
AN INDEX TO
NATURALIZATION RECORDS
IN PRE-1907
ORDER BOOKS
OF INDIANA
COUNTY COURTS

(Formerly titled *An Index to Indiana Naturalization Records Found in Various Order Books of the Ninety-Two Local Courts Prior to 1907*)

With a new Foreword by M. Teresa Baer
Introduction by John J. Newman

This index does not include names from naturalization documents such as forms, certificates, or bound naturalization books, which are gathered by law at the Indiana State Archives
(Commission on Public Records)

Indiana Historical Society
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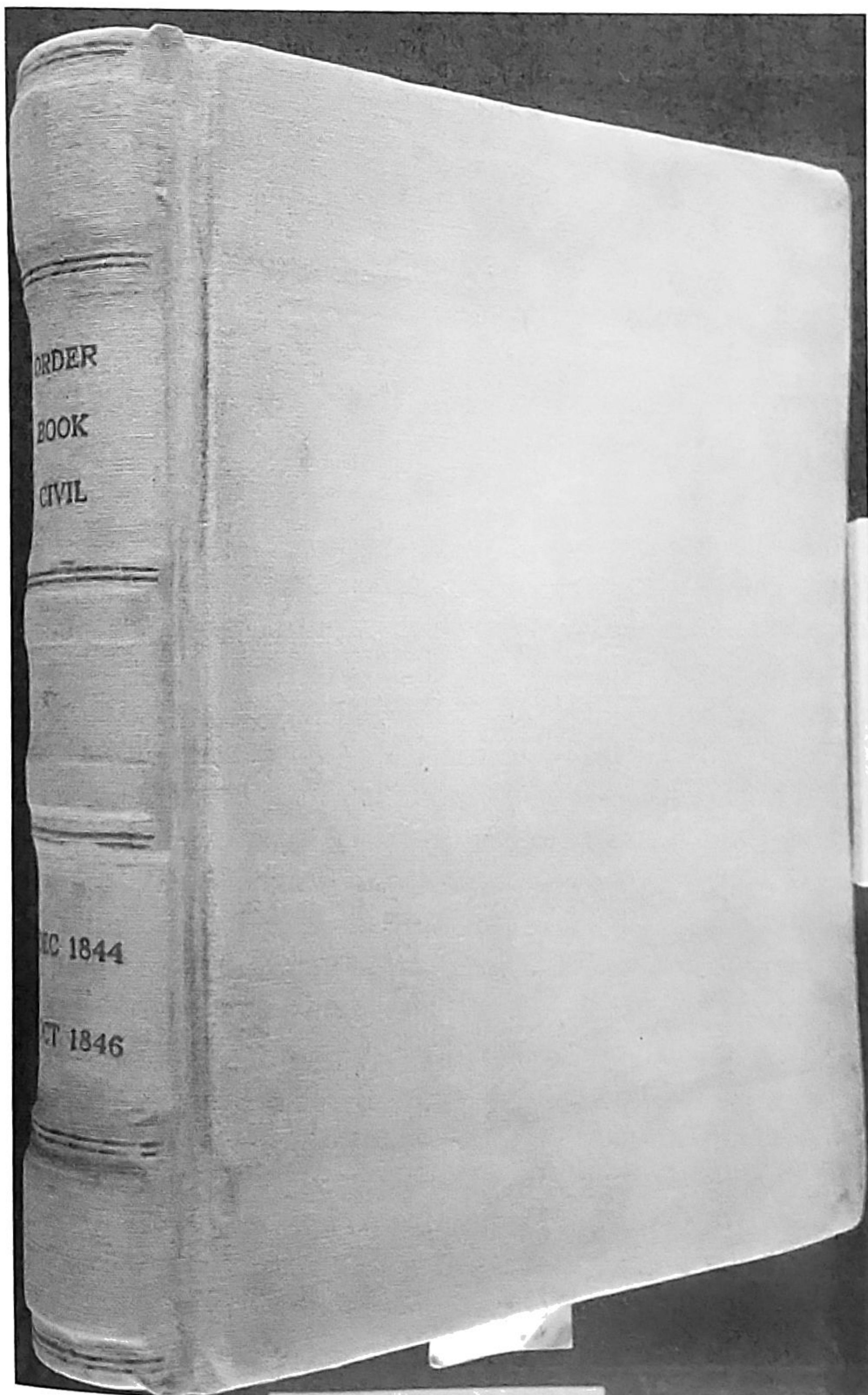
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FOREWORD

The index to naturalization records contained in *An Index to Naturalization Records in Pre-1907 Order Books of Indiana County Courts* serves as an invaluable resource for genealogical researchers whether they are seeking a “lost” relation or are eager to document the points at which their ancestors became citizens of the United States of America. Although the original book, published in 1981, and a later microfilmed version of the index sold well for twenty years, the complexity of naturalization records has made the index a source of confusion for researchers. Therefore, the Indiana Historical Society is publishing this foreword with the reprint of the index. The foreword attempts to differentiate between ***the records indexed for this publication—which are housed in Indiana’s ninety-two county courthouses***, and all other naturalization records—which are kept by law at the Indiana State Archives (part of the state’s Commission on Public Records).

Becoming a naturalized citizen has traditionally been a four-step process: 1) alien report and registry, 2) declaration of intention to become a citizen, 3) petition for naturalization, and 4) naturalization certification. Before the 1950s candidates could file the necessary paperwork in any court from the federal level down to the local level. Thus, researchers looking for naturalization records must be aware of the categories of naturalization records and where they are located. Currently in Indiana, naturalization records fall into two categories: ***naturalization proceeding notes in court order books, which are notes about court proceedings jotted down by court clerks and which are indexed in this volume;*** and “naturalization documents,” which are manuscript items such as forms, certificates, and bound naturalization books, which are located at the Indiana State Archives.



An example of a civil, circuit court order book from Decatur County, Indiana, that contains the types of naturalization records—filings, pleadings, and final orders for citizenship—that were indexed for this book.

"Declaration of Intention"

Be it remembered that on the
sixth day of April A.D. 1866 and before the Circuit Court of the
County of Decatur in the State of Indiana I do solemnly declare
that I am and make the following declaration which
I am in accordance with the laws of naturalization.
That I am, and wish to be naturalized a citizen of the
United States of America, and that I have resided in the State of Indiana
in the county of Decatur, in the month of January A.D. 1866 and that I have
lived in the State of Indiana as the place of my residence
with the intention to become a citizen of the United
States and to renounce forever all allegiance
and fidelity to any foreign Prince, State or Nation
or Person by whom I may be then and subsequently to the
King of Germany whereas I have been born a subject
of the same under my father and this day and year first
born Weller.

(Signed) Ernst Obertimpe
Deemed to be before me this day of April 1866
Anno Domini一千八百六十六年
At the Circuit Court of Decatur

Notation documenting
a declaration of intention
by Ernst Obertimpe, which is located
in the Decatur County,
Indiana, civil, circuit
court order book. The
index entry for this
naturalization record,
called a "filing," can be
found on page 116 of
this book.

Naturalization Proceeding Notes in Order Books at the County Courts (INDEXED IN THIS BOOK)

The first category of naturalization records mentioned above encompasses notes regarding naturalization proceedings in order books at the Indiana county courts. Each time an immigrant took a step in the naturalization process, a court clerk made a notation in an order book of the court for which he or she served. The note is called a "filing" or a "pleading" if it states that an immigrant filed a declaration of intention to become a citizen or a petition for naturalization; the note is called a "final order" if it states that a judge officially ordered that an immigrant is a legal citizen. Clerks of the circuit courts in Indiana's counties retain the order books that contain these filings, pleadings, and final orders (see photograph, page v). In order to obtain a copy of one of the notes, a researcher must know which county to contact. The easiest way to begin this research is to consult the index in this volume, *An Index to Naturalization Records in Pre-1907 Order Books of Indiana County Courts*. This book is an index of filings, pleadings, and final orders in Indiana from 1906 and before for four types of courts found in both the civil and probate court systems: superior, common pleas, probate, and circuit. It contains an alphabetized list of immigrants. Next to each immigrant's name is the county where the immigrant completed a step of the naturalization process, the type of court order book (superior, common pleas, probate, or circuit) that contains the filing, pleading, or final order, the volume(s) and year(s) of the order book, and the page(s) where the note is located in the order book. If a researcher finds an ancestor listed in this index, he or she should call or visit the circuit court for the county indicated and **ASK THE CIRCUIT COURT CLERK TO CHECK BOTH THE CIVIL AND PROBATE ORDER BOOKS FOR THE TYPE OF COURT LISTED (SUPERIOR, COMMON PLEAS, PROBATE, OR CIRCUIT). STATE THE VOLUME AND YEAR(S) OF THE ORDER BOOK AND THE PAGE(S) OF THE FILING, PLEADING, OR FINAL ORDER. (In order to avoid confusion, DO NOT ask for "naturalization records.")**

Naturalization Documents at the Indiana State Archives (NOT INDEXED IN THIS BOOK)

The second category of naturalization documents that is mentioned above encompasses paperwork for the four steps of the naturalization process. Few alien report and registry forms appear in Indiana records, so most of the paperwork consists of declarations of intention, petitions, and stubs for certificates of naturalization. Clerks of the circuit court in each Indiana county retained these documents until the 1980s when the Indiana Supreme Court mandated that the counties give the paperwork to the Indiana State Archives. By the year 2000 all but thirty-seven counties had turned these four types of naturalization documents over to the Archives. Therefore, although most of these documents are located at the Archives, some may still be held by various circuit courts.

In an ongoing project since 1997, the Indiana State Archives staff and numerous volunteers have been indexing the Archives' naturalization documents and publishing the indexes on the Archives' web site. Since the Archives has naturalization documents from less than two-thirds of Indiana counties, the indexes are grouped by county first, then alphabetically by last name. Therefore, a researcher must know the county in which an ancestor filed a naturalization document in order to find the ancestor in the Archives' indexes. (*Here again, a researcher may want to start the search with this book, An Index to Naturalization Records in Pre-1907 Order Books of Indiana County Courts, which contains an index to a large percentage of the court order-book records, organized by last names. Note, however, that all names in the Archives' records may not be indexed in this book.*)

The Indiana State Archives' indexes are crosslisted for spelling variations such as for people who Americanized their names or for women who arrived in the United States under one name, but subsequently married and were naturalized under a second name. Information online consists of names of persons being naturalized; their nationalities, ages, and dates of arrival in the United States; and the volumes and page numbers of the naturalization records in which the names are located. If a researcher finds an ancestor on the Archives' web site, he or she should contact the Archives online at: www.state.in.us/icpr/webfile/archives/homepage; or by phone at: (317) 591-5222. Ask the Archives staff to pull the naturalization records for the given county, stating the volume(s) and page number(s). The naturalization documents that the Archives houses may identify wives and children, list dates and ports for departure to and arrival in the United States, and sometimes include photographs. Archives staff will photocopy the material for a nominal fee, depending on the number of pages in the record. Photographic reproductions may also be purchased for an extra charge.

An Excerpt from the Naturalization Records Index for Hamilton County on the Indiana State Archives Web Site (NOT Indexed in This Book)

Indexed by Ann L. Skene

Name	Nationality	Age	Arrival Date	Volume, Page Number
Laderman, Henry	France	37	1855/10/05	1, 15
Laflame, George	Canada	54	1867/08/15	1, 145
Lange, Otto	Prussia	32	1879/12/15	1, 78

—M. Teresa Baer, Editor
Family History Publications
Indiana Historical Society
2001

Photographs are courtesy of the Indiana State Archives. For more information, see John J. Newman, *American Naturalization Processes and Procedures, 1790–1985* (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1985), or Newman's updated version, *American Naturalization Records, 1790–1990: What They Are and How to Use Them* (Bountiful, Utah: Heritage Quest, 1998).

INTRODUCTION

From October, 1941, to April, 1942, Indiana participated in a nationwide project, sponsored by the United States Department of Justice, to locate and photocopy naturalization records predating September 29, 1906. All photocopies were to be collected in Washington, D.C. The project in Indiana was administered by the Division of Community Services Programs, Work Projects Administration and involved all ninety-two counties in the state. Its purpose was to locate and inventory each naturalization proceeding (intention, Petition and/or Order of the Court) found in separate naturalization ledgers or in the various order books of the courts in Indiana that were authorized to naturalize citizens. Upon completion of the inventory, a camera crew was to microfilm or photocopy each record. Indiana's Work Projects number was 70039-0.

Local workers, ranging from one to perhaps as many as six per county, had one primary function: "As per orders I shall proceed to locate and search any or all records of Declaration of Naturalizations, whether in book form or original papers." "On October 16, 1941 a project designed to compile a list of all naturalizations and declarations of intentions thereof by aliens was begun in the Clerk's office in Lawrence County. It was completed November 13, 1941."

The war effort superseded completion of the project, but original notes selected by the Immigration Naturalization Project, Basement, Indiana State Library, were typed and verified. Little correspondence and no Indiana manuals exist. The limited volume of correspondence that does survive leads one to the following observation: the project hired individuals not for their skills in reading or understanding court records nor for their ability to correctly and accurately transcribe names. Most writers displayed a limited ability to spell. While correspondence to Indianapolis reflected concern for wages, letters back to the field explained how each employee was to proceed. "He has worked a number of Circuit Court books in the years we are not interested in, such as 1907 to 1928. I have corrected his listings. Also found the four books he overlooked [sic] our regular Naturalization and Declaration books." Upon termination of the project, these files evidently became a part of other WPA Historic Records Survey records. Although there was no transfer by receipt to the Archives Division, Indiana State Library, these records became a part of the State's archival holdings. This volume is taken from these records.

One must use these records with caution for the following reasons. First, not all records were searched. Very few original papers, bundled separately in such counties as Franklin and Jefferson or interfiled with civil or probate papers, were located. The records of several counties were cross-checked with the WPA lists and verified to be between 75% and 98% accurate (except for spelling). Second, research employees, while usually hired locally and perhaps familiar with local names, had no training in deciphering spellings of names as they appeared in nineteenth-century court records. This was a special problem in interpreting names beginning with such letters as H, M, T, and W. Third, no one in the Division of Community Services Programs showed any comprehensive understanding of the court system in Indiana. Thus, records such as probate Complete Order books were searched, having no naturalization data, and other records, especially those created in the pre-1850 period and stored in attics or basements, were overlooked. I find no record that anyone ever compiled a volume-by-volume inventory of records to see what was available. Fourth, courts in the nineteenth century typically developed their own routine for court procedures. Some counties, like Franklin, had virtually complete naturalization ledger books dating from the 1820s while most Indiana counties did not begin compiling these until the 1850s. Any court of record could naturalize, and the judge had to issue an order to that effect. While these court proceedings should be in order books, there is no guarantee that the information is available in that source. Finally, the majority of foreign immigrants were never naturalized. They became solid members of their community and had the same respectability as those who were.

An Index to Indiana Naturalizaton Records serves as an index to court records located in the proper courthouse. The records are *not* in the State Archives. If one does not find an ancestor in this publication, research in the county *may* provide the information sought.

—John J. Newman, Archivist
State of Indiana
1981

ABBREVIATIONS

The following court order books have been searched page by page for naturalization information:

Circuit = CIR
Common Pleas = COM

Probate = PRO
Superior = SUP

ADAMs	CIR A-Z, 26-41; PRO A-B; COM 1-3
ALLEn	CIR A-Z, 1-44; PRO A-C; SUP A-C, 1-3
BARTHolomew	CIR A-Z, 1-45; PRO A-G; COM 1-3
BENTon	CIR 1-43; PRO 44-8; COM 1-3
BLACKford	CIR 1-31
BOONe	CIR 1-41; PRO A-C; COM 1
BROWn	CIR A-T; COM 1-5 (2 & 4 missing)
CARRoll	CIR 1-45; PRO 1-4; COM A-I
CASS	CIR A-Z, 1-46; PRO A-C; COM 1-12; SUP 1-6
CLARK	CIR 1-5 (6 & 7 missing), B1-67; PRO A-Z, 1-18; COM 1-3
CLAY	CIR 1-52; COM 1-3
CLINTon	CIR 1-69; PRO A-H; COM A-F
CRAWford	CIR A-W; PRO 2; COM 1-3
DAVIess	CIR A-H, 1-39; PRO 1A-E, 1-16; COM 1-6
DEARBorn	CIR 1-72; PRO 1-7; COM 1-11
DECAtur	CIR 1-49; PRO A-H, 1; COM 1-11
DE KALb	CIR 32-38; PRO A-R
DELAware	CIR 1-93; PRO 1-4; COM 1-9
DUBOis	CIR 1-26; PRO A, B, 3, 1-7
ELKHart	CIR O, 1, B, 3-60; PRO 1-3; COM 1-8
FAYEtte	CIR A-I, 1-20; COM 1-6
FLOYd	CIR A-Z, 1-10; PRO A-Z, 1; COM 1-8
FOUNTain	CIR 1-59; COM A-Q
FRANKlin	CIR 2-36; PRO 1-4, E, F; COM 1-8
FULTon	CIR A-Z, 1-8; PRO A, B, 1-7; COM A-F
GIBSon	CIR A-H, 1-50; PRO B-D; COM 1-8
GRANT	CIR A-D, 1-50; PRO no listings; COM no listings
GREENe	CIR PRO COM searched but how many volumes not given; only 10 names reported
HAMILton	CIR A-K, 1-46; COM 1-6
HANcock	CIR A-H, 1-65; COM 1-10
HARRison	CIR A-Y, A2-W2; PRO no listings; COM no listings
HENDricks	CIR 1-51; PRO 1-4; COM 1, 2
HENRY	CIR A-H, 1-69; COM 1-10
HOWARD	CIR A-G; COM A, B, C, 1

HUNTINGton	CIR A1-MM38, 39-69; PRO 1-12; COM A, 1-10
JACKson	CIR A-ZZ, 53, 55; PRO 1-19; COM 1-7
JASPer	CIR A-Z, 1-31; COM 2-6, B
JAY	CIR A-Z, 1-31; PRO A, 1-20
JEFFerson	CIR A-Z, 1-31; PRO E-Z, 1-12; COM A-L
JENNings	CIR 1-32; PRO 1-31; COM 1-4
JOHNson	CIR 4-50; PRO B, 9-14; COM 1-9
KNOX	CIR C-Z, AA-ZZ, 53-72; PRO A-D; COM no listings
KOSCIusko	CIR 1-55; PRO no listings; COM no listings
LAGRange	CIR 1-30; PRO C-M, 1-3; COM A, B, 2-5
LAKE	CIR A-Z, 1-8; COM A-G; SUP 1-4
LAPOrte	CIR A-H; COM A-G; SUP 1, 2
LAWRence	CIR A-Z, 1-23; PRO A-Z, 1-7; COM 1-4
MADison	CIR 1-70
MARIon	CIR 1-157; COM A, 2-36; SUP 1-271
MARShall	CIR A-Z, 1-23; PRO A-E; COM A-H
MARTin	CIR A-Z, 1-3; PRO A-H; COM 1-3
MIAMI	CIR A-Z, 27-89; PRO A, B, 1-23; COM 1-35
MONroe	CIR 1, 1-11, K-Z, A1; PRO A-F; COM 1-8
MONTgomery	CIR A, 2-79; COM 1-9
MORGan	CIR A-S, 1-45; PRO 1-11, A-O
NEWTon	CIR 1-29
NOBLe	CIR 1-42; COM 1-7
OHIO	CIR 1-19; PRO 1-10; COM 1-3
ORANge	CIR 1-28; PRO 1-23; COM 1-6
OWEN	CIR 1-38; PRO 1-21; COM 1-6
PARKe	CIR 1-38; PRO 1-5; COM 1-4
PERRy	CIR A1-V22; PRO 1-14; COM 1-4
PIKE	CIR A-W; PRO COM searched but number not given
PORTer	CIR A-Z, 1-22; PRO A-J; COM A-H; SUP 1, 2
POSEy	CIR A-Z, A1-A9; PRO A-G; COM 1-6
PULAski	CIR 1-32; PRO A-I; COM A-D
PUTNam	CIR A-E, 4-38; PRO A-D; COM 1-9
RANDolph	CIR A-D, 6-60; PRO A-D, 10-22; COM 1-8
RIPLey	CIR A-Z, AA-TT; COM 1-9
RUSH	CIR 1-45; COM 1-8
SCOTt	CIR 1-24; PRO A-P
SHELby	CIR A-Z, 3A-3P, AA-ZZ
SPENCer	CIR 2-32; PRO A-G; COM 1-7
STARke	CIR A-O, 20-33; PRO A-G; COM 1, A
STEUbEN	CIR 1-33; PRO 1-16
ST JOseph	CIR 1-46; COM 1-3
SULLivan	CIR A-Z, 27-59; PRO A, 2-16; COM 1, B-F
SWITzerland	CIR 1-6, H-Z, AA, BB; PRO A-D, 1-29
TIPPecanoe	CIR 1-105; COM 1-24; SUP 1-43
TIPTon	CIR PRO COM searched but which volumes not clear
UNION	CIR (A missing), B-V; COM 1-4
VANDerburgh	CIR A-Z, A1-Z1; PRO ABC, D; COM 1-13; SUP 1-35
VERMillion	CIR 1-29; PRO 1-4; COM 1, 2
VIGO	CIR 1-71, O; PRO 1-6; COM 1-17; SUP 1-28, O
WABAsh	CIR A, B, 3-49; PRO 1-3; COM A-K
WARRen	CIR 1-45; PRO 1-5; COM A-N
WARricK	CIR 1-21; PRO 1-7; COM 1-8
WASHington	CIR A-Z
WAYNe	CIR A-X, 1-51; PRO a-n, 1-23; COM 1-12
WELLs	CIR A-Z, 1-25; PRO COM searched but volumes not listed
WHITE	CIR 1-51; PRO 6-19; COM A, B, 3-11
WHiTLEY	CIR 1-33; PRO A-H; COM 1-5