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A study of place names in Lawrence County, Indiana

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A STUDY OF PLACE NAMES
IN LAWRENCE COUNTY, INDIANA

A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the Department of English
Indiana State Teachers College

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

by
Florence Elise Gratzner
August 1957

THESIS APPROVAL SHEET

The thesis of Florence Gratzner, Contribution of
the Graduate Division, Indiana State Teachers College, Number 778,
under the title -- A Study of Place Names in Lawrence County,
Indiana

is hereby approved as counting toward the completion of the Master's
Degree in the amount of 8 hours' credit.

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CHAPTER I

I. STATEMENT AND IMPORTANCE OF PROBLEM

Studies of the origin of place names are of recent development. Within the last century rather extensive place name studies have been completed in England. This same type of study has been made in very few of the states in the United States. According to George Stewart, author of Names on the Land, studies of place names for the states of Arizona, Minnesota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Washington have been compiled, and less comprehensive studies exist for Nebraska, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, California, and Missouri.¹

Thus far, place name study in Indiana has been limited to the origin of Indian names of rivers, smaller streams of water, and towns in the northern part of the state.²

II. PURPOSE AND VALUE OF STUDY

It is the purpose of this study (1) to compile the place names that have occurred in the history of Lawrence County, Indiana, excluding the names of geographical fea-

¹George R. Stewart, Names on the Land, (New York: Random House, Inc., 1945), pp. 387-388.

²Hiram Williams Beckwith, Indian Names of Water Courses in the State of Indiana, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural History Annual Report, 12:37-43, 1882.

tures, (2) to explain the origin of these names, and (3) to classify these findings with appropriate conclusions, thereby indicating the type of names most generally used.

The values of a place name study are many. The origin of many names is lost through the passage of time and through the death of those responsible for the founding and naming of inhabited localities. Thus a study of this kind will serve as a record for persons interested in the origin of names. It may also be a beginning for other place name studies in Indiana. The social development and culture of a people may sometimes be indicated in place names. We can watch the process of place name development going on in our own time. Such studies are of interest to students of etymology and philology.

CHAPTER II

I. CONTENT OF STUDY

This study of place names occurring in the history of Lawrence County, Indiana, is concerned with (1) townships, (2) cities, towns, villages, and small inhabited communities, (3) railroad stations, and (4) post-offices. Many of the small communities listed have not been platted even though several families may inhabit the immediate vicinity. If a locality has been platted, the date of platting is given following the name. When no date is given, the inception of the name cannot be determined.

A few sites were platted but never developed, or the towns died leaving little trace of their existence. These abandoned sites are listed alphabetically with the present-day communities.

II. SOURCES OF DATA

Information contained in this place name study has been derived from plat books and deed and mortgage records in the Lawrence County Courthouse, and from newspapers, local historians, and individuals in all parts of the county directly or ancestrally connected with the founding and settlement of the localities. Secondary sources for the data compiled are two county histories and other historical documents.

CHAPTER III

PLACE NAMES

IN LAWRENCE COUNTY, INDIANA

I. TOWNSHIPS

Lawrence County, located in south central Indiana, was created in 1818 and was named in honor of Captain James Lawrence of the United States Navy.¹ Originally five townships were created at the organization of the county in 1818: Bono, Indian Creek, Pleasant Run, Shawswick, and Spice Valley.²

(1) Bono Township was the scene of the second white settlement in the county and was named for the town of Bono.³

(2) The name of Indian Creek Township was taken from the creek that enters at the northeast corner of the township and flows in a semicircular direction leaving near the southwest corner.⁴

(3) Pleasant Run Township derived its name from the creek, Pleasant Run, which flows through the township.⁵

¹Lawrence County Centennial Book, (1925), p. 42.

²Ibid., p. 21

³Loc. cit.

⁴History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana (Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen and Company, 1914), p. 55.

⁵History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana (Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers and Company, 1884), p. 55.

(4) The naming of Shawswick Township came about in this manner. A judge in the early history of the state, William W. Wick, had many admirers in the recently formed Lawrence County who insisted that the township be named for him. One of the county commissioners, Thomas Beasley, had a comrade, William Shaw, who had been killed in the battle of Tippecanoe. Mr. Beasley and others supported the name of Shaw for the township. As a compromise a combination of the two names was formed, and the township became Shawswick.⁶

(5) The fifth township was named Spice Valley because the spice wood bush grew here abundantly; the wood was used to make tea.⁷

As the years passed, the original five townships were divided, and five additional townships were created.

(1) Perry Township, formed in 1822, was named for Oliver Hazard Perry, commander of the American Navy.⁸

(2) Flinn Township was created in May, 1822, and was named for the Flinns, a pioneer family who came to this locality in 1810 and settled Leesville. This township existed

⁶Ibid., p. 59.

⁷Interview with James E. Guthrie, local historian, June, 1955, Bedford.

⁸History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 46.

until January 1, 1911, when it was dissolved, half being added to Pleasant Run Township and half to Guthrie Township.⁹

(3) Marion Township, created on January 3, 1826, was named by Samuel G. Hoskins in honor of General Francis Marion, a commander in the Revolutionary War from South Carolina, the home state of Hoskins.¹⁰

(4) On June 4, 1844, Marshall Township came into existence; it was named for the Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall.¹¹

(5) The last township created was Guthrie, in 1866. It was named for the pioneer Guthrie family, who had settled in Leesville.¹²

The original five townships formed at the organization of the county plus five townships created later from the divisions of the first five made a total of ten townships. With the dissolution of Flinn Township in 1911, Lawrence County consists of nine townships at the present time.

⁹Ibid., p. 35.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 37.

¹¹Ibid., p. 43.

¹²Ibid., p. 76.

II. CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, RAILROAD STATIONS AND POST OFFICES

Arcole. A post office was established here on September 10, 1828. The name Arcole was used to honor the locale of Napoleon's victory over the Austrians in 1796 at Arcole, Italy. On January 17, 1831, Colonel Hugh Hamer became postmaster and renamed the post office Spring Mill.¹³

Armstrong. When a branch railroad line from Bedford to Bloomfield was constructed in 1876, the right of way was granted for the railroad to pass through the land of Ari Armstrong provided a station was created on his land. Thus the Armstrong station came into existence.¹⁴

Avoca (1819).¹⁵ Dr. Winthrop Foote, an early physician of Bedford, often visited the spring at Avoca; he liked to quote the following stanza from a poem by Thomas Moore:

Sweet Vale of Avoca, how calm could I rest
In the bosom of thy shade, with the friend I
love best,

¹³Virginia H. Toole, "Pioneer Lawrence County," (unpublished M. A. thesis, Indiana University, 1944), p. 122.

¹⁴Letters from Mrs. Jennie A. Moore, daughter-in-law of Ari Armstrong, March 8, March 15, March 29, 1957, New York City.

¹⁵Dates in parentheses indicate year of platting.

Where the storms that we feel in this cold world
 should cease,
 And our hearts like thy waters be mingled in
 peace.¹⁶

When a village sprang up near this spring and was platted, it was given the name of Avoca from this poem which appealed to Dr. Foote.¹⁷

Bartlettsville (1860). This community was platted by Samuel J. Bartlett and named for the Bartlett family.¹⁸

Becks. In 1900 this Monon Railroad station was named for Adam Beck, the owner of a small lime plant located at this point. The community is now known as Rabbitsville; the station is no longer in existence.¹⁹

Bedford (1825). The name of the county seat of Lawrence County was chosen by Joseph Rawlins, a pioneer settler and businessman, in honor of Bedford County, Tennessee. From 1818 until 1825, the county seat had been located at Palestine, approximately three miles south of present-day Bedford on the White River. A prevalence of malaria caused the inhabitants

¹⁶Thomas Moore, Complete Poetical Works, "The Meeting of the Waters" (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell and Company, 1895) pp. 173-174.

¹⁷Lawrence County Centennial Book, (1925), p. 43.

¹⁸Interview with James E. Guthrie, local historian, June, 1955, Bedford.

¹⁹Letter from Mr. G. H. Kern, Superintendent of the Monon Railroad, February 20, 1957, Lafayette, Indiana, and an interview with Mr. Victor Bixler, former employee of the Lehigh Portland Cement Company, June 26, 1957, Mitchell, Indiana.

of Palestine to demand a relocation of the county seat, and in 1825 this move was accomplished with a change in the name from Palestine to Bedford.²⁰

Bono (1816). The first settlers came to this vicinity in 1814. When platted as a town, it became the first recorded settlement in Lawrence County. Bono was named for Pierre Bono, a patriot who lived in Vincennes and carried mail through this early settlement. He is buried in the Old Cathedral Cemetery in Vincennes.²¹

Bryantville (1835). This settlement was platted as the town of Paris, but it was renamed in honor of the many branches of the Bryant family in the vicinity.²²

Buddha. When a post office was to be created in 1896, the citizens of this small village submitted a list of names to the government for consideration. Buddha, one of the names submitted, was chosen for the post office, and the village also became known as Buddha. The reason for Buddha being one of the names to be considered cannot be determined.²³

²⁰Commissioners' Record Book, March 24, 1825, Lawrence County Courthouse.

²¹Mrs. Roscoe C. O'Byrne (ed.), Roster of Soldiers and Patriots of the American Revolution, "Territorial Papers of the United States Indiana Territory" (Indiana DAR, 1938), p. 325, and an interview with Mrs. Leah Moore, resident of Bono, March, 1957.

²²Interview with David McNabb, local historian, June, 1955, Bedford.

²³Interview with Mrs. Fletch Hubbard, former resident of Buddha, April, 1957, Bedford.

Coveyville. This settlement was named for the Covey family. No date can be found for this community first being called Coveyville.²⁴

Coxton. Henry Cox, Bart Williams, and Jacob Bossett aided the Evansville and Richmond Railroad in procuring the right of way through the western part of Lawrence County in 1890. According to an agreement with the railroad officials there were to be three stations named for these three men. The station at Coxton was named for Mr. Cox, Williams for Mr. Williams, and the next station, which is in Martin County, was named for Mr. Bossett. Before the railroad came through this section, the village was called Haystown.²⁵

Deal. A post office across the railroad track from the Armstrong station was established in 1877 and operated by a daughter of Ari Armstrong. The post office was named Deal for the wife of the station master, whose first name was Dealia.²⁶

Dixonville (1853). This town was platted and laid

²⁴Interview with Mr. R. B. Dye, journalist, June, 1956, Bedford.

²⁵Letter from Mr. W. A. Dietze, Public Relations Officer, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, February 21, 1957, Chicago, and an interview with Mr. Albert Dunihue, nephew of Bart Williams, July 4, 1957, Bedford.

²⁶Letters from Mrs. Jennie A. Moore, daughter-in-law of Ari Armstrong, March 8, March 15, March 29, 1957, New York City.

out by William and Thomas Dixon. Subsequently, it became known as Dixonville, but it is now abandoned.²⁷

East Oolitic (1900). A small community sprang up east of Oolitic and was platted as East Oolitic.²⁸

Enterprise. The inhabitants desired to change the name Enterprise to Erie in 1867. The origin of the names Enterprise and Erie cannot be determined.²⁹

Erie (1867). This is the changed form for the earlier name, Enterprise.³⁰

Eureka. A member of the Daugherty family of this locality had built a special cellar near a cave for storing and protecting perishable foods, fruits, and (some say) strong drink from the summer heat. Someone in the community is said to have discovered a secret entrance to the cellar on a Halloween and scrawled the word Eureka in black paint on the side of the cellar.³¹

Fayetteville (1838). Pioneers named the community after their former home town of Fayetteville, North Carolina.³²

²⁷History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 64.

²⁸History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana, op. cit., pp. 204-205.

²⁹Interview with Rev. Lester Vanest, Minister of the Erie Methodist Church, March, 1957, Erie.

³⁰Loc. cit.

³¹Bedford Daily Times-Mail, March 23, 1952.

³²Ibid., March 24, 1956.

Flinn's Crossroads. Much land in this area was owned by Dan Flinn who lived here as early as 1821. When a post office was created this settlement was called Buddha.³³

Fort Ritner (1857). This place was so named for Michael Ritner, the foreman in the construction of the large tunnel on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, now the Baltimore and Ohio, near here. Mr. Ritner settled at Fort Ritner and was an early merchant.³⁴

Although Fort Ritner was on the boundary line of the Piankeshaw Indians, government records disclose merely the name and location of the fort, nothing more. Whether actual fortifications were in existence at one time cannot be determined.³⁵

Georgia (1853). George Isom settled a large tract of land in this locality, and the settlement was named for him.³⁶

Grayson. Another post office in Indiana named Grayson caused frequent mix-ups in mail delivery. Consequently, Gray-

³³Interview with Mrs. Fletch Hubbard, former resident of Buddha, April, 1957, Bedford.

³⁴Interview with Mr. Ezra Allen, county historian, June, 1956, Tunnelton.

³⁵Letter from Colonel D. C. Sweger, Department of the Army, April 10, 1957, Washington, D. C.

³⁶Interview with Mrs. Ralph Riggs, great-grand-daughter of George Isom, July, 1956, Georgia.

son was changed to Logan in the 1880's. No explanation for the origin of Grayson or Logan can be found.³⁷

Greenville. Four brothers named Green had a sawmill on the bank of the White River in Spice Valley Township. The community which grew up around the sawmill was known as Greenville. In 1889 a post office was created here; when it was discovered there was another Greenville in Indiana, the name was changed to Williams, the family name of early settlers in this community.³⁸

Guthrie (1865). A town was laid out by Winepark Kinser and called by him Guthrie.³⁹ The reason for the community to be known as Guthrie is lost. Although Guthrie is the name of a prominent pioneer family which settled around Leesville in Guthrie Township, there seems to have been no Guthrie in or near Marshall Township, where the village of Guthrie is located.

Hartleyville (1925). Charles and Doretta Hartley platted this community.⁴⁰

³⁷Interview with Mrs. Curt Inman, former resident of Logan, July, 1956, Peerless.

³⁸Interview with Mr. Donald Smith, former resident of Williams, July, 1956, Bedford.

³⁹History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 171.

⁴⁰Interview with James E. Guthrie, local historian, June, 1955, Bedford.

Haystown. Haystown was named in honor of John Hay, an early landowner. Later it was renamed Coxton.⁴¹

Heltonville (1845). The town of Heltonville was laid out by Andrew Helton, who opened the first store before 1839 and was its first merchant. It was named for the pioneer Helton family.⁴²

Huron (1859). Because the early inhabitants of this area were quite rowdy and unruly, they were compared to the Huron Indians who were also considered very rough. This settlement became known as Huron for this reason. Although no Indian tribes lived in Lawrence County, the Hurons hunted in this vicinity and established hunting camps in the county.⁴³

Judah. This community was named for John Judah who homesteaded this vicinity.⁴⁴

Juliet (1850). Juliet was laid out when the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago Railroad was completed to this point.

⁴¹Interview with Mr. Noble Adamson, former resident of Coxton, July, 1956, Bedford.

⁴²History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 59.

⁴³Interview with Mr. David McNabb, local historian, June, 1955, Bedford.

⁴⁴Interview with Mrs. Ennis Covey, granddaughter of John Judah, July 3, 1957, Judah.

Upon the continuation of the construction of the railroad the town's prosperity was ruined, and the town soon fell into decay. No reason for its being called Juliet can be found. When a country store was kept here, the post office in the store was called Yockey.⁴⁵

King's Ridge. This settlement was named for the King family who lived in this area.⁴⁶

Lawrenceport (1837). A little colony of settlers who accompanied John Lawrence from Maryland settled at Lawrenceport; the town was named for Mr. Lawrence who was their leader.⁴⁷

Leesville (1818). Although the town was not platted until 1818, the first settlers came to this area in 1810. These early pioneers came from Lee County, Virginia, which they had left in 1809. A fort or block house was built for protection from the Indians, and the settlement was named for the county from which they had come.⁴⁸

⁴⁵History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 175.

⁴⁶Interview with Mrs. Lena McClung, teacher, July, 1956, Williams.

⁴⁷Norman C. Evans, Spring Mill (Mill Lake Press, 1953), p. 103.

⁴⁸Interview with Mr. Ezra Allen, county historian, June, 1956, Tunnelton.

Liberty (1820). Lots were sold for a prospective settlement, but health conditions along the river became so bad that the town was abandoned after two or three years.⁴⁹ No reason is known for the town being named Liberty.

Limestone (1888). A town was platted and named Limestone for the stone quarried here.⁵⁰

Logan. In the 1880's the name of the post office of Grayson was changed to Logan because there was another post office in Indiana named Grayson. No explanation can be found for naming the post office Logan.⁵¹

Mitchell (1853). This name is derived from General O. M. Mitchell, a commander in the Union Army. He was also the chief engineer in the location and construction of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, now the Baltimore and Ohio, which passes through Mitchell.⁵²

Murdock. Depots, stations, and yards of railroad companies are often named for company officials. In 1912

⁴⁹History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 174.

⁵⁰History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties, Indiana, op. cit., pp. 205-206.

⁵¹Interview with Mrs. Curt Inman, former resident of Logan, July, 1956, Peerless.

⁵²History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 155.

Murdock, a switch yard for the Monon Railroad,⁵³ was named for Samuel T. Murdock, a former director of the railroad.⁵⁴

Needmore. At the time Needmore was being settled, there was very little water supply. The available water was obtained from two or three nearby springs. The residents are supposed to have made this remark: "It's a nice place, but we need more water." Thus the origin of the town's name is clarified, but the date when the settlement began cannot be discovered.⁵⁵

Oolitic (1896). The limestone quarried here is known to geologists as oolitic limestone, oolitic being the name of the strata where this particular stone, "composed of many small grains of carbonate of lime cemented together like fish eggs in a layer of sedimentary rock,"⁵⁶ is found. The name was changed from Limestone to Oolitic.⁵⁷

⁵³The Monon Railroad, originally the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago, was constructed through Bedford in 1853.

⁵⁴Letter from Mr. F. R. Hyer, Trainmaster of the Monon, July 2, 1957, Lafayette, and an interview with Mr. Spencer Pearson, former Freight Agent for the Monon, July 8, 1957, Bedford.

⁵⁵Bedford Daily Times-Mail, June 13, 1956.

⁵⁶Webster's New World Dictionary (Cleveland: The World Publishing Company, 1956), p. 1026.

⁵⁷Interview with Mr. David McNabb, local historian, June, 1955, Bedford.

Palestine (1818). At the suggestion of Benjamin Blackwell, an early settler of Lawrence County, the first county seat was named Palestine. The reason for the name Palestine being chosen cannot be found.⁵⁸

Paris (1835). The name of this town was later changed to Bryantsville. The origin of the name Paris is unknown.⁵⁹

Peerless (1891). The Peerless Stone Company of Chicago opened a quarry in Marshall Township. The small community that grew up around the quarry was known as Peerless.⁶⁰

Pinhook. The grandfather of Ezra Allen, an old resident of Tunnelton, owned a store in Guthrie Township where he sold corn whiskey as well as molasses, salt, gun powder, etc. A state law was passed in the 1820's which required storekeepers to have a license if whiskey were sold. To avoid purchasing a license this merchant took pins and bent them to resemble a fish hook. He sold these bent pins for ten cents

⁵⁸ History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 68.

⁵⁹ Interview with Mr. David McNabb, local historian, June, 1955, Bedford.

⁶⁰ Interview with Mrs. Curt Inman, July, 1956, resident of Peerless.

and would also give the customer a drink of whiskey. The men would say, "Let's go down to get a pinhook."⁶¹

Popcorn (1810). The Pedigo family were among the first settlers in Popcorn Valley. Part of the Pedigo family went on to settle on the Wabash River near Sullivan, Indiana. The Pedigos who remained in Lawrence County visited the Wabash branch of the family and took with them a sample of the corn grown in Lawrence County. Corn grown along the Wabash was so much larger that the Wabash Pedigos said, "You raise popcorn!" This joke name was applied to the creek and the neighborhood.⁶²

Rabbitsville. Land here was owned by the Erwin family. The soil was poor, and much brush had grown up affording protection for rabbits which became plentiful. The Erwin children jokingly called the locality Rabbitsville.⁶³

Redding (1842). The site for a town was laid out by Robert Porter and John R. Nugent. It was hoped that Redding would grow and prosper, but by 1853 it was abandoned. The

⁶¹Interview with Mr. Ezra Allen, county historian, June, 1956, Tunnelton.

⁶²Letters from Mrs. Jennie A. Moore, great-granddaughter of the Pedigo who settled Popcorn, March 8, March 15, March 29, 1957, New York City.

⁶³Interview with Mr. Emmett Cooper, merchant, July, 1956, Mitchell.

origin of the name cannot be found.⁶⁴

Rivervale. This post office was originally called Scottville. The name Scottville was changed when it was found that there was another Scottville in Indiana. Rivervale was chosen because it is situated along White River.⁶⁵

Sand Pit. There was a sand pit at this particular spot south of Bedford on the Monon Railroad. Sand from this pit was used for construction of the railroad and for county roads in 1853.⁶⁶

Scottville. The original name for a post office here was Scottville, but the origin of the name cannot be determined. It later became Rivervale.⁶⁷

Shawswick. A station was created along the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad in Shawswick Township in 1890. The name was taken from the township.⁶⁸

Silverville (1858). Two stories explain the origin of

⁶⁴History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 174.

⁶⁵Interview with Mrs. Rose Smith, daughter of postmaster at Scottville, July, 1956, Rivervale.

⁶⁶Letter from Mr. G. H. Kern, Superintendent of the Monon Railroad, February 20, 1957, Lafayette.

⁶⁷Interview with Mrs. Rose Smith, daughter of postmaster at Scottville, July, 1956, Rivervale.

⁶⁸Interview with Mrs. Cecil Easton, historian, August, 1956, Bedford.

this name. The first is that early settlers paid for the land with silver dollars. The second is that Indians had buried enough silver in a nearby cave to shoe all the horses in the country.⁶⁹

Spring Mill (1831). Originally called Arcole, this post office and village was renamed Spring Mill for the spring which was nearby and the grist mill.⁷⁰

Springville (1832). Springville was laid out and platted along Spring Creek. It is from this creek that the name of the town is derived.⁷¹

Stanleyville (1911). Just south of Needmore in Marshall Township a town was platted by Stanley P. Mitchell and Ava Mitchell and named Stanleyville by Stanley Mitchell. The town never grew or prospered except for a few houses built there.⁷²

Stemm. A long siding on the Monon Railroad was named for John R. Stemm, a former division superintendent for the Monon Railroad.⁷³

⁶⁹Interview with Mr. William Wagner, July, 1956, resident of Silverville.

⁷⁰Toole, loc. cit.

⁷¹History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 170.

⁷²Bedford Daily Times-Mail, June 13, 1956.

⁷³Letter from Mr. G. H. Kern, Superintendent of the Monon Railroad, February 20, 1957, Lafayette.

Stonington. Stonington was so named because this community grew up around four prospering limestone quarries and one mill in Bono Township. The village was established during the first five years of the mill and quarries' operation which began in 1897.⁷⁴

Tarry Park (1925). A farm was deeded to the Red Cross in 1893 by Dr. Joseph Gardner, a Bedford physician, after Clara Barton had visited Bedford. In 1904 the farm reverted to the Gardner heirs, and part of it was platted by Joseph T. Flynn and Cort S. Sharp. It was named Tarry Park to designate the idea of tarrying or lingering in the picnic area.⁷⁵

Thornton. A passing track on the Monon Railroad was named for Mr. E. B. Thornton, who had stone interests in Lawrence County and owned Thornton Quarry near this track.⁷⁶

Tunnelton (1859). This village derived its name from its location between the two tunnels of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.⁷⁷

⁷⁴Interview with Mr. Victor Bixler, former employee of the Lehigh Portland Cement Company, June 26, 1957, Mitchell.

⁷⁵Interview with Mrs. Iva Rosenberger, daughter of Joseph T. Flynn, April, 1957, Tarry Park.

⁷⁶Letter from Mr. G. H. Kern, Superintendent of the Monon Railroad, February 20, 1957, Lafayette.

⁷⁷Interview with Mr. Ezra Allen, county historian, June, 1956, Tunnelton.

Williams (1889). Originally called Greenville, this community's name was changed to Williams, the family name of early settlers, when it was discovered that there was another Greenville in Indiana.⁷⁸

Woodville (1849). Woodville was laid out by Edwin Wood. It is now an abandoned site.⁷⁹

Yockey. A station along the Monon, formerly called Juliet, was renamed for Charles Yockey, a journalist in Bedford and the editor of the Democratic-Banner, an early county newspaper launched in 1868-1869.⁸⁰

Zelma (1890). James and Stephen Fountain platted this community. Stephen Fountain named it for his oldest granddaughter, Zelma.⁸¹

⁷⁸ Interview with Mr. Donald Smith, former resident of Williams, July, 1956, Bedford.

⁷⁹ History of Lawrence, Orange, and Washington Counties, Indiana, op. cit., p. 174.

⁸⁰ Interview with Mr. R. B. Dye, journalist, June, 1956, Bedford.

⁸¹ Interview with Mrs. Edith Fountain, granddaughter of Stephen Fountain, June, 1956, Zelma.

CHAPTER IV

I. METHOD OF CLASSIFICATION OF PLACE NAMES

The names of the county, townships, cities, towns, villages, railroad stations, and post offices of Lawrence County, Indiana, may be classified as follows:

1. Names of pioneers, national heroes, and state figures.
2. Names transferred from other places, either in the United States or in Europe.
3. Names descriptive of localities.
4. Names suggested by local flora and fauna.
5. Names from literary sources.
6. Names of humor.
7. Unknown.

II. RESULTS OF CLASSIFICATION

Place names embodying personal names may be divided into two categories. The first grouping of names are those derived from the surnames or given names of local pioneers or their families.

Flinn (Township)	Greenville
Guthrie (Township)	Hartleyville
Armstrong	Haystown
Bartlettville	Heltonville
Becks	Judah
Bryantville	King's Ridge
Coveyville	Lawrenceport
Coxton	Stanleyville
Deal	Thornton
Dixonville	Williams
Flinn's Crossroads	Woodville
Fort Ritner	Yockey
Georgia	Zelma

The second category are names formed from the names of persons other than Lawrence County pioneers.

Lawrence (County)	Bono
Bono (Township)	Huron
Shawswick (Township)	Mitchell
Perry (Township)	Murdock
Marion (Township)	Shawswick
Marshall (Township)	Stemm

2. The second general grouping contains names transferred from other places.

Arcole

Bedford

Fayetteville

Leesville

3. Several places are descriptive of their localities in that they have been formed from a geographical or natural feature of the land or from a man-made feature.

Indian Creek (Township)	Rivervale
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Pleasant Run (Township)	Sand Pit
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Limestone	Spring Mill
-----------	-------------

Oolitic	Springville
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East Oolitic	Stonington
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Peerless	Tunnelton
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4. Names suggested by local flora and fauna respectively are Spice Valley Township and Rabbitsville.

5. Only one instance of a literary place name has been found--Avoca.

6. Several examples of humorous place names have been found.

Eureka	Popcorn
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Needmore	Silverville
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Pinhook	Tarry Park
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7. Names for which no explanation could be found are as follows:

Buddha	Liberty
Enterprise	Logan
Erie	Palestine
Grayson	Paris
Guthrie	Redding
Juliet	Scottville

One might theorize concerning the derivation of the names in this last grouping, but no conclusive evidence has been found to explain these names.

In conclusion, a table consisting of the number of names under each general class is as follows:

1. Personal names	
Local	26
Non-local	12
Total	38
2. Transferred names	4
3. Descriptive of locality	12
4. Local flora and fauna	2
5. Literary names	1
6. Humorous names	6
7. Unknown	12

III. CONCLUSION

As a result of the table found in the preceding section of this study, one finds that the greater number of place names whose origins are known are personal, descriptive, and humorous.

Most of the early settlers of Lawrence County were of English descent, and it appears that they displayed little imagination in naming the new settlements. The almost invariable tendency was to name a locality for a pioneer family. Many early settlers would now be forgotten were it not for these place names which keep their memories alive. The names of earlier habitations familiar to these pioneers were brought westward and used again in a few instances.

Although the earliest actual Americanisms were probably words borrowed from the Indian languages, and even though the Piankeshaws, Kickapoos, Shawnees, and Hurons were some of the Indian tribes which occupied Indiana, no Indian names appear in Lawrence County except one, Huron.

The only name in the county which indicates the presence of foreign immigration other than the English is that of the settlement of Bono, which was named for the Frenchman, Pierre Bono, or Bonneau, of Vincennes.

Many times place names reflect periods of war and are indicative of a country's history, but wars have not played

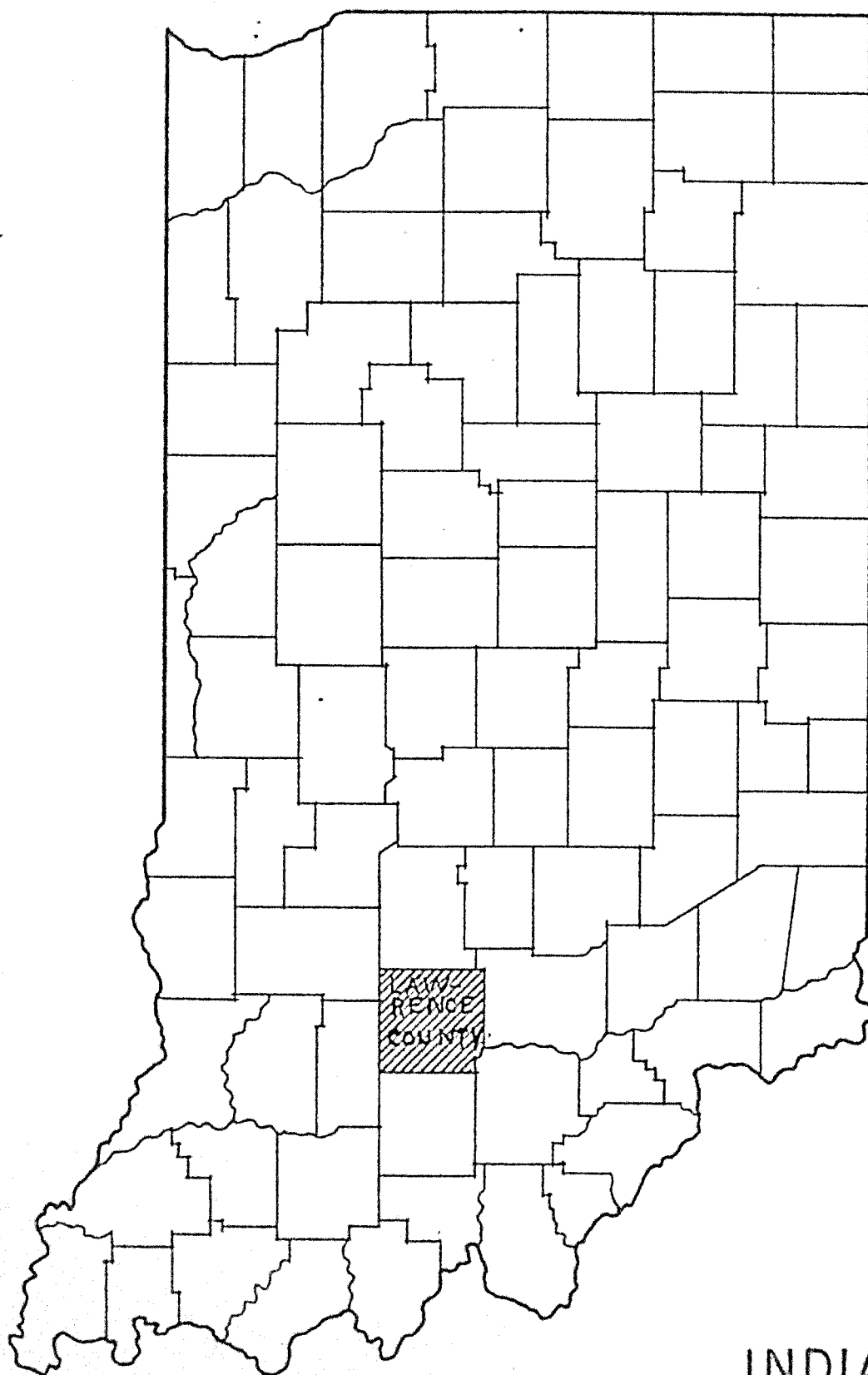
any great part in the naming of Lawrence County except for Marion Township, Perry Township, Mitchell, and Lawrence County. These were named for General Francis Marion of the Revolutionary War period, Oliver Hazard Perry of the War of 1812, General O. M. Mitchell of the Civil War, and Captain James Lawrence of the War of 1812.

That the originators of several names relied on natural physical features of the land or on man-made features in order to identify a particular locality is in evidence. The second largest grouping is comprised of these descriptive names.

The settlers were not without humor in their lives, for the third largest grouping consists of these humorous appellatives.

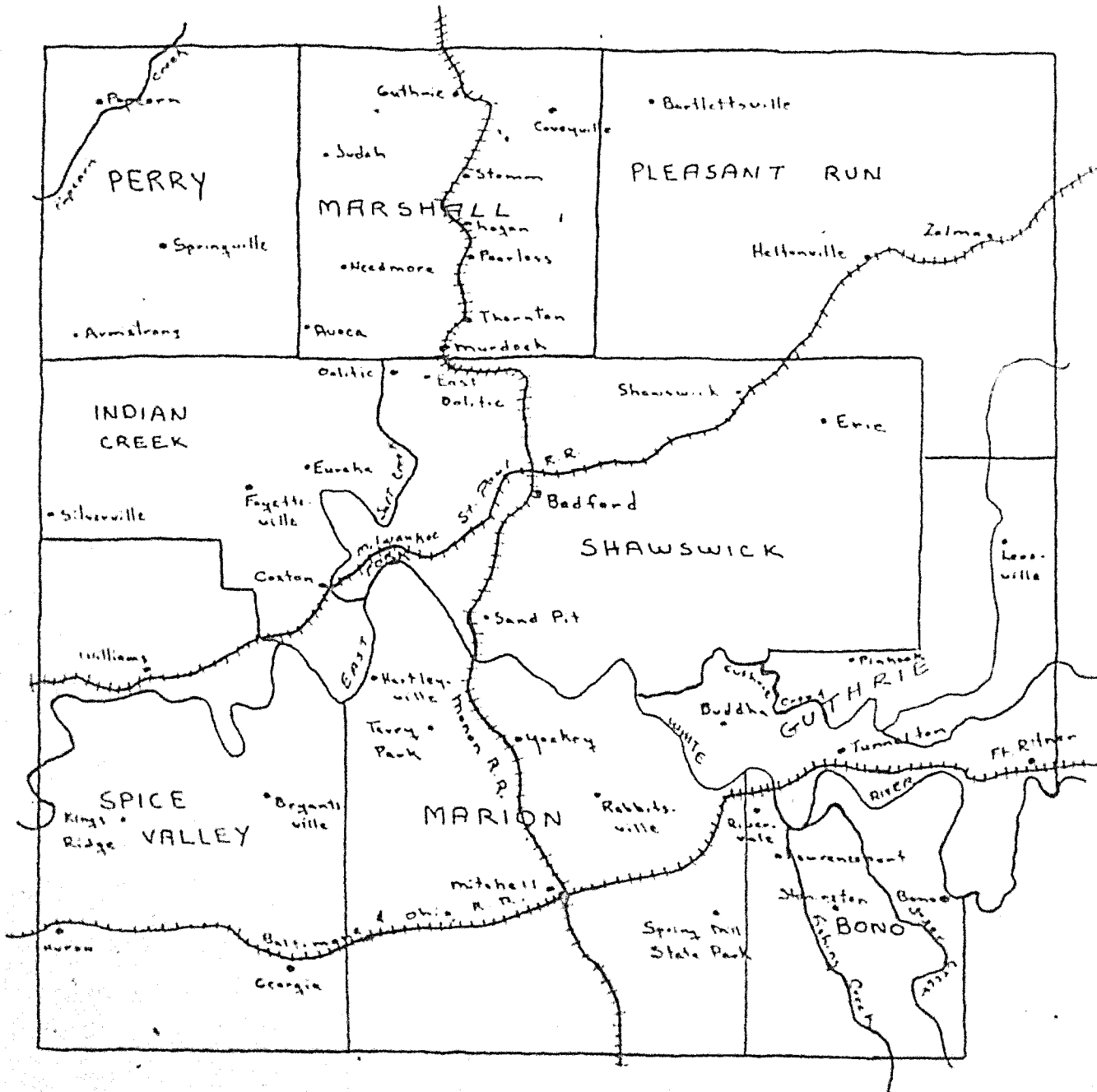
One might also conclude that the absence of idealistic and Biblical names, and the presence of only one literary name reflected the life of the early settlers as being a practical one. They lived in reality and were not necessarily well-educated nor well-versed in the arts.

The suffix -ville has been used to form fourteen of the place names. The suffix -ton was found in three names, and -town, -port, and -vale, used as suffixes, were each found once.



INDIANA

LAWRENCE COUNTY



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Mr. Ezra Allen, June, 1956, county historian, Tunnelton.

Mrs. Reed Bass, July, 1956, resident of Guthrie.

Mr. Victor Bixler, June 26, 1957, former employee of Lehigh Portland Cement Company, Mitchell.

Mr. Emmett Cooper, July, 1956, merchant, Mitchell.

Mrs. Ennis Covey, July 3, 1957, resident of Judah.

Mr. Albert Dunihue, July 4, 1957, former postal employee, Bedford.

Mr. R. B. Dye, June, 1956, journalist, Bedford.

Mrs. Cecil Easton, August, 1956, resident of Erie.

Mr. Everett Foster, June, 1956, resident of Erie.

Mrs. Edith Fountain, June, 1956, resident of Zelma.

- Mr. Howard Gee, June, 1956, former resident of Fayetteville, Bedford.
- Mr. James E. Guthrie, June, 1955, local historian, Bedford.
- Mrs. Mamie Hodges, June, 1956, former resident of Erie, Bedford.
- Mrs. Fletch Hubbard, April, 1957, former resident of Buddha, Bedford.
- Mr. Harry H. Hunt, June, 1956, former Monon Agent, Bedford.
- Mrs. Curt Inman, July, 1956, former resident of Logan, Bedford.
- Mrs. Frank E. Martin, July, 1956, historian, Bedford.
- Mrs. Lena McClung, July, 1956, teacher, Williams.
- Mr. David McNabb, June, 1955, local historian, Bedford.
- Mr. Spencer Pearson, July, 1956, former Monon Freight Agent, Bedford.
- Mrs. Ralph Riggs, July, 1956, resident of Georgia.
- Mrs. Iva Rosenberger, April, 1956, resident of Tarry Park.
- Mr. Donald Smith, July, 1956, former resident of Williams, Bedford.
- Mrs. Rose Smith, July, 1956, resident of Rivervale.
- Rev. Lester Vanest, March, 1957, minister of Erie Methodist Church, Erie.
- Mr. Walter Wagner, July, 1956, merchant, Silverville.

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From Mr. W. A. Dietze, Public Relations Officer of Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, February 21, 1957, Chicago, Illinois.

From Mrs. Leo Holmes, resident of Springville, February 27, March 4, 1957, Springville.

- From Mr. F. R. Hyer, Monon Trainmaster, July 2, 1957, Lafayette.
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- From Mrs. Jennie A. Moore, descendant of early Lawrence County settlers, March 8, March 15, March 29, 1957, New York City.
- From Mrs. Leah Moore, resident of Bono, April 1, 1957, Bono.
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- From Colonel D. C. Sweger, Department of the Army, April 10, 1957, Washington, D. C.
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