

HISTORY OF THE COUNTY ROAD NAME SYSTEM

In 1933, under the direction of the St. Joseph County Commissioners and County Surveyor Earl Feldman, sweeping changes were made in the names of the County roads.

The names of 32 roads of the 60 east-west roads were changed and names of 4 new roads were added.

Of the 84 north-south roads, the names of 43 of them were changed and 10 new names added.

The east and west roads were named after statesmen, authors, and deceased county officials. Among these names are those of Watson and Van Nuys, in honor of the retiring United States Sen. James Watson and his successor Frederick Van Nuys.

The new names include those of several presidents. Those of Indiana author's, such as James Whitcomb Riley, US vice presidents such as Schuyler Colfax and Thomas Marshall are to be found on the name posts. There is no road named for now vice president Warren Fairbanks.

✓ The north and south roads are named after flowers, trees, and shrubbery. Charles Roy, commissioner for the First District spent many days in the Mishawaka and South Bend libraries picking names for these roads.

The numbering system in 1933 was said to be unique. Beginning at the southern most boundary of St. Joseph County, the east-west roads were numbered from 200 to 290 and beginning at the western boundary of the County, the north-south roads were numbered 100 to 196.

In 1937, the numbering system was changed again.

There were 83 north and south roads in the county, 61 east and west roads, 30 angling roads, and 10 trunk highways. The plan called for house numbers on east and west roads starting at the Elkhart County line, 100 numbers allotted in each mile. The county is approximately 25 miles across from east to west and 20 miles long from the Michigan state line to the Marshall County line on the south. A piece of Lincoln Township in the southwest corner of the county extends three miles farther south than the rest of the County, to the Stark County line

All roads being given numbers corresponding to their respective distances from the north or east county lines. As an example, Brick Road, which is about two miles from the north line of St. Joseph County, was numbered 200-S.

The letter S indicates that the road is an east and west road and is south of the Michigan line, while the letter W in a road number indicates that the road is west of the Elkhart County line and runs north and south, as: Apple Road No. 150-W, denoting that this road is one and a half miles west of the east county line and runs north and south.

In 1955, a proposal to change the road names again, was given a public hearing. The proposal was to change the numbering system to one based upon the distance from a base line road. Purdue University worked out a system that required the north-south roads be based upon distances from US 31, and the east-west roads were based upon distance from Kern Road. This system is similar to that adopted by LaPorte County.

This 1955 proposal was not adopted, but one phase of the plan proposed in 1955 was accomplished and that was the house numbering system that we have in place today. There were 1000 house numbers assigned per mile of County Road.

The north-south numbers started at the Michigan State line with number 50,500 and ran south to Starke County, which is 73,000. The east-west numbers started at the Elkhart County line with 10,000 and ran to LaPorte County line, which is 34,000. The rural numbering system plan was completed in the summer of 1957. It is still in effect today outside any municipality. The municipalities were allowed to keep their own numbering system.

An effort was also made at that time to eliminate some of the duplication of road names, such as Crumstown Highway, Crumstown Trail, and Crumstown Avenue.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY NORTH-SOUTH ROAD NAMES

In 1931 County Commissioner Charles J. Roy spent many days in the Mishawaka and South Bend libraries picking names for the north-south county roads. They were named for flowers, trees and shrubbery.

The names chosen were:

Aster	Phlox
Balsam	Poppy
Begonia	Quakingasp
Buttercup	Quercus
Canna	Rhus
Cosmos	Thorn
	Thyme
Dahlia	Ule
Daisy	Umble
	Umbrella tree
Endive	Urn
Fushia	Vanilla
Geranium	Violet
Gladiolus	Weilelia
Gamma	Xanthis
Hazel	Xenia
Hop	Yew
Juneberry	Quail
Kafir	
Kalma	
Leaf	
Lilly	
Log Town	
Marigold	
Nasturtium	
Nettletree	
Okra	
Osage	
Pansy	

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY ROAD GUIDE INDEX

PRESENT ROAD NAMES

ALDEN RD
ANDERSON RD
APPLE RD
AUTEN RD

BARLBY RD
BASSWOOD RD
BIRCH RD
BITTERSWEET RD
BLACKBERRY RD
BRUMMIT RD
KEYE RD

CHERRY RD
CLOVER RD
COUNTRY CUB DR
COUNTY LINE RD
CURRANT RD
DARDEN RD
DAY RD
DUNN RD

EARLY RD
EATON RD

FERN RD

GORDON RD
GRAPE RD
GRASS RD

HEPLER ST
HOLLYHOCK RD
HURD RD

1913 ROAD NAMES

AX RD
ACRE RD
ASTER RD /
ARMY RD

XBNIA RD ?
BUTTERCUP RD /
BEGONA RD /
COSMO RD /
GAMMA RD /
BARN RD
DALSAM RD /

DAHLIA RD /
BNDIVE RD /
POPPY RD /
YEW RD /
DAISY RD /
BOX RD
DOOR RD
DRUM RD

BAR RD
ECHO RD

FUCHSIA RD /

CLASS RD /
GBRANIUM RD /
GLADIOLUS RD /

DRUM RD
JUNE BERRY RD /
HOUSE RD

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY ROAD GUIDE INDEX

PRESENT ROAD NAMES

IRELAND RD
IRELAND TR

JOHNSON RD

KELLY RD
KENILWORTH RD
KLING TR

LAUREL RD
LAY TR
LEPPER RD
LINDEN AV
LUST RD

MARTINDALE RD
MAYFLOWER RD
MCKINLEY (US20)
MIAMI HWY
MILLER RD
MULBERRY RD
MYRTLE RD & TR

NICAR RD

OLIVE RD
ORANGE RD

PATTERSON RD
PEACH RD
PEAR RD & TR
PIGGY DR
POPLAR RD & TR
PRIMROSE RD

QUARLES RD
QUINCY RD

1913 ROAD NAMES

ICB RD
GERANIUM RD

JUROR RD

KBG RD
KALMA RD
KBY RD

KAFBR RD
LEAF RD
QUEEN RD
LILAC RD
LILLY RD

MARINE RD
NASTURTIUM RD
FILLMORE RD
TURKEY CREEK HWY
MILK RD
NETTLE TREE RD
MARIGOLD RD

NAVY RD

OSAGE RD
OKRA RD

PAN RD
PANSY RD
QUERCUS RD
POPPY RD
XAN-TIIS RD
QUAKING ASPEN RD

QUART RD
QUILL RD

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY ROAD GUIDE INDEX

PRESENT ROAD NAMES

RANKERT RD
REED RD (ST)
ROOSEVELT RD
ROSEWOOD RD
RUSH RD

SMILAX RD
SMITH RD
SMITH TRAIL
SNOWBERRY RD
SPRUCE RD
STANTON RD
STRAWBERRY RD
SWEETHRIAR RD

TIMOTHY RD

UNDERWOOD RD

VAN NUYS RD
VISTULA RD

WALNUT RD
WESTERN AV (SR2)
WINTERGREEN RD

1913 ROAD NAMES

RAKE RD
THORN RD
LEHMON RD
RHUS RD
SPIREA RD

UMBRELLA TREE RD
SUN RD
SILVER TR
UMBEL RD
VANILA RD.
SILVER RD
URN RD
ULB RD

X ROAD

USHER RD

VALVE RD
RIVER HWY

VIOLET RD
DIVISION HWY
WEILELIA RD

1933 Road Name Changes

From – To

Acre – Anderson

Army – Auten

Aster – Apple

Ax – Alden

Barn – Brummit

Balsam – Buckeye

Begonia – Birch

Box – Darden

Buttercup – Basswood

Canna – Blackberry

Cosmos – Bittersweet

Cup – Cass

Dahlia – Cherry

Daisy – Chestnut

Division – Western

Door – Day

Drum – Dunn

Ear – McKinley, Early, & Ardmore Trl

Echo – Eaton

Endive – Clover

Fillmore – McKinley (part)

Fushia – Fern

Flag - Filbert

Geranium – Ireland Trl & Grape

Gladiolus – Grass

Glass – Gordon

Gamma - Blackberry

From - To

Hazel - Holly

Hop - Hawthorn

House - Hurd

Ice - Ireland

Juneberry - Hollyhock

Juror - Johnson

Kafir - Laurel

Kalma - Kenilworth

Keg - Kelly

Key - Kline

Leaf - Layton

Lehmon - Roosevelt

Lilly - Locust

Log Town - Myrtle

Marine - Martindale

Marigold - Myrtle

Milk - Miller

Nasturtium - Mayflower

Navy - Nicar

Nettletree - Mulberry

Okra - Orange

Osage - Olive

1933 Road Name Changes continued

From - To

Pan - Patterson
Pansy - Peach
Phlox - Peppermint
Poppy - Country Club

Quakingasp - Primrose
Quart - Quarles
Quail - Pear
Queen - Leeper
Quercus - Pecan
Quill - Quincy

Rake - Rankert
Rhus - Rosewood
River Hwy - Vistula
Rush - Spirea

Silver - Stanton
Sun - Smith

Thorn - Reed
Thyme - Reed
Truck - Towle
Turkey Creek - Miami

Ule - Sweetbriar
Umble - Snowberry
Umbrella Tree - Smilax
Usher - Underwood
Urn - Strawberry

Valve - Van Nuys
Vanilla - Spruce
Violet - Walnut

Weilelia - Wintergreen

From - To

Xanthis - Poplar
Xenia - Barley
X Road - Timothy

Yew - County Line

1933 New Road Names

Barley
Butternut
Colfax
Currant
Elderberry
Henry
Huckleberry
Lederer
Lemon
Lilly
Magnolia
Marshall
Moss
Orchid
Rockstroh
Spirea

1966 Road Name Changes (Approved 14 Nov. 1966)

From – To	Location	Twp
Redmont – Adams Rd	Kenilworth to US 31	Clay
Martin Ave – Appletree Ln	Apple Rd 1/3 mi. West	Penn
Chisek Dr – Arbor Dr	Swanson to Brandel	Clay
Elizabeth – Arthur	Hausman to Hastings	Clay
May – Avalon Dr	Eunice to Edison	Warren
Elmdale – Basswood St	US 20, 2/5 mil south	Penn
Railroad – Bell St.	Edison to S.S. R. R.	Warren
Smith – Bell St.	Dunn to Evans	Warren
Smith St – Benton St	US 33 to 8 th St	Penn
Forest – Buckeye	Jefferson to River	Penn
Cedar Trl – Buckeye	McKinley to Edison	Penn
Linwood – Butternut St	Ardmore to US 20	Portage
First – Byrd St	Lehman to Vistula	Penn
Boyd – Byrd St	Jefferson to McKinley	Penn
Auten – Callander Ave	Main St to US 31	Centre
Madison – Carol	Gurnsey to Peony	Penn
Eberhart – Cedar Rd	Riverview to 8 th	Penn
Hartman – Clovis	Hickory to SR 23	Clay
Franklin Rd – Dunn	Oak to Ellsworth	German
Wright – Edwards Ave	Dorn to Bristol	Portage
Elder – Elsie Ave	Krause to Ash	Penn
Miller – Emmons Rd	Darden to Cleveland	Clay
Bob-O-Link – Emmons Rd	Auten to Glendale	Clay
Monroe – Esther Ave	Bohleen to Robbins	Penn
LaSalle – Eunice	Fresno to Quince	Warren
Forest St – Fresno St	Edison South 1/3 mi.	Warren
Moss – Glenn	Cloyd South 0.1 mi.	Portage
Glenwood – Glenn	Edison to Sidney	Portage
Easton – Glendale St	Hollyhock to Emmons	Clay
Henning Ave – Gordon Ave	McQuade to SR 223	Warren
Penn – Grimes	Buckeye to Cedar	Penn
First St – Hagey St	SR 23 to 1/5 mi west	Clay
Evans – Hartzler Ave	Lexington to Myrtle	Portage
Dekovats – Highland Dr	Cleveland to Darden	Clay

1966 Road Name Changes

From- To	Location	Twp
Monroe – Huron St	Reynolds to Peggy	Warren
Battles – Hemlock Rd	Ireland to Battles	Penn
Forest Ln – Jacki Ln	Darden South to end	Clay
American – Jackson Rd	Fellows to US 31	Centre
Railroad – Kankakee Trl	Gradview to ¼ mi E & W	Portage
Lakeshore – Kenwood Dr	Southport to Longwood	Warren
Jackson – Lasalle Ave	Bohleen to Robbins	Penn
Judie – LaSalle Ave	Currant to East Ave	Penn
Primrose Trl – Lay Trl	Madison to Layton	Greene
Roseland – Lily St	Darden to Clifford	Clay
Kubiak – Lily St	Brick to Adams	Clay
Delft – Lily St	Greenacre to Haviland	Clay
Laurel – Lilac	Kern to Johnson	Centre
Lakeview – Longwood Ct.	Longwood North 500'	Warren
Bulla – Lynn St	Moss to Oak	German
LaSalle – Lynn St	Tulip West ¼ mi.	Olive
Lake – Marina Ln	Sonora East 0.1 mi.	Warren
Chain OLakes – McQuade St	Greenview to US 23	Warren
Ardmore Ave – Moss St	Drexel to Edison	Portage
Norman – Oakdale Ave	Oakland to Hammerschmidt	Clay
Fernwood – Oakland Ave	Wooddale to Auten	Clay
Fernwood – Oakland Ave	Wedgewood to St. Line	Clay
Central Dr – Oakmont Center	Oakmont to Oakmont	Clay
North – Oakmont North	Oakmont to Oakmont	Clay
South – Oakmont South	Oakmont to Juniper	Clay
East – Oakmont East	Oakmont to Oakmont	Clay
West – Oakmont West	Oakmont to Cleveland	Clay
LaSalle – Packard Ave	SR 123 to Glenn	Portage
Rogers – Packard Ave	Pine to Orchid	Portage
Rosewood – Pam Dr	Donmoyer to Irvington	Warren
Sweeney – Pendel Rd	Roseland Limits to Palmer	Clay
Poppy – Poplin St	Ford to SR 2	Warren

1966 Road Name Changes

From – To	Location	Twp
Quince – Quincey	Smilax to Sycamore	Liberty
Rosewood – Redwood Rd	Toll Rd to Chicago Trl	Warren
Lakeshore – Ravine Ln	Edge to Arizona	Penn
Redwood Trl – Rose Rd	Toll Road to Darden	Warren
Sunset – Sundale Ave	Druid to Miami	Centre
Miller – Thrush	Hausman to Hastings	Clay
Railroad trl – Trunk Trl	Peach to SR 123	Portage
St. No. 1 – Wyatt Ave	Patterson to Woodland	Madison
Lynwood – Wedgewood St	Hammerschmidt to Oakland	Clay
Lynwood – Wedgewood St	Michigan St to US 31	Clay

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY ROAD NAMES

Adams Road – Named for two Presidents of the United States John Adams the Second President of the U. S. from 1797-1801 and John Quincy Adams, the Sixth President of the U. S. from 1825-1829.

✓ Auten Road – Named for John Auten who was the first person from St. Joseph County killed in the Civil War. He died on July 10, 1861 at the age of 22, while serving with Company I of the 9th Indiana Regiment. He was the son of Abram Auten of Portage Township.

Anderson Road – Named for Andrew Anderson who was the director of the first County Bar Association in 1873. He was a State Legislator in 1862.

Alden Road – A. Alden was one of the organizers of the Christian Church in Mishawaka in 1843, and R.S. Alden was one of the organizers of the Masonic Lodge in 1852.

✓ Brick Road – William W. Brick was from Warren Township. The Brick's were pioneers of St. Joseph County. He was the first Justice elected to that office and held many town and county offices. He located here in 1831. Abraham Brick was a prominent local attorney, born in Warren Township in 1860. He was elected prosecuting attorney in 1886 and served in the U.S. Congress from the 13th District of Indiana for several terms, starting in 1888. He also lectured on criminal law and pleadings at the University of Notre Dame.

Brummitt Road – Mark Brummitt was on the County Council in 1907 and elected County Commissioner in 1919.

✓ Darden Road – Dr. Sinclair Darden was the head of the TB Clinic at Healthwin Hospital.

Cleveland Road – United States President Grover Cleveland. Twice President, the first term 1885-1889 and the second term 1893-1897.

Douglas Road – Stephen Douglas, Abraham Lincoln's debate opponent in the Great Debate, was born in 1813, leader of the Democratic party in Illinois, served in the House of Representatives 1843-1847, served in the Senate 1847-1861. He died in 1861.

Dunn Road – Judge Reynolds Dunn, settled here in 1832, he gave Warren Township its name. He was County Commissioner 1833-1837, Assoc. Judge in 1837.

Day Road – Lot Day Sr. was one of the most popular Democrats in the County in the 1840's. He was Sheriff from 1842-1846, County Commissioner from 1833-1842, and served in the State Senate from 1847-1850.

✓ Edison Road – Thomas A. Edison, famous inventor.

Eaton Road – Jacob Eaton settled in Clay Township in 1831. He was Clay Township Trustee for 17 years. He cleared the ground where St. Mary's College now stands.

Early Road – Noah Early was wounded at the battle of Chickamauga, he also fought in the battle of Stone River.

Fillmore Road – U. S. President Millard Fillmore, the Thirteenth President, he served from 1850-1853.

Grant Road – U. S. President Ulysses Grant served in the Civil War and led the Army to the defeat of the South. He was the eighteenth President, serving from 1869-1877. One of his vice presidents was Schuyler Colfax.

Gordon Road – Moses Gordon came to Madison Twp. in 1871. His son, Martin Gordon managed Oak Grove Creamery.

✓ Harrison Road – Born in Ohio, but claimed Indiana as home. Benjamin Harrison was a U.S. Senator from 1881-1887. He was the twenty third President, serving from 1889 to 1893.

Hurd Road – A. M. (Alanson) Hurd laid out and platted the Village of St. Joseph Iron Works, the first village organized in the County, now Mishawaka. Orlando Hurd was County Commissioner from 1835-1837.

Inwood Road – Richard Inwood settled here in 1835 in Centre Township. He was the superintendent of the South Bend Iron Works, and once owned 400 acres in Centre Township.

Ireland Road – Sam Ireland was an old and respected citizen of Mishawaka after settling there in 1831. He was the first Assessor of St. Joseph County, he was also the Penn Township Assessor and a Justice of the Peace. John Ireland was an Assoc. Judge in 1837 and a County Commissioner from 1832 to 1835.

Jackson Road – Andrew Jackson was the Seventh President of the U. S. from 1829 to 1837. John Jackson was County Commissioner in 1831 and an early settler of Union Township.

Kern Road – John Kern was a U. S. Senator from 1911 to 1917. He was the Vice President nominee on the ticket with President William J. Bryan in 1908.

Kline Road – Peter Kline settled in Madison Township in 1846.

Kelly Road - Charles Kelley settled in Madison Township in 1853.

Roosevelt Road – An exception to the alphabet system in the County. Originally called Lehman road, named for someone with the last name beginning with “L”, but the County officials wanted to honor the thirty-second President Franklin Roosevelt and they already had James Whitcomb Riley, so Lehman bit the dust.

Layton Road – George F. Layton was on the first Board of Trustees of the Northern Indiana College. He was a member of the original St. Joseph County Historical Society.

Leeper Road – David R. Leeper was a State Senator and a State Representative in the 1860's.

Madison Road – Named for the fourth President of the U. S., James Madison who served from 1809 to 1817.

Martindale Road – John Martindale was an early settler in German Township, a pioneer minister in the Christian Church and County Commissioner from 1832 to 1833.

Miller Road – William Miller settled in St. Joseph County in 1833, was a Justice of the Peace, served on the City Council, and was a State Legislator for 3 terms starting in 1844. William H. Miller was the Attorney General under President Benjamin Harrison from 1889 to 1893.

New Road – Harry S. New was a U. S. Senator from 1917 to 1923. He was also Postmaster General under President Harding and Coolidge, 1923 to 1929.

Nicar Road – Robert B. Nicar was St. Joseph County Treasurer from 1851 to 1856. Edwin Nicar, the son of Robert, was a Captain in the Army and a County Clerk.

Osborne Road – Andrew L. Osborne was a Circuit Court Judge in St. Joseph County from 1858 to 1870.

Pierce Road – The fourteenth President of the U. S. Franklin Pierce served from 1853 to 1857.

Patterson Road – William Patterson was County Recorder in 1837, South Bend City Clerk in 1845, Trustee of South Bend 1846, and President of St. Joseph County Bible Society.

Quinn Road – John Quinn, Revolutionary War Patriot died in 1840

Quincy Road – Josiah Quincy was a US Representative 1805-1813, Mayor of Boston 1823-1828, Pres. Of Harvard 1829-1845

Quarles Road – Francis Quarles was an English Poet.

Riley Road – James Whitcomb Riley, famous Hoosier Poet.

Shively Road – Benjamin Shively was born in Osceola Indiana in 1857, he was the proprietor of the South Bend ERA newspaper, a U. S. Senator from 1909 to 1916, and a U. S. Representative from 1884-1885 and 1887-1893.

Smith Road – Oliver H. Smith was a U. S. Senator from 1837 to 1843 and a U. S. Representative from 1827 to 1829.

Stanton Road – Aaron Stanton was County Commissioner in 1831, and in 1830 was the inspector of elections in Michigan Township.

Towle Road – Gilman Towle was an early settler of St. Joseph County. He died in 1888 at the age of 99. One of the founders of the County Agricultural Society.

Tyler Road – The tenth President of the U. S. John Tyler served from 1841 to 1845.

Underwood Road – Dr. Israel Underwood. He and his wife were both doctors with a large practice.

Van Nuys Road – Frederick Van Nuys was a U. S. Senator from 1933 to 1944. He succeeded James Watson in this post.

Watson Road – James E. Watson was a U. S. Senator from 1916 to 1933, and a U. S. Representative from 1895 to 1897 and from 1899 to 1909.

Indiana and Indianans (2 Vols. 1919) by Jacob Dunn
A History of Indiana (2 Vols. 1924) by John Dillon
Indiana: The Hoosier State (1963) by Carmony, Nichols