INDIANA TOWNSHIPS

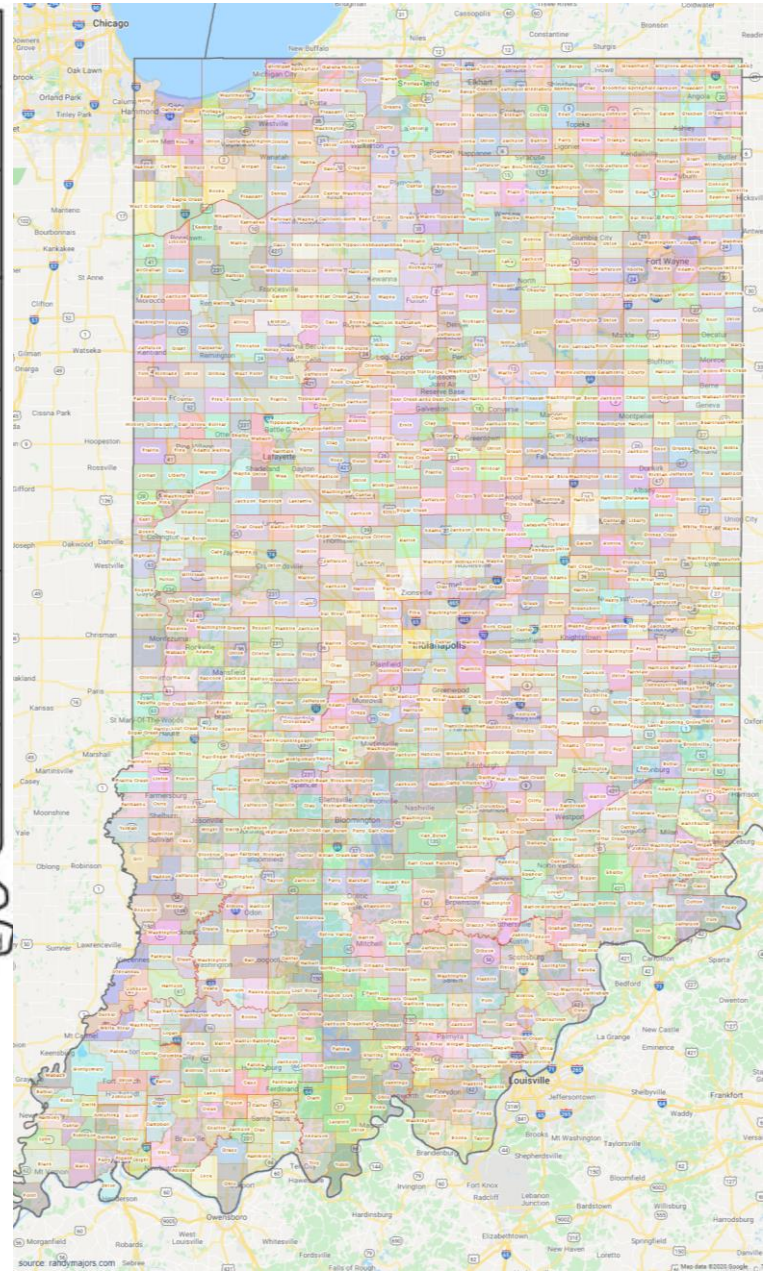
WHAT IT IS AND WHAT THEY DO?

PORTAGE TOWNSHIP
TRUSTEE OFFICE

ST JOSEPH COUNTY, IN

WHAT ARE TOWNSHIPS?

- Indiana founded in 1816
- Indiana Constitution
  - Article 6 – Administrative
    - Counties, Townships, Towns
    - Separate governments
- 1008 Townships in Indiana



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

- St. Joseph County organized in 1830
- 13 Townships
- Portage TWP
  - 6th largest in Indiana by population

TOWNSHIP DUTIES

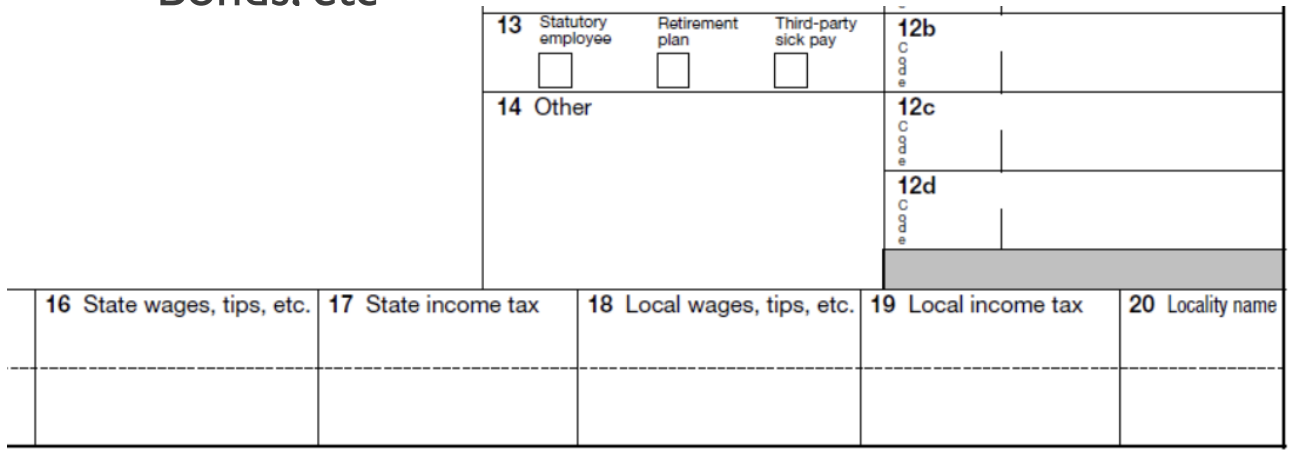
- Fire Protection
- Cemeteries
- Parks
- Community Centers & Other public facilities
- Settle Fence Disputes
- Eradicate noxious vegetation
  - Plants that are injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property
- Provide Township Assistance

SOME OTHER TOWNSHIP DUTIES

- Property Assessments
- Schools Systems
- Road Commissions
- Small Claims Courts
  - Constables - Marion County (Unigov)

TOWNSHIP FUNDING

- Most Common Sources
  - Property Tax & Local Income Tax
- Less Common
  - Bonds. etc



13 Statutory employee	Retirement plan	Third-party sick pay	12b Code
14 Other			12c Code
			12d Code

16 State wages, tips, etc.	17 State income tax	18 Local wages, tips, etc.	19 Local income tax	20 Locality name

TABLE 3: GROSS PROPERTY TAX DISTRIBUT

TAXING AUTHORITY	TAX RATE 2022	TAX RATE 2023
CITY OR TOWN	3.2925	2.9736
COUNTY	0.6574	0.5989
LIBRARY	0.3013	0.2626
SCHOOL	1.4148	1.2708
SPECIALS (2)	0.1530	0.1392
TOWNSHIP	0.0000	0.0446
TOTAL	**5.8190**	**5.2897**

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION

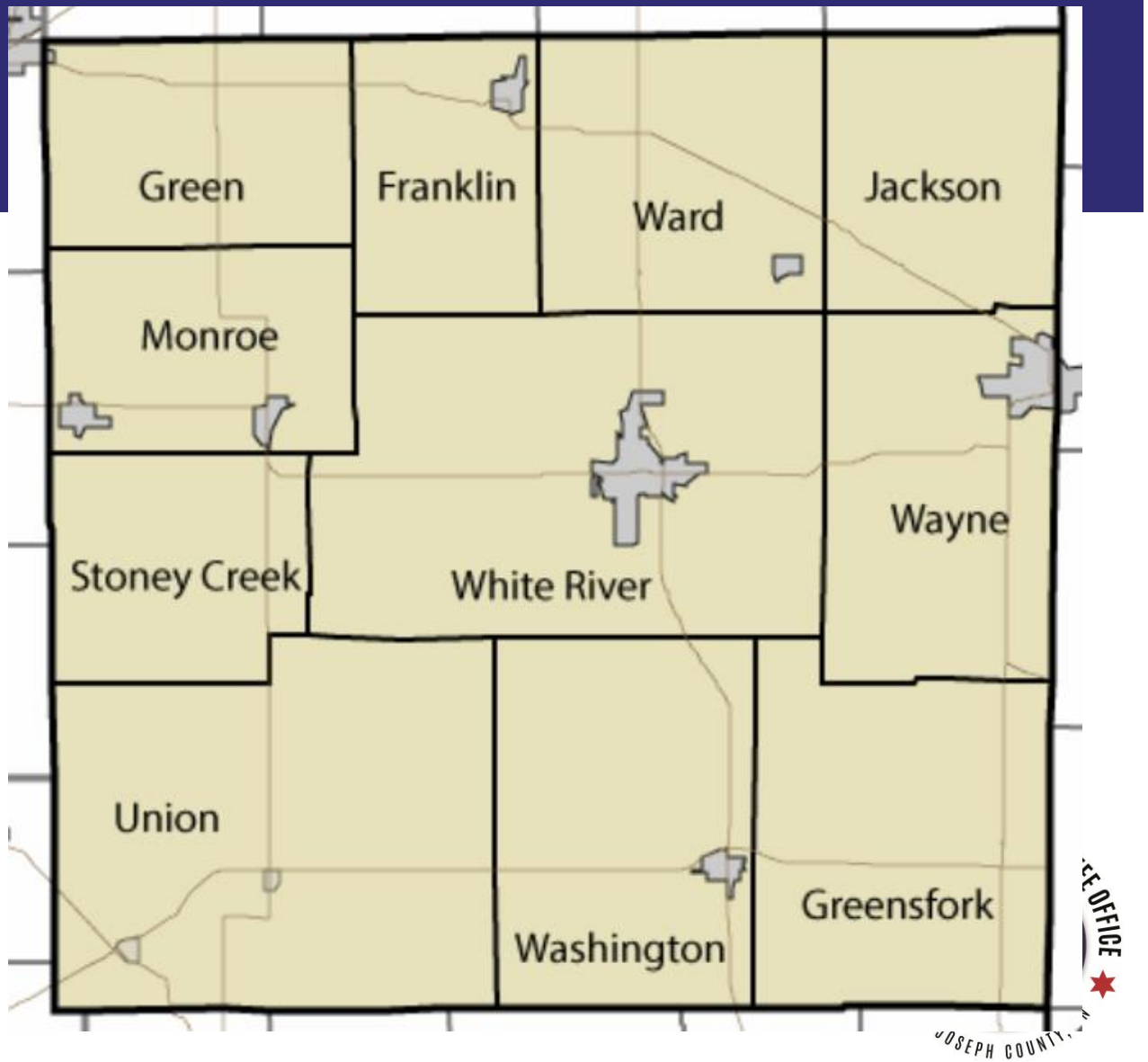
- Trustee
  - Executive
  - Provide Fire Protection
  - Receive & pay out funds
    - Manage investments
  - Administer facilities and assets
    - Manage Staff
  - Administer Township Assistance
- 3 Member Board
  - Primarily Budgetary
    - Set Tax Rates
    - Adopt and oversee budget
    - Maintain Records
    - Set salaries
    - Approve large expenditures
  - Adopt Assistance Guidelines

TOWNSHIP DUTIES

- Each Township is governed by the same laws and has the same "abilities" per law.
  - However, the focus of each Township is very unique to it's geography, demographics, etc.

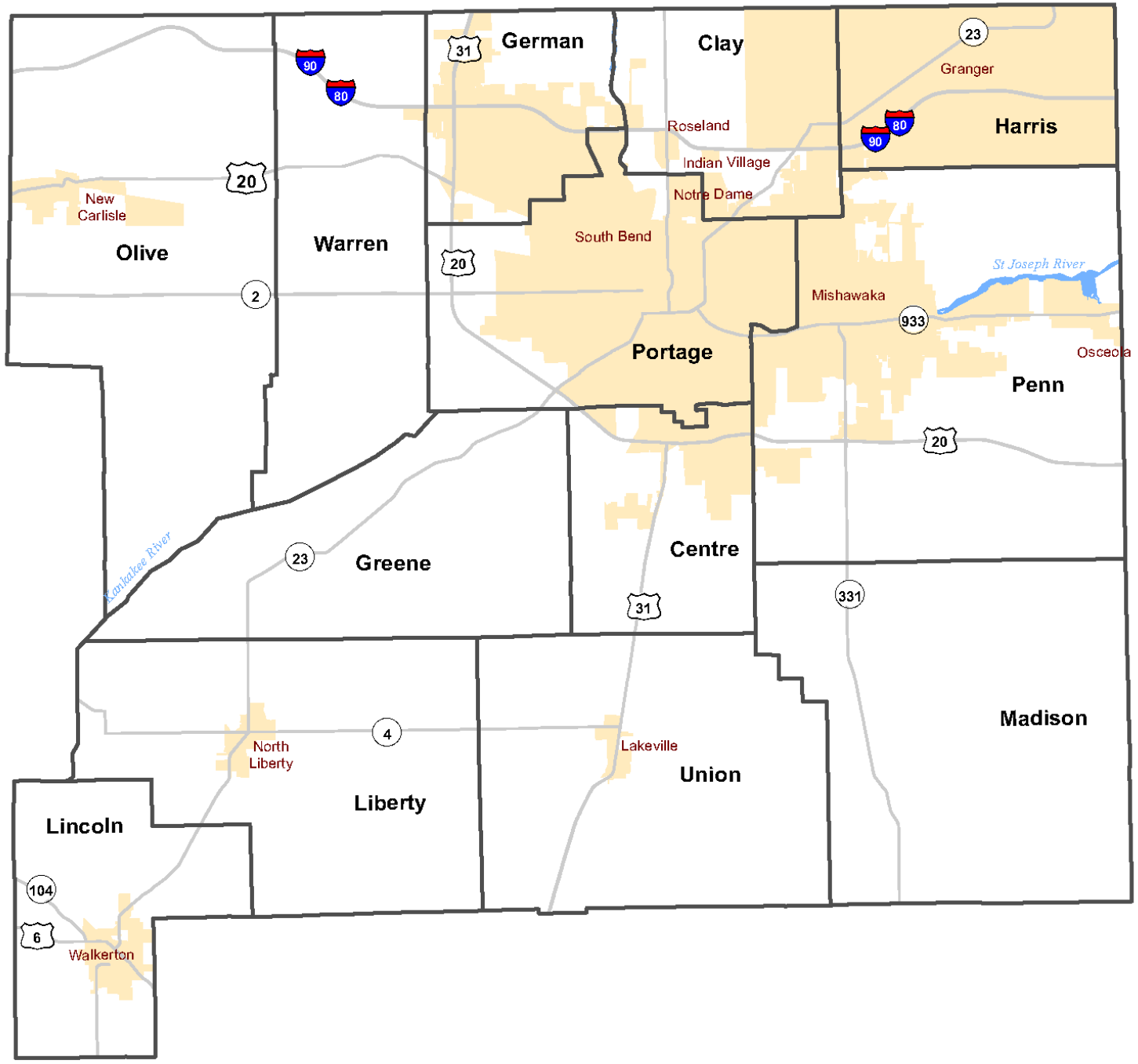
EX. RANDOLPH COUNTY

- Population: 24,000
- 11 Townships
- No urban centers
  - Winchester, IN (5k)



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY

- Population: 270,000
- 13 Townships
- Several urban large centers

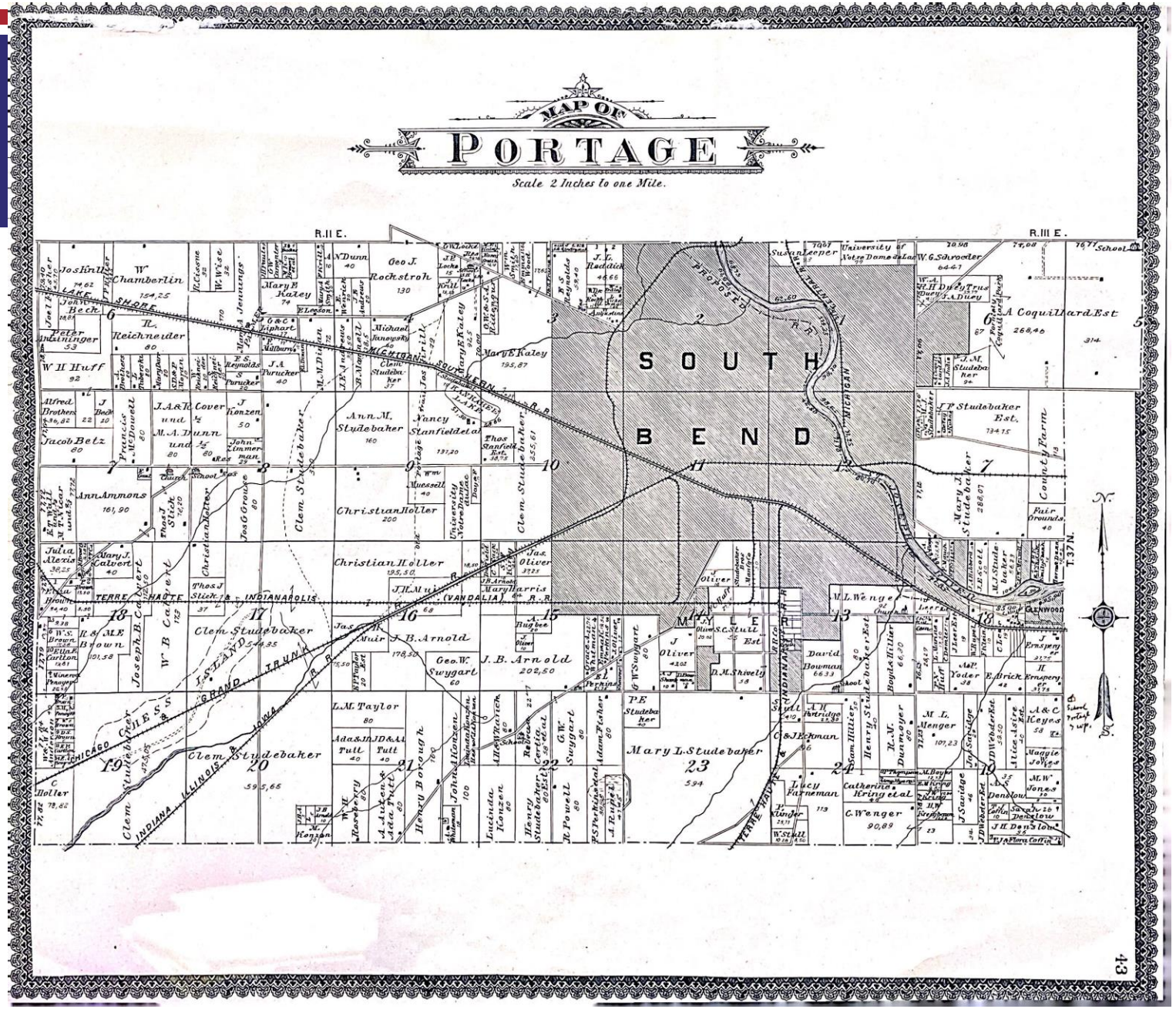


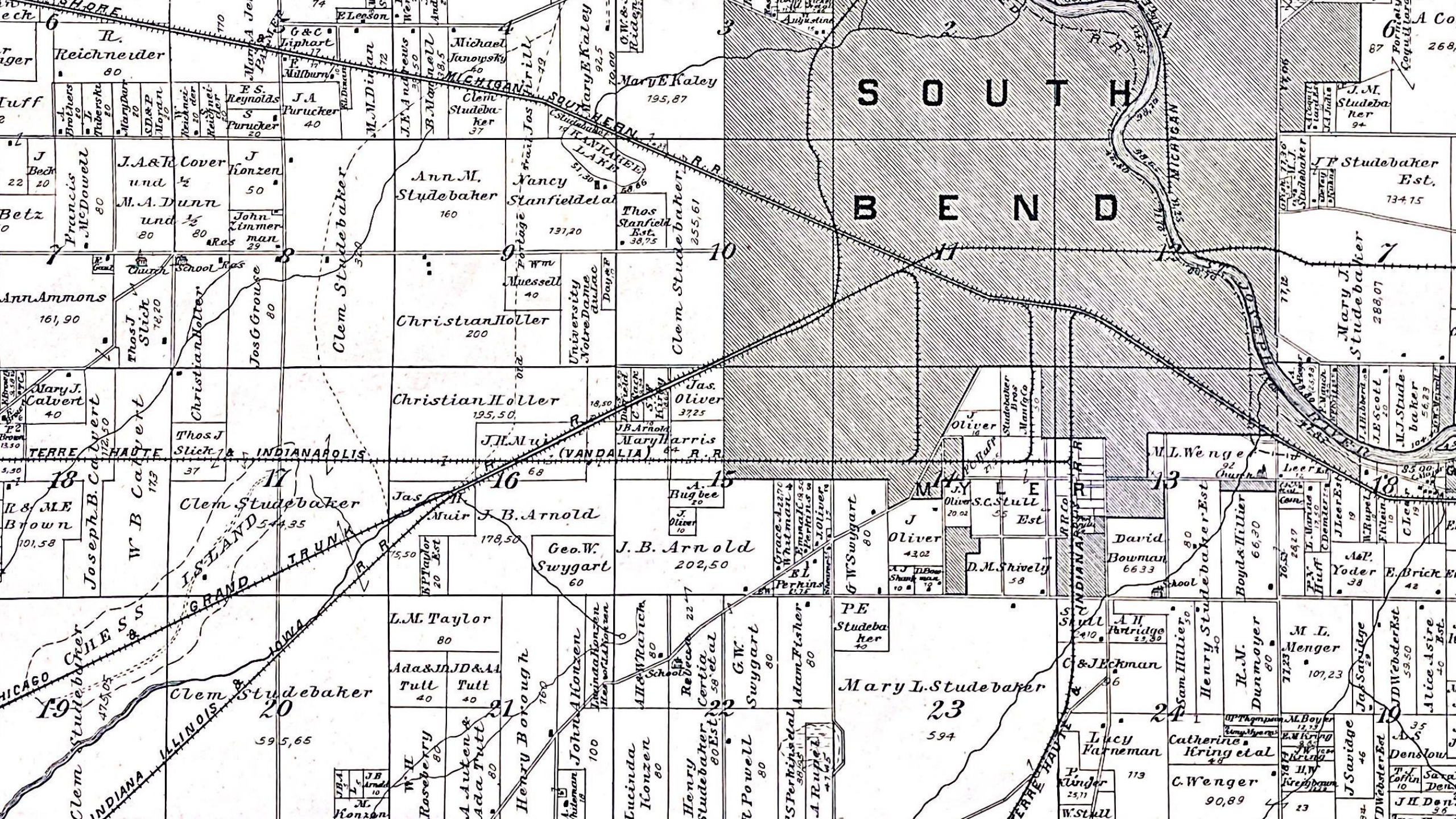
PORTAGE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE OFFICE

ST JOSEPH COUNTY, IN

THE PORTAGE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES OFFICE IS COMMITTED TO HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES FACING MOMENTS OF CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY. OUR GOAL IS TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE BUILD STRONGER FUTURES FOR THEMSELVES.

Portage Township 1865(ish)




SOUTH BEND
MICHIGAN SOUTHERN R.R.
TERRE HAUTE & INDIANAPOLIS R.R. (VANDALIA)
CHICAGO & GRAND TRUNK R.R.
CHICAGO & ILLINOIS & INDIANA R.R.
ILLINOIS & IOWA R.R.
TERRE HAUTE & INDIANAPOLIS R.R.
KANKAKEE LAKE
Portage
Mary E Kaley 195,87
Ann M. Studebaker 160
Nancy Stanfield et al 131,20
Thos Stanfield Est. 38,75
Clem Studebaker 255,61
Christian Holler 200
Wm Muessell 40
University Notre Dame aulac
Christian Holler 195,50
Jas. Oliver 37,25
J.H. Muir 178,50
J. B. Arnold 202,50
Geo. W. Swygart 60
Mary Harris 64
A. Bugbee 20
J. Oliver 10
Clem Studebaker 20 595,65
Clem Studebaker 19 475,05
Henry Borough 160
L.M. Taylor 80
Ada & Jn. Tull 40
J.D. & A. Tull 40
Rebecca Certia 58 et al
Henry Studebaker Est. 80
G.W. Swygart 80
Adam Fisher 80
Mary L. Studebaker 23 594
P.E. Studebaker 40
Lucy Farneman 113
Catherine Kring et al 48
C. Wenger 90,89
Henry Studebaker Est. 80
R.M. Dunmoyer 80
Boyle & Hillier 66,30
David Bowman 6633
D.M. Shively 58
S.C. Stull Est 55
J Oliver 43,02
G.W. Swygart 80
Ann Ammons 161,90
Thos J Slick 72,20
Jos G Grouse 80
Francis McDowell 80
J.A. & R. Cover und M.A. Dunn 80
J Konzen 50
John Zimmerman 29
R. Reichneuder 80
G. & C. Liphart 17
F. Millburn 17
E.S. Reynolds 20
S. Purucker 20
J.A. Purucker 40
M.M. Dinan 72
J.H. Andrews 39,50
B. Maxwell 38,5
Michael Janowsky 40
Clem Studebaker 37
Mary E Kaley 92,5
Mary J. Calvert 40
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Joseph B. Calvert 172,50
W B Calvert 173
R & ME Brown 101,58
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J. B. Arnold
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Grace A. Whitmarsh
Emma C. Perkins
J. Oliver
E.L. Perkins
G.W. Swygart 80
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S.C. Stull Est
J.Y. Oliver 20,02
Studebaker Bros Mfg Co
J. Oliver 10
M.L. Wenger 92
Church
School
Res
Boyle & Hillier 66,30
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M.L. Menger 107,23
A.H. Partridge 23,30
C. & J. Eckman 86
Lucy Farneman 113
Catherine Kring et al 48
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Sam Hillier 50
Henry Studebaker Est. 80
Jas. Savidge 46
J. Savidge 46
Alice Asire Est. 40
J.D. Webster Est 59,50
J.F. Studebaker Est. 73,4,75
Mary J. Studebaker 7 288,07
M.J. Studebaker 56,23
J.E. Scott 20
J. Leer Est 19
W. Rupel 12
Fillain 10
C. Denler 10
L. Manns 13,50
P.Y. Huff 24,19
A. & P. Yoder 38
E. Brick 42
J.M. Studebaker 94
Formerly Coquillard
A Co 268
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SOUTHWEST CENTRAL FIRE TERRITORY

- Township Fire Departments vs Fire Territories
- Centre, Portage, & portions of Green Townships
- Two Stations
  - Station 41 (Fillmore and Mayflower)
  - Station 42 (Kern and US 31)
  - 19 Full time and 14 On-Call Staff
    - 3 - 48 hour shifts
      - 3 man & 1 Battalion Chief

TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE

- Similar to many social services agency
  - Often has stricter requirements
    - Basis in law
- Workfare
- Job Placement
- Housing Placement
- Referrals & Coordination with other agencies
- Temporary Emergency Assistance
  - Utilities, Rent/Shelter, Food
    - Burial, medical, misc.

TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE

- All Township MUST provide assistance
  - Rural vs urban
    - Office vs no Office
- Assistance Guidelines
  - Proposed by Trustee and adopted by the Board
- Last Resort/Emergency Need
- Income Requirements
  - Based on federal poverty level
- When All Personal Effort has failed
- Wasted Resources
- Denials
  - Appeals Process

ISSUES FOR RESIDENTS OF PORTAGE TWP

- Demographics
  - Nearly 1/3 of residents are living at or below the poverty level
    - Poverty level is $30,000 annually for family of four
- Affordable Housing
  - Rent hikes
- Increasing Costs
- Indiana Housing Laws
- Education
  - Personal finance
- Predatory Services

TOWNSHIP ISSUES & FUTURE

- Lack of Community Involvement
- Oversight
  - Centralized authority
- Duplication of Services
- Differentiation of services
- Fire Department Professionalization
- Political/Government Administration
  - Kernan-Shephard Report (2007)
  - Township Mergers

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Presenter's Contact Information

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