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MINES AND MILLS, FABRIQUES AND FORTS

No one is sure where the word "hoosier" came from. It may have derived from the English word "hoozer" which referred to something of large size. There was also an Indian word which sounded similar and meant "one who brags a lot."

Andrew Carnegie's family moved north of Pittsburgh when he was 13. His dad had been a weaver, as were his father and grandfather before him, famous in their hometown of Dumfermline, Scotland for their skill with damask linen. But progress in the form of cotton gins and power looms had made their trade obsolete, and Andrew's father moved to Allegheny City to look for work.

The Carnegie family lived in an area called The Bottoms on the north shore of the Allegheny River. Andrew and his brother Thomas hung with the boys in a neighborhood street gang: Henry Phipps, Henry W. Oliver, Robert Pitcairn, David McCargo, Thomas N. Miller, Andrew and Anthony Kloman. They called themselves the Bottom Hoosiers.

