

Starke County, Indiana

~Historical Timeline~

Compiled by Marvin Allen, Starke County Historian

Before the first explorers and settlers arrived, our area was home to several distinct mound building cultures.

The Hopewell from 200 BC to 400 AD
The Mississippian from 1000 AD to 1400 AD

Although little evidence remains today, the first settlers to arrive found a number of mysterious mounds.

An 1876 map shows several mounds in Washington Twp between Eagle Creek and the Yellow River.

The same map shows several mounds in Knox; one at the corner of Delaware & Main Streets, one at the corner of John & Pearl Streets and another at the north end of Shield Street.

Several mounds were excavated at Round Lake in the 1930's.

1534

From 1534 to 1679, our area was part of a larger area claimed by the French known as New France.

During this period, our area was home to the Miami Tribe, who some believe to be descendents of the Mississippian Mound Builders

It would be another 145 years before a white man visited what was to become Starke County.

1679

La Salle, a French explorer, was the first white man to visit our area.
That was in 1679 and 327 years ago

His company of thirty men traveled down the Kankakee River stopping at a
place
about a mile south of US 30 in Davis Twp.

1763

After the French and Indian War ended in 1763,
all land east of the Mississippi River came under English control.

The proclamation of 1763 forbid any settlement west of the Appalachian
Mountains.

The English sent Indian war parties against any settlers
who ignored this proclamation.

It was during this time that the Pottawatomie Indians relocated from
Wisconsin into what was to become northwest Indiana

1783

After the Treaty of 1783 with England,
all land east of the Mississippi came under control of the United States of
America.

1787

On July 13, 1787, the Continental Congress passed an ordinance forming
the Northwest Territory,
consisting of present-day Wisconsin, part of Minnesota, Michigan, Illinois,
Indiana and Ohio.

1800

On May 7, 1800, an act of congress divided the Northwest Territory
The Indiana Territory was established and included present-day Wisconsin,
Illinois, Indiana, part of Michigan and part of Minnesota.
William Henry Harrison was named governor of the new territory.

The capital was located in Vincennes.

1816

Indiana became the 19th state in 1816.
The capital was located in Corydon, and Jonathon Jennings became the first governor of the State of Indiana.

At that time, the upper three-fourths of the state was a single county known as Knox County. It was Indian Territory.

1826

The Potawatomie Indians granted a 100 foot right of way for the Michigan Road
former Route 29 now US Hwy 421 through Starke County.

1834

“Stark” County was surveyed and platted as a perfect rectangle with 12 townships in 1834-1835.

1835

“Stark” County was formed by the legislative act of February 7, 1835.

The first settler in the county was Edward Smith, who settled in northeastern Oregon Twp in 1835 before the land was subject to entry.

1836

Tipton Lindsey was the first white child born in the county.
That was in North Bend Twp in 1836.

1838

The Pottawatomie Indians were finally forced to leave the area in 1838 and relocate to Oklahoma on a march known as the Trail of Death.

The first recorded land purchase in Oregon Twp was October 17, 1838 by Edward Smith in section 1.

The first recorded land purchase in Washington Twp was November 26, 1838 by Henry Garner in section 14.

1840

“Stark” County’s population on the 1840 federal census was 149 people scattered among 26 households.

The first permanent settlement in the county was located near Ober and known as the Osborn Settlement.

George M. Osborn bought 80 acres near Eagle Lake in 1840.

Years later, he told his grandchildren there were but five other families in Starke County when he arrived.

There was not a church, school or road.

He said he built the first frame house in the county three miles east of Ober for William Atkinson.

He said he also laid out the first road.

1841

The first recorded land purchase in North Bend Twp was February 18, 1841 by Daurig Romig in section 34.

1842

“Stark” County’s boundaries were changed by a legislative act of January 29, 1842.

Its northwest corner was transferred to La Porte County.

1843

The Knox Methodist Church had its beginnings when Rev. L.W. Monson included Knox on his horse-back circuit out of Plymouth. Services were held in resident's log cabin homes.

1844

The first recorded land purchase in Jackson Twp was August 14, 1844 by Tipton Lindsay.

Harrison or Washington Twp was formed by the Marshall Commissioners March 5, 1844

1845

The first recorded land purchase in Wayne Twp was August 25, 1845 by Nancy Lindsey in section 3.

The first recorded land purchase near Cedar (Bass) Lake was July 1, 1845 by William Traax in section 7.

1846

Oregon Twp was formed by the Marshall Commissioners September 7, 1846

1848

The first recorded land purchase in California Twp was June 30, 1848 by Henry Hotchkiss in section 8.

The first recorded land purchase in Center Twp was March 9, 1848 by Job Short in section 24.

1849

The first recorded land purchase in Railroad Twp was February 16, 1849
by John Smith in section 36.

“Stark” County was under the jurisdiction of St. Joseph County between
1838 and 184X.

Samuel Koontz built the first saw mill in the county at Woodward (Koontz)
Lake in 1849.

California Twp was formed by the Marshall Commissioners
March 5, 1849.

1850

The population of Starke County was 557.

“Stark” County was officially organized with its own government
by the legislative act of January 15, 1850.

The first Board of County Commissioners was appointed in early 1850:

William C. Barnette
L. Chomberlin
William N. Patterson

The first meeting, as well as several years afterward, of the County
Commissioners
took place in the home Jacob and Rachel Tillman on the south bank of the
Yellow River
north of today’s courthouse in Knox.

The first regularly elected County Commissioners (1850) were:

John Hopkins
George Esty
William Parker

Knox was established as the county seat April 1, 1850.

The first set of county officials in 1850 were appointed, rather than elected:

County Clerk, Stephen Jackson
County Auditor, Jacob G. Black.
County Treasurer, Jacob Tillman
County Recorder, Jacob Bozarth, Sr.
County Sheriff, Jacob S. Wampler.
County Coroner, James B. Prettyman.
County Surveyor, John S. Bender
County Assessor, Nathan McCumber

The town of Knox was laid out by Carter D. Hathaway June 12, 1850.

The first post office in the county was established at North Bend September 4, 1850.

The first postmaster was Charles S. Tibbits.

The second post office was established at Knox October 30, 1850.

The first postmaster was Jacob Tilman.

The first marriage license was issued to James Cannon and Nancy Lane
October 20, 1850
by County Clerk, Stephen Jackson.

The Knox Masonic Lodge was organized with 27 members.....

An acre of ground east of Knox (later known as Crown Hill) was purchased
for a public burial ground.

The first cemetery within the boundary of Knox was the Humphrey
Graveyard.

1851

Jacob Tilman was the first merchant and opened a store on the south bank
of the Yellow River in 1851.

The first Circuit Court was held May 19, 1851

by the Honorable E. M. Chamberlain, Presiding Judge at the home of the Tilmans.

There were four cases on the docket. There was only one indictment. It was for hog stealing. The defendant was acquitted.

The first doctors came in 1851;
Dr. Solomon Ward and Dr. Baldwin located in California Twp.
Dr. Charles Humphreys located in Knox.

North Judson Methodists were organized and held services in a log school on Koch corner.

The third post office in the county was established at Bogus Run (Piqua) February 8, 1851.
The postmaster was Daniel G. Hathaway.

A one-room log school house was built just west of North Judson on SR 10.

The Parker one-room school was built a mile northeast of Ora on a large tract of wooded land known as Taylorland.

Matthew Humphrey built the first frame house in Knox. At that time, the only buildings in Knox were four log cabins.

1852

The first regular election of county officials was held in 1852.

A one-room school house was built in 1852 on the Winamac and La Porte Road near Koontz's mill.

Willoughby M. McCormick established himself as the county's first attorney in Knox.

The Starke County Library is founded in Knox. Little is known about this early library, except it was apparently under the control of the county clerk.

1853

The first church was built by the United Brethren in 1853 inside the southeast corner of today's Round Lake Cemetery.

The first railroad to be built through the county was the New Albany & Chicago
(later known as the Monon) Railroad in 1853.

It passed through a small settlement known as Culvertown, just north of present day San Pierre.

The fourth post office in the county was established at River December 2, 1853.

The first post master was Amasa Green.

1854

San Pierre was laid out in 1854.

The first settlers arrived at Cedar (Bass) Lake, which the Indians had called Winchetonqua.

1855

The fifth post office in the county was established at Toto May 23, 1855.
The first postmaster was William Moller.

A post office was established at San Pierre (formerly River) December 21, 1855.

The first postmaster was Amas Green.

1856

The Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago (Penn) RR was built through Davis Station, Hamlet and Grovertown.

The Knox Methodist Congregation built its first church on Main Street in downtown Knox.

1857

The Cincinnati & Chicago (Penn) RR was built through English Lake and North Judson.

1858

Grover Town was laid out in 1858.

A post office was established at Clear Lake (later Koontz Lake) March 3, 1858.

The first postmaster was Jacob Kelper.

A post office was established at Lake City (north end of Bass Lake) May 13, 1858.

The first postmaster was David P. Favorite.

1859

The Starke County Commissioners approved the organization of Davis Twp March 1859.

Local residents referred to that area as “the swamp”.

On April 25, 1859 an area about a mile west of present day Hamlet was surveyed and a plot recorded for a town called Canton.

A post office was established at “Grover Town” January 20, 1859. The first postmaster was Ebenezer Lampson.

The town of Brantwood was laid out about a mile northwest of present day North Judson.

1860

The population of Starke County was 2,195.

Sometime around 1860, “Stark” County became known as Starke County.

It is thought this began as a clerical error in Indianapolis.

A post office was established at North Judson September 24, 1860.
The first postmaster was Daniel Kelly.

A post office was established at English Lake October 3, 1860.
The first postmaster was George W. Green.

1861

The first newspaper in the county was the Stark County Press.
It was established in May 1861 by Joseph A. Berry in Knox.

The first County School Superintendent was appointed in 1861.
His name was Andrew Porter.

1862

John S. Bender opened a drug store in Knox.

D.D. Adair opened a dry goods store and hotel in North Judson.

1863

The county's 2nd courthouse, a two-story frame structure, was built on the same site as today's courthouse.

Hamlet was laid out in 1863.

A post office was established at Brandtwood November 18, 1863.
The first postmaster was Herman L. Searl.

1864

A post office was established in Hamlet on October 20, 1864.
Elijah C. Short was the first postmaster.

A post office was re-established at North Judson August 31, 1864.
The postmaster was Levi Lightcap.

The coldest temperature recorded in Starke County (as of 1950) was 30 degrees below zero on January 1, 1864.

1865

President Abraham Lincoln's funeral train made a brief stop in San Pierre May 1, 1865 on its way to Springfield, Illinois.

1866

North Judson was laid out in 1866.

The Starke County Agricultural Society was organized.

The Starke County Ledger was founded by Oliver Musselman.

A post office was established at Kankakee (later Davis) November 19, 1867.

The first postmaster was John Davis.

1867

A post office was established in "Kankakee" November 19, 1867. The first postmaster was John Davis. Later the name was changed to Davis Station.

1869

The Starke County Democrat was started in Knox.

1870

The population of Starke County in 1870 was 3,888 making it the least populated county in the State of Indiana.

The population of Knox was 244 in 1870.

A three-story frame hotel was built at the corner of Shield & Lake in Knox
by John G. Kratli

1871

Knox was incorporated in 1871.

The Pioneer Cemetery of North Judson was founded.

1873

North Judson Lutherans built their first church in October 1873 on Talmer
Avenue.

1875

The Starke County Republican newspaper was started in Knox.

The North Judson Courier was started by Dr. D.T. Quackenbush.

The Methodists in Knox built a new church at the corner of John and Bower
Streets.

The Methodists in North Judson built their first church building at the corner
of Lane & Vine.

North Judson built a new 2-story frame school at the corner of Keller &
Central.

Knox's Clerk & Treasurer was Frank Malany
Knox's Trustees were Jonathon D. Koffel and Charles W. Reams

1876

The first musical band in the county was formed,
having purchased used instruments from a Winamac band.
A.W. Swartzell was the leader of its 12 members.

1877

The North Judson United Brethren built a church on Adair east of Keller.

1878

Keller Brothers, lumber dealers wanting a station nearer their business, erected a substantial RR station in North Judson and deeded it over to the railroad.

1880

The population of Starke County was 5,105.

The first bank in the county was opened in the rear of Dr. Henderson's drug store at the northeast corner of Lake & Main in Knox.

1881

North Judson Catholics built their first church, a frame structure, on the same site as today's church.

The Free Methodist Church was founded and a church built at the corner of Main and John Streets in Knox, with Rev. C.S. Spaulding as pastor.

The Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad (NYC) was built through San Pierre to North Judson.

The first store in Ora was built by Ezeckial Keller and Tete Nave.

The first metal bridge was built over the Yellow River north of Knox, replacing 2 wood bridges north of the courthouse.

1882

A post office was established at Ora April 21, 1882.

The first postmaster was Ezekial Keller.

The New York, Chicago & St. Louis (Nickel Plate) RR was built through Brems, Knox and Ober.

The Chicago & Atlantic (Erie) RR was built through Lomax, North Judson, Aldine, Bass Station and Ora.

1883

Starke County Abstract was formed by Robert H. Bender.

A post office was established at Ober April 15, 1883.
The first postmaster was Jonathon D. Heath.

A post office was established at Nickel Plate (later Brems) May 17, 1883.
The first postmaster was Mattie Thompson.

A post office was established at Aldine December 11, 1883.
The first postmaster was Michael N. Omills.

Future Governor of Indiana, Henry F. Schricker, was born in North Judson.

1884

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) William Landon Post # 290 was organized in Knox with Alexander H. Henderson as its first commander.

The English Lake Gun Club was formed.

1885

A Union Church was built in the Osborn area of northeast North Bend Twp.
The first pastor was Rev. George Mattice.

The Vandalia was the first steam ship launched on Cedar (Bass) Lake.

The Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad was extended from North Judson to Knox.

The Chicago & Atlantic (Erie) Railroad was built through Lomax, North Judson, Aldine, Bass Station and Ora.

Burch's Opera House was built in North Judson.

A post office was established at Outlet (Muskrat Mill?) December 31, 1885.
The first postmaster was Charles Frederick.

The 2nd Round Lake Church was built across the road from the cemetery.

1886

"Kankakee's name was changed to Davis on August 27, 1886,
presumably after its first postmaster John Davis.

1887

Joseph Larimer bought Cedar Point from August White.

The first hotel was built on Cedar Lake at Cedar Point. It was called the Larimer (later Brabrook) Hotel.

The Odd Fellows Yellow River Lodge # 631 was established in Knox.

A new sheriff's office and jail was built in Knox.

1888

North Judson was incorporated in 1888.

Hamlet Catholics had their first visiting priest,
who held services in Peter Gallagher's home on Starke Street.

1889

The North Judson News (also known as Kankakee Valley Times) was started by J.A. Gilkey.

The Christian Church in Knox was established and a wood frame building constructed on the same site as today's church.

North Judson held its first town election, and the following officials were elected:

John L. Eatinger, William Y. Hine and Jacob Keller , Trustees;
John Sager, Clerk;
Dr. James F. Noland, Treasurer;
and John Held, Town Marshall.

One of the first ordinances passed in North Judson prohibited the indecent exposure by any person on any street or public place within the town.

North Judson formed its first fire company with Louis Foust as Captain.

The lightweight boxing championship of the world was held in North Judson at Burch's Opera House February 13, 1889.

Jack McAuliffe of Brooklyn, NY fought Billy Myer of Streator, IL. The fight ended in a draw after 64 rounds lasting 4 hours and 16 minutes.

James W. Nichols opened a law office in Knox.

1890

The population of Starke County was 7,339.

The Grovertown United Brethren Church was founded.

A German Lutheran Church was built on Fred Vergin's farm at the corner of Toto Road and 700 East.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Daniel Lake Post #571

was organized in North Judson.

The Bass Lake Country Club was built on Cedar Point.

The Chiitick Hotel (later known as the Woodlawn) was established at Bass Lake at 625 E and CR 210.

1891

The town of Winona was laid out in 1891.

A post office was established at Winona with Abner Hay as the postmaster.

St. Luke Church in San Pierre was founded.

Knox Methodists built their 3rd church at the northwest corner of Bower & John Streets.

Herbert A. Koffel built a two-story brick drugstore (later Everts) at the northeast corner of Main & Lake in Knox.

The Church of the First Born was erected in the center of North Bend Twp by the Adventists with Rev. Willis Logan as pastor. North Bend High School was built on this same site in 1913 after the church burned down.

The Catholic Church in Hamlet built its first church, a wood frame structure on Starke Street just south of today's church.

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) John W. McCune Post #587 was organized in San Pierre.

The Knights of Pythias was organized in Knox.

1892

The first streets in Knox were paved with brick in 1892.

North Judson purchased its first dozen oil street lamps.

North Judson established a high school (two year).
The first graduates were Grace Seagrist and George Neupert.

Gus Reiss founded Reiss Clothing Store in Knox.

The Mary Rebekah Lodge # 392 was established in Knox.

1893

Citizens Bank, North Judson's first bank, opened for business February 15, 1893.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Hamlet was built on South Pearl Street

The US Post Office changed "Grover Town" to Grovertown April 22, 1893.

William L. Solliday opened his cigar factory in Knox.

1894

The Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad was extended from Knox to South Bend.

Knox built its first high school.

A post office was established at Bass Station August 28, 1894.

A new school was built in Hamlet at Starke & Pearl Streets.

A new wood frame school house was built at Aldine.

1895

Company A, 3rd Infantry, Indiana National Guard was organized in Knox with Charles Windisch as Captain.

The first electrical lighting service in the county was established in 1895 in Knox.

An amusement park known as White City was operating on the site of today's Bass Lake Beach Campground.

The Great Supply House of Starke County (later Hopp's) was built at the corner of Lane & Main.

The public cemetery east of Knox was named Crown Hill Cemetery.

Hotel Fitz was built in Knox.

1896

Hamlet was incorporated.

Electrical lighting came to North Judson.

North Judson built a new brick school on Keller.

North Judson Town Hall moved into the old school at Keller & Central Streets.

Sigmund Klopot opened a photo studio in North Judson.

Weninger Insurance & Real Estate opened in North Judson.

The first student to graduate from Knox High School was Harry Hostetter.

1897

Construction began on the county's 3rd and present courthouse.

The Erie Railroad built a spur line up to the south end of Bass Lake.

Ora High School was built and offered three years of high school.

Dredging on the Robbiins Ditch, the first major ditch in the county, started in May.

Dredging on the Craigmile Ditch, the second ditch , started in June.

A new brick one-room school was built in Ober.

A one-room frame school houses was built in Toto.

A new one-room frame school house (West School) was built in Jackson Twp.

1898

Company A, 3rd Infantry, Indiana National Guard was mustered into the United States Volunteer Service May 10th for duty in the Spanish-American War and discharged November 1st.

The first telephone service in the county was established in 1898 in Knox and Hamlet.

1899

Knox High School was the first school in northern Indiana to publish a paper.

It was known as the Eclipse.

North Judson became the first full four-year high school to be commissioned in the county.

Hamlet's first grain elevator was erected along the Iowa, Illinois & Indiana RR tracks by Churchill-White Company.

George Peterson built and launched the Majestic, a double-decker steam boat, on Bass Lake.

1900

The population of Starke County was 10,431.

Kratli (later Oak Park) Cemetery was established south of Knox.

Hamlet High School was built on South Main Street.

Hamlet City Hall moved into the old school building at Starke & Pearl Streets.

The Pilgrim Holiness congregation built the Antioch Church on Hwy 10 just east of Bass Lake.

1901

The First National Bank was organized in Knox
By James C. Fletcher and Horatio D. Fuller

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) John W. McCune Post #587 closed in San Pierre.

1902

Two Joe's Store was established in North Judson
by Joseph Dolezal and Joseph Sindelar (NJ Centennial).

The Cincinnati, Richmond and Muncie (C&O) Railroad was built through English Lake and North Judson.

The Bass Lake Church at Hwy 10 and US 35 was founded
as a Methodist Church with thirty members.

The Church of the Living God was founded
at the Bass Lake Cemetery.

A new brick school house was built in Ora.

1903

Sheriff Uncaphor purchased the first automobile in the county.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Hamlet was founded on South Pearl Street.

The Reiss Opera House in Knox was closed due to a new state ordinance Outlawing 2nd floor theaters.

Frank A. Green opened his drugstore on the old Henderson corner at Lake & Main in Knox.

1904

The Hamlet State Bank was established.

Grovertown dedicated a new two-story brick high school.

The Christian Church of Knox built its present church on South Pearl Street.

Dredging of the Kankakee River was completed.

Anderson Hotel burned down at Koontz Lake

The Horner one-room school was dedicated in North Bend Twp.

1905

A fire in Knox destroys several downtown buildings.

The Jordan School in Jackson Twp was built.

William Henry Emigh built the Best View Hotel on Bass Lake's north end.

1906

The first of twenty-five After-Harvest Jubilees was held in North Judson.

The Farmers & Merchants Bank was organized in North Judson.

1907

Two Joe's Store was established in North Judson by Joseph Dolezal and Joseph Sindelar (SC Centennial).

1908

A 695 pound bear, said to be a Grizzly Bear, that had been killing livestock in La Porte and Starke Counties for several years was killed near Dunn's Bridge.

1909

The first town-wide water system was established in 1909 in Knox, after another fire destroyed several buildings.

The town of Lena Park is founded.

Starke County voted to go "dry" for a period of two years, resulting in the closing of fourteen saloons.

1910

The population of Starke County was 10,567.

The present North Judson Catholic Church was built at the corner of Adair & Keller.

North Judson's Farmers & Merchants Bank and Citizens Bank consolidated to form the First State Bank.

Donchin's Mens Store opened in North Judson.

The Highland Cemetery of North Judson was founded.

1911

The first Boy Scout Troop in North Judson was founded with four members.

North Judson Catholics built a school at the southeast corner of Adair & Keller Streets.

The 4th Spoor School, a one-room brick school, was built in California Twp.

Starke County went “wet” again with the Commissioners permitting 1 saloon for each 600 inhabitants.

1912

Knox Methodists built their 3rd church at the corner of John and Shield Streets.

The Bass Lake Businessmen & Anglers Society built a pond on the site of future state fish hatchery and began raising fish for stocking the lake.

1913

A snow blizzard created drifts up to 6 feet high closing roads and stopping trains in their tracks.

The first sewer system was established in 1913 in Knox.

North Judson paved its first street with brick; Lane from Vine to Talmer.

The Bass Lake Fish Hatchery was established by the State of Indiana.

Yellowstone Highway, America’s first coast to coast highway, was established through the county.

Sheriff S.A. Uncaphor owns the first auto in Starke County. It was bought from Hoffman Automobile of Cleveland, OH July 13, 1913.

North Bend High School, a fully commissioned high school, was built.

A wood frame school house was replaced by a new brick one-room school at Eagle Creek.

The high school part of Ora School was discontinued and the pupils transferred to North Bend.

Knox Building & Loan was incorporated.

1914

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Daniel Lake Post #571 closed in North Judson.

Starke County received its first distribution of license plates from the state.

A new two-story four-room brick school was built in Ober.

1915

Company H of the Indiana National Guard was organized in Knox.

The 4-H Club was started in Starke County.

The Farmer's United Grain (formerly Hardesty's) Elevator was completely destroyed by fire.

American Oak was founded in North Judson by Fred Vorm and his son Charles.

1916

Hamlet contracted with Plymouth Electric Light and Power for electric power.

Dr. Abner was the first customer.

The Starke County Federation of Women's Clubs was organized in Knox.

1917

The Starke County Chapter of the American Red Cross was founded.

Starke County had 650 automobiles registered.

1918

The Bass Lake Property Owners Association was organized.

1919

Starke County was the "Third Largest Mint Producing County in the World".

The Oregon Twp Farm Bureau was organized
With John Short as Secretary.

The Davis Twp Farm Bureau was organized.

The Knox Public Library was founded
It was located in the Robbins Building on East Washington Street.
Edith Beers was the first Librarian.

American Legion Post # 131 was organized in Knox.

1920

The population of Starke County was 10,278.

Prohibition goes into effect.

The one-room Wayne Twp rural schools were consolidated into North
Judson, closing
Casey, Miciolek, Weninger, Marsh, Brantwood and Douglas schools.

The Knox Chapter # 447 of the Eastern Star was organized.

The Starke County Farm Bureau was organized.

The California Twp Farm Bureau was organized
with Emory Turner, Ernest Kletz and Fred White as officers.

1921

North Judson built a new high school.

North Judson installed a town wide water system.

A public Library was built in North Judson with a gift from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation.

The Horse Thieves & Detectives Association # 246 was formed in Starke County.

The Knox Parent Teacher's Association was founded.

The American Legion Auxiliary of the Albert Williams Post # 131 in Knox was organized with Shirley Peters as President.

1922

The North Judson Chamber of Commerce was founded.

Will Vergin built the Lake Side Garage at the northeast corner of Bass Lake.

For many years, the lake's fire truck was kept at his garage.

The Reliance Shirt Factory opened in North Judson.

Wayne Twp consolidated its rural one-room schools, Miciolek, Weninger, Marsh, Brandtwood and Douglas into North Judson.

A new brick school house was built in North Bend Twp at Winona.

R.L. Laramore opened his dealership & garage in Hamlet.

El Golding built his Yellow River gas station north of Knox.

1923

The Ku Klux Klan held meetings in San Pierre, North Judson and Knox.

1924

North Judson's American Legion Post # 92 was organized.

Sramek's Grocery was founded in North Judson.

The Ku Klux Klan staged a large parade in North Judson.

A large bomb was exploded under the front porch of the Catholic parsonage in North Judson.

1925

Starke County's boundaries were changed, as a result of dredging the Kankakee River, for the last time by a state statute on March 2, 1925.

Hamlet installed a town-wide water system.

Knox Business Girls Club was founded in September with Pauline Fitzpatrick Shank as its President.

The Sunday Times was published at Bass Lake.

The Assyrian Church was founded on 500 South west of Hwy 35.

The proprietors of the later Gayble Theater in North Judson opened their first movie house.

1926

CheMah, said to be the world's smallest man, died at the age of 88 in Knox.

The first Miss Bass Lake Bathing Beauty Contest was held. Miss Bonnie Rogers won top honors.

Luther Everts bought Koffel's Drug Store in Knox.

1927

The first concrete highway, U.S. 30, is built through Starke County.

The Catholic Church in Hamlet built their present church, a brick structure on Starke Street just north of their old church.

The North Judson Rod & Gun Club was founded.

Electrical railroad signals and a watchman's tower were installed in Knox on the Nickel Plate RR.

Knox High School dedicated a new gymnasium.

Fred M. White sold part of his farm to developers who built Bass Lake Golf Course.

The Crystal Ballroom was built at Bass Lake.

Charles Windisch installed a Frigidaire cooling machine in his Knox grocery store.

Construction started on the Keller and Foreman raincoat factory on Prettyman Street north of the tracks in Knox.

1928

The Starke County Home Economics Club was founded with Daisy Patton as President.

The Indiana DNR built a brick service building and manager's residence in Colonial Revival Style at the Bass Lake Fish Hatchery.

The Gospel Meeting House was founded in a church on South Heaton formerly used by the Mormon Church.

The Starke County Aviation Club was founded
with Perry McCain as President.

Taitel & Sons Garment Factory was started in Knox
at 12 South Prettyman.

1929

The Koontz Lake Improvement Association was incorporated.

Camp Gridley relocated to Bass Lake from Indianapolis.

The Hamlet & Davis Twp Public Library was organized.

The Apron Dress Factory opened in North Judson.

Paul Traster opened his Sanitary Barber Shop in North Judson.

1930

The population of Starke County was 10,620.

The first Girl Scout Troop in Starke County was started by Nora (Schmidt)
Baker in Knox.

California Twp opened a new consolidated school on SR 10,
replacing the Spoor, White, Maple Grove, Benton Grove and Bass Station
one-room schools.

Construction started on Joseph Tomassi's sanitarium
near the fish hatchery at Bass Lake

1931

The Girl Scouts were organized in North Judson.

The Farmers Bank & Trust was formed from a consolidation of Farmer's
State Bank
and Starke County Trust Savings Bank.

A hard surface road was constructed around Bass Lake.

The state built Bass Lake State Beach using long drag lines to pull sand from the lake's bottom to build the beach.

The high school part of North Bend School was discontinued and the pupils were transferred to Culver, Monterey and Knox.

1932

The John Van Horn Post # 44 for Spanish American War Veterans was chartered in Knox.

1933

The Women's Auxiliary of the Harry Keller Post American Legion was organized with Ella Quinn as President.

The North Judson Rod & Gun Club was re-organized.

10,000 veterans of the World War, Spanish American War and Civil War attend a picnic at Bass Lake on August 20th.

Ced White leased Camp Gridley on Cranberry Point.

The Knox Public Library relocated to West Lake Street where the post office was later located.

Camp Kankakee, a federal camp for homeless and transient men and boys, opened where SR 8 crosses the Kankakee River.

The Aldine Church was organized by Evangelist T.B. Gilbert with a new church built the same year.

Federal public works programs instituted a number of projects in the county, such as the entrance to Wythogan Park in Knox and the entrance to Oak Park Cemetery south of Knox.

Prohibition is repealed.

The Standard Oil Pumping Station at Lomax Station was dismantled..

1935

The first of six Muck Crop Shows was held in North Judson.

WPA workers construct seats and other features for the school ball field in North Judson.

The Koontz Lake Conservation Club was organized.

1936

Fishburn's Marine opened at the south end of Bass Lake.

North Judson's C.S.A. (Czechoslovak Society of America) Lodge # 419 was organized by Frank Veselik.

The Gayble Theater opened in North Judson.

The Knox Kiwanis Club was organized.

1937

Deer re-introduced into southern Indiana in 1934-35 began appearing as far north as Wabash County.

1938

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) William Landon Post # 290 closed in Knox after its last member John Giles died..

The last one-room school to be built in the county was built at English Lake.

Ernie Small opened his restaurant on US 35 at Culver Road

Smith's Radio Shop was established in North Judson.

Desardee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, was organized in Knox.

Starke County Rural Youth was organized.

Joe Cox and Eugene Hill established an airfield one mile west of US 35 on SR 8.

William L. Solliday closed his cigar factory after 38 years of continuous operation.

1939

Wentz Ford dealership opened in Knox.

Eichstaedt Chevrolet & Cadillac opened in Knox.

North Judson Hardware was founded
By Frank Boilini and Leo Seghetti.

A lone wolf was raiding farms near Brems and Toto.

1940

The population of Starke County was 12,258.

The streets in Hamlet got their first coat of blacktop.
In previous years, they had only been oiled.

Only 437 of 1,500 or so farms in the county had electricity.

Starke County's farms have 2,697 horses & mules and 608 tractors.

REMC was established and brought electricity to rural Starke County.

The Lutheran Church was organized in Knox
and a building soon erected on South Heaton Street.

William Wallace Garner was the last Civil War veteran to die and be buried
in Starke County.

He died October 11, 1940 and was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Knox,
Indiana.

1941

Kingsbury Ordinance Plant opens south of La Porte in early 1941
months before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

1942

The Koontz Lake Fire Department was formed.

The North Judson Cub Scouts were organized
with forty-two members.

The Bass Lake Moose Lodge # 807 was founded.

1943

George McCormick was appointed Fire Chief of the Bass Lake Fire
Department.

The Donald Childs Unit of the Mothers of World War II was organized
with Mrs. J. Allen Barr as President.

The Bass Lake Moose Lodge # 807 was re-chartered as the Knox Lodge.
The Knox Moose Lodge built a new temple on Main west of the courthouse.
The Knox Chapter # 655 Women of the Moose was chartered.

The Bass Lake Conservation Club moved into its new quarters,
the former Winchetonqua Club House adjacent to the State Fish Hatchery.

A Baptist Church was founded on Hwy 10 by Orban Rudd.

1944

The Hamlet Lions Club was formed.

The Cub Scouts were organized in Knox with Roy Eichstaedt as
Cubmaster.

A portion of the County Farm south of Knox was dedicated for use as a
County Airport.

1945

The Starke County 4-H Club Fair held its first fair in Hamlet in August 1945.

The North Judson Lions Club was formed.

Little Company of St. Mary was founded just south of San Pierre.

The Donald Childs Unit of the Mothers of World War II
became Unit 148 of the National Mothers of World War II.

1,108 of the county's 1,409 farms now have electricity.

Starke County's farms have 1,523 horses & mules and 1,077 tractors.

Knox Post # 748 Veterans Of Foreign Wars was organized
with Frank Devon Hall as Commander.

Ced White started the Lightning Dude Ranch on Hwy 10 just east of Bass
Lake.

1946

The Ladies Auxiliary to Knox VFW Post # 748 was organized.

1947

The Bass Lake Property Owners and the Bass Lake Fire Department built
a new firehouse
at the south end of the lake next door to McCormick's garage.

The Starke County Unit of the Indiana Cancer Society was organized
by Helen L. Marks.

The Knox Chapter of the National Federation of Business and Professional
Women's Club was organized.

The Newton Cemetery was established just east of Crown Hill Cemetery
in Knox.

1948

Frank J. Barton was the last Civil War Veteran to die in Starke County
after moving to Knox in the early 1940's.
He was buried in South Bend.

President Truman visits North Judson.

The Bass Lake Lions Club was chartered.

The "Flyer" advertising paper was started at Bass Lake.

Harold "Bud" Siebenthal bought Green's Drug Store In Knox.

1949

The Mothers of World War II, No. 148 Sponsored a Memorial that was
Installed
On the Courthouse Lawn Honoring the Forty Starke County Servicemen
Who Died During War II.

The North Judson post office moved into its present building on Keller.

The North Judson Methodist Church built a new church building at the
corner of Central & Jones.

C. Ponti started a cheese factory near Bass Lake.

Newtson Cemetery became part of Crown Hill Cemetery.

1950

The population of Starke County was 15,282.

Starke Memorial Hospital was built in Knox.

The first deer-automobile accident happened in Starke County about 5 miles northeast of Toto.

1951

Valve Products opened in Knox.

Knox VFW Post # 748 built a new facility south of Knox on 5 acres previously part of the County Farm.

2,810 trains passed through North Judson during the month of January.
There were 586 Erie trains, including passenger and freight;
1,143 Pennsylvania trains, including passenger and freight;
723 on the C & O, (freight trains only) and 358 freight trains on the New York Central.

1952

The Knox Public Library relocated to the south side of Traveler's Hotel
On South Main Street.

1953

A new 250,000 gallon water tower was erected in Knox.

Grovertown built a new elementary school north of town.

1954

The 110 foot tall brick water tower was demolished in Knox.

1955

Cub Scout Pack 34 was chartered in North Judson.

Knox High School built a new gymnasium on Culver Road.

1956

The Knox Public Library relocated to South Pearl Street.

1957

A massive freight train wreck takes place in Brems on the Nickel Plate RR.

1958

The News was started by Ed Hasnerl.

1959

A new four-lane highway replaced "old Hwy 30".

North Judson Lutherans built their new church on Talmer Avenue.

Washington Twp Elementary School opened.

Knox Reserve Unit # 307 was disbanded.

The nation's first 100 man Army Reserve Center was dedicated in North Judson.

A meteor plummeted through the home of Clem Hall in Hamlet.

The Nickel Plate RR water towers were demolished.

Knox replaced its old street lights with modern “white light” units.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources cleared the property across
the road
from the state beach to build a modern trailer park.

1960

The population of Starke County was 17,911.

The United Missionary Church was dedicated at Koontz Lake.

Bowlaway Lanes opened south of Knox.

A 225’ telephone tower was erected in Knox.

NIPSCO installed natural gas to homes in North Judson and Knox.

The English Lake Post Office installed the first automatic stamp dispensing
machine in the United States.

North Judson Lumber Yard burned to the ground.

1961

Hamlet Lutherans built a new church.

United Telephone converted Knox to dial-up service.

The Trend Trouser Factory in North Judson burned down.

San Pierre dedicated their new elementary school and gymnasium.

All North Bend Twp students were transferred to Culver.

1962

The Knox Public Library relocated to East Washington Street.

The Crystal Ballroom burned down at Bass Lake.

Sitko's Drive-In burned down at Bass Lake.

Knox Redskins Basketball Team won the Regional at Logansport.

A new Swine & Sheep building was erected at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Hamlet.

A new Horse & Pony Barn was erected at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Hamlet using the Belgian Granite blocks previously used in a water pickup trough on the Penn RR at Davis Station.

1963

Orr's Restaurant & Bargain Store burned down in Toto.

A new Hog Barn was erected at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Hamlet.

The Knox Library on East Washington Street was renamed Henry F. Schricker Public Library.

The Town of Hamlet held a Centennial Celebration.

A new sewer system and treatment plant were installed in Knox.

A new Girl Scouts Cabin was erected in Knox.

A plaque was put up along US 35 at the La Porte – Starke County line for the Libby Prison Barn.

The Rockwell Standard Plant made its first shipment in Knox.

Five Star Grocery held a Grand Opening.

1964

The Starke County Public Library Board was founded.

Farmers Bank & Trust opened a branch office at Bass Lake.

A crowd of 2,000 attended Mr. & Mrs. Schricker's 50th Wedding
Anniversary Party
at Palmer Elementary School.

Knox Masons built a new hall in Knox.

The Big Boy, a million pound steam locomotive, passed through Knox on
the Nickel Plate Railroad
on it way to a museum out east.

A mysterious blast destroyed Trucker's Lodge in Grovertown on US 30.

A new bridge was built across the Yellow River on SR 8 east of Knox.

San Pierre High School graduated its last class and merged with North
Judson High School.

A new Beef & Dairy Barn was constructed on the 4-H Fairgrounds at
Hamlet.

Ced White opened His Horse Palace at Bass Lake.

1965

The Arrowhead plant opens in Knox.

The Taitel family transfers ownership of its old factory building to the City of
Knox.

The old Wesleyan Methodist Church in Hamlet is demolished.

A series of tornadoes passed through the county on Palm Sunday
hitting Oregon Twp especially hard.

1966

North Judson Liberty Elementary School opens.

A new addition is added to Starke Memorial Hospital.

The Gerox plant opens in Knox.

1967

The Knox pumping station was demolished to make way for a new fire station.

1968

A new concrete bridge replaced the old steel truss bridge over the Yellow River north of Knox.

Lakeside Garage (Vergin's) in Winona burned down.

A new fire station is built in Knox on the site of the old pumping station.

The Flynn factory building is demolished in Knox to make way for a new city hall.

The US 35 bypass is built around the south end of Bass Lake.

The Nickel Plate Restaurant is demolished.

A new post office is built in Grovertown.

1969

WKVI began broadcasting from Knox.

Davis Plumbing & Heating was built on Heaton Street in Knox.

1970

The population of Starke County was 19,280.

All Starke County libraries with the exception of North Judson – Wayne
Twp
were brought under a single director.

Chet's Truckstop at old US 30 and US 35 is destroyed by fire.

A new Masonic Lodge was built in Knox.

Schultz Store moved to a new location in Knox on the site of the former Fitz
Hotel.

1971

The new Oregon-Davis School opened.

The old county airport at the southwest corner of US 35 and Culver Road is
for sale.

Five buildings north of the Moose Lodge in Knox are damaged by a
mysterious explosion and torn down.

1972

Construction began on a new high school for North Judson – San Pierre.

Construction began on a new Lutheran Church in Knox.

Ulrich's Factory Outlet at 809 South Heaton in Knox is demolished.

1973

The new sewage plant is opened in Knox.

The Starke County Public Library built new library buildings in Hamlet and
Koontz Lake.

The Phillips 66 at the northwest corner of US 35 and Culver Road is torn down in Knox to make way for an addition to Ernie's.

1974

The Starke County Jail, built in 1889, was demolished to make way for a new facility.

1975

The new high school opened in Knox.

1977

North Judson held its first Mint Festival.
Arrowhead Engineering in Knox closed.
Green's Drug Store closed in Knox.

1979

The Starke County Leader was formed July 3, 1979 from a merger of the Starke County Democrat and the Starke County Republican.

A Schricker PL (Place) street sign was erected next to the Starke County Historical Society Museum in Knox.

1980

The population of Starke County was 21,997.

The red clay tile roof was replaced on the courthouse.

1981

Club Riviera, formerly Diamond Joe Esposito's villa at Bass Lake, burned to the ground.

1983

Shaw's Coal Yard was demolished.

1985

The Starke County Courthouse Annex opened.

Virgil & Boots Redlin opened their White House Hamburgers on South Heaton Street in Knox.

1986

The Nickel Plate Watch Man's Tower was taken down and stored for future use.

1988

The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum was established in North Judson.

1989

Falvey's Clothing Store closed in Knox after 68 years.

1990

The population of Starke County was 22,747.

1991

A two mile area was evacuated near Knox when two Norfolk Southern freight trains collided, causing a huge sulphur and diesel fire. An engineer was killed and five other crew members seriously injured. Damage was estimated at over \$3 million dollars.

1992

The Knox Public Library relocated to Culver Road, site of the former Ruff's Nursing Home and even earlier County Home.

Desardee Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, disbanded, and members were transferred to Pulaski County's Metamonong Chapter.

1996

The Indiana Historical Society presented Centennial Business Awards to Nichols, Weaver & Wallsmith, The Leader and Wenninger Insurance.

1997

Knox Friends of the Library was organized.

Norton Packing opened in Hamlet.

Construction began on the Knox Community Center.

The new sewer system at Bass Lake was completed.

Weinberg's Store on Toto Road in Toto closed after more than 70 years of operation.

Daubert Chemical began construction on a new plant in the Knox Industrial Park.

Knox VFW Post #748 was destroyed by fire.

Starke County Genealogical Society was established.

1998

Starke County Annex Government Building is damaged by a fire.

The Knox Community Center was dedicated.

1999

The movie Best Man opened at movie theaters featuring Ed Hasnerl's voice and scenes at the New Hollywood Restaurant in Knox.

The Big Dipper skating Rink & Bakery opened at the former Alt's Discount south of Knox.

2000

The population of Starke County was 23,556.

The sidewalks along Main Street in Knox were replaced filling in the former basement entrances some residents referred to as the tunnels under Knox.

2001

An open house was held for the restored Nickel Plate Depot at the north entrance to Knox.

2002

Indiana Department of Natural Resources transferred ownership of Bass Lake Beach to Starke County.

2003

The Knox Post Office moved into a new facility on West Washington Street.

2004

Frazier's Trading Post, built in 1870 as Swartzell's General Store, was demolished in Knox.

North Judson refurbished Lane Street complete with street lamp replicas from earlier days.

Knox Middle School underwent a complete remodel and expansion.

The Chesapeake & Indiana Railroad was established in North Judson.

2005

The Nickel Plate Watch Man's Tower was re-installed at the Gateway to Knox.

Purdue University completed its purchase of the former State Fish Hatchery at Bass Lake.

The general store in Oak Grove, built around a former one-room school, was demolished.

The former Eagle Creek one-room school burned down.

2006

North Judson's Masonic Hall was demolished.

Human bones were found during construction of the Main Street Extension in Knox.

The Knox Post Office was renamed the Grant W. Green Post Office.

The old Dairy Queen in Knox was demolished to make way for a new car wash & laundromat.

North Judson – San Pierre Schools held a grand opening for their new Athletics & Fine Arts Center.

2007

The Oregon-Davis Bobcats and Lady Bobcats made history by being the first high school in Indiana to win both the Boys and Girls Class A state basketball championships the same year.

2008

Near record flooding occurred along the Yellow, Kankakee and Tippecanoe Rivers in Starke County.

Our Lady of Holy Cross Health Care Center in San Pierre closed after 64 years.

Governor Daniels visited North Judson and presented a \$450,000 grant to start construction of the North Judson – Monterey Trail along the former Erie RR line.

2009

2010

2011

Work began on replacing the Koontz Lake Dam

The Blue Bird Café was burned down by North Judson's Fire Dept.

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NOTE: Starke County's Timeline is a "work-in-progress" by County Historian, Marvin Allen.

Revised December 20, 2006

