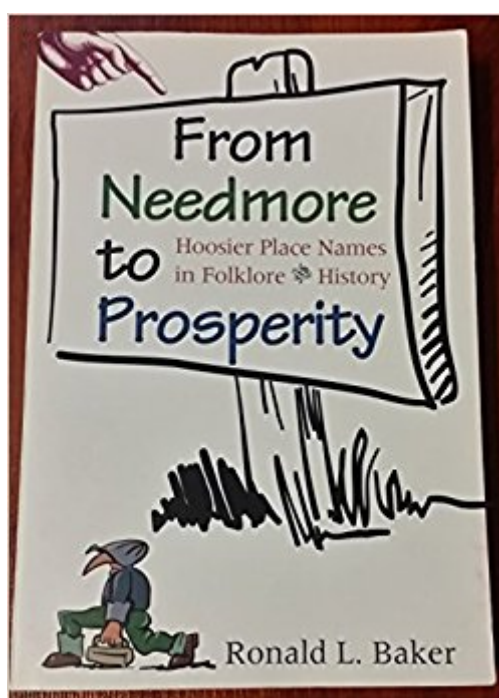


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From Needmore To Prosperity: Hoosier Place Names In Folklore And History (Indiana)



Synopsis

Ronald L. Baker presents the folklore and the history of the names of populated places in Indiana. Over 4,000 entries are arranged alphabetically and include the current spellings, local pronunciations, and origins of Indiana place names, as well as variant spellings and variant names and dates of settlement and/or establishment. This fascinating cultural study offers the lore, folk legends, jokes, and anecdotes that flesh out the bare bones of dates and details, humanizing the study of place names. Place-name legends may be more fanciful than factual, but they provide the student of culture with information on what the names mean to the people who use them: telling these legends enables Hoosiers to form a closer bond with their region and to situate themselves in history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Not as many interesting stories as I thought might be included. Too many listings about Indiana cities just recite information about post office history for a particular city. There are some interesting anecdotal stories, just not enough of them.

The folklorist, Ronald Baker, has written an excellent study of place names in Indiana. Thoroughly documented, this book is a fine guide for finding out how various towns and cities in Indiana got their names. What is especially interesting is Baker's introduction to this volume. He shows how there are common patterns to the development of place names in the state. Baker then provides

ways for readers to draw conclusions about the history of the state by finding out how various names came to be. This book is very useful for understanding the folklore of Indiana, and it is a model for studies of place names in other states.

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