and independent state, by the name of the State of Indiana