

Hoosier Poet

James Whitcomb Riley, the most outstanding figure in Hoosier literature, particularly in the realm of dialect poetry, was born in Greenfield, Indiana, October 7, 1849. Concluding his schooling at the age of sixteen, Riley traveled about the country as a sign-painter and later began contributing poems to the Indiana papers. Since then, the wealth of poetry he has written has endeared him to the hearts of all Hoosiers. Mr. Riley died in Indianapolis, July 22, 1916, and lies buried at the summit of Crown Hill Cemetery.

Indiana 1926



Indiana

Our land-our Home!-the common home indeed
 Of soil-born children and adopted ones-
 The stately daughters and the stalwart sons
 Of Industry:-All greeting and godspeed!
 O home to proudly live for, and, if need
 Be, proudly die for, with the roar of guns
 Blent with our latest prayer-So died men once
 Lo, Peace! As we look on the land THEY freed-
 Its harvests all in ocean-overflow
 Poured round autumnal coasts in billowy gold-
 Its corn and wine and balmed fruits and flow'rs,-
 We know the exaltation that they know
 Who now, steadfast inheritors, behold
 The Land Elysian, marveling "This is ours!"

James Whitcomb Riley