

Apparently Wylie's wife did not favor moving to the frontier. In spite of these obstacles, Maxwell's persistence, along with others who corresponded with Wyle, paid off. On April 11, 1829, Maxwell acknowledged receipt of Wylie's letter accepting the presidency. As to when Wylie should move to Indiana, Maxwell wrote that the "moderately cold weather of our winters has the effect of bracing the human system so as to enable us in a great degree to withstand the debilitating and relaxing effects of the summer's heat." Wylie arrived in due course, and served with distinction as IU's first president for more than twenty years.

As Maxwell's term on the board was coming to an end, he entered a new phase of public service. In 1836 Governor Noah Noble nominated him to serve as a member of Indiana's Board of Internal Improvement, which presided over significant infrastructure projects such as the construction of roads and canals. Maxwell served on the board, and as its president, for one year.

In 1841 Maxwell was appointed postmaster of Bloomington, a position that he had held in 1825. The *Bloomington Post* observed at that time that the "Post Office in Bloomington is now kept at Doctor Maxwell's Medicine Shop." In April 1848 Maxwell was elected mayor of Bloomington. The *Bloomington Indiana Tribune* described Maxwell's election as well as that of other local officeholders as "an excellent selection." After a one-year stint as Bloomington's mayor, Maxwell again accepted the position of postmaster. On May 24, 1854, Maxwell passed away at the home of his son, Doctor J. D. Maxwell.

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McCulloch, Oscar Carleton

July 2, 1843–December 10, 1891

Congregational minister in Indianapolis whose views on causes of poverty influenced on a broad scale charitable giving to the poor.

Oscar Carleton McCulloch, noted Hoosier minister and reformer, was born on July 2, 1843,

in Fremont, Ohio, to Carleton and Harriet McCulloch. The oldest of five children, McCulloch was educated in Wisconsin and New York before finding employment in Illinois as a clerk and then as a salesman for a drug firm. His father hoped he would pursue a career in business, but McCulloch felt called to the ministry.

In 1867 McCulloch entered Chicago Theological Seminary, which was affiliated with the Congregational Church. Here he was exposed to the early social gospel and its calls for reforming society. Three years later, he accepted appointment to the pulpit of First Congregational Church in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. It was there that he married. McCulloch and his wife, Alice, eventually had five children.

After several years of fruitful ministry McCulloch came to Indianapolis in 1877 to head the city's Plymouth Congregational Church. His new congregation was located on the city's famed Circle. The reverend, sensing that the city's war-related growth was bound to continue, eventually moved the congregation a bit farther north, to Meridian and New York Streets, in 1884. His sermons were "straightforward" in their language, and often composed the night before or the morning that they were given. He eased the membership process, dropping even the requirement that there be a confession of faith. His efforts transformed a congregation on the decline into one with a growing membership that served as a thriving community partner.

It was in his new hometown that McCulloch's social gospel bent became more pronounced, especially in the areas of education and philanthropy. His ministerial style, coupled with his interest in reform, helped attract new members to the congregation. His business background made him a great organizer, and his flair for administration helped spur him to leadership positions beyond the pulpit. One of his early initiatives was to organize his congregation to support the Plymouth Institute, an educational outreach to the city's young people.

But it was McCulloch's interaction with the city's poor that soon garnered him national recognition. Doing home visits as part of his pulpit ministry turned into fact-finding trips for the city's philanthropic circles and institutions that cared for the indigent. McCulloch became convinced that how people provided aid to the poor needed

to be dramatically revised. Influenced as much by Social Darwinism and the growing field of eugenics, as by the social gospel and faith, the reverend undertook a decadelong study (1878 to 1888) that produced a report titled *The Tribe of Ishmael*. In it McCulloch argued that genetics influenced a wealth of decisions that created a downward spiral of people becoming dependent upon and addicted to public charity. It was through his eventual work on the *Tribe* that McCulloch began his interest in halting degenerates from reproducing and thus becoming a drain on charitable giving. He referred to this phenomenon as “biological pauperism,” and as a result of his research he became a leading figure in the “scientific charity movement.”

In 1888, at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Correction, McCulloch for the first time discussed his findings. Shocking his listeners and bombarding them with diagrams showing how nearly 1,700 people in thirty families interrelated over the course of just six generations, the reverend asserted that pauperism was a genetic trait bred into the individuals and fostered by indiscriminate philanthropy that allowed them to live an “idle and wandering life.” He was confident that society was full of degenerates, and that paupers were little more than social parasites destroying the American way of life. Paupers were a separate category of poor people, as distinct from the “worthy poor.”

While the report caused a stir, giving steam to the burgeoning eugenics movement as well as spurring debate to the present as to just who McCulloch had been studying in the city to base his assertions on, the reverend's larger goal with discussing the *Tribe* was to argue for more scientific philanthropy by individuals, the church, and the state. He helped to organize or reorganize both the Indianapolis Benevolent Society and the Indianapolis Charity Organization Society, the latter of which he led from 1882 until 1891. Through these ventures, McCulloch helped create a variety of other private charities and philanthropic organizations in the city that also made him a driving force behind the creation of such state-level organizations as the Board of State Charities. His work in the field, much more than from the pulpit, garnered him national attention, eventually helping him to be elected as president of the National Council of Charities and Correction.

As a result of a personal political awakening

in the late 1880s, McCulloch began to move away from biological pauperism toward a more encompassing view of the causes of poverty. Instead of the view that biology determined intergenerational poverty, he came to focus on the systemic social and economic causes and to believe that solutions to ending poverty required systemic progressive reforms. McCulloch was the first of the members of the scientific charity movement to adopt this view, but others followed. As a result, a new policy agenda began to take shape, one that called for social and economic justice for all of the poor. While these views helped to reshape the approaches to poverty at the national level, this new perspective was not widely accepted in Indiana at the time.

After a brief illness, McCulloch died on December 10, 1891. Indianapolis honored his memory by naming a public school for him. McCulloch's true legacy as a reformer came mainly after his death. His was an important influence in moving the scientific charity movement to a new perspective on the history of American poverty: “that all of the poor could potentially be raised from the depths.”

JASON S. LANTZER

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McNutt, Paul V.

July 19, 1891–March 24, 1955

Dean of the Indiana University School of Law, state and national commander of the American Legion, governor of Indiana, U.S. High Commissioner to the Philippines, head of the Federal Security Agency, chair of the War Manpower Commission, and ambassador to the Philippines.

Paul V. McNutt was born in Franklin, Indiana, the only child of John Crittenden McNutt, a lawyer and minor state official, and Ruth Neely. He grew up in Martinsville, where he was the