

How many towns in Montgomery County? 513!



By Karen Zach, Around the County

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513. Get that and it's still growing! That is the number of the towns in Montgomery County found so far. Granted, many of them were just little whistle stops for the railroad or an area with 3-4 homes that someone tagged with the name of the oldest person living there, but all in all, these are places with at least some habitation throughout the 196 years of our county's existence.

Probably I've been working on the little collection for at least 15 years and likely a couple over that, and it's not just me, I've had lots of help (especially once I hit the first 100 it peaked a great interest), daughter Suzie, Jerry Turner, Dellie Craig, Kim Hancock, who have all contributed multiple ones, plus others sending me 2-3 they've found, all totaling that 513. The majority (although I'm working on updating the page to make it a bit easier to peruse – see the bottom to find the long list) can be found on my Montgomery GenWeb page (ingenweb.org/inmontgomery/history/twsp/index.html) although I've found a few yet that aren't mentioned there.

For instance, just discovered one – Gas City. No fooling! The people mentioned in the 1895 newspaper article were Pleasant Butler, Harvey Pickens, Quiggs and Vannices. Towns and areas that must be near were Garfield, Darlington and Shannondale. My guess is in a swampy (thanks for the idea Jerry), gassy area of land between and above Garfield and Darlington prior to getting to Shannondale.

There are eight towns beginning with A and of course Alamo would be the best known. However, you will not have heard of the majority on the site. For instance, the B's begin with Bald Hill. Suzie found this one in the 1864 Atlas and it was about a mile north of Yountsville. Do wonder why it had that name, though.

Many began with a school house or the school house (with the name and educational building) was built and homes were erected around it. Ball's School House was found as a news place in the June 30, 1900 Weekly Argus News (my all-time favorite newspaper of Montgomery County). Of course the common name in the area was Ball; but there were Thompsons, Brannons, Wilsons, Vaughns, too in that one newspaper alone. The place was named for the James Ball and Catherine Hoff family. This was in Wayne Township somewhere near the Wesley Chapel Church.

Many towns were named for other families, Beckville; Binford; Boots (School House); Boraker's Corner; Bowers Station; Britton's Glen; Bunnel's Corner; Burk School House; and those only in the B's. Crossings were about as numerous (Nicholson, Vandalia, Smith) Some were named for flowers and fruits - not the Fruits family although they had their name in plenty of places (Fruits, Fruits Mill, Fruits Corner), too such as Cherry Grove; Pawpaw Bend; Pumpkin Butter Cross Roads and Pumpkin Ridge. Plus Sunflower and Magnolia Mills. Yet others began with a form of Mount (Mount Olivet, Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Vernon).

Wishful thinking may have been included in some of the town names, such as Quiet Retreat, Fast Mail, Polyopolis and Flowery Realm.

Animals and such were tagged in some, such as Horse Shoe, Short Horse, Hog Heaven, Pig Paradise (oh geez), Locust Mills and Muskrat. Top these off with food (Potato Creek; Goose Nibble).

States were a topic, too as we have had Idaho, Kentuck, Texas, Upper California and Oklahoma. Cities were represented with at least Salem, and Santiago.

Even a few cropped up after the Civil War with names, such as Liberty, Shiloh, Stony Point, Manson Hill, while others may have featured literature (Sleepy Hollow).

Definitely, there were some I'd certainly not want to live in – Miceville, Mossy Dell, Muddy Lane, Smokey Row, Rattlesnake, Swampy Plains and Sodom.

Then there were a few to make ya' laugh, Slickville, Here & There, Needmore, while some were shortened (Macedonia).

Several fords, mill and hill names such as Sutton's Ford near Shannondale that had a fairly large tile factory, butcher shop and new homes in late 1883. Steam Mills must have been new in late 1877 or early 1878 when a new atlas appeared with William H. Sullivan native of Campbell County, Kentucky who just moved there. Miller's Hill was near Smartsburg but I have yet to peg a specific place. Plus Round Hill most of you will know.

Bunches of corners were the names of the little areas of Montgomery County (Paddock, Patton, Turnipseed and even Uncle Sam's).

Get this – there were even towns that were just named numbers. Although the county schools also had numbers it doesn't seem that the towns corresponded with them and I have only found four for sure #2, #13, #35 AND #130.

Yet others show religious inclinations: Quakerdom, Quakervale, Heaven's Garden and Lutheran.

The Native American feel was here too (Pawnee, Indian Creek, Kickapoo).

Do believe a few were put here just to confuse us – like Otterbein – not the one in Tippecanoe and Milligan, not the one in Parke County. Plus, who has ever heard of Razzoopville and Reyk Jakiv?

Certainly, the whole decade and a half and more searching for places in Montgomery County has been great fun. You'd enjoy a visit if you have any interest in Montgomery County but a reminder if you use anything from the site, please give credit to the Montgomery County INGenWeb. Thanks and enjoy !!!

Karen Zach is the editor of Montgomery Memories, our monthly magazine all about Montgomery County. Her column, Around the County, appears each Thursday in The Paper of Montgomery County.

Happy Hollow -- now, located on Highway 47 at the edge of the Airport Road. In the Weekly Argus News, Oct 28, 1899 - it states that George Randle and wife of Boone County visited James Randle's Monday night. Will Davidson and family, Mr. Hobson and family of New Ross and Duck Davison of Crawfordsville visited with Zeb Auman's Sunday. Clara Oliver visited friends in Darlington Sunday. Jim McCormick called on James Randle Tuesday.. Will Linn & George Corn built a corn crib for Charles Minnich.

Hard Scabble - just west of New Ross (pre 1930) -- found names to be Bailey; Delaney; Swiney; Clark and Griffin - north union township in Section 24/25 - thanks Suzie for finding a bit more than we had :)

Havana -- In Walnut township - about equal distance between Beckville & Fredericksburg (Mace) - is Havana corner of sections 9/10 15/16. J.M. Walkup, Charles Linn, Strawder Peck, Harry Ward, Roy Morris, Newt Moler were all people mentioned - along with others. Between 1902-1904 in the daily newspapers Havana is a very popular place. Thanks, Suz

Haw Creek -- train station south of Ladoga near the Putnam County Line - also a Haw Creek Church an very small town

Haw Creek Road -- see Bymaster Road

Hazel Valley -- possibly near Lapland - around Sec. 20 - @ least that is where one of the land owners owned land that was mentioned in the article. Also, one of the ones mentioned owned in Sec 18 of Scott which is NW of Lapland. Sec 20 is SW - so maybe Lapland WAS Hazel Village/Valley. (from Suzie B)

Hazel Village - small burg in Scott Township - my town guru, Jerry T is working on finding more info about it :) - it may/may not be Hazel Valley