

# Do you remember?

## Spencer County towns, past and present

Spencer County was once home to a myriad of towns. Over the past 200 years, some prospered. Some survived. Still others still cling to their identity. And some have faded into the mists of time.

Rockport, the Spencer County Seat, is the county's lone city. Incorporated towns include Santa Claus (once upon a time, "Santa Fe"), Dale (formerly Elizabeth), Chrisney (Spring Station), Grandview, Gentryville and, most recently, Richland (Lake). Several more unincorporated, but familiar towns include St. Meinrad, Mariah Hill, Hatfield, Newtonville, Fulda (perhaps, originally Jackson?), Evanston, Lamar, New Boston, Lincoln City and Reo.

Little-known, but still locally acknowledged are Bloomfield, Midway, French Island, Enterprise, Eureka, Patronville, and Buffalo.ville.

But do you remember these?

Anderson River, Maxville, Big Sandy, Millers, Bradley Station, Mound, Mt. Duvall, Centerville, New Hope, New Market, Clay City, Oakland, Owl Town, Pedigo, Pigeon, Pueblo, Ritchies, Rock Hill, Grass, Rosetta, Hill Top, Sand Cut, Huff, Huffman, Jackson, Schley, Jonesboro, Silverdale, Kennedy, Kensington Station, Kercheval, Strikers Landing, Knob City, Star Mill, Wright Station, Liberal, Vienna Station, Little Africa, Luceville, Madrid, Marsden.

All these were once communities.

However, Pyeattsville — the impetus for the construction of Boner Bridge — was not. Gazing across Boner Bridge from the Warrick County side, one observes a narrow, gravel lane.

In the mid-1800s, that lane was platted as Bridge Street in the dream town of Pyeattsville.

Pyeatt's Mill was located on the west side of Little Pigeon Creek, in Warrick County. Nathan Pyeatt, a Warrick County farmer/entrepreneur, dreamed of a budding metropolis across the creek from his mill, which would, of course, be named for him.

Pyeattsville was platted in Luce Township, Spencer County, but the plans never came to fruition; however, Pyeatt did manage to get the two counties to collaborate on the Pyeatt's Mill Bridge project in 1869.

The Z. King patent wrought tubular arch bridge was constructed, at a total cost of \$20,320.75.

Pyeatt's Mill Bridge is known these days as Boner Bridge.

Constructed in 1869, Boner Bridge is the oldest and longest surviving bridge of its kind in Indiana. It is also one of only

### Spencer County Courthouse



two remaining examples of a Z King bowstring arch truss bridge in the state.

So, although the platted town never came to be, it gave Spencer County one of its most unique historical treasures.

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