

STREET NAMES IN NEW ALBANY

Note attached in June 1980 to the original work (ca. 1965-8?) of Mr. Earl Hedden: Street Names in New Albany. Mr. Earl Hedden has placed this in the library for the good of the community. To the best of his knowledge and belief the information is true. He does not want anyone selling this information. He would like to be given credit for any material used. A tape recording with Mr. Hedden's wishes in this regard is available for listening in the Indiana Room.

Bank Street – Presbyterian minister from Louisville temporarily served 1st Presbyterian Church. Came from his home in Louisville – walked down the street in Louisville to the River, across river in skiff, then up the street to the Presbyterian church. Named Bank street in Louisville and Bank street in N.A. for him – the route he took. Formerly known as Bank's Lane.

Thought I'd start with Abbie Dell Avenue and end with Zurschmiede Drive and tell anything interesting I learned about how the streets were named, but found I couldn't do it that way. The naming of the streets is too much tied up with history of N.A. So – as with almost everything else that is told about N.A., it must start with the Scribners. They started with the idea of numbering the streets, with what is now State Street the dividing street – West First – East First (now **Pearl**) – West Second – East Second (now **Bank**) – West Third (running into Scribner Park – West Third somewhere along the way became **Washington** and **Lafayette** streets) – East Third, etc.

A short street (really an alley) running north from Spring Street was named **Ayer** after Elias Ayer, who plotted it – the same Ayer for whom the Ayer Theological Seminary was named – a N. A. merchant. This street has come into prominence within the past few weeks, as one of the boundary streets of the new library, and will no

doubt become a well-known street. Very recently the streets bounding the city-county building were re-named. It is now **Hauss Square** named in honor of Dr. Augustus P. Hauss. So named soon after Dr. Hauss's death, on Dec. 30, 1964. He had headed the N. A. Building Authority when the government center was erected in 1961.

Must for a moment go back even further than the Scribners. The Old Buffalo Trace was first made by American bison (buffalo) on their way to salt licks of Kentucky (last buffalo seen in this county in 1798). The Indians traversed the trail on hunting trips, and soldiers used it as they traveled from Vincennes (territorial capital) to Clark's settlement near the Falls of the Ohio. The first settlers found it a ready-made route to the West as the great migration began. The Scribner Brothers saw the importance of connecting New Albany to this Buffalo Trace, and built the **Old Vincennes Road** in order to do this. Some years later, the state of Indiana built a better road up the Knobs than the Scribners had been able to do. This road, the first paved road in the county, is today State Road 150. In early days it was called simply the State Road, and that part of it in N.A. became **State Street**. *(John Cody does not believe this to be the case. He thinks the Scribners named the street dividing the East and West numbered streets, "State" street, which would have been long before.)*

Now – leave the village of N.A. briefly. Up around what is now the K & I bridge, an eccentric pioneer, named Epaphras Jones, saw the success the Scribners were having in building N.A., and decided to build another town, calling it "New Providence". Legend has it that Jones walked down Main Street (then called "High" street, since it was the first "high" street from the river), every morning to see what was going on in the Scribner's village. He wanted very much to build a road from his ferry that would reach the old Buffalo Trail – and he wanted to get it built before the Scribners finished theirs. He cut trees down even with the ground, making a broad track through the forest for a distance of two miles from the river. It never became a road, but **Vincennes Street** followed the line of this old road, and got its name from this

attempt to get a road built to join the road to Vincennes. What is now **Dewey Street** was Market Street, and Main Street was Albany in the town of New Providence. The former was later named Dewey, honoring a prominent lawyer in town, Charles Dewey, who along with a Mr. Barr owned this plat. It is believed that this Charles Dewey was the grandfather of Admiral Dewey, of Spanish-American War fame. 15th Street was called **Division Street**, which was the dividing line between the Jones property and property owned by the Conner family, which became a part of N.A., as N.A. began to grow eastward. Later it was called **Chestnut** before becoming 15th. There was a General Butler, also a lawyer who lived in that area about the same time that Dewey did. Butler hill was on 16th Street (a very popular coasting place), and it became **Butler Street**. In this same area – **Galt Street** believed to have been named for same Galts as Galt House in Louisville, **King Street** named for prominent King family.

Much of the upper part of what is now N.A. first belonged to officers and enlisted men in George Rogers Clark's army. This is the story: At the time of the Revolutionary War, soldiers were poorly paid. There had to be some incentive to get them to fight. So, the state of Virginia (of which this area was a part) promised Clark and his men a bonus. At the end of the Revolutionary War, Virginia gave all the land which it owned north of the Ohio River to Clark and his officers and soldiers. This was a vast area – 149,000 acres, extending from what is now East 8th Street in N.A. to some place above Charlestown in Clark County. This grant was bounded on the west by the **Grant Line Road** (thus that name). Officers were given 500 acres and enlisted men 100 acres. No doubt some of this land was never claimed, some was taken over by squatters before the legal owners got out here, but much of what is now N.A. came from these original tracts. For instance, the Shelbys (one of them was the first governor of Kentucky) owned all the land from Ekin Ave. down through Fairview Cemetery. Shelby was an officer in Clark's army. **Shelby Street** and **Shelby Place** were named for this family.

The southernmost street in the Jefferson Conner tract was called **South Street**. East of that the streets were numbered (South would have been North 1st, then there was North 2nd, 3rd and 4th.) This was confusing – with already east and west numbered streets. So North 2nd was called **Beechwood**, 3rd Street became **Lincoln** and 4th, **Roosevelt** – this not too many years ago.

On the other side of the **Charlestown Road** (obviously named for the town to which it led) and much later, the Depauws owned property. This estate which was the summer home of Washington DePauw's son, Charles, extended from the Charlestown Road to the alley south of DePauw Ave. **DePauw Avenue** was named for this family and **Vance Avenue** was named for Letitia DePauw, Vance being her maiden name. This home was on the Charlestown Road near Vance and what is now DePauw Place was the back entrance. **Florence Street** was named for Florence DePauw.

The Korb family owned everything from Silver Street east to Coe's Lane and from Slate Run Road to Hedden Park. This was lost in a mortgage and Morris McDonald, mayor in the '80s, got it. He subdivided it as the town of Silver Grove, which was a separate town with its own town government until recently. The little town hall stood in back of Advent Christian Church. The last street in the town of Silver Grove was named **Korb Avenue** in honor of the Korb family. This town was annexed to New Albany around 1912 or 1914.

The Hedden family owned the land where **Hedden Park** and **Hedden Court** are. This was subdivided and named in the 1920s. **Frederick Avenue**, which is a continuation of Hedden Park, is where the old Lafayette Frederick home used to be. He was a public officer in Floyd County. **McDonald Lane** was the lane that led to the summer home of Mayor Morris McDonald, also a **McDonald Avenue**. **Willard Avenue** was named for the N. A. man who was governor of Indiana around 1856. **Morton Avenue** was also named for an Indiana governor. The fairgrounds were in Fairmont

Park and it is from this that **Fairmont Avenue** gets its name. **Garretson Lane** ran through the Garretson farm. Jacob Garretson had a mill on Silver Creek. **Hazelwood Avenue** is named for Dr. John Hazelwood, an eye doctor whose office and home were on Main Street where Red Men's home is. **Logan Avenue** is named for Gen. Logan, the first commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Republican candidate for vice-president in 1888. **Virginia Avenue** is named for Virginia Durbin. **Twin Oaks Court** had two large oak trees growing side by side. **Thomas Street** for Thomas Conner, the owner of a ferry that ran between Portland in Louisville and N.A., from 1813 to 1897. **Spring Avenue** was former(ly) Turner Lane, a part of the Turner farm (Holly Jackson's family) as was **Beech Grove Avenue**. The Turners named it – beech trees in area. **Shrader Avenue** was named for a N. A. mayor in the early 1900s. The **Slate Run Road** got its name from the out-cropping of slate in Slate Run Creek (branch of Silver Creek). **Gulford Road**– now **Old Ford Road** – good ("gut") place to ford Silver Creek. **Beeler Street** was part of a farm owned by Hezekiah Beeler. **Beharrell Avenue** was named for Henry Beharrell, a member of a prominent family here. A son, Thomas G. Beharrell, was a Methodist minister here prior to 1900. **Best Avenue** was named in the early 1900s – when Jacob Best was mayor. **Woodrow Avenue** was to be named East Ekin. Mrs. V. R. Conner got up a petition to have the name changed to Woodrow in honor of Woodrow Wilson, World War I president. **Reno Avenue** was part of a subdivision made in the early 1900s, by Thos. McCulloch and Charles Kelso. Reno was Mrs. McCulloch's maiden name. **Mona Vista** was named for Mrs. George Russell (her name is Monica) whose husband made that subdivision. **Burton Avenue** and **Myrtle Avenue** were named for the son and daughter of Ollie Owens, who owned that land. He was a druggist, as is his son, Burton, the present owner of the Vincennes-street drug store. When this land was sold it was with the stipulation that never should intoxicating liquors be manufactured or sold on this land. I understand this is legally sound and can be enforced.

Below Vincennes Street there was a Conner subdivision. This Conner property extended from 10th Street to Vincennes, east and west, and from Spring, including Ekin, north and south. These streets were all named for trees, with one exception. They are: **Elm Street**, **Oak Street**, **Sycamore** (now Culbertson), and **Poplar** (now Ekin). 13th Street was **Walnut** and 15th Street was **Chestnut**. The exception was 11th Street, which was first named **John Street** in honor of John Conner, who was the owner of the plat. It was at the corner of John and Spring Streets that the John Street Methodist church was located (later Trinity Methodist). **Culbertson Avenue** was named for the prominent Culbertson family, and at first was called that only east of Vincennes Street, later changed Sycamore to Culbertson west of Vincennes. **Ekin Avenue** was named after Gen. Gerald Ekin, commandant at the Jeffersonville Depot after the Civil War. **Catherine Place** was named for Catherine Vernia, the granddaughter of the man who owned the property, John Vernia - the monument Vernias (about 50 years ago).

Mt. Tabor Lane was the short cut to Mt. Tabor church from Charlestown Road to the Grant Line Road, and the **Green Valley Road** led through a very green valley. **Valley View Court and Road** overlook the valley. **Daisy Lane** boasted a large number of daisies. **Magazine Lane** was the location for the old Powder House. There was a city ordinance that did not permit dynamite to be stored in the city, so it was stored out there – thus the name [*now called **Powder House Lane***].

The Isaac Griffin Plat extended from West to State Streets and from Cherry Street to Griffin. **Griffin Street** is named for the owner, and **West Street** was the western boundary of this tract. The **Captain Frank Road** was named for the member of the Frank family who was a captain in the Mexican War (1848). Their property was where Silvercrest is now.

Clay Street was the location of the Markmeyer Pottery works, there was Molto clay in that area. **Conner Street** was named for an E. R. Conner. **Dennison Avenue** was part of the Dennison farm.

In the early 1900s, there was a butcher named Green, for whom **Green Street** was named.

Virginia Court was named for Virginia Miller whose husband laid out that subdivision. **Summit Street** is the highest point in Mt. Isom, a very old division at the top of the Pearl Street hill. Just north of it Pearl Street becomes **Bono Road** (formerly named **Olden Street**) changed from some unknown reason, as Bono is a small town between Salem and Mitchell. Someone must have traveled this road to get there. **Kent Street** is named for a Bela Kent, mayor around the 1870s. The area of **Olive Avenue, Cottom** and **Dunbar** was originally called "The Meadows". Edward G. Henry, a N. A. lawyer, was the man who made the subdivision. He was a friend of Joe Kraft and it is thought that this street was named for Olive Kraft Wells. Charles Cottom was the editor of the Ledger and a historian of the late 1800s, and James Dunbar was a prominent citizen of N. A. and congressman from this district in the 1920s.

There was a Tuley plat in the west end of N.A. early in the 1800s. **Floyd Street** was named for a Floyd Tuley. Market Street, past West 9th, becomes **Church Street**. It was on this street that the first Baptist church in N.A. was built, and it is believed there was also a cemetery there. **Montgomery** – steamboat Captain James Montgomery. Where East 8th Street becomes Grant Line Road there is a **Klondyke Street**, named at the time of the gold rush in Alaska.

The street names on Silver Hills are for the most part descriptive. However, there is an **Alice Street**, named for Miss Alice Greene, and a **Dent Avenue** named for Charles Denton Kelso, prominent lawyer.

The Beechwood Housing project, built near the time of WWII, has streets named for heroes of that war – **Doolittle**, **Bulkeley**, **Wainwright** and **MacArthur**, while the one on Bono Road has an **Erni Avenue** (N.A. mayor in the 1950s) and a **Bonnie Sloan** (NA.'s first WWI casualty). **Mitchell Road** (Mayor Noble Mitchell and dentist) and **Minton Drive** (Justice of Supreme Court).

We have the usual names that are descriptive and self-explanatory – such as Knob View, Crestview, Highland, Water and Market and Front; many named for trees – Willow, Elm, Oak, Maple Lane; some named for states and for heroes and presidents. All cities have streets so named. What I am interested in is the names of streets that are uniquely ours and that show some imagination. There are still many that I'd like to know about – Pearl? Spring? Cherry? Margin Street?

- Earl Hedden