

JACKSON COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Jackson County was named in honor of Gen. Jackson, and was cut off from Washington County about 1815. A Territorial Commission laid out Brownstown, naming it in honor of Gen. Jacob Brown the land being purchased of John Ketchum. The Territorial Government appointed the first officers, who were as follows: John Milner, Clerk and Recorder; and William Ketchum, Sheriff and Treasurer. Hon. David Raymond was appointed Presiding Judge and Jos. Kitchell and John Ketchum, Associates.

The first courts were held at Vallonia, until the county could erect suitable buildings at Brownstown.

Among the first attorneys practicing in the courts were: David Floyd, John H. Thompson, Wm. Hendricks and Alex. A. Meek; the latter was appointed Prosecuting Attorney.

The first civil case tried was during the April term of 1816, and was entitled Jos. Kitchell vs. James Hutchinson. The first criminal case was U.S. vs. Cornelius Lester (assault and battery).

Jackson County is situated in the southern part of the State, and about the center, east and west. The East Fork of White River enters at the northeast corner and traverses in a southeasterly direction forming two triangular shaped districts, which are quite unlike their surfaces. The southeastern is mostly rolling with low, sandy hills 50 to 100 feet high. An exception to this is seen in a short range of knobs south of Brownstown, and a range of sandy clay hills southeast of Seymour, called Chestnut Ridge. The knobs south of Brownstown have an elevation of about 300 feet above White River. The White River bottoms are wide, and bordered by sand ridges and terraces. The northern portion is broken and traversed in a southeasterly and southeasterly direction by ridges that have an average elevation of 280 feet above the plains, and which, in places, spread out into broad table lands. The valleys through which the small streams find their way to White River are generally narrow. The area of the county is 400 square miles or 313,600 acres. About three-fourths of the county is composed of table lands and river bottoms, the remainder of clay hills and sandy lands. There are few counties in the State that can boast of great agricultural resources than Jackson.

Prof. Cox's opinion is that the ridge lands of Jackson County furnish a soil and climate that are not surpassed by any locality in Indiana for the growth of grapes. Through the manufacture of wine in its infancy, 72% barrels of it were made during the fall of 1874, by only six growers. The other ridges of the county are devoted to fruit growing with great success.

The first settlements made in this county were made by the French, in the eighteenth century, at a place called Vallonia; but the first permanent settlement was made by men coming from the Falls of the Ohio, now Louisville, Kentucky, in the early part of the century. At the time there was no old French trader here, who stated that the trade with the Indians had fallen off, and soon after it entirely ceased after the war of 1812, when it was again renewed. Among the Indian settlers of the county were: Owen Owens, James and John R. Hamilton, Henry and Aquilla Rodgers, Abram Miller, Joseph B. Durham, James Hutchinson, Thomas Dring, John Ketchum, William Graham, Abram Huff, Thomas Carr, Alex. Craig, James Shewmaker and many others, all of whom settled in various parts of the county.

When the war broke out, the Indians became troublesome, and several persons returned across the Ohio River, others sent their families across but remained themselves.

Among the first mills that were built was one erected by Joshua Lindsey, in 1812. It was known as a "hog mill" and was run by one horse. The capacity of this mill was but six bushels every twenty-four hours. This mill was afterward moved to Huff's Creek, above where Brownstown was afterward located, in 1813, and was then run by water.

Robert Staley built the first water grist-mill, in the southeastern part of the county, sometime in 1813, and about the same time he built an iron furnace near Vallonia. The first saw-mill was erected by William Congleton, in 1812, at Rockford, on White River. The first school house was erected at Vallonia. The first religious society formed was by the Baptists, in 1816, in Hamilton Township, and they met for worship in a school house.

The first tavern and stores were at Vallonia. The first blacksmith was Joshua Lindsey, who had his shop on Hugh A. Finley's place near Brownstown. About the beginning of the war of 1812, blacksmiths were erected in different parts of the county, among which was one at Vallonia. It is said that this one probably saved a number of lives at the time of the "Pigeon Roost Massacre", where twenty-three families were killed by the Indians in Scott County.

In the fall of 1812, Mr. Ketchum and a Mr. Bankard were hauling pumpkins from a field, Mr. K. driving and Mr. B. walking behind the wagon. They were fired upon by the Indians, killing Bankard instantly and wounding Ketchum in the arm. The horses took flight and ran home, thus saving the life of the latter. Word was sent to Vallonia, and the next day troops were sent to bury Bankard. A man by the name of Sturgeon accompanied them, who, in returning got ahead of the company a short distance and was shot and killed a few yards from his own door, and within a half mile of the fort. The only battle fought during the war, in the county, was at Tipton's Island in 1814. A party of Indians, fifty or sixty in number, had been marauding through the county, and were pursued by about thirty whites under Capt. afterward Gen. J. Tipton, one of the most distinguished men of his day, and United States Senator from the State, from 1812 till 1839, when he died. The Indians concluded to make a stand at a ford on the river, and believing that they would fight him here, if anywhere, were determined to break them and crowd above on a drift, while a few of the men remained behind until it was too late and after a short skirmish, in which there was one Indian killed and several wounded, the robbers ran away.



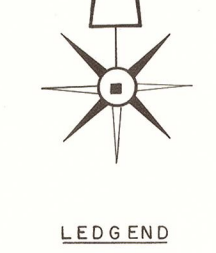
EXPLANATION FOR HOUSE NUMBERING SYSTEM

THE NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR HOUSES IS TO START "0" AT THE INTERSECTION OF NORTH & SOUTH, EAST & WEST BASE LINE THE FIRST SECTION STARTING WITH 0 & PROGRESSING TO 1000. EACH SECTION PROGRESSING 1000 EACH SECTION IS MEASURED IN INCHES OF 5.56 HOUSES OR 1/4 SECTION OF ROAD END IN EVEN NUMBERS—HOUSES ON S.W. SIDE OF ROAD END IN ODD NUMBERS.

EXPLANATION FOR NUMBERING ROAD INTERSECTIONS

THE SYSTEM FOR NUMBERING ROAD INTERSECTIONS IS TO START "0" AT THE INTERSECTION OF E.W. AND N.S. BLUE DOTTED LINE ANY ROAD INTERSECTION THAT IS IN NORTH OF THE E.W. DOTTED LINE WOULD BE 1000—ANY ROAD INTERSECTION, 200 NORTH OF BLUE DOTTED LINE WOULD BE 2000 INTERSECTION INTERSECTIONS WOULD BE PROPORTIONAL TO THE NUMBER OF 1000 ANY INTERSECTIONS IN EAST OF N.S. DOTTED LINE WOULD BE 1000—THIS EAST OF DOTTED LINE WOULD BE 2000 NUMBER ON MAP AND ARROUND ARE IDENTICAL.

MAP PRINTED BY COLUMBUS REPRODUCTION & SUPPLY CO.—COLUMBUS, INDIANA.
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ROAD MAP OF JACKSON COUNTY, INDIANA

ADOPTED APRIL 6, 1964 - REV. MAY 3, 1965
REV. FEBRUARY 3, 1975 - REV. SEPTEMBER 3, 1985
REV. DECEMBER 20, 1994

ROAD INTERSECTIONS & THEIR NUMBERS—FEDERAL-STATE & COUNTY ROADS
TOWNSHIPS—SECTIONS—CITIES—TOWNS—CREEKS—RIVERS—RAILROADS—RURAL
SUBDIVISIONS—LAKES—GOVT. FOREST—SCHOOLS—CHURCHES—CEMETERIES
FIREHOUSES—E.M.S.—ROADS—ADJOINING CITIES—ROAD NUMBERS & NAMES—
91 HOUSE NUMBERING SYSTEM.

APPROVED

MAP PREPARED BY C.J. KLODZ—COLUMBUS REPRODUCTION & SUPPLY
CO. APRIL 6, 1964 - REV. MAY 3, 1965 - REV. FEBRUARY 3, 1975 - REV. SEPTEMBER 3, 1985 - REV. DECEMBER 20, 1994
OF JACKSON COUNTY, INDIANA, REV. FEBRUARY 3, 1975 - REV. SEPTEMBER 3, 1985 - REV. DECEMBER 20, 1994

LEGEND

- GRAVEL
- BLACKTOP
- BRIDGE
- FEDERAL OR STATE
- STARTING POINT
- ROAD SUPERINTENDENT
- SCHOOL
- CHURCH
- CEMETERY
- CHURCH & CEMETERY
- NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
- FIREHOUSE
- E.M.S. & HOSPITALS

ATTEST:

Don DeLoach
SHERIFF

Don C. Dancy
ATTORNEY

James T. Dancy
MEMBER

James T. Dancy
MEMBER

James T. Dancy
MEMBER

James T. Dancy
MEMBER