PLACE NAMES OF PARKE COUNTY, INDIANA

A Master's Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the School of Graduate Studies
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, Indiana

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the
Master of Arts Degree

by
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August, 1970
THESIS APPROVAL SHEET

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This writer owes a special debt of gratitude to Miss Caroline Dunn, Librarian of the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis. Too, Miss Elizabeth Ross of the Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library (Terre Haute) deserves special thanks for her multiple kindnesses and acts of helpfulness.

I wish to thank especially the members of my committee: Professors James R. Bash and Marvin D. Carmony, both of whom helped to make this thesis what it is. Their diligent, thoughtful efforts were untiring; and those efforts were gratefully (if tacitly) received.

But most helpful was Professor Joseph Schlueter Schick who patiently bore my impatiences; calmly met my frustrations; and most importantly, once taught me the significance of establishing Chaucer's birth date, still unknown.

L.E.S.

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INTRODUCTION

Statement of the Problem

The place names of Parke County, Indiana, represent but a very small percentage of all the place names in the United States. Still, to study the place names of one county thoroughly will help to illuminate some of the principles of onomasia and perhaps encourage others to complete the grand design, in the far-distant future, of surveying all of the place names in the country. Thus far, only one writer, George R. Stewart, has attempted a general study of the place names of the United States in his book Names on the Land, which is admittedly but an introductory survey.¹

Studies of the place names of the individual states have not fared much better. There are a few exceptions: Arizona, Minnesota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington,² and West Virginia³ have been rather adequately covered. No comprehensive study of the place names of Indiana has been made. This, a careful examination of the place names in Parke County, is a beginning.

²Ibid., pp. 439-40.
³Hamill Kenny, West Virginia Place Names (Piedmont, West Virginia: The Place Name Press, 1945).
Purpose and Value of the Study

In the broad field of verbal behavior, place-name study has had an unusual and unique position. Linguists have, since the early years of this century, recognized that place names provided a special opportunity for linguistic analysis of speech patterns. Through the combination of a specific name (e.g., Wabash) with a generic name (e.g., River) an extended speech pattern will occur, resulting in special phonetic processes. Too, place names, enduring as they have been, have often preserved archaic pronunciations. Because the bulk of place names have been found to be highly local in origin they have accurately reflected peculiarities in a particular dialect. Place names have reflected an area's topography, its history, its heroes (and villains), its cultural and intellectual development, and its peculiarities in language and dialect. 4

This study compiled names within the present boundaries of Parke County, Indiana, from 1816 to the present, including towns, villages, post offices, and railroad stations; all streams, lakes, and rivers; offered an explanation of these names; and classified such information.

This thesis, by recording the pronunciation of unusual specific names, was intended to help others study the linguistic peculiarities of Parke County names. The topography of Parke County has been reflected in its place names.

4 W. Edson Richmond, "The Value of the Study of Place Names," Indiana Names, I (Spring, 1970), 1-10.
By the inclusion of certain historical facts and dates involved in the naming processes, this study reflected the history of the area. The origins of the names showed the heroes and reflected the cultural and intellectual development of this county.

**Historical Background of Parke County**

The area of Parke County, Indiana, originally the home of the Miami and Wea Indians, was first entered by Europeans in the sixteenth century. Later, military expeditions, such as General William Henry Harrison's trek prior to the Battle of Tippecanoe, passed through, and even bivouacked, in Parke County. These travellers were the sole visitors to Parke County until 1816, when Isaac McCoy (a Baptist Missionary) opened his school for Miami Indians near Big Raccoon Creek in Wabash Township.

Prior to 1763, the area of Parke County belonged to France. After the Treaty of Paris, 1763, the British claimed this area until the Peace Treaty concluding the Revolutionary War in 1783. The area now covered by Parke County became part of a territory of the United States in 1787 with the ratification of the Ordinance of 1787, which created the Northwest Territory. On December 9, 1809, the Amerindians ceded to the United States the southern part of present Parke County (south of the so-called 10 o'clock

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Line) with the Treaty of Fort Wayne. The northern remainder of the present county was included in a cession by the Amerindians on October 6, 1818, in the so-called New Purchase Treaty.

The area of Parke County officially entered the United States on December 11, 1816, when President James Madison signed the Congressional Law creating the State of Indiana. However, the County lines were not yet established. On January 9, 1821, the Indiana Legislature created Parke County; at that time, however, the western boundary of Parke County extended to the Illinois state border. Later, on January 2, 1824, the Indiana Assembly excluded from Parke that area now called Vermillion County. Since 1824, Parke County boundaries have remained unchanged.

It was not known who first settled in Parke County. Those who followed that first settler generally were from the Southern states: North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia (and present West Virginia), and Kentucky; their ancestors came from English-speaking countries: Scotland, Ireland, and England. Many of the early settlers did list a previous residence in Ohio, yet their natal states were

7 Ibid., p. 652.
most often Southern. 9

A few relatively small communities of foreign immi-
igrants have existed in Parke County. During the 1820's
a group of "Syrian Moslems" settled in the community of
Arabia (q.v.); during the 1880's French miners were employed
by the French Coal Company in southern Washington Township;
also during the 1880's, and the 1890's, various European
immigrants settled in the vicinity of present-day Diamond
(in southeastern Raccoon Township) to work the then-active
strip mines. During the same two decades Negroes were em-
ployed as miners in southeastern Adams Township. However,
at no time or place was there a large or politically or
socially dominant group of non-native Americans in Parke
County.

The major period of migration to Parke County oc-
curred during the first half of the nineteenth century (the
period of place-naming). Prior to 1820 few settlers arrived
in Parke County; from 1820 to 1830 there was a large influx
of settlers.

Sources of the Data
The data for the entries in Chapters I and II were
obtained from the following sources: United States Post
Office records from 1816 to the present; official county
records: plat books, deed records, and commissioners'

9See Beadle, note 8 above; all county histories of
Parke County attested to this fact.
records; local newspapers, personal letters, and personal interviews. Other sources used were general county histories, and township, church, town, mill, and other similar specific histories; maps, gazetteers, and atlases.
CHAPTER I

TOWNS, VILLAGES, POST OFFICES, AND RAILROAD STATIONS OF PARKE COUNTY

Explanation and Form of the Entries

The names of towns, villages, post offices, and railroad stations of Parke County have been arranged alphabetically under the current or (in the case of obsolete names) the most common spelling. Following this head-word will be found the date range (when determined) of usage of the name; the type of feature named (i.e., town, village, etc.); the location, first general, then specific (with the most recent name of any one feature); variant spellings; and names, with dates of occurrence; a brief history (when applicable) of the name; and the origin(s) of the name when known. The pronunciation of unusual names or pronunciations which did not adhere to general widespread pronunciation patterns were listed in the Appendix (using the Merriam-Webster Pronunciation Symbols as given in Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary¹). Those names so listed in the Appendix have been indicated by an asterisk (*).

Further comment concerning these elements will be necessary. Frederic G. Cassidy (after whose work this study has been modeled) noted that the pronunciation for obsolete names "can seldom be given." Very few truly obsolete names were found. Although a place name had long been unused, the memory of it remained. Thus, though the feature was extinct and the name obsolete, the pronunciation remained. Those names which had completely passed from the memories of the informants were appropriately noted and the pronunciations were omitted.

The date range of usage of each name reflected only the date range of a name's occurrence in print. When the informants clearly and insistently stated that the name's usage predated (or antedated) its occurrence in print, that fact was so noted. A "period" was entered to indicate the continuing use of the name.

For many names multiple etymologies or origins were uncovered. Whenever possible an attempt was made to explain the relative validity of the various origins. Often, unfortunately, this was almost impossible.

Cassidy has noted that every name has two elements: the generic and the specific. The generic element was seldom, if ever, used in the city and town names. For example,

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3Ibid., pp. 201ff.
Indiana State University was located in Terre Haute. "Terre Haute" constituted the specific element. "City" constituted the seldom, if ever, used generic classification. In this chapter only the specific element of each place name has been studied.

In this chapter four terms (for types of features) were employed. They were defined, for the purposes of this study, as follows. A railroad station was a geographical point used by a railroad to discharge or to acquire freight, passengers, or messages. A post office was a geographical point used by the United States Post Office Department as a point where patrons could send out, or receive, mail and had, by official designation and appointment, a postmaster. A village was a geographical point (specifically not an area) wherein people and homes existed yet had never been platted officially. A town was a geographical point wherein people and homes existed which had been officially platted. Population (past or present) was not a criterion for determination of the point's definition.

Alphabetical Listing

Annapolis,* ca. 18254-. Town and post office, five miles northwest of Rockville; T16N R8W Section 12. Annap-

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4"Subscriber List of the Terre Haute Register," Indiana History Bulletin, XXII, No. 1 (March, 1926), 221. (Hereinafter referred to as "Subscriber List.")
olis was platted in 1837 and obtained a post office the same year. The post office was discontinued in 1905, but the town remained. The name was most probably derived from Annapolis, Maryland. It has been suggested, too, that the town was named for an "Ann or Anna, daughter of early settler . . .," plus the Greek "polis."

Arabia,* ca. 1820-unknown. Village, three miles west of Rockville; T15N R8W Section 8. Three possible origins for the name have been suggested. Snowden suggested that Isaac Jarvis Silliman applied the name to the settlement because of the alleged dishonest practices of the inhabitants. Arab, it was said, was "slang for the day for a petty thief . . ." (Arab, to denote a thief, was not in Craigie, Mathews, Partridge, or Mencken's dictionaries.) Mrs. Fanny Maury insisted that the village was named for the "Syrian Moslems" who immigrated to the area in

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5 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 76. Parke County Courthouse, Rockville, Indiana.

6 U.S., Post Office Department, Record of Appointments of Postmasters, p. 376.

7 Ibid., p. 371.

8 Juliet Snowden, local historian, private interview, Rockville, Indiana, December, 1969.

9 Scrap Book of Parke County, Indiana (1921), a collection of undated local newspaper columns, unnumbered pages, Rockville Public Library, Rockville, Indiana. (Hereinafter referred to as Scrap Book.)

10 Juliet Snowden, Legends and Lore of Parke County, Indiana (n.p., 1967), p. 41. (Hereinafter referred to as Legends and Lore.)

11 Ibid., p. 41.
12 This origin has been, to a small extent, borne out in that the gravestone of one "Thomas, son of S. and L. Mehurien, 1869" has been erected in the Arabia Cemetery.\(^{13}\) Mehurien has been used as an Arab name.\(^{14}\) A third, and most probable, suggestion was that Arabia was "named for its location on a dry and sandy hill."\(^{15}\)

Archer Hollow, date range of usage could not be determined. Village, eight miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Section 36. This settlement may have been named for and by Simon Archer, Sr., and his son Simon, two early settlers of the immediate area.\(^{16}\)

Armiesburg, ca. 1833-. Town and post office, four miles west of Rockville; T15N R9W Section 12. Platted in 1833,\(^{17}\) Armiesburg acquired its post office in 1844.\(^{18}\) It was known earlier as Stringtown (q.v.) and Armiesburg.

\(^{12}\) Mrs. Fanny Maury, Postmistress of Mecca, private interview, Mecca, Indiana, November, 1969.

\(^{13}\) Personal field trip to Arabia Cemetery, near Mecca, Indiana, 1969.

\(^{14}\) Mr. Morteza Sizdahkhani, Graduate Exchange Student from Iran, private interview, Terre Haute, Indiana, December, 1969.

\(^{15}\) Scrap Book, op. cit.

\(^{16}\) Memories of Pioneer Parke County, Indiana (1921), a partially typed, partially mimeographed, collection of notes of interviews with residents of Parke County, un-numbered pages, Rockville Public Library, Rockville, Indiana. (Hereinafter referred to as Memories.)

\(^{17}\) Parke County, Plat Book, I, 68.

\(^{18}\) U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
Mills. Between 1844 and 1893 the post office name was spelled as Armiesburgh. The town was named because it was on the site where General William Henry Harrison and his army camped while on the campaign which resulted in the Battle of Tippecanoe. "The marks of the path of this victorious army were visible for many years."  

Banner Mills, ca. 1855-about 1874. Post office, northeast corner of Parke County; T17N R6W Section 9 (not clearly located). The name possibly derived from a mill owner's or a local minister's surname.  

Bellmore, ca. 1852-. Town and post office, four miles east of Rockville; T15N R6W Sections 7 and 8. Earlier known as Northampton (q.v.). The post office was established here in 1852. Sometimes spelled Bellemore. Named by General George Kirkpatrick Steele, who, while visiting Thomas Moore, a real estate agent of the town, suggested the town be called "Belle Moore" in honor of Moore's


20 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 338.

21 Beadle, op. cit., p. 337.

22 C. Bourquin, State Map of Indiana, 1874 (Chicago: n.p., 1874). This map was the last one showing this town.

23 Mary Frazier, Sugar Creek Township History, p. 7. Privately mimeographed pamphlet given to this writer by Mrs. Frazier.

24 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
daughters, whom Steele admired.  

Bethany, ca. 1832-. Village and post office, six miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R7W Sections 2 and 11. Bethany was a biblical name given on September 1, 1832, by the first minister of the Presbyterian Church there, John Thompson. Made a post office in 1852, it became a railroad station in 1878.  

Bloomfield, 1827-1860. Second of three names for Bloomingdale (q.v.). In 1827 Nathaniel Newlin, a Quaker Church leader in the community, asked that the name Elevatis (q.v.) be changed to a name with more "bloom" in it. The town became Bloomfield, but in 1860 the United States Post Office Department rejected this name to avoid confusion with another Bloomfield, Indiana; hence the name became Bloomingdale.  

Bloomingdale, 1860-. Town and post office, four miles northwest of Rockville; T16N R7W Sections 13 and 24. This town was platted in 1865. The town was earlier called Elevatis (q.v.) and Bloomfield (q.v.). Renamed Bloomingdale

25 Beadle, op. cit., p. 197.  
26 Matthew 21:17  
28 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.  
29 Scrap Book, op. cit.  
30 Mrs. Lowell Osborne, History of Bloomingdale, Indiana, undated, typed manuscript, Rockville Public Library, Rockville, Indiana, pp. 7ff.  
31 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
at the behest of the United States Post Office Department (see Bloomfield, above).

Bradfield Corner, 1951. Village, three miles southwest of Rockville; T15N R8W Section 21. Located on a sharp curve on United States Highway 41, it was named for a family of early settlers of the immediate vicinity.33

Bridgeton, ca. 1849-. Town and post office, seven miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Section 22. The name was used when the post office was opened here in 1849; the town was platted in 1857.35 Originally called Lockwood Mills (q.v.), it was also nicknamed Sodom (q.v.). This descriptive name, Bridgeton, was suggested by the presence of a bridge over the Big Raccoon Creek in the town.36

Bruin's Crossroads, ca. 1821-1878. Town and post office, six miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R6W Section 7. First settled in 1821,37 it was made a post office

32U.S., Department of Interior, Geological Survey Map, Mecca Quadrangle (Washington, D.C.: Geological Survey, 1951). Although the name obviously predated 1951, this was the first and only reference to the name found. (Hereinafter referred to as Mecca Map.)

33Susie Lee Cummings, long-time resident of Parke County, private interview, Terre Haute, Indiana, November, 1969.

34U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.

35Parke County, Plat Book, I, 102.

36Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 42.

37Beadle, op. cit., p. 401.
in 1838. 38 Variously called Cross Roads, 39 Bruin's, 40 and Bruen's Cross Roads, 41 the town was later called Guion (q.v.).

Buchanan's Springs,* ca. 1821-1872. Town, four miles northeast of Rockville; T17N R7W Section 24. This town was named for the first settler in Washington Township, Alexander Buchanan, who, having arrived here in 1821, owned the land on which the town was built. 42 In 1872 Buchanan opened its first post office, 43 changing the name to Judson (q.v.). The name was also found simply as Buchanan. 44 Nearby was a small spring which fed Springdale Run (q.v.).

Buncombe,* date range of usage could not be determined; Buncombe was a nickname for Parkeville (q.v.). The town was given this nickname because many of its inhabitants

38 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 376.
39 Bourquin, op. cit.
41 Ibid., p. 9.
42 George L. Laney, "History of Parke County," Daily Clintonian (Clinton, Indiana), March 12, 1931, p. 8.
43 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254. Although this official record clearly read 1842 as the date for the establishment of this post office, it should have been 1872 as the entire page dealt with this far later period.
came from Buncombe County, North Carolina. Burton, ca. 1827-1850. Town and post office, eight miles northwest of Rockville; T17N R8W Section 18. Burton acquired its post office in 1840, which was renamed Howard (q.v.) in 1850. The surname of Thomas N. and James R. Burton, who first settled the land on which the town stood, engendered this name when the town was first settled in 1827.

Byron, ca. 1884-. Village and post office, seven miles northwest of Rockville; T17N R6W Section 21. The town acquired a post office in 1884; although the post office was closed in 1905, the village remained. It was named for the famous British poet, Lord Byron.

Caseyville, ca. 1890-1891. Village, eight miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Sections 34 and 35. First settled in 1890, the village was renamed Diamond (q.v.)

45 Dennis Ireland, Parke County Recorder, private interview, Rockville, Indiana, December, 1969.
47 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 376.
49 Ibid., p. 282. Ibid., p. 371.
50 Ibid., p. 282.
51 Ibid., p. 371.
53 Memories, op. cit.
54 Isaac R. Strouse, Parke County, Indiana, Centen-
in 1891 by the United States Post Office Department\(^{55}\) in order to avoid confusion with an already existing Caseyville, Indiana. The name came from the surname of the town's general store owner, a Mr. Casey.\(^{56}\) Although Snowden claimed the town was established during the 1860's,\(^{57}\) no evidence has been found for its existence before 1890.

Catlin, ca. 1861-. Village, post office, and railroad station, three miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R7W Section 6. The town was named for Thomas Catlin who built a warehouse at the railroad station in 1861 when the Evansville and Crawfordsville railroad was constructed.\(^{58}\) On June 19, 1861, a post office was opened here with Thomas Catlin as the first postmaster,\(^{59}\) "... the office and the..."

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\(^{55}\) U.S., Post Office Department, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 340.

\(^{56}\) Memories, \textit{op. cit.}.

\(^{57}\) Snowden, \textit{Legends and Lore}, p. 42.

\(^{58}\) Beadle, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 229. The railroad, however, was never completed north of Rockville. Strouse (\textit{op. cit.}, p. 21) recorded an interesting story about this railroad. Because Rockville did not get a telegraph link until 1870, the people of Rockville, throughout the Civil War, did not get the news until the Evansville and Crawfordsville Railroad train arrived each day. In their anxiety to know of the progress of the war, the townspeople had arranged with the engineer of the train that upon entering Rockville he would give one long blast of the engine's whistle to indicate that the war news was good; one short blast meant bad news. After April 9, 1865, when Lee surrendered at Appomattox, the news had been consistently good. All their anxiety seemed to be at an end. The entire town, however, was alarmed to hear one short and ominous wail on Saturday, April 15, 1865. As many as could rushed to the depot to find the train decked in black. Lincoln was dead.

\(^{59}\) U.S., Post Office Department, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 254.
town receiving that gentleman's name." On the other hand, Memories insisted that Thomas' father, Hiram, was the true honoree.

Cincinnati, ca. 1850-1860. Village, six miles north of Rockville; T16N R7W Section 6. Virtually no information has been found on this town, which may have been named after Cincinnati, Ohio.

Clinton Locks, ca. 1852-1880. Town and post office, seven miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R9W Section 14. Settled soon after the completion of the Wabash and Erie Canal, on which the town was located, Clinton Locks acquired its post office in 1857. The town was platted in 1880 under the name of Hudnut (q.v.); the post office name was accordingly changed in 1887. The town was named be-

60. Beadle, op. cit., p. 229.

61. Memories, op. cit. The interviewee stated that the town was named for Hiram Catlin who owned land in the area "when, in 1861, the Terre Haute and Indianapolis Railroad was built." The Terre Haute and Indianapolis Railroad did not pass near Catlin.


63. Ibid.


cause of the locks on the canal and because it was across the Wabash River from Clinton, Indiana. 68

**Coke Oven Hollow, ca. 1836-about 1850.** Village, two miles west of Annapolis, T16N R8W Sections 3 and 4. Named for the iron foundry which William G. and Thomas Coffin opened there in 1836. It was also called Foundry. 69

**Coloma,* ca. 1868-.** Village and post office, two miles northwest of Rockville; T16N R8W Sections 33 and 34. Settled originally by Quakers in 1830 and called Rocky Run (q.v.), it was renamed Coloma in 1868. 70 It had a post office from 1868 to 1905. 71 Snowden suggested the name was a duplicate of another Coloma; 73 possibly she was referring to the Coloma in Eldorado County, California, made famous by the 1849 Gold Rush. Citing Mrs. Edward M. Woodard of Bloomington, Indiana, as his source, Arthur Hargrave, long-time Parke County newspaper editor, suggested Coloma may have been a shortened form of poca loma, meaning "little hills" in an (unidentified) Amerindian language. 74 The stems

68 Beadle, _op. cit._, p. 313.
69 Hobbs, _op. cit._, p. 364.
70 Mary E. Allee, _Extinct Villages of Penn Township_ (1916), typed manuscript in the Rockville Public Library, Rockville, Indiana, p. 2.
71 U.S. Post Office Department, _op. cit._, p. 254.
72 Ibid., p. 371.
73 Snowden, _Legends and Lore_, p. 42.
74 Hargrave, _Arthur Hargrave's Columns_, a scrapbook of undated newspaper columns from the _Rockville Republican_ (Rockville, Indiana), Rockville Public Library,
poca and loma, initially, medially, or as a final syllable, did not appear in Jacob Piatt Dunn's listing of Miami Indian language stems. Poca loma was, however, Spanish for "small hill."76

Copeland, ca. 1872-1874.77 Village, six miles north of Rockville; T17N R8W Section 36 (not clearly located). Possibly the first name for Rockport (q.v.), the name derived from the surname of the Copeland family who were local land owners.79

Cornstalk, ca. 1823-unknown. Indian village, approximately six miles northeast of Rockville; only vaguely located, said to have been in T17N R7W Section 23 or Section 25.81 "In 1823 Jacob Bowsher . . . located on Sugar Creek, in Section 25, at which time the Indians still occupied this part of the county, a village of 150 wigwams

Rockville, Indiana, p. 20.

75 C. F. Voegelin, "Shawnee Stems and the Jacob P. Dunn Miami Dictionary," Indiana Prehistory Research Series, I, Nos. 2, 3, 9, and 10 (December, 1937; January, 1938; April, 1940; and August, 1940).

76 Felix G. Ilarraz, Associate Professor of Spanish, Indiana State University, private interview, Terre Haute, Indiana, March, 1970.

77 Hobbs, op. cit., map of Parke County.

78 Bourquin, op. cit.

79 Andreas, op. cit., p. 31.

80 Branson, "Historical Survey," p. 27.

81 Beadle, op. cit., p. 351.
standing on his land, the chief of the band being known as John Cornstalk.\textsuperscript{82} In Howard County there was a Pete Cornstalk Creek (q.v.), and a post office named after the creek, both said to have been named from the nickname of an old Miami Indian, whose “real name was A-san-zang, or Sun-shine.”\textsuperscript{83} It has also been recorded that a stream, called Cornstock, running through Ladoga, Indiana, received its name from the “Cornstock Indians” who lived in the vicinity.\textsuperscript{84} Thus the origin of this name could not be clearly determined.

Coxville, ca. 1890-. Village and post office, seven miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R8W Sections 21 and 22. Originally Roseville (q.v.), the name was changed by the United States Post Office Department in 1890.\textsuperscript{85} Although the post office was discontinued in 1906,\textsuperscript{86} the village remained. The name was derived from the surname of William Cox, who owned the mill and land on which the village was located.\textsuperscript{87}

\textsuperscript{82}Ibid., p. 351.
\textsuperscript{84}William Ernst, Terre Haute, Indiana, January, 1968, private interview by John Oliver; can be found in the Indiana State University Folklore Archives, Dr. Ronald L. Baker, Archivist, English Department, Terre Haute, Indiana.
\textsuperscript{85}U.S., Post Office Department, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 340.
\textsuperscript{86}Ibid., p. 371.
\textsuperscript{87}Branson, “Historical Survey,” pp. 34-35.
Cross Roads. See Bruin's Crossroads.

Delta, ca. 1840-1891. Post office name for West Union (q.v.). This post office, originally called Union (q.v.), was renamed Delta in 1840, but was discontinued in 1891. The origin of the name has not been found; however, Snowden tentatively suggested that the name may have been influenced by the place names in southern Illinois, e.g., Little Egypt and Cairo.90

Diamond, ca. 1891-. Town and post office, eight miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Sections 34 and 35. Originally Caseyville (q.v.), the town was renamed Diamond in 1891 when the post office was opened.91 The town, plat ted in 1893, was metaphorically named because of the black, underground diamonds of coal "which had caused the growth of the town."93

Dickson's Mills, ca. 1820-1852. Town and post office, six miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R6W Section 8. In 1820 Francis Dixson, Jr. and James Kelsey built a mill on

88 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
89 Ibid., p. 338.
92 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 241.
93 Memories, op. cit.
the site of the town; in 1825 the post office was opened. In 1831 the spelling of the name was changed to Dixon's Mills by the United State Post Office Department; and again in 1852 the name was changed to Mansfield (q.v.). During this period it acquired the alternate name of Dublin (q.v.). The name apparently derived from the surname of the builder of the town's first mill.

Dooley Station, ca. 1873-unknown. Railroad station on the Logansport, Crawfordsville, and Southwestern Railroad, seven miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R6W Section 5. When the railroad was constructed from Rockville to Crawfordsville in 1873 this station was apparently named by the railroad for Martin Dooley, landowner at the railroad station.

Dotyville,* ca. 1814-1860. This is earliest name for the present town of Rosedale (q.v.). It was named for John M. Doty who, in 1814, first settled the land where Rosedale was located.

94Beadle, op. cit., pp. 374-75.
95Early Post Office Guide to Indiana, 1816-1825, typed manuscript, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana, Part II, p. 1. (Hereinafter referred to as Post Office Guide.) Francis Dixon was the first postmaster.
96U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 376.
97Juliet Snowden, Parke County Covered Bridge Guidebook (n.p., 1969), p. 69. (Hereinafter referred to as Guidebook.)
98Andreas, op. cit., p. 27.
99Memories, op. cit.
Dublin, ca. 1837-1865. Town. Dublin was a nickname for Mansfield (q.v.). During part of the period, 1820-1852, the post office name was Dixon's Mills and Dickson's Mills (q.v.), after Francis Dixson, Jr., from Ireland. Also known as New Dublin. Branson stated that the town was named for Dublin, Ireland, by James Kelsey, who was from there.

Elevatis,* ca. 1826-1827. First of three names for Bloomingdale (q.v.). In 1826 a group of Quakers entered Parke County under the leadership of Nathaniel Newlin and settled in the vicinity of present-day Bloomingdale. In 1827 the name was changed to Bloomfield (q.v.). The name Elevatis was suggested by William Durham on account of the elevation of the ground on which the meeting house was built. A view of the area has substantiated the validity

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103 Branson, "Historical Survey," p. 27.

104 Portrait and Biographical Record of Montgomery, Parke, and Fountain Counties, Indiana (Chicago: Chapman Brothers, 1893), p. 588. (Hereinafter referred to as Portrait and Biographical Record.)

105 Semi-Centennial Anniversary, Western Yearly Meeting of Friends Church: 1858-1908 (n.d.), p. 31. In the possession of Lowell Osborne, Bloomingdale, Indiana.
of this statement. Variously misspelled Elvalas, Elevatus, and Elevalis.

**Ferndale, ca. 1884-.** Village and post office, six miles east of Rockville, T15N R6W Section 34. A post office was established here in 1884, and although the village remained, the post office was discontinued in 1904.  

Arthur Hargrave, editor of the *Rockville Republican*, recorded the naming of the town as told by Mrs. Ray Thomas of Bellmore, Indiana. Asked by the Post Office Department to suggest a name for the village post office, the inhabitants of the town met. Those who wished to submit possible names wrote them on slips of paper and dropped them into a hat. A slip was drawn from the hat and the name Ferndale was on it. Since several in the group objected to this name, it was agreed to draw a second time. The second draw also revealed

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106 Personal field trip to Bloomingdale, Indiana, November, 1969.
107 Lowell Osborne, personal letter, December 18, 1969: "I have . . . done . . . reading of old meeting records. Such records, I find, are full of mistakes, poor spelling, inaccuracies . . . My idea is that somebody, somewhere merely forgot to cross the "T" in Elevatis. Some later careless or thoughtless reader copied it as Eevalis and the controversy started."
108 Beadle, op. cit., p. 47.
110 Portrait and Biographical Record, p. 588.
111 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 282.
112 Ibid., p. 371.
the name Ferndale. Hence, it was so named. Mrs. Thomas stated that it was either Miss Alice or Miss Mary Mitchell (or both) who suggested the name. "Fern-" with this and other suffixes is a common and widespread place name, occurring no less than eighteen times in the United States, apparently for small towns.

**Foundry.** See Coke Oven Hollow.

**Fullerton, ca. 1836-1837.** Second of five names for present-day Lodi (q.v.). The town was first platted in 1836 as Fullerton. On January 26, 1837, the Town Board passed "An Act to Change the Name of the Town of Fullerton to Lodi." The change was recorded in the Parke County Recorder's Office two and a half years later on July 30, 1839. The town was briefly known as Gilderoy (q.v.).

**Gallatin,** ca. 1825-about 1874. Village and post office, eight miles south of Rockville: T14N R7W Section 30. The post office was established here in 1825 and discontinued in 1863. On one map the name was spelled

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113Hargrave, op. cit., p. 24.
115Parke County, Plat Book, I, 84.
116Bourquin, op. cit. This was the last map showing this town.
117Post Office Guide, p. 3.
The village was named for Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury under President Thomas Jefferson.\textsuperscript{119} Second of five names for Lodi (q.v.). The origin of the name could not be determined.

**Grange Corner, ca. 1879-.** Village, eight miles northeast of Rockville; T17N R7W, corner of Sections 2, 3, 10, and 11. This settlement, originally Grangeburg (q.v.), was renamed about 1879,\textsuperscript{122} obviously because it straddles four township sections and is located on a corner of the road. Why the name was changed could not be determined.

Grangeburg, ca. 1871\textsuperscript{123}—about 1879. Original name for present-day Grange Corner (q.v.). Named because of the establishment of John P. Lundgren's Grange Store and the local Jefferson Grange Chapter,\textsuperscript{124} formed about four years

\textsuperscript{118}Map of Clay County, 1869 (n.p., 1869), Emeline Fairbanks Memorial Library, Terre Haute, Indiana.

\textsuperscript{119}Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 42.

\textsuperscript{120}Parke County, Index of Deeds, 1832-1840, County Courthouse, Rockville, Indiana, Section D, p. 28.

\textsuperscript{121}Young, op. cit.

\textsuperscript{122}Beadle, op. cit., p. 447. This date has been adduced. Beadle's history was written in 1879, published in 1880. In this book he consistently referred to the town as Grangeburg or Grangetown. The name apparently changed shortly thereafter.

\textsuperscript{123}Memories, op. cit.

\textsuperscript{124}Beadle, op. cit., pp. 447-55. (see note 122, above.)
after Oliver Hudson Kelley first founded the National Grange in 1867.\textsuperscript{125}

\textbf{Guion,* 1878-.} Village and post office, six miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R6W Section 7. Originally Bruin's Crossroads (q.v.), it became a railroad station on the Terre Haute and Logansport Railroad when the railroad was completed through this area in 1872.\textsuperscript{126} In 1878 the settlement became a railroad junction when the Indianapolis, Decatur, and Springfield Railroad was completed.\textsuperscript{127} In 1878 it acquired a post office;\textsuperscript{128} the town was platted in 1882 by Robert F. Bruin.\textsuperscript{129} The post office and village were named by the new railroad for William H. Guion, a New York Stockholder in the railroad.\textsuperscript{130}

\textbf{Hollandsburg,* ca. 1853-.} Village and post office, five miles east of Rockville; T15N R6W Section 9. John and Abraham Collings settled the area about 1853 giving the post office and village its name in honor of "a Baptist minister in Kentucky"\textsuperscript{131} from whence they emigrated.\textsuperscript{132}

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\textsuperscript{126} Branson, "Historical Survey," p. 76.

\textsuperscript{127} Scrap Book, \textit{op. cit.}

\textsuperscript{128} U.S., Post Office Department, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 282.

\textsuperscript{129} Parke County, \textit{Plat Book}, I, 180.

\textsuperscript{130} Scrap Book, \textit{op. cit.}

\textsuperscript{131} Beadle, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 198.

\textsuperscript{132} Memories, \textit{op. cit.}
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The post office was discontinued in 1902, although the town remained. **Howard, ca. 1850-.** Town, post office, and popular name for Westport (q.v.), nine miles northwest of Rockville; T17N R9W Sections 7 and 13. Originally Burton (q.v.), it was platted as Howard in 1848. The post office name was changed in 1850. The town remained, although the post office was discontinued in 1899. Howard has often been confused with the close-by village of Westport (q.v.), which was called a "subdivision" of Howard. The confusion lay in the fact that Thomas N. and James F. Burton, who settled this town and opened its first post office, sold the land in 1848 to John Garr, who then platted and renamed the town. However, earlier, in 1836, the Burton brothers, possibly aware of the increased value of platting and naming another town, had moved slightly west (to Section 18) and platted and named a new town, Westport. Because the two towns were side-by-side it could be seen why one name,

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140 Andreas, *op. cit.*, pp. 90-91.
Howard, was dominant and survived. The town was named for General Tilghman A. Howard, perhaps Parke County's most famous resident. The original post office name, Clinton Locks, was changed to Hudnut in 1887. The town was named in honor of Theodore Hudnut, President of the Terre Haute firm of Hudnut Milling Company, which had a large warehouse in Lyford.

Hudnut,* ca. 1880-1892. Town and post office, seven miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R9W Section 14. Hudnut, the second of three names for this town, originally Clinton Locks (q.v.), was platted as Hudnut in 1880. The original post office name, Clinton Locks, was changed to Hudnut in 1887. The town was named in honor of Theodore Hudnut, President of the Terre Haute firm of Hudnut Milling Company, which had a large warehouse in Lyford.

Tonia, date range of usage could not be determined; in use in 1857. Post office, unlocated. This almost totally forgotten post office was listed only once in the Record of Appointments of Postmasters. There was no record of its discontinuance.

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141 Strouse, op. cit., pp. 49-50. Tilghman Ashurst Howard was a U.S. Senator, a Democratic candidate for Governor, a personal friend of Andrew Jackson, and U.S. Minister Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Texas.

142 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 178.

143 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 340

144 Beadle, op. cit., p. 313. It is correctly spelled Hudnut, not as misprinted Hudmut in this source.


146 No informants knew of this post office name. Hence no pronunciation of this extinct name could be given.

147 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
Java, date range of usage could not be determined. An early subdivision of the northwest part of Bloomingdale (q.v.). This area of Bloomingdale was said to have been named because of a new type and brand of coffee introduced to the area by a general store owner, Andrew W. Tomlinson.148

Jessup, ca. 1861-. Town, railroad station, and post office, seven miles south of Rockville; T14N R8W Sections 13 and 14. Originally called Jessup's Station, it began as a railroad station on the Evansville and Crawfordsville Railroad (locally called the "pumpkin vine railroad"),149 completed in 1861.150 The post office was named Jessup's Station in 1867,151 but the name was simplified in 1882.152 The name derived from the local landowner, C. Jessup. Beadle recorded the naming thus:

Pleasant Hawkins and Monroe Barnes virtually named the place by shipping from Terre Haute a barrel of salt marked Jessup. The railroad was just completed and the conductor and his brakeman searched the list of towns in a vain endeavor to find the place, when they finally concluded to put it off at this place and risk it.153

Judson, 1872-. Town, post office, and railroad station, four miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R7W Section 24. Originally Buchanan's Springs (q.v.), it was platted

148 Allee, op. cit., p. 3.
150 Ibid., p. 229.
151 Ibid., p. 229.
152 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
153 Beadle, op. cit., p. 315.
and renamed by Alexander Buchanan when the Terre Haute and Logansport Railroad was completed through the town in 1872. In that same year a post office was opened. It was named in honor of a Kentucky minister, Adoniram Judson, a Baptist missionary to the Orient who died at sea in 1850.

Klondyke, *ca. 1898*. Village, four miles west of Rockville; T16N R8W Section 31. Platted in 1907, it was probably named for Klondike, Alaska, made famous by the 1898 Alaskan Gold Rush (cf. Melcher).

Lakeland, *ca. 1894-1917*. Post Office name for New Discovery (q.v.). When the village applied for a post office in 1894, the name New Discovery was rejected because the name was too long. Although the post office was closed in 1898, the name still was current as late as

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154 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 126.
156 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254. Although this official record clearly showed 1842, it should obviously have read 1872 (cf. Buchanan's Springs).
158 Barnhart, op. cit., II, 2223.
159 Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 42.
160 Parke County, Plat Book, II, 6.
161 Barnhart, op. cit., II, 2305.
162 Scrap Book, op. cit.
163 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 498.
Thomas L. Nevins was credited with suggesting the name Lakeland, though his reason could not be discovered for there were no bodies of water in the vicinity.\textsuperscript{165}

**Leatherwood, ca. 1878-about 1894.** Village, railroad station, and post office, three miles northwest of Rockville; T16N R8W approximately Section 22. First made a station on the Indianapolis, Decatur, and Springfield Railroad in about 1878,\textsuperscript{166} Leatherwood acquired a post office in 1880, which closed in 1894.\textsuperscript{168} Leatherwood was obviously named for the creek on which it stood.

**Lena, ca. 1870-.** Town, post office, and railroad station, ten miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R6W Section 35. Originally Lena, as a post office, was called Marysville\textsuperscript{169} and was located incorrectly by Post Office records in Clay County, Indiana.\textsuperscript{170} In 1870, Robert N. King platted the town as Lena in Parke County\textsuperscript{171} when the Indiana State Atlas (Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen and Company, Incorporated, 1917), p. 103.


\textsuperscript{166}Beadle, op. cit., p. 182.

\textsuperscript{167}Scrap Book, op. cit.

\textsuperscript{168}U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 338.

\textsuperscript{169}Beadle, op. cit., p. 376.

\textsuperscript{170}U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 282.

\textsuperscript{171}Parke County, Plat Book, I, 156.
apolis and St. Louis Railroad was completed in that year. In 1880 the post office was administratively moved from Clay County to Parke, where, in fact, the town and post office had actually been since their founding. The origin of the name was not found; however, there was a Lena in Stephenson County, Illinois, said to have been named for the Plain of Lena in James MacPherson's Ossian poem "Fingal." More germane, perhaps, was the local folk legend, recorded by Bradsby, of the Miami Indian warrior Nemo and his white captive girl, Lena, who planted "the old Indian Orchard" where Terre Haute, Indiana, was later located.

**Link Branch,** ca. 1849-about 1866. This post office name occurred only twice in written records; it could not be geographically located. Calvin Newlin was appointed postmaster of this post office in 1849; the records did not show when it was discontinued. It was listed in use as late as 1866. The origin of the name could not be determined; there was no Lick Branch stream in the county.

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175 No authentic pronunciation available.
177 *Redfield and Logan's Indianapolis and Cincinnati Railway Business Guide and Western Gazetteer of Indiana and Ohio* (Indianapolis, 1866), p. 87. (Hereinafter referred to as Redfield and Logan.)
Lockwood Mills, ca. 1823—about 1849. First of two names for present-day Bridgeton (q.v.). The town began about 1823 when Lockwood and Silliman built a mill here. The name obviously derived from Lockwood's surname.

Lodi,* ca. 1837—(1857). Town and post office, eleven miles northwest of Rockville; T17N R9W Section 2. Originally called Gilderoy (q.v.) and Fullerton (q.v.), the name changed in 1857 to Lodi with the town board's "Act to Change the Name of the Town of Fullerton to Lodi." In 1844 the first post office was established as Lodiville. In 1857 the town changed its name to Waterman (q.v.); the post office followed in 1860, to honor Richard M. Waterman, "who settled there in that year and was instrumental in improving . . . business . . . and trade. . . ." In 1905 the post office was discontinued, although the town remained. Despite the town's official name (Waterman), local residents have consistently referred to the town as Lodi.

Confusion resulted: the 1964 Geological Survey Map used Lodi; The 1967 Official State Highway Map of Indiana used Lodi;184

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178Beadle, op. cit., p. 228.
179Parke County, Plat Book, I, 84.
180U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 376.
182U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 373.
183Miss Bonnie Livengood, long-time resident of the area, private interview, Terre Haute, Indiana, March, 1970.
184U.S., Department of Interior, Geological Survey
Waterman. The name Lodi derived from the nearby artesian springs, similar to those of the famous Italian city of Lodi. The railroad's telegraph office name was Silverwood, now in Fountain County, just north of Lodi.

Lusk's Mills, ca. 1837-1845. Post Office, seven miles northeast of Rockville, vaguely located at T17N R7W Section 26. This was the first name of Lusk's Springs (q.v.); the post office was opened in 1837 and discontinued in 1845. The name was derived from the mill's owner, Solomon (Salmon) Lusk.

Lusk's Springs, ca. 1864-1902. Post Office. This was the second name for the post office originally called Lusk's Mills (q.v.). Closed in 1845, the post office was reopened in 1864, and closed finally in 1902.

Lyford, ca. 1892-. Town and post office, seven miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R9W Section 14. Lyford was the third name for this town; originally Clinton Locks


185 Hobbs, op. cit., map of Parke County, which showed a "mineral artesian well 1,118.8 ft. deep" near Lodi.
186 Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 43.
187 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 376.
188 Ibid., p. 254.
189 Snowden, Guidebook, pp. 37-38.
190 U.S., Post Office, Department, op. cit., pp. 254 and 371.
(q.v.), the name changed to Hudnut (q.v.) in 1880. In 1892 the town was platted as Lyford and the post office was changed. The name was given in honor of W. H. Lyford, a vice-president for the railroad that ran through the town.

**Maidstone, ca. 1887-1888.** This was the initial post office name for the town of Mecca (q.v.). The first post office was opened here in 1887; the name changed to Mecca Mills (q.v.) in 1888. The origin of Maidstone could not be determined; it may, however, have been imitative of the Maidstone in Vermont or England.

**Mansfield, ca. 1852-.** Town and post office, six miles south west of Rockville; T14N R6W Section 8. Originally Dickson's Mills (q.v.), Dixon's Mills, and also Dublin (q.v.), the town's post office was renamed Mansfield from Dickson's Mills in 1852; the same year, it was platted by Samuel B. Gookins. The post office was closed in 1906; the town remained. Gannett has recorded this name in Massachusetts (after William Murray, Earl of Mansfield), and the name may have been imitative thereof.

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193 *Scrap Book, op. cit.*
Most probably, as Snowden has suggested, the name may have been derived from Mansfield, Ohio. Beadle offered this suggestion: "The log cabin of Mr. Kelsey ... must have been the beginning of what was then literally and truly a 'man's--field'..." According to Rennick the folk have attributed this name to the presence of drill fields of local militia in the town.

Marshall, ca. 1878-. Town, post office, and railroad station, five miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R7W Section 9. The town began as a railroad station on the Indianapolis, Decatur, and Springfield Railroad when the road was completed from Bloomingdale in 1878. The same year the town was platted and the post office was established with George W. Hobson as the first postmaster. The town was named in honor of Mahlon W. Marshall on whose land the station was built.

Mecca, ca. 1890-. Town and post office, four miles southwest of Rockville; T15N R8W Section 2. Originally

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199. Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 43.
203. Parke County, Plat Book, I, 166.
Maidstone (q.v.), later Mecca Mills (q.v.), the first use of Mecca was in 1890 when Samuel L. McCune platted the town. In 1894 the post office name was changed to Mecca. The name's specific origin could not be determined. Miss Jessie E. McCune stated the name was coined when her great-great-grandfather, Alexander McCune, a store-owner of the town, remarked one early spring day, upon sighting a mud-caked, bedraggled wagon load of potential customers from the nearby town of Arabia (q.v.), "Here come the pilgrims from Arabia to Mecca." Whatever the origin, it was obvious the nearby Arabia gave rise to the name Mecca. The name was given once as Mecca Junction.

Mecca Mills, ca. 1888-1890. Second of three names for present-day Mecca (q.v.). The post office name was changed from Maidstone (q.v.) to Mecca Mills in 1888; again changed to Mecca in 1894 after the town had been

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206 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 166. It was interesting to note that on the original plat of Mecca one of the street names was Mahomet Street.


208 Miss Jessie E. McCune, long-time resident of Parke County, private interview, Terre Haute, Indiana, December, 1969.

209 Indiana, State Planning Board, Gazetteer of Indiana Cities, Towns, and Villages, typed manuscript dated September, 1936, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana, p. 6.


211 Ibid., p. 254.
platted as Mecca in 1890.\textsuperscript{212}

**Medelline**, \textit{*ca.*} 1852-about 1874. Post office, five miles east of Rockville; T15N R6W Section 21. The post office was established in 1852; the records did not show when it was discontinued. This name appeared only on two maps;\textsuperscript{213} on one it was given as Medalline.\textsuperscript{214}

**Melcher**, \textit{*ca.*} 1907-about 1936. Appeared to be a railroad station and village. Only three sources showed it. Melcher first appeared in a 1907 map\textsuperscript{215} vaguely located near Klondyke (q.v.); it next appeared in the same area in a 1917 Indiana atlas;\textsuperscript{216} its last appearance was mentioned in a gazetteer.\textsuperscript{217} If indeed Melcher was Klondyke then there would appear to have been two names for one town for a period of almost thirty years. The gazetteer also mentioned a West Melcher\textsuperscript{218} which this writer found no mention of elsewhere.

**Midway, \textit{ca.*} 1930-. Village, three miles west of Rockville: T15N R8W Section 5. This settlement, \textit{midway}

\textsuperscript{212}Parke County, \textit{Plat Book}, I, 166.

\textsuperscript{213}Hobbs, \textit{op. cit.}, map of Parke County.

\textsuperscript{214}Bourquin, \textit{op. cit.}.


\textsuperscript{216}Indiana State Atlas, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 102.

\textsuperscript{217}Indiana, State Planning Board, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 7.

\textsuperscript{218}Ibid., p. 12.
between Montezuma and Rockville has been occupied and named only within the last thirty or forty years. 219

**Milligan,** ca. 1878-. Village, post office, and railroad station, six miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R6W Section 11. Created as a railroad station on the Indianapolis, Decatur, and Springfield Railroad in 1878, 220 it acquired its post office in 1882. 221 On one map the name appeared as South Waveland, 222 named for Milligan's proximity to the larger town of Waveland, Montgomery County, nearby. The town was named for Joseph Milligan, 223 an early resident and active merchant of the town and local area. 224

**Minshall,** ca. 1885-about 1901. Town, five miles south of Rockville: T14N R7W Section 7. The town was platted in 1885 225 soon after the Parke County Coal Company opened its mines in the vicinity. Minshall declined after the exhaustion of the coal resources in 1901. 226 The name was


220 Scrap Book, op. cit.

221 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 282.


224 Portrait and Biographical Record, pp. 119-20. (Also see Beadle, op. cit., p. 404.)

225 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 186.

226 Memories, op. cit.
sometimes spelled Minchel. The post office name was Odd (q.v.). The town was named in honor of D. W. Minshall, an important local coal operator. Although Branson stated that the name derived from the name of the coal seam, this was clearly untrue.

Mitchell, 1888-1894. Post office name for Minshall (q.v.). The post office was opened in 1888 and named for the Mitchell family who settled this area in 1817. The post office name was changed to Odd (q.v.) in 1894.

Montezuma, ca. 1823-. Town and post office, five miles west of Rockville; T16N R9W Section 36. Settled in 1823, its first post office was established in 1832; it was platted in 1849. The name was occasionally spelled as Montazuma. The derivation of the name may have been

228 Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 43.
232 Portrait and Biographical Record, p. 618.
233 Beadle, op. cit., p. 172.
234 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
235 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 48.
from the Aztec leader (?1480-1520) in Mexico.\textsuperscript{237} Snowden noted that the nearness of Cayuga, Indiana, suggested "New York State influence,"\textsuperscript{238} as indeed Cayuga and Montezuma, New York, were near each other.\textsuperscript{239} However, Montezuma was first used no later than 1823; Cayuga, Vermillion County, was used no earlier than 1886.\textsuperscript{240} Furthermore, this Montezuma was clearly not similar in origin to Montezuma, Ohio, which was influenced by the Mexican War (1846-1848).\textsuperscript{241}

Needmore, ca. 1900-1905. Village, five miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R6W Section 21. Needmore, a ubiquitous name,\textsuperscript{242} always seemed to have its origin because the inhabitants were said to be in need of something. In this case it was said to have been money.\textsuperscript{243}


\textsuperscript{238}Snowden, Legends and Lore, pp. 43-44.


\textsuperscript{240}Harold L. O'Donnell, Eugene Township (Vermillion County, Indiana): The First 100 Years; 1824-1924 (Danville, Illinois: The Interstate, 1963), p. 170.

\textsuperscript{241}William D. Overman, "Ohio Town Names," Names, I, No. 2 (June, 1953), 115.

\textsuperscript{242}It occurred in Lawrence, Brown, and Vermillion counties, Indiana; it was once used to designate a portion of Terre Haute, Indiana; it occurred, too, in Arizona and Texas.

\textsuperscript{243}William N. Seits, private interview, Marshall, Indiana, August, 1969. This informant was the sole source of the date range of usage for Needmore.
New Discovery, ca. 1820-. Village, three miles southeast of Rockville; T15N R7W Section 24. There were two folk accounts of the origin of this name. The first one in print recorded that Thomas Woolverton (also spelled Wolverton elsewhere) was "said to have taken special notice of this piece of country while looking for a stray horse..."

The "special notice" presumably was of the beauty of this region; as a result James Kelsey (cf. Dublin) named this village. The second account of the origin stated that John Glass, John and Jacob Miller, and Thomas Wolverton were on their way north from Terre Haute in 1822 to Montgomery County to stake out land claims. In passing through the New Discovery area they were struck by its beauty and value as farm land. Deciding then to go no farther but stake their claims there, they named it appropriately New Discovery.

Northampton, ca. 1846-1852. Town, four miles east of Rockville; T15N R6W Sections 7 and 8. Now Bellmore (q.v.), the name was changed in 1852 when the town applied for a post office. Northampton was rejected by the Post Office Department to avoid confusion with an already existing Northampton, Indiana. In 1846 "the Guisingers" opened a store south of the trail which later became Highway 36. A few cabins were built north of this road and "John Bulion, Sr.,

\[\text{References:}\]

\[244\text{Beadle, op. cit., p. 195.}\]
\[245\text{Laney, op. cit., p. 8.}\]
\[246\text{Beadle, op. cit., p. 197.}\]
having come from the East, suggested that this cluster north of the road be called Northampton after a town of that name in Massachusetts and those south of the road be called Southampton." Soon thereafter the store south of the road was abandoned and only Northampton was left. An alternate spelling was North Hampton.

Nowlingtown, date range could not be determined. Village, two miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R7W Section 34. Nowlingtown, named for Martin Nowling, the first postmaster of Nyesville and a local land developer, was an alternate but unofficial name for Nyesville (q.v.).

Numa, ca. 1836-. Town and post office, eight miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R9W Section 26. Numa was first settled by John Wilson in 1836 and platted by him in 1837; he served as first postmaster when the post office there was opened in 1844. The post office was discontinued in 1889 though the settlement remained. The town was also briefly known as Walkertown (q.v.). The origin of

247 Ibid.
248 Parke County, Deed Record, Index Book Number 6, p. 4. Located in Parke County Courthouse, Rockville, Indiana.
249 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
250 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 158.
251 Branson, "Historical Survey," p. 73.
252 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 70.
253 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 376.
254 Ibid., p. 340.
the name could not be found; however, local residents have suggested that the name was from an Amerindian source.\textsuperscript{255}

**Nyessville, ca. 1871-.** Town and post office, two miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R7W Section 34. In 1871 the Sand Creek (q.v.) Coal Company platted the town and named it in honor of William H. Nye, the first and, at that time, current president\textsuperscript{256} of the company.\textsuperscript{257} The post office opened in 1872\textsuperscript{258} and was discontinued in 1902,\textsuperscript{259} though the town remained. The town was also unofficially known as Nowlingtown (q.v.).

**Odd, ca. 1894-1901.** Post office name for Minshall (q.v.) and Mitchell (q.v.). The post office was opened in 1894 and discontinued in 1901.\textsuperscript{260} The origin of the name could not be determined. There was, however, an Odd in West Virginia, given because its namers, annoyed that in applying for their post office, had an entire list of suggested names rejected by the United States Post Office Department. They were determined that this name, Odd, would truly be "odd"

\begin{flushright}
\textsuperscript{255}Dennis Ireland, private interview, Rockville, Indiana, December, 1969.
\textsuperscript{256}Branson, "Historical Survey," pp. 72-73.
\textsuperscript{257}In discussing this company, Beadle (op. cit., p. 81) noted that the Secretary of the company was General Lew Wallace.
\textsuperscript{258}U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
\textsuperscript{259}Ibid., p. 373.
\textsuperscript{260}Ibid., p. 254.
\end{flushright}
enough to be accepted. It was. Perhaps the postmaster of this town in Parke County, too, wanted the name to be "odd." It has also been suggested that a member of the International Order of Odd Fellows was influential in the choice of the name.

Parkeville, ca. 1828—about 1926. Town and post office, five miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R6W Section 21. First settled in 1828 or 1829, a post office was established here in 1852 but closed in 1902. The town remained. The settlement apparently disappeared during the late 1920's or early 1930's. Variant forms of the name were Parkville and Park V. For an undetermined period the town was nicknamed Buncombe (q.v.) and Payton Place (q.v.). The name derived from the county name, which in turn was named in honor of Benjamin Parke.

261 Kenny, op. cit., p. 453.
263 Beadle, op. cit., p. 430.
266 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
267 Bourquin, op. cit.
Payton Place, date range could not be determined; in use shortly before and after 1900. This nickname for Parkeville (q.v.) was derived from a local land-owning family's surname.

Piattsville,* ca. 1856-about 1947. Village and post office, five miles east of Rockville; T15N R7W Section 36. First settled by William Piatt in May, 1835, a post office was established here in 1856. The last mention of this village found in print was in 1947.

Pin Hook, unknown -1877. Village, one half mile east of Judson; T16N R7W Section 24. Pin Hook, destroyed in 1877, consisted of a grist mill (owned by Edward Barnes), a store (owned by William Burnsides), and a few houses, all situated on Little Raccoon Creek (q.v.). The specific

271 One interviewee, when asked where Payton Place was located, did not know of this nickname for Parkeville. Asking to remain unnamed, he did reveal, however, that a few years ago some pranksters had erected signs around Bellmore naming it "Payton Place" because of some alleged scandalous sexual activities on the part of some of its inhabitants, apparently similar to those reported by Grace Metalious in her novel Peyton Place.
272 Andreas, op. cit., p. 27.
274 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
276 Hargrave, op. cit., p. 34.
origin of this ubiquitous name could not be found. Rennick noted its existence as a name in St. Joseph, Shelby, and LaPorte counties, Indiana; in these it was believed to be a derogatory epithet for a settlement of rustic or niggardly inhabitants. 277 One folk account suggested one origin of the name: given because of a store wherein a pin was sold for an excessively high price and a container of alcoholic beverage (otherwise forbidden) was given free of charge. A second folk etymology of such a name was that the name was given because of the settlement's location on a peculiar turn in the road. 278 Pin Hook was located at a bridge which forced the road to make a 180 degree turn, therein lending support to the last etymology. 279

Portland Mills, ca. 1823-1961. Village and post office, seven miles east of Rockville; T15N R6W Section 1 and T16N R6W Section 36. The town was originally settled in 1823 when five families settled here; 280 Judge Samuel Steele opened the first mill in the village in 1825 and

278 Frances Tovey, Bedford, Indiana, interviewed by Michael Wagoner. Indiana State University Folklore Archives, Dr. Ronald L. Baker, Archivist, Indiana State University English Department, Terre Haute, Indiana.
279 Personal field trip to Judson and Mansfield areas, July, 1969.
named the town,\textsuperscript{281} said to have been a duplication of Portland, Maine.\textsuperscript{282} The post office was relocated administratively from Putnam County in 1853.\textsuperscript{283} In the early 1960's the town was destroyed in order to provide space for the Mansfield Reservoir.

\textbf{Pottertown}, date range of usage not determined.

Village, five miles northwest of Rockville: T16N R8W Section 14. This village was named because of the presence of a tile plant within the village. Vestiges of the plant could still be seen.\textsuperscript{284} (Note nearness of Coke Oven Hollow, q.v.)

\textbf{Ray's Tavern}, ca. 1821-1824. This was the first of two names for Rockville (q.v.), the present seat of Parke County government. Andrew Ray built the first house in this town, turning it into a tavern, or, as it was known at the time, a wayside inn.\textsuperscript{285} Thus the town was named for the "Father of Rockville."\textsuperscript{286} In 1824 the town was renamed Rockville.

\textbf{Rockport}, ca. 1847-about 1874. Village, six miles north of Rockville: T17N R8W Section 36. Also called

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{281} Beadle, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 420.
\item \textsuperscript{282} Juliet Snowden, private interview, Rockville, Indiana, December, 1969.
\item \textsuperscript{283} U.S., Post Office Department, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 254.
\item \textsuperscript{284} Lowell Osborne, personal letter, December 18, 1969.
\item \textsuperscript{285} Andreas, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 13.
\item \textsuperscript{286} Laney, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 8.
\end{itemize}
Rockport Mills, Wright's Mills (q.v.); it may have been Copeland (q.v.). In January, 1847, a "spring freshet" washed away Prior Wright's mill, located at Lusk's Mills (q.v.); that same year Wright rebuilt his mill slightly downstream; the settlement which sprang up around this new mill was called Rockport Mills because of the flatboat industry that grew up at this mill beside the rocky port.287 When a post office was established here in 1854 its name was Wright's Mills, changed from Rockport to avoid confusion with another Rockport, Indiana.288

Rockville, ca. 1824-. Town, post office, seat of county government. Geographical center of the county: T15N R3W Section 7. The post office was established here in 1821 as Park /sic// C.H. (Courthouse). In 1824 the post office name was changed to Rockville,289 for in February, 1824, the county commissioners, Joseph Orr, Arthur Patterson, and Thomas Smith, along with Andrew Ray (see Ray's Tavern, above), Aaron Hand, Solomon Simmons, had met to decide upon the name of this town, the newly chosen county seat.290

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288 George Branson, "A 100 Years of Flour Mill History," Rockville Tribune (Rockville, Indiana), January 27, 1926, p. 3.
The name derived from the large rock (which has remained on the courthouse lawn), unusual in that it was unaccountably in a gently rolling grassy area (with no apparent reason for its isolated location).\textsuperscript{291} The folk legend of Rockville's naming recorded that this group of men was unable to agree on the town's name. Andrew Ray, the local tavern keeper, offered a bottle of whiskey, perhaps to soothe tempers. When the men had finished the bottle, but still had not agreed upon a name, Patterson was said to have taken the bottle, broken it over the stone in the courthouse lawn, and said, "Let's name the town after this fellow; he's been here longer than any of us."\textsuperscript{292}

**Rocky Run, ca. 1834-1868.** This, the first name for Coloma (q.v.), was first used when Quaker settlers established this village as the Rocky Run Preparative Meeting in 1834, although the meeting was actually begun about 1830.\textsuperscript{293} The name was changed to Coloma in 1868. The name, Rocky Run, derived from the stream on which it was located, Rocky Run (q.v.).

**Rosedale, ca. 1860-.** Town, railroad station, and post office, eight miles south of Rockville: T14N R8W Sections 27 and 34. The town was named by the Terre Haute and Logansport Railroad when its tracks were built there in

\textsuperscript{291}Personal field trip to Rockville, November, 1969.

\textsuperscript{292}Beadle, op. cit., pp. 29-30.

\textsuperscript{293}Ibid., p. 172.
The post office was opened in 1861. Originally it was called Dotyville (q.v.). Rosedale was named in honor of Chauncey Rose, a promoter and stockholder in the railroad. Rosedale had two sections which have been given unofficial names: Daisyville, which was east of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks; and Blacks, which was west of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. The origin of these latter two names could not be found.

Roseville, ca. 1819-1890. This was the original name for present-day Coxville (q.v.). A post office was named Roseville here in 1823; the name later changed to Coxville in 1890. In 1819 Chauncey Rose, Moses Robbins, and Andrew Brooks built a mill at this location; the settlement, the first in Parke County, was named for Chauncey Rose. Although the name officially changed in 1890, it was in popular use as late as 1926.

Russell's Mills, ca. 1847-about 1905. Post office, eight miles northeast of Rockville; T17N R7W Section 10.

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295 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
297 Memories, op. cit.
300 Beadle, op. cit., pp. 13 and 311.
301 Rockville Tribune (Rockville, Indiana), July 14, 1926, p. 6.
John Thompson built a flour mill on Sugar Mill Creek (q.v.) in 1829\(^302\) using a felled tree as the mill run dam.\(^303\) Later Thompson sold the mill to Kinworthy; Kinworthy to John Cachatt; Cachatt to Jerry Kemp; and Kemp to Joseph D. Russell.\(^304\) In 1847 Russell established the post office at this location.\(^305\) The post office was discontinued in 1905. The post office was also unofficially known as Ward's Mills (q.v.). As the first postmaster and owner of the mill, Joseph D. Russell apparently named the post office after his own surname.

**Sand Creek Station, ca. 1874-about 1936.** Railroad station and village, two miles northeast of Rockville; T15N R7W Section 3. Little information was available on this settlement. It was indicated on two maps, and in one gazetteer.\(^307\) This village was named after the creek on which it was located.

**Smockville, ca. 1900-unknown.** Village, six miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Section 25. Smockville, a coal-mining settlement,\(^308\) was created about 1900 and was

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\(^302\) Beadle, op. cit., p. 442.
\(^303\) Frazier, op. cit., p. 4.
\(^305\) U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
\(^306\) Ibid., p. 373.
\(^307\) Andreas, op. cit., p. 39; Collett, op. cit.; Indiana State Planning Board, op. cit.
\(^308\) Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 44.
named for Randolph A. Smock.

**Sodom, ca. 1834-unknown.** Sodom was an early nickname for the town of Bellmore (q.v.), so named because of the town's distillery and the "general wickedness of the place."  

**South Waveland,** date range of usage could not be determined; apparently it was an early name for Milligan (q.v.). This name has been found on only one map (of 1883). Presumably this name was used because the village was south of Waveland in Montgomery County.

**Stumptown, ca. 1870-unknown.** Village, one and a quarter miles west of Annapolis (precise location could not be determined). Stumptown was a village clustered around a stoneware factory opened by Samuel S. Jordan in 1870. Reason for the name could not be determined.

**Stringtown, unknown-ca. 1833.** Stringtown was the first name for present-day Armiesburg (q.v.). Snowden suggested that the name was derived from a "string" or series of houses which were "connected by long logs." Kenny suggested the name (in West Virginia) was given

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309 *Memories, op. cit.*
311 *Collett, op. cit.*
312 *Allee, op. cit.*, p. 3.
313 *Beadle, op. cit.*, p. 18.
314 *Snowden, Legends and Lore,* p. 41.
because one of the town's industrial products was string, an
important commodity to the pioneers.  

Superior, date range of usage could not be deter-
mined; said to have been an alternate name for Caseyville
(q.v.) and Diamond (q.v.). However, a 1917 Indiana State
Atlas showed Superior (T14N R7W Section 26) distinct from
Diamond (Section 34). This same document listed Diamond as
an incorporated town, and separately listed Superior as un-
incorporated. The origin of the name could not be deter-
mined.

Sylvania,* ca. 1836-. Village and post office,
eight miles north of Rockville; T17N R8W Section 14, (from
1836-1855, located in Section 10). This town, first located
in Section 10, was established in 1836, when David Hadley
platted the town. In 1855, shortly before the Civil War,
a large number of Quakers migrated from North Carolina and
settled in nearby Section 14. The original Sylvania post
office, established in 1850, apparently moved to this new
center of settlement, when, in 1855, one Henry Durham began
the new Sylvania's industrial growth with his blacksmith
shop. The post office, opened in 1850 in Section 10,

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315 Kenny, op. cit., p. 607.
316 Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 42.
317 Indiana State Atlas, pp. 102-3.
318 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 83.
320 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 254.
was closed in 1905, the settlement remained. The name was descriptive of the wooded area in which the town was located; further, the Quakers assuredly knew of the anglicized form of the Latin word, as it appeared in William Penn's well-forested Pennsylvania.

_Tangier, ca. 1886._ Town, post office, and railroad station, eight miles northwest of Rockville; T17N R8W Section 15 and 16. Beginning as a railroad station when the Attica and Southern Railroad was built in 1886, the town was named by John T. Campbell, County Surveyor at the time. Hargrave, quoting Mr. Straud Swaim of Tangier, son of William B. Swaim, who owned and platted the town, wrote that William B. Swaim had dinner with Campbell and others one evening before naming the town. Someone suggested the name should be Long Siding, descriptive of the railroad's sidings there. Swaim offered the name Swaimville. Campbell suggested a compromise name, Tangier, because, in his travels, he had found Tangier, Morocco, a beautiful city.

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321 _Ibid._, p. 373.
322 _Scrap Book, op. cit._
324 Parke County, _Plat Book_, I, 190.
325 Indeed the railroad called its station there Long Siding. See "Map of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad, January 15, 1919," in _The Terre Haute Express Historical Record of the Prairie City, 1823-1900_ (Chicago: Poole Brothers, n.d.), p. 15.
326 Hargrave, _op. cit._, p. 138.
Snowden and Branson thought Campbell was inspired to propose this name because of the "current" events in Tangier, Morocco. The only mention for the period of 1863-1867 which this writer has found in the New York Times of Tangier was brief notices of white slave cruelties; but, as Snowden suggested, "he may have intended some subtlety inasmuch as Attica, Lodi, and Mecca are scattered around Tangier." 327

Ten Brook, date range usage could not be determined; nor could the village be precisely located. The evidence for its existence was highly tenuous. Only one source cited its existence, "In 1837, Wm. Ten Brook, Sr., came to Indiana, locating one mile west of Annapolis, on the site of the present town named in his honor." 328

Uncas,* date range of this railroad station could not be determined; in use during 1907-1917; its location, found in only one map 329 by this writer, was not precise: four miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W approximately Section 4. One local informant stated that Uncas was no town, not even a railroad side track, ". . . but the railroad named it as a stop and it has incorrectly appeared as a place on maps." 330 The name derived from the nearby Indian

327 Snowden, Legends and Lore, pp. 44-45.
328 Portrait and Biographical Record, p. 148.
329 Bell and Wisely, op. cit., pp. 92-93.
330 Scrap Book, op. cit.
trail known as the Uncas Trail. 331

Union, ca. 1838-1840. First post office name for town of West Union (q.v.); in 1840 the post office name became Delta (q.v.). 332

Van Ness Town, date range of usage could not be determined. Nickname for Piattsville (q.v.); probably named for Joseph Van Ness, a local resident. 333

Walkertown, ca. 1816-1837, an earlier name for Numa (q.v.). 334 Also called Walker's Bluff. Both Walkertown and Walker's Bluff were derived from the surname of Judge Joseph Walker, who first settled the immediate area in about 1816. 335

Walton, date range of usage and precise location could not be determined, six miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Section 11, approximately. This "town" has been found on only one map; 336 its origin was not found.

Ward's Mills, ca. 1880-unknown. Alternate and unofficial name for Russell's Mills (q.v.). 337 Also sometimes

331 Sherl Hartman et al., History of Raccoon Township (Parke) Schools 1835-1966, mimeographed pamphlet in the possession of Sam Valentine, Markleville, Indiana, pp. 4-5.
332 U.S., Post Office Department, op. cit., p. 376.
333 Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 44.
335 Ibid., p. 308.
336 Indiana State Atlas, op. cit., p. 103.
337 Hobbs, op. cit., p. 369.
given as Ward's Town. J. Campbell Ward purchased the mill from Joseph D. Russell (after whom the official post office name was derived) in 1880; hence the name.

**Waterman, ca. 1857-.** Official name for Lodi (q.v.) despite its total lack of usage by area residents. The name was changed in 1857 to honor Richard M. Waterman, M.D., "who settled there in that year, and was instrumental in improving and building up the business interests and trade. . . ." The post office name was changed to Waterman in 1860 and, though the post office was closed in 1905, the town remained.

**West Atherton, ca. 1871-.** Village and post office, nine miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R9W Section 36. A post office was opened here in 1872; the town was platted in 1904. Sometimes given simply as Atherton. The name was obviously engendered by its proximity to Atherton in Vigo County (T13N R9W Section 1), which was platted 1871.

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Westport, ca. 1836-about 1879. A "subdivision" of Howard (q.v.),\(^{347}\) eight miles northwest of Rockville; T17N R8W Section 18. Westport was first platted by Thomas N. and James R. Burton (cf. Burton) in 1836.\(^{348}\) Beadle, writing in 1879, spoke of Westport as extinct: "Westport (now Howard)."\(^{349}\) Its name was derived from the fact that it was a port on the Wabash River (q.v.) and was west of Howard.

West Union, ca. 1822-. Town, five miles northwest of Rockville; T16N R8W Section 7. The village was settled in 1822 by John Beard, who built a mill there.\(^{350}\) It was platted in 1837.\(^{351}\) Its post office was first named Union (q.v.) but changed to Delta in 1840.\(^{352}\) The name was suggested by the town's location at the junction of roads, Sugar Creek (q.v.), the Wabash and Erie Canal feeder canal, and a railroad.\(^{353}\)

Williamson, \(^{354}\) ca. 1872-unknown. Only vaguely located (T14N R9W Section 13) in its single appearance in

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\(^{347}\) Snowden, *Legends and Lore*, p. 45.

\(^{348}\) Parke County, *Plat Book*, I, 69.

\(^{349}\) Beadle, *op. cit.*, p. 43.

\(^{350}\) Ibid., p. 169.

\(^{351}\) Parke County, *Plat Book*, I, 108.

\(^{352}\) U.S., Post Office Department, *op. cit.*, p. 376.


\(^{354}\) No authentic pronunciation available.
maps and records which this writer has studied. It may have been Lyford (q.v.). The origin of the name could not be determined.

**Wright's Mills, ca. 1847-1866.** Village and post office, six miles north of Rockville; T17N R8W Section 35. Also called Rockport (q.v.). A post office was established here in 1854 but was discontinued in 1859. The name was in use until at least 1866. This name was derived from Prior Wright's surname; it was he who first built a mill here.

**Woody's Corner, ca. 1876-1886.** First post office name for Tangier (q.v.). The first postmistress, in 1876, was Mrs. Mary C. Woody, who apparently named the post office after her own surname. The post office was discontinued in 1886.

**Yankeetown, ca. 1820-unknown.** A village, not precisely located, T16N R9W. Said to have been a "squatter town." The origin of the name could not be determined.

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355 Hobbs, *op. cit.*, map of Parke County.
357 Redfield and Logan, p. 192.
360 Ibid., p. 340.
CHAPTER II

STREAMS, LAKES, AND RIVERS OF PARKE COUNTY

Explanation and Form of the Entries

The names of streams, lakes, and rivers of Parke County have been arranged alphabetically under the current, or (in the case of obsolete names) the most common, spelling. Following this head-word will be found the date range (when determined) of usage of the name; the location, first general, then specific; variant spellings and names, with dates of occurrence; a brief history (when applicable) of the name; and the origin(s) of the name when known. The pronunciation of unusual names or pronunciations which did not adhere to general widespread pronunciation patterns were listed in the Appendix. Those names so listed in the Appendix have been indicated with an asterisk (*).

The date-range of usage of each will reflect only the date-range of a name's occurrences in print. When the informants clearly and insistently stated that the name's usage predated (or antedated) its occurrence in print that fact was so noted.

In this chapter, the type of feature has been omitted for, as Cassidy noted,¹ the generic element of natural

¹Cassidy, op. cit., pp. 201ff.
features usually remained in the place name; hence the generic element, included in the head-word, was not repeated.

The study of names of streams, lakes, and rivers presented far more difficulties than the study of settlement names in Chapter I. Names of natural features often seemed to evade entry in historical writings; informants themselves often did not know the names of natural features near them. The bulk of these names were found only on maps, which did not often indicate the origins of the names.

As Allen Walker Read has noted, the study of generic elements of names on streams, lakes, and rivers is virtually impossible. As he pointed out, what is one man's branch is another's brook. Thus no attempt was made to study this question. Still, certain points could be noted. Carmony has noted in nearby Terre Haute dialect that the generic "creek" was pronounced both to rhyme with "leak" as well as with "lick." Informants for this Parke County study, too, used both pronunciations interchangeably. Carmony noted that the generic "branch" was often used by his informants for a water-course smaller than a creek. A "brook" was "usually felt to run swiftly over a stone bed." For the former observation, Parke County informants seemed to agree.

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2Allen Walker Read, "The Challenge of Place-Name Study," unpublished paper read at the National Council of Teachers of English; annual meeting, November 29, 1969, in Washington, D.C.

with Carmony's informants. No supportive evidence was found for the second observation. Cassidy, for Dane County, Wisconsin, found that "river" was formerly more common than it was today. "Branch" was a "small stream which joins with one or more others to form a large stream." The same appeared to be true in Parke County. "Run" was rare. Relatively, "run" was not uncommon in Parke County. This, of course, was simply a reflection of the vocabulary of the North Midland dialect.

Alphabetical Listing

Alma Lake,* 1960. Extreme southeast corner of Parke County: T14N R6W Section 36. The origin could not be determined.

Bains Branch, ca. 1874—about 1960. Six miles west of Rockville; T15N R6W Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. This branch disappeared when the Mansfield Reservoir was constructed in the early 1960's. The origin could not be determined; it may have been named for a local person.

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7 Andreas, op. cit., p. 22.
8 Personal field trip, Mansfield Reservoir, January, 1970.
Big Branch, ca. 1879. Nine miles northeast of Rockville; T17N R6W Sections 5 and 8. The name was apparently descriptive.

Big Pond Creek, ca. 1872. Three miles northwest of Rockville; T15N R8W Sections 4 and 5. This name replaced Rocky Run (q.v.) at a date which could not be determined. The basis for this obviously descriptive name could not be determined for there were no "ponds" nearby.

Big Raccoon Creek, ca. 1833. Entering Parke County at Portland Mills, the creek ran southwesterly to T14N R7W Section 31, then northwesterly to its mouth on the Wabash River, T15N R9W Section 11, west of Armiesburg. This creek, second only to the Wabash River in size in Parke County, was named early. Previously called simply Raccoon Creek, it was officially renamed Big Raccoon to differentiate it from Little Raccoon Creek (q.v.). Originally it was called Pishewaw Creek. Three origins, all Amerindian, have been suggested. The first, which seemed least likely to this writer, stated that Raccoon, as a name, is a trans-

9 Beadle, op. cit., p. 372.
10 Hobbs, op. cit., map of Parke County.
11 Personal field trip to Coloma Area, January, 1970.
12 Scott, Indiana Gazetteer, p. 37.
14 Beadle, op. cit., pp. 7-11.
lation from the Miami Indian name for the stream, pin-ji-wa. Pishewaw then was simply a corruption of the Miami Indian name.\textsuperscript{15} The second origin stated the name derived from the Miami name for a nearby trail, she-qui-oh, meaning "Lean Raccoon."\textsuperscript{16} The third origin, suggested by Jacob Piatt Dunn, stated that the name Raccoon was a translation of the Miami name for the creek, a-se-pa-na-si-pi-wi, meaning "raccoon."\textsuperscript{17} Whatever the Indian word, the name apparently was ultimately derived from an Amerindian source.

**Bill Diddel Creek**, 1965-. One mile northwest of Rockville; T16N R8W Section 36. This stream was named in honor of William Diddel in 1965 for his "valuable services as a golf course designer." He designed the county golf course through which this stream runs.\textsuperscript{18}

**Brush Creek**, first and only noted use in print: 1879. This name occurred in only one written record, Beadle's *History of Parke County, Indiana*, and was said to be located in Sugar Creek Township.\textsuperscript{19} It has apparently dropped out of usage as Geological Survey Maps did not contain

\textsuperscript{15} Snowden, *Legends and Lore*, p. 36. Pin-ji-wa, Snowden stated, meant "Wildcat."


\textsuperscript{17} Dunn, *Indiana and Indianans*, p. 95.

\textsuperscript{18} Snowden, *Legends and Lore*, p. 38.

\textsuperscript{19} Beadle, *op. cit.*, p. 442.
this name. The stream might have been so named for the Brush family in nearby Brown Township, Montgomery County.\textsuperscript{20} Carbon Stream, first and only noted use in print: 1960.\textsuperscript{21} Six miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R6W Section 31. The origin could not be determined. Cat Creek, first and only noted use in print: 1955.\textsuperscript{22} The origin could not be determined.\textsuperscript{23} Clear Run, ca. 1872-. Seven miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Section 21, 22, 23, 26. The generic name, creek, appeared in two sources;\textsuperscript{24} the generic "run" 


\textsuperscript{21} U.S., Department of Interior, Brazil East Map.

\textsuperscript{22} Ibid., Geological Survey Map, Montezuma Quadrangle (Washington, D.C.: Geological Survey, 1955). (Hereinafter referred to as Montezuma Map.)

\textsuperscript{23} It was interesting to speculate on a very remote possibility for the origin of this name. In very early maps there was a French name on a river, Du Chat ("of the cat"). (Heinemann, map, Library of Congress Date: 1720, which contained Nation du chat located roughly south of Lake Erie; Heinemann, map, 1725, showed a river named du Chat as a southern tributary of the Wabash; Henry Popple, map, ca. 1735, entered an area, south of Lake Erie as Nation du Chat; all maps were in Atlas, II, 35-41). In the earliest (and most inaccurate) maps the DuChat River appeared to be an eastern or southern tributary of the Wabash; later, and presumably more accurately, maps showed this river in present-day Illinois. Thus the name of Parke County's Cat River might possibly have derived from those early and remote maps of the French explorers.

\textsuperscript{24} Bourquin, op. cit., and Hobbs, op. cit., map of Parke County.
occurred in two. The name was descriptive.

**Coal Creek, ca. 1826.** Ten miles northwest of Rockville; T17N R9W Sections 1, 2, 3 (continuing into Fountain County). One of the larger streams in the county, Coal Creek was one of the earliest named. Its descriptive name derived from the "best coal bank that has been found in the state."27

**Cornstalk Creek, ca. 1833-unknown.** Seven miles north of Rockville; vaguely located in T17N R7W Section 23 or 25. The name was derived from the nickname of an Amerindian tribal chief, whose village, Cornstalk (q.v.) was located thereon.29

**Cox No. 1 Ditch, unknown.** Seven miles southwest of Rockville; T14N RSW Sections 26 and 35. The earliest record of this name found in print, was a Geological Survey Map of

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27*Indiana Gazetteer or Topographical Dictionary of the State of Indiana* (Indianapolis: E. Chamberlin, 1849), p. 197. (Hereinafter referred to as *Topographical Dictionary*.)

28Branson, "Historical Survey," p. 27.

29Beadle, *op. cit.*, p. 351.
1962. In Vigo County this was called Cress Run, because the "upper reach of Cress Run... passes very close to "a Cress Cemetery... it was thus concluded that the cemetery name formed the base for the... variant stream name Cress Run. The name was officially changed to Cox No. 1 Ditch. The origin presumably derived from a local resident's surname.

Cress Run, first and only noted use in print: 1962. Five miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R6W Sections 1 and 2. The name was obviously descriptive.

Cress Run, ca. 1833. Extreme southeast corner of Parke County; T14N R6W Sections 26 and 35. On one map it was apparently misprinted as Cory's Creek, on another

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31 Ibid., Department of Interior, Geological Survey Map, Brazil West Quadrangle (Washington, D.C.: Geological Survey, 1960). (Hereinafter referred to as Brazil West Map.)

32 Indiana, Board on Geographic Names, "Findings, January 18, 1963," typewritten, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana.


34 Scott, Indiana Gazetteer, p. 55.

35 Illustrated Historical Atlas of Indiana (Chicago: Baskin, Forster, and Company, 1876), p. 264. (Hereinafter referred to as Historical Atlas.)
Troys Creek,\textsuperscript{36} and on one map Groves Creek.\textsuperscript{37} One source seemed to have confused this stream with Cross Creek in Clay County.\textsuperscript{38} This stream was named for a local land-owning family.\textsuperscript{39}

\textbf{Cumberland Creek, ca. 1874\textsuperscript{40}}. Three miles east of Rockville; T15N R7W Sections 1, 12, 13. In the most recent Geological Survey Map this stream appeared but was unnamed.\textsuperscript{41} Its origin could not be determined; the deed records did not show any Cumberland in Parke County.\textsuperscript{42}

\textbf{Denman Creek, ca. 1878\textsuperscript{43}}. Eight miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Sections 30, 31, 32. Probably named for Isaac W. Denman, the first preacher of the Baptist Church in Section 32, Raccoon Township, who conducted services in the church from its inception in 1835 to 1875.\textsuperscript{43}

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\textsuperscript{37}Indiana, Department of Conservation, Clay City Drainage Map, 1923 (n.p., 1923).
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\textsuperscript{39}Indiana, Board on Geographic Names, "Findings, June 15, 1962," typewritten, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana.
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\textsuperscript{40}Andreas, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 39.
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\textsuperscript{41}U.S., Department of Interior, Rockville Map.
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\textsuperscript{42}Parke County, Indices of Deed Records, Recorder's Office, County Courthouse, Rockville, Indiana.
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\textsuperscript{43}Beadle, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 231.
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East Fork Rush Creek, first and only noted use in print: 1955. Eight miles northwest of Rockville; T17N R8W Sections 11, 15, 22. This branch of Rush Creek (q.v.) was named descriptively.

East Prong Green Creek, first and only noted use in print: 1961. Eight miles north of Rockville; T17N R7W Sections 8 and 17. This branch of Green Creek (q.v.) was named descriptively.

Ebenezer Creek, first and only noted use in print: 1960. Nine miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R6W Sections 31 and 32. Humorous name, said to have been given to the Geological Survey team while compiling their map in 1960; its nearness to Scrouge Branch (q.v.) indicated the name's reference to the character in Dickens' A Christmas Carol; this stream, like Scrooge, was miserly. 47

Flo Run, first and only noted use in print: 1960. Nine miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Section 31. The origin could not be determined.


46 U.S., Department of Interior, Brazil East Map.


48 U.S., Department of Interior, Brazil West Map.
Ford Run, first and only noted use in print: 1960. 49 Nine miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Section 33. The origin could not be determined.

Green Creek, ca. 187250. Eight miles north of Rockville; T17N R7W Sections 17 and 20. Originally spelled Greene, it was found still occasionally so spelled. Named after Johnny Green(e),51 the last surviving Wea Indian in Parke County, who lived along this creek.52 (See also East, Middle, and West Prongs Green Creek.)

Groundhog Creek, ca. 187453. Eight miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R6W Sections 11, 12, 13. This stream was named for the local groundhogs.54 (On this creek, in Section 12, is Groundhog Falls.)

Hopper Branch, ca. 1874. Five miles south of Rockville; T14N R7W Sections 7 and 8. Although the 1952 Geological Survey Map contained this stream, it was left unnamed. Apparently it was named for A. Hopper on whose land the mouth of the stream was located.55

49 Ibid., Brazil West Map.
50 Hobbs, op. cit., map of Parke County.
51 Beadle, op. cit., p. 442.
52 Frazier, op. cit., p. 9.
55 Andreas, op. cit., p. 62.
Howard Creek, date range of usage and location could not be determined. This stream name was found only once in print; mentioned among a list (otherwise verified) of streams in Parke County. The origin could not be determined.

Indian Branch, first and only noted use in print: 1963. Eight miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R6W Sections 14 and 15. The origin could not be determined.

Iron Creek, ca. 1874 -about 1963. Mouth of the creek: six miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R8W Section 16, running through Sections 3, 10, 15; T15N R8W Sections 22, 27, 34. Originally Iron Creek branched into two smaller branches in Section 22; the east fork, in Sections 3, 10, and 15, was called Rock Run. In 1963 the Geological Survey team renamed the entire stream Rock Run (q.v.). The origin could not be determined.

Jack Brook, first and only noted use in print: 1960. Southeast corner of Parke County; T14N R6W Section 35. The origin could not be determined.

Jeffries Run, first and only noted use in print: 1960. Eight miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Sec-

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56 *Historical Atlas*, op. cit., p. 264.
57 U.S., Department of Interior, *Mansfield Map*.
58 *Andreas*, op. cit., p. 38.
59 U.S., Department of Interior, *Mecca Map*.
60 Snowden, *Legends and Lore*, map.
61 U.S., Department of Interior, *Brazil East Map*.
tion 33. The origin could not be determined; it was probably named for local residents.

**Jim Branch**, first and only noted use in print: 1955. Nine miles northwest of Rockville: T17N R8W Sections 16, 19, 20, 21. Named for a local man who led the early settlers of the area from North Carolina.64

**Keller's Branch**, first and only noted use in print: 1961. Seven miles north of Rockville; T17N R7W Section 24, R6W Sections 19 and 20. This branch was probably named for early family of settlers.66

**Lakeys Branch,** ca. 1874. Three miles southeast of Rockville; T15N R7W Sections 27, 33, 34. The origin could not be determined.

**Leatherwood Branch**, first and only noted use in print: 1952. One miles southeast of Rockville; T15N R7W Sections 15 and 23. Possibly first named by the Geological Survey team; Its origin most probably was the same as Leatherwood Creek (q.v.) with which this stream should not be confused.

63 U.S., Department of Interior, *Kingman Map.*
64 Ruth Pickard, personal letter, January 2, 1970.
65 U.S., Department of Interior, *Wallace Map.*
68 U.S., Department of Interior, *Catlin Map.*
Leatherwood Creek, ca. 1825. Headwaters: T16N R7W Section 10; mouth: T15N R6W Section 7. One of the larger streams in the county, it was one of the earliest named. Its first noted occurrence in print was on the plat of Rockville, 1825 (given as Leather-wood Alley, cf. Sugar-Creek). Named by the pioneers because of the Leatherwood shrubs (Dirca palustris) which still abound along its course.

Lena Drain, first and only noted use in print: 1960. Extreme southeast corner of Parke County; T14N R6W Section 36. This drain was named after the nearby town of Lena (q.v.).

Limestone Branch, ca. 1874. Six miles southeast of Rockville; T15N R6W Sections 23, 27, 28. It was named for the presence of limestone in the vicinity.

Little Leatherwood Creek, ca. 1874. Four miles northwest of Rockville; T16N R8W Sections 16, 20, 21. On the 1955 Geological Survey Map this stream was unnamed. This

69 Parke County, Plat Book, I, 2.
70 Lowell Osborne, personal letter, December 18, 1969.
71 U.S., Department of Interior, Brazil East Map.
73 Andreas, op. cit., p. 22.
74 Juliet Snowden, private interview, Rockville, Indiana, December, 1969; also see Snowden, Guidebook, p. 79.
75 Andreas, op. cit., p. 74.
76 U.S., Department of Interior, Montezuma Map.
creek was named because it was a small tributary of Leatherwood Creek (q.v.).

**Little Raccoon Creek**, ca. 1833-. Headwaters: Montgomery County, entering Parke County T16N R6W Section 4; flowing southwesterly to its mouth on Big Raccoon Creek (q.v.), T14N R8W Section 23. The third largest stream in Parke County, it was early named. Its first noted use in print was 1833. It was named because it was the largest tributary of Big Raccoon Creek.

**Little Rocky Fork**, ca. 1876-. Six miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Sections 15, 16, 22, 23, 26. It was named because it was a tributary of Rocky Fork (q.v.).

**Long Straight Branch**, ca. 1874-. Six miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R6W Sections 3, 10, 15. The origin of the name could not be determined.

**Mansfield Reservoir**, ca. 1960-. Six miles east of Rockville; T15N R6W Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28. It was named after the nearby town of Mansfield.

**Maxwell Branch**, first and only noted use in print: 1961. Eight miles northeast of Rockville; T17N R6W Sec-

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78 Historical Atlas, p. 264.
tions 17 and 18. Possibly it was named after a family of early settlers, one of whom, Samuel D. Maxwell, was the first sheriff of Montgomery County. 82

**Middle Prong Green Creek**, first and only noted use in print: 1961. 83 It was descriptively named as a branch of Green Creek (q.v.).

**Miller's Branch**, first and only noted use in print: 1874. Location not found. This, a tributary of Little Raccoon Creek, otherwise unrecorded, was mentioned in text only. 84 It did not occur in the Geological Survey Maps of Parke County. The origin could not be determined.

**Molasses Creek**, first and only noted use in print: 1952. 85 One mile southeast of Rockville; T15N R7W Sections 16, 21, 28. This creek was humorously and descriptively named. 86

**Montgomery Branch**, first and only noted use in print: 1961. 87 Six miles northeast of Rockville; T17N R6W Sections 16, 17, 18. It was presumably named after Montgomery County, wherein the headwaters of the stream were located.

82 Kennedy, *op. cit.*, p. 15.
83 U.S., Department of Interior, *Wallace Map*.
85 U.S., Department of Interior, *Catlin Map*.
87 U.S., Department of Interior, *Alamo Map*.
88 Mrs. Mary Frazier, Sugar Creek Township historian, personal letter, March 11, 1970.
No Brook, first and only noted use in print: 1960. Eight miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Sections 35 and 36. This branch was believed to have been humorously named because it was so small and insignificant.

Otter Creek, ca. 1833. Eight miles southeast of Rockville; rising in Parke County flowing south into Vigo County, T14N R7W Sections 25 and 35. In 1960, the Geological Survey team, for clarity, renamed this portion of the stream North Branch Otter Creek. It was named for the otter found in the area.

Raccoon Creek (See Big Raccoon Creek.)

Rass Clore Branch,* first and only noted use in print: 1961. Extreme northeast corner of Parke County; T17N R6W Sections 8 and 9. The stream was named for Rass Clore, an early settler in the area. His descendants still live on the stream.

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89 U.S., Department of Interior, Brazil West Map.
91 Scott, Indiana Gazetteer, p. 135.
92 U.S., Department of Interior, Brazil East Map.
94 U.S., Department of Interior, Rockville Map.
95 Susie Lee Cummings, private interview, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana, November, 1969.
Rays Branch, first and only noted use in print: 1874. One mile northeast of Rockville; T16N R7W Sections 35 and 36. On the 1955 Geological Survey Map this stream was unnamed. It was named for the local landowner Andrew Ray; the mouth of the stream was in his land. (cf. Ray's Tavern, above.)

Reedys Creek, date range of usage could not be determined; in use: 1874, and 1876. Five miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R6W Sections 17, 18, 21. On the 1963 Geological Survey Map, this stream was unnamed. The origin could not be determined.

Roaring Creek, ca. 1833. Six miles north of Rockville; mouth: T17N R7W Section 30, flowed southwesterly to T16N R7W Sections 5 and 6, then east to Section 2. This creek was descriptively named.

Rock Run, first and only noted use in print: 1951. Mouth of the stream: near Coxville, T14N R8W Sec-

97 Andreas, op. cit., p. 34.
98 U.S., Department of Interior, Rockville Map.
99 Andreas, op. cit., p. 34.
100 Ibid., p. 26.
101 Historical Atlas, p. 26. The name was given as Ready's Branch.
102 U.S., Department of Interior, Mansfield Map.
103 Scott, Indiana Gazetteer, p. 150.
104 Susie Lee Cummings, private interview, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana, November, 1969.
105 U.S., Department of Interior, Mecca Map.
tion 16, running north to T15N R8W Section 15. Distinctly separate from Rocky Run (q.v.). Apparently Rock Run was a descriptive name.

Rocky Fork Creek, ca. 1874. Mouth of the stream: near Mansfield, T14N R6W Section 5. The stream flowed through Sections 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16 and T15N R6W Sections 25, 35, 36. Rocky Fork was apparently a descriptive name.

Rocky Fork Lake, first and only noted use in print: 1963. West of Mansfield; T14N R6W Sections 3 and 10. It was named after Rocky Fork Creek (q.v.); strangely enough this lake was located on Long Straight Branch (q.v.).

Rocky Run, unknown-1872. Three miles west of Rockville; T15N R8W Sections 4, 5, 6 and T16N R8W Sections 27, 33, 34. This apparently descriptive name was replaced by Big Pond Creek (q.v.).

Rush Creek, ca. 1874. Eight miles northwest of Rockville; T16N R8W Sections 5 and 6, and T17N R8W Sections 22, 27, 28, 33. The origin could not be determined.

Sand Creek, ca. 1872. Three miles west of Rockville; T15N R7W Sections 3, 4, 10 and T16N R7W Sections 21, 22, 28, 34, 38. Sand was a descriptive name.

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107 U.S., Department of Interior, Mansfield Map.
108 Hobbs, op. cit., map of Parke County.
109 Andreas, op. cit., p. 74.
110 Hobbs, op. cit., map of Parke County.
Scrouge/[sic.] 7 Branch,* first and only noted use in print: 1960. Extreme southeast corner of Parke County; T14N R6W Sections 33 and 34. This humorous name was correctly spelled Scrooge. 112 Note nearby Ebenezer Creek (q.v.), which, in connection with this stream, had obvious reference to Dickens' character in *A Christmas Carol.*

Spring Creek, ca. 1869113 -. Seven miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R8W Sections 20, 21, 28, 29, 32, continued into Vigo County. Apparently a descriptive name.

Springdale Run, ca. 1873114 -. Four miles northeast of Rockville; T16N R7W Sections 14 and 24. Unnamed on the 1955 Geological Survey Map.115 This run was named descriptively because of the springs as its "sources"116 plus the suffix for valley.

Straight Branch (See Long Straight Branch).

Strange Branch, ca. 1874117 -. Six miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Sections 1, 2, 11, 14, 15 and T15N

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111 U.S., Department of Interior, *Brazil East Map.*
114 Parke County, *Plat Book,* I, 127.
115 U.S., Department of Interior, *Rockville Map.*
R6W Section 30. No other stream name in Parke County (except possibly the Wabash) has suffered so much in the hands of historians and cartographers. Variously spelled: Strongers Branch, Strangers Branch, Stranger's Branch, and Stranges Branch. It was named for early (and possibly first) settler on the stream, James Strange.

Sugar Creek, ca. 1826. Six miles north of Rockville; mouth of the stream: T16N R9W Section 1, running eastward across northern Parke County to Montgomery County. This, the third largest stream of the county, was very early named. It was one of three streams in Parke County whose Indian name has been preserved in translation. Two separate Algonquin tribes each had a name for this creek. The Pottawatom tribe called it pun-go-se-co-ne (meaning "Sugar Tree Creek"). The local Parke County tribe, the Miamis, called this stream the sa-na-min-dji-si-pi-wi (also meaning Sugar Tree Creek). When the French trappers and explorers

118 Historical Atlas, p. 6.
119 U.S., Department of Interior, Catlin Map.
120 Beadle, op. cit., p. 190.
121 Andreas, op. cit., p. 62.
122 Memories, op. cit.
123 John Scott, Map of Indiana.
124 Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 36.
125 Beadle, op. cit., p. 10.
126 Dunn, Indiana and Indianans, p. 95. It was interesting to note that the final three syllables in this name are also found in the name Mississippi.
entered the area, it was called Rock River or Rocky River. Too, it was called Rock or Rocky River by the earliest English-speaking settlers until John McDonald's survey of the area (its first, 1810) restored the Amerindian name in translation to the stream. In 1826 the name was simplified to Sugar Creek.

Sugar Mill Creek, ca. 1872. Seven miles north of Rockville; T17N R7W Sections 3, 4, 9, 15, 20, 21, 28, 29. Originally called Mill Creek (and still informally) the name has been enlarged to avoid confusion with Wabash Mill Creek (q.v.). It was named Mill Creek because of the presence of water-driven mills on it; the element, Sugar, derived from

127 Beadle, op. cit., p. 10. Suggestive evidence has been found that Beadle may have "nodded" at this point. In the Indiana State Library were bound volumes of very early maps (titled: Atlas) which contained the area of Indiana. There was one map, drawn by Lardieu in Paris in 1808 (Atlas, II, 6-7), which contained Rocky River (in English) along with French names of nearby rivers, such as R. Duchat (cf. Cat Creek, above), Broette (now Brouillette Creek in Illinois), and the Wabash. This map might have led Beadle to believe Rocky River was French in origin. The fact, however, that only Rocky River was English seemed to refute its French origin. This map was found to be simply an exact duplicate (except for legends and certain names) of A. Arrowsmith's London map of 1796 (Atlas, II, 2-3). It was also interesting to note on an 1804 German map (Sotzmann) that Rocky River was given as Felsigter Fluss (Atlas, I, 95).

128 Beadle, op. cit., p. 10.

129 It was interesting to note a Sugar Tree Alley on the Rockville plat of 1825, along with Leather Wood Alley. (Parke County, Flat Book, I, 2.)

130 Scott, Map of Indiana.

131 Hobbs, op. cit., map of Parke County.
the fact that this Mill Creek is a tributary of Sugar Creek (q.v.).  

**Sulphur Branch**, first and only noted use in print: 1963. Seven miles south of Rockville; T14N R6W Sections 26 and 27. The origin could not be determined.

**Sunderland Creek**, ca. 1874. One mile south of Rockville: T15N R8W Sections 13, 24, 25, 31, 36 and T14N R7W Sections 6 and 7. On the 1952 Geological Survey Map it was given as Sunderland Branch. It was named for John Sunderland, Sr., who settled T14N R7W Section 7 in 1821.

**Sutherlin Branch**, ca. 1874-. Seven miles east of Rockville; T15N R6W Sections 24, 25, 26, 35. On the 1963 Geographical Survey Map this stream was unnamed. This branch was named for the Sutherlin family who settled on and around the stream in 1821.

**Troutman Creek**, ca. 1874-. Six miles east of Rockville: T15N R6W Sections 5, 8, 9. Prior to the construction

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133 U.S., Department of Interior, Mecca Map.  
134 Andreas, op. cit., p. 39.  
135 U.S., Department of Interior, Catlin Map.  
136 Beadle, op. cit., p. 22.  
137 U.S., Department of Interior, Mansfield Map.  
138 Andreas, op. cit., p. 22. (Also see: Beadle, op. cit., pp. 190-95; Laney, op. cit., p. 8; and Brown, op. cit., pp. 3-11.)
of the Mansfield Reservoir (ca. 1960) the stream was also in Sections 16, 21, 28. It was named for original landowner on the stream, 139 James Troutman. 140

Turkey Run, first and only noted use in print: 1961. Seven miles northeast of Rockville; T17N R7W Sections 28 and 34. This run was named for the formerly large number of wild turkeys in the area. 142

Wabash River, first noted in print under head-word spelling: 1784. 143 The Wabash River formed the western boundary of Parke County, separating Parke from Vermillion County, Indiana. The name Wabash was said to have derived from an Amerindian word(s). Various contradictory sources and meanings have been given. Most authoritative, perhaps, was Jacob Piatt Dunn's statement that the name came from the Miami Indian name for the river which was wa-ba-ci-ki or wa-pa-ci-ki ("b" and "p" being interchangeable). Wa-ba or wa-pa was an adjective which implied that the referrent was "pure white, inanimate, and natural." In this case the word

139 Arnold Lycan, life-long resident of the immediate area, private interview, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana, December, 1969.
140 Beadle, op. cit., p. 195.
141 U.S., Department of Interior, Wallace Map.
referred to the limestone beds in the river's upper reaches. Gabriel Godfrey, an old Miami Indian, said Wabash meant White Stone River. Gannett recorded that Wabash came from an Amerindian word *wuabache* meaning "cloud borne by an equinoctial wind" or "white water." Beckwith has noted that the earliest recorded use of any form of Wabash occurred in Father Marquette's journal of his and Joliet's travels in this area in 1673, in which *Ouabouskigou* was used to design-

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144 Dunn, Indiana and Indianans, p. 96.


146 Gannett, op. cit., p. 311. In the Indiana Historical Society Library, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana, was an informal card file of Indiana place names. Under the card for the Wabash River, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft was cited for this origin of the name: *waub* meaning "the radix of white" plus *oshee* meaning "clouds borne by an equinoctial wind" plus *ong* meaning "locality." The card indicated that this origin was also recorded in Webster's Dictionary (no edition given) and by Gannett. In Jacob Piatt Dunn's manuscript files, Note Number 38 (same library), Dunn laughed at Gannett for his alleged origin of the name Wabash. Dunn accused Gannett of having asked a Miami Indian what "Wabash" meant in English. Presumably not knowing how to explain that "Wabash" meant "clear white," the Indian, Dunn supposed, looked about for a pure white object. Seeing only a white cloud in the sky, the Indian, assumed Dunn, pointed at it and said, "that's Wabash." So explained Dunn. In light of Schoolcraft's citation on the card this theory of Dunn's appeared invalid. The card further cited that Kelton, in Indian Names, 1888, p. 53, gave the name as *Wabantikisibi* meaning "Bog River," derived from the Indian *wab* meaning "white," *ashk* meaning "grass," and *iki* meaning "ground."
nate the Wabash. Beckwith further noted the variant spellings: Abache, Ouabache, Oubache, Oubash, Oubask, Oubache, Wabascou, Wabache, and Waoubache. Discussing the meaning "white" which was contained in the origin of Wabash, Beckwith, too, noted the various dialect forms used for this meaning: Ojibway, waw-bish-kaw; Menominees, waw-bish; Ancient Algonquin, wa-bi; Modern Algonquin, wabisa. For a period of time the river was also called Riviere Saint Jerome by the French. The most that could objectively be said about the origin was that the name Wabash came from the Algonquin family of dialects, meaning "white" in those dialects.

Wabash Mill Creek, ca. 1849-. Eight miles northwest of Rockville; T17N R8W Sections 6, 8, 17, 18, 19, continuing on into Fountain County, Indiana. Originally called Mill Creek, it was renamed Wabash Mill Creek in order to distinguish it from Sugar Mill Creek (q.v.). It was named because it had mills on it.

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148 Ibid., p. 100.
149 Ibid.
150 Atlas, I. Various maps contained therein, range in dates from 1715-1785.
151 Indiana Gazetteer, p. 318.
Wapalo Creek,* first and only noted use in print: 153
1961. Seven miles northeast of Rockville; T17N R7W Sections 25 and 26. The name was of Indian origin; Wapalo was said to have meant "chief" or "princes." 154

Web Run, first and only noted use in print:
1960. 155 Eight miles southeast of Rockville; T14N R7W Section 31. The origin could not be determined.

Webster Creek, first and only noted use in print:
1960. Eight miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R7W Section 31. The origin was not found; however, the creek may have been named for early settlers inasmuch as Webster Cemetery is nearby. 156

Weisner's Branch,* ca. 1874 157 -. Three miles southwest of Rockville; T14N R8W Sections 2, 11, 14 and T15N R8W Sections 23, 26, 35, 36. On the 1951 Geological Survey Map the name was simplified to Weisner Creek. 158 Origin unknown; in light of the possessive form of the specific name, it was undoubtedly named for a person.

Welchel Branch,* first and only noted use in print:
1961. 159 Extreme northeast corner of Parke County; T17N R6W

153 U.S., Department of Interior, Wallace Map.
154 Memories, op. cit. The specific Amerindian language was not given.
155 U.S., Department of Interior, Brazil West Map.
156 Ibid., Brazil West Map.
157 Andreas, op. cit., p. 38.
158 U.S., Department of Interior, Mecca Map.
159 U.S., Department of Interior, Alamo Map.
Sections 18, 19, 20. The origin could not be found; the branch may have been named for local man's surname.¹⁶⁰

West Fork Rush Creek, first and only noted use in print: 1955.¹⁶¹ Nine miles northwest of Rockville; T17N R8W Sections 4, 10, 15, 22. Descriptively named. (See Rush Creek, above.)

West Prong Green Creek, first and only noted use in print: 1955. Seven miles north of Rockville; T17N R7W Sections 7, 12, 18. Descriptively named branch of Green Creek (q.v.).

Williams Creek, ca. 1845-. In the center of Parke County; T15N R7W Sections 17, 20, 29. Locally and popularly called Billy Creek. In 1845 this stream was named by the Parke Lodge No. 8, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, which asked that it be named in honor of Caleb Williams, who, unlike his fellow storekeepers, had refused to yield to the period's temperance movement by continuing to sell whiskey. Finally, however, Caleb "reluctantly agreed" to stop selling liquor and his decision was joyously received¹⁶³ (by some).

Wolf Creek, ca. 1874¹⁶⁴-. Near the extreme north-

¹⁶¹U.S., Department of Interior, Kingman Map.
¹⁶²Loc. cit.
¹⁶³Snowden, Legends and Lore, p. 38.
¹⁶⁴Andreas, op. cit., p. 21.
east corner of Parke County; T17N R7W Sections 1 and 2.
Origin unknown; however, the proximity of Panther Creek, Buffalo Creek, and Buffalo Branch in nearby Fountain County must have influenced this name.

Zellers Pond,* first and only noted use in print: 1952. Seven miles southeast of Rockville: T14N R7W Section 25 (west). The origin could not be determined; the pond was probably named for William Zeller who was an early settler.

165 U.S., Department of Interior, Wallace Map.
166 Ibid., Catlin Map.
167 Memories, op. cit.
CHAPTER III

CONCLUSION

The place names of Parke County examined in this study have been classified in accordance with the method used by Cassidy in his study of the place names of Dane County, Wisconsin.¹ Some changes and adjustments have been made. Thus he has one listing for "descriptive" and for "locational" names; they have been here separated. Two classifications have been added: literary, and flora and fauna. In all, fifteen categories were established for the place names in Parke County. These follow, listed in order of frequency; however, names of unknown origin appeared at the end of the classification:

1. Local person.—Names derived from people living in Parke County or in nearby counties.

   Archer Hollow  Banner Mills  Caseyville
   Bradfield Corner  Catlin  Copeland
   Bruin's Crossroads  Cornstalk (q.v.)²  Coxville
   Buchanan's Springs  Dickson's Mills
   Burton


²Whenever there might have been a question of the validity of the classification, the name was marked (q.v.).
2. Descriptive.—Names engendered by the objective attributes of the feature itself, or of the general and immediate area.

- Arabia
- Armiesburg
- Midway
- Rockport
- Stringtown
- Sylvania
- Westport
- Big Branch
- Big Pond Creek
- Clear Run
- Coal Creek
- Crooked Branch
- Wright's Mills
- Woody's Corner
- Bains Branch
- Bill Diddle Creek
- Brush Creek (q.v.)
- Cornstalk Creek (q.v.)
- Cox No. 1 Ditch
- Croys Creek
- Denman Creek
- Green Creek (q.v.)
- Hopper Branch
- Jeffries Run
- Jim Branch
- Kellers Branch
- Maxwell Branch
- Rass Clore Branch
- Ray's Branch
- Strange Branch (q.v.)
- Sunderland Creek
- Sutherlin Branch
- Troutman Branch
- Webster Branch
- Weisner's Branch
- Welchel Branch
- Williams Creek
- Zellers Pond

3. Nearby place or establishment.—This category included such a town name as South Waveland, named after nearby Waveland in Montgomery County; and Cokes Oven Hollow, a village named for its local coking oven.
Bridgeton  
Clinton Locks  
Coke Oven Hollow  
Diamond (q.v.)  
Foundry  
Grange Corner  
Grangeburg  
Leatherwood  
Parkeville  
Rocky Run (q.v.)

4. Distant place.--A place name derived from a geographic location outside the present area of Indiana.

Annapolis  
Bethany  
Buncombe  
Cincinnati  
Dublin  
Klondyke  
Lodi  
Northampton  
Portland Mills  
Tangier

5. Anecdotic, ironic, or humorous.--These elements were often difficult to identify; the categorization was usually subjective.

Java  
Mecca  
Mecca Mills  
Needmore  
New Discovery (q.v.)  
Pin Hook  
Rockville (q.v.)  
Sodom  
No Brook

6. Non-local person.--Names derived from people who did not live in Parke County or adjacent counties.

Byron  
Gallatin  
Guion  
Hollandsburg  
Judson  
Lyford  
Montezuma

7. Flora and fauna.--Names derived from the local flora and fauna. This category, not used by Cassidy, might have been considered a subdivision of descriptive names.

Cat Creek  
Groundhog Creek  
Leatherwood Branch  
Leatherwood Creek  
Otter Creek  
Turkey Run  
Wolf Creek
8. **Amerindian.**—Names derived from the American Indians, either in transliteration or translations.

- Numa
- Big Raccoon Creek
- Sugar Creek
- Wabash River
- Wapalo Creek

9. **Locational.**—Names clearly developed to distinguish the feature in question from another similarly named feature.

- East Fork Rush Creek
- East Prong Green Creek
- Middle Prong Green Creek
- West Fork Rush Creek
- West Prong Green Creek

10. **Blends.**—Place names which had two elements within the specific name, each derived from separate influences, e.g., Bellmore; or one element derived from two influences.

- Bellmore
- Molasses Creek
- Roaring Creek
- Sugar Mill Creek
- Wabash Mill Creek

11. **Subjectively descriptive.**—A town name such as Ferndale, where no ferns or dales were, was considered subjectively descriptive in origin.

- Bloomfield
- Bloomingdale
- Elevatis
- Ferndale

12. **Literary.**—Names derived from the published canon of literature.

- Ebenezer Creek
- Scrouge [sic.] Branch

13. **Inspirational or symbolic.**—Superior.

14. **European language.**—Only one name of European language origin was found, Coloma, from Spanish. (Bellmore, Annapolis, Rockville, Armiesburg, and other such names con-
A number of conclusions have been drawn in comparison and contrast with two other typical mid-western place-name studies: Cassidy's study of Dane County, Wisconsin,3 and Florence Gratzer's study of Lawrence County, Indiana.4

Table 1 must be regarded with discretion and care. Cassidy, with roughly eight times as many names (1,553), warned that his charts, too, must be read with caution, for, as he wrote, "This list of names is surely not complete. . . ."5

3Cassidy, op. cit.


5Cassidy, op. cit., p. 225.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Artificial features</th>
<th>Natural features</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local person</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>32.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descriptive</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearby place or establishment</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distant place</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anecdotic, ironic, or humorous</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-local person</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flora and fauna</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amerindian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locational</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blends</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subjectively descriptive</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspirational or symbolic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European language</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>112</strong></td>
<td><strong>82</strong></td>
<td><strong>194</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As shown in Table 1, one hundred ninety-four names were studied. Of these the overwhelming bulk were derived from local persons' names (category 1): 32.9 per cent. This corresponded closely with Gratzer's 34.6 per cent and Cassidy's 24.90 per cent for artificial features (in this study: towns, villages, post offices, and railroad stations) and 31.94 per cent for natural features (in this study: rivers, streams, and lakes).

The second most common category (category 15) of names in Parke County was names of unknown origin. Cassidy found that roughly 2 per cent of all names were of unknown origin. Gratzer found 16 per cent were unknown in origin; this study found 15.9 per cent.

The third most common category (category 2) of names in Parke County was descriptive names, which constituted 14.4 per cent of all names studied (see Table 1). This compared closely with Gratzer's 16.6 per cent. In Cassidy's study, 36.28 per cent of all natural features were so named, and of artificial features 19.14 per cent. Had descriptive names not been divided here into three categories (i.e., descriptive, locational, flora and fauna) the percentage of the undivided category would have more closely matched Cassidy's: 20.5 per cent. Still, in Parke County, as well as in Dane County, far more natural features were so named than artificial features.

Other categories of names in Parke County closely followed Cassidy's.
Gratzer noted in her study of Lawrence County that the most frequent suffix of town names was "-ville." This was also true in Parke County. Gratzer found fourteen such names; this study revealed nine. Gratzer found three towns ending in "-ton." This study found four. For each of the suffixes "-town," "-port," and "-vale," Gratzer found one town. This study found six "-town" endings; only one "-port" was found; no "-vale" endings were found.

Gratzer found only one Amerindian name: Huron. This study cited five (see Table 1). Gratzer found only one "foreign" name: Bono; this study, too, found only one: Coloma.

Generic water-course names of Parke County corresponded closely with those listed by Cassidy for Dane County. The single noticeable variation between the two studies was Parke County's relatively high use of the generic "run" as opposed to Dane County's rare use, as noted in the following comparison:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Dane County (Names)</th>
<th>Parke County (Names)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rivers</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creeks</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branches</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runs</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditches</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>108</strong></td>
<td><strong>73</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In his Dane County study, Cassidy concluded by pointing out that subjectively descriptive names (category 11) are rare for natural features, but not uncommon for artificial features. As shown in Table 1, this, too, was true for Parke County. Cassidy noted that names for distant places (category 4) and non-local people (category 6) were several times more common on artificial features than on natural features. The same was found to be true in Parke County.

In Dane County, Amerindian names appeared five times as often with reference to natural features as to artificial ones. The ratio was four to one in Parke County.

With the few exceptions pointed out above, naming of places in Parke County, both of artificial and of natural features, was not unlike that of two other typical midwestern counties, Dane in Wisconsin, and Lawrence in Indiana.
APPENDIX

Certain names in this study may present problems of pronunciation. The local pronunciations have been here listed alphabetically, with appropriate phonetic symbols from Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary.¹

Alma Lake  'al-me

Annapolis  e-'na-plas

Arabia  e-'rā-bē-ə

Bruin's Crossroads  'brū-enz krōs-,rödz

Buchanan's Springs  byū-'kan-enz 'spring

Buncombe  'ben-kem

Caseyville  'kā-zē-vil

Coloma  ke-'lō-me

Dotyville  'dō-tē-vil

Elevatis  el-ə-'vā-tes

Gallatin  'gal-ət-ən

¹Webster's Seventh, p. 15a.
Cuion        'gī-ən
Hollandsburg 'häl-əndz-,bərg
Klondyke     'klän-dīk
Lakeys Branch 'lak-əz
Lodi         'lō-dī
Lyford       'lī-fərd
Medelline    ,med-ə-'lən-ə
Melcher      'mel-shər
Milligan     'mil-i-,gən
Numa         'nū-mə
Piattsville  'pī-əts-əvəl
Rass Clore Branch 'rəs ,kləər
Reedys Creek 'rē-dēz
Scrouge Branch 'skrūj
Sylvania     ,sil-'vän-ə-
Uncas        'əŋ-kəs
Wapalo Creek 'wä-pə-,lō
Weisner's Branch 'wīz-nərəz
Welchel Branch
'wel-chel

Zellers Pond
'zel-arz
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Cassidy, Frederic G. *Dane County Place-Names.* Madison: The University of Wisconsin Press, 1958.


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*Atlas*, Vols. I and II. Bound volumes of various maps of America, ranging in date from 1715 to 1808. Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana.


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1 For ease in historical review, maps and atlases have been listed in chronological order.


- Clay City Quadrangle, 1910
- Mecas Quadrangle, 1951
- Clinton Quadrangle, 1951
- Catlin Quadrangle, 1952
Kingman Quadrangle, 1955
Dana Quadrangle, 1955
Montezuma Quadrangle, 1955
Rockville Quadrangle, 1955
Brazil East Quadrangle, 1960
Brazil West Quadrangle, 1960
Alamo Quadrangle, 1961
Wallace Quadrangle, 1961
Rosedale Quadrangle, 1962
Bellmore Quadrangle, 1963
Mansfield Quadrangle, 1963
New Goshen Quadrangle, 1963
Newport Quadrangle, 1964


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Carty, (Mrs.) Hazel Brockway. Long-time resident of Parke County. Personal letter, January 11, 1970.

Frazier, (Mrs.) Mary. Long-time resident and historian of Sugar Creek Township (Parke County). Personal letter, March 11, 1970.


Pickard, (Mrs.) Ruth. Long-time resident of Parke County. Personal letters, January 2 and 18, 1970.


Weir, Charles E. Head, Coal Section, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural Resources. Personal letter, September 23, 1969.

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Ireland, Dennis. Long-time resident, and County Recorder, of Parke County. Private interview, Rockville, Indiana, December, 1969.


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