INDIANA

GLOBE TROTTING
through the Hoosier state

Many cities and towns in Indiana are named after other locations that stretch from one state over to the other side of the planet

By Annie Aguiar
aguiara@iu.edu | @annabelaguiar

Anyone who has driven through the state of Indiana has probably seen the names: Brazil. Versailles. Warsaw.

While naming cities and towns after other locations isn't an Indiana-specific phenomenon, there do seem to be more than in other states. While there isn't one consistent reason why this happens, a couple explanations exist.

Homesick settlers

Many of the cities and towns named for other locations come from the pre-Indiana home of the settlers. One example is the city of Berne, Indiana.

According to the city's website, a group of devout Mennonites immigrated to the area from Switzerland in 1852; their Swiss origins explains the name of both Berne and the nearby town of Geneva, Indiana.

But it's not just those who traveled thousands of miles who named their new homes after their old ones.

The Putnam County website details the naming of the city of Greencastle, Indiana. The town was founded in 1821 by Ephraim Dukes on a land grant. He named it after his hometown — Greencastle, Pennsylvania.

Pious pioneers

Biblical roots can be found for some of the names repurposed from other locations for Indiana towns and cities.
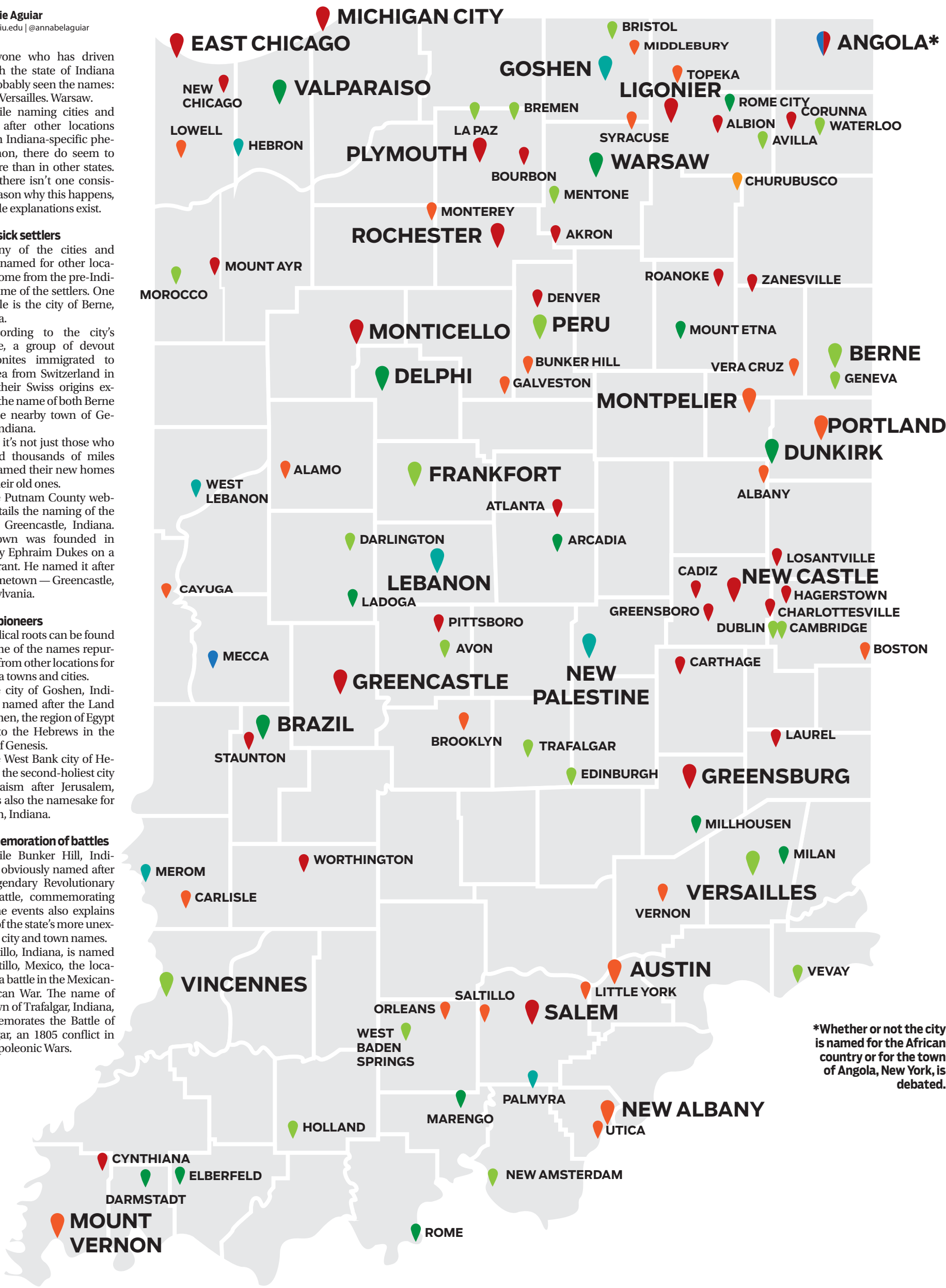
The city of Goshen, Indiana, is named after the Land of Goshen, the region of Egypt given to the Hebrews in the Book of Genesis.

The West Bank city of Hebron is the second-holiest city in Judaism after Jerusalem, and it's also the namesake for Hebron, Indiana.

Commemoration of battles

While Bunker Hill, Indiana, is obviously named after the legendary Revolutionary War battle, commemorating wartime events also explains some of the state's more unexpected city and town names.

Saltillo, Indiana, is named for Saltillo, Mexico, the location of a battle in the Mexican-American War. The name of the town of Trafalgar, Indiana, commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar, an 1805 conflict in the Napoleonic Wars.

MICHIGAN CITY
EAST CHICAGO
BRISTOL
MIDDLEBURY
ANGOLA*
NEW CHICAGO
VALPARAISO
GOSHEN
TOPEKA
LIGONIER
ROME CITY
CORUNNA
LOWELL
HEBRON
BREMEN
ALBION
WATERLOO
AVILLA
PLYMOUTH
LA PAZ
SYRACUSE
BOURBON
WARSAW
CHURUBUSCO
MENTONE
MONTEREY
ROCHESTER
AKRON
MOUNT AYR
ROANOKE
ZANESVILLE
MOROCCO
DENVER
MONTICELLO
PERU
MOUNT ETNA
DELPHI
BUNKER HILL
VERA CRUZ
BERNE
GALVESTON
GENEVA
MONTPELIER
PORTLAND
DUNKIRK
ALAMO
WEST LEBANON
FRANKFORT
ALBANY
ATLANTA
DARLINGTON
ARCADIA
LOSANTVILLE
CAYUGA
LEBANON
CADIZ
NEW CASTLE
HAGERSTOWN
LADOGA
GREENSBORO
CHARLOTTESVILLE
PITTSBORO
DUBLIN
CAMBRIDGE
MECCA
AVON
BOSTON
GREENCASTLE
NEW PALESTINE
CARTHAGE
BRAZIL
BROOKLYN
LAUREL
STAUNTON
TRAFALGAR
EDINBURGH
GREENSBURG
MILLHOUSEN
WORTHINGTON
MILAN
MEROM
VERSAILLES
CARLISLE
VERNON
VINCENNES
AUSTIN
VEVAY
LITTLE YORK
ORLEANS
SALTILLO
SALEM
WEST BADEN SPRINGS
PALMYRA
NEW ALBANY
HOLLAND
MARENGO
UTICA
CYNTHIANA
ELBERFELD
NEW AMSTERDAM
DARMSTADT
MOUNT VERNON
ROME

*Whether or not the city is named for the African country or for the town of Angola, New York, is debated.

DISTANCE FROM NAMESAKE (in miles)

Less than 500	1,501 - 2,500
500 - 1,500	2,501 - 3,500
	3,501 - 4,500
	4,501 - 5,500
	5,501 - 6,500
	6,501 - 7,500

GRAPHIC BY ANNIE AGUIAR