

The following list is an attempt to index the names of the *Tract Book of Gibson County, Indiana*. The page number is the one used in that book, not the page number of this publication. These are some helpful informational tips as to finding names of one's ancestors or previous owners, of the land being researched. These names are not mis-spelled by this author, but is an attempt to list them as they appeared.

The researcher is warned against assuming, without other proof, that Sr or Jr, necessarily mean father and son or mother or daughter. In earlier times this often literally meant the elder and younger—sometimes a man and his nephew or woman and her niece, occasionally two unrelated people (men and women alike) of the same name, coincidentally. A given name or middle name resembling a surname does not always, positively, indicate a relationship to that family. Children were often given the name of a neighbor or their mother's maiden name (William Shakespear), to carry on that line.

In old hand-writing, J and I were made close enough if not identically. It is hard sometimes to tell whether M is a middle initial or a derivative contracture of the surname.

Whimiscal spelling has been given exactly as it appears. If the researcher suspects that subject of research might have used his middle name (and this was especially common of Germanic and/or Slavic families), it would be wise to look up given names listed under a surname. All entries under the same given and surname have been combined in this index; this does not necessarily mean that they are all for the same person (men and women).

However, my interpretation of the hand-writing may be faulty; so the researcher is advised to look around the alphabet. Names beginning with L, S, and T, for instance, look much alike in some script. Also, remember, that Germanic names were often spelled interchangerably: B-P, C-G, C-K, D-T, G-C, G-K, K-N, K-G, N-K, P-B, P-F, S-Z, T-D, V-W, V-F, W-Z, Z-S, F-P, W-V, F-V, and Z-W.

As one always cannot be sure of the facts in translating the names in this listing, the letter f proceeding a constant, which when translated could mean a double constant—i.e. Bafs could be Bass and Crofs could mean Cross.

The person recording the names in listing them might have misunderstood the name, mis-spelling it, incorrectly, or was given the incorrect spelling of the name.