What's in a Name?

Aldine most likely was named after a publisher of popular detective magazines in the 1880s.

Bogus Run was named after a gang of counterfeiters or makers of bogus money who operated out of a cabin along the creek.

Brems was first called Jackson Island. It was renamed around 1910 for a frequent railroad passenger and land owner Louis Brems.

California Township was named by the Marshall County Commissioners in 1849, the year of the California Gold Rush.

Center Township was most likely named at the first meeting of the Starke County Commissioners in April 1850 because it was in the center of Starke County.

Craigmile Ditch was so named because it was dug through much of Sam Craigmile's farm land near Bass Lake.

Davis Township was named after John Davis a local trapper in 1859.

Grovertown –was originally called Grover Town and was named after the civil engineer who platted the town in 1857.

Hamlet was named after John Hamlet, a local railroad official, in 1863.

Hartz Lake was named after Peter Hartz an early settler in North Bend Twp. However, the lake was first called White Horse Lake, when an early explorer saw an Indian riding a white pony near the lake.

Heaton Street in Knox was named after Andrew Heaton who bought the land east of today's US 35 in Knox back in 1848.

Kankakee River came from the Indian word Kia-ki-ki for a low swampy country.

Knox was named for John Knox, a Revolutionary War hero.

Koontz Lake was named for Samuel Koontz, Sr. who built a mill at what was first called Woodworth Lake in 1849.

Lane Street in North Judson was named after Aaron Lane a local farmer from Ohio.

Lomax was named after George and his son John Lomax local land owners who lived in Chicago.

Mound Street in Knox was the site of one of several Indian Mounds.

North Bend Township was named by the Marshall County Commissioners in the 1840s, because it was on a north bend of the Tippecanoe River into Starke County. A post office was established at North Bend in 1850.

North Judson was named after Adrian Judson a railroad promoter.

Ober was started by Jonathon Heath and named after his grandson Ober Heath.

Ora was named by North Judson businessman Lewis Keller after his young son Ora Keller.

Oregon Township was named by the Marshall County Commissioners in the 1840s. At the time, there was much talk was about the Oregon Trail and Oregon Territory.

Prettyman Street was named after the Prettyman Brothers, who owned large tracts of land in and around Knox.

Railroad Township was so named because of the anticipated building of the first railroad line through the new county in the early 1850s.

Robbins Ditch was named after Henry Robbins the lawyer that succeeded in having this controversial ditch dug in 1892.

Rothermel (now Langenbaum) Lake was named after Joseph Rothermel an early settler in North Bend Township.

San Pierre was named after a French railroad worker named Pierre. San was added to give the name more importance as in saint. It is interesting to note the US Post Office temporarily changed the name back to Pierre during the Spanish American War in the late 1890s.

Shield Street was named after James Shields who donated 30 acres for use as the county seat.

Starke County was named for New Hampshire's Gen. John Stark, who defeated the British at the Battle of Bennington in 1777 in the Revolutionary War.

Toto came from an Indian word meaning "Frog Pond".

Winchetonqua at Bass Lake comes from an Indian word for beautiful waters.

Winona at Bass Lake comes from an Indian word meaning first born female.

Wythogan Park in Knox comes from an Indian word meaning yellow river.

Corrections and additions are always welcome – Marvin Allen.