Bulletin 2018-6   **June 11, 2018**

COUNTY HISTORICAL DATA
Date and Origin of County Names

County	Date Named	Origin of Name
Adams	1797	Named for President John Adams, during whose administration the county was organized.
Allen	1820	Named for Ethan Allen, Revolutionary War hero.
Ashland	1846	Named for "Ashland," home of Henry Clay, near Lexington, KY.
Ashtabula	1805	Named for the Ashtabula River, and Indian word meaning "fish river."
Athens	1808	Sit of the first institution of higher learning in the Northwest Territory founded by Federal Land Grant and named for Athens, Greece.
Auglaize	1848	Named for the Auglaize River, and Indian word meaning "fallen timbers."
Belmont	1801	Come from the French words "Belle Monte," meaning beautiful mountain, descriptive of the high, rugged hills.
Brown	1818	Named for General Jacob Brown, who defeated the British in the Battle of Lundy's Lane.
Butler	1803	Named in honor of General Richard Butler, who was killed when forces led by General St. Clair were massacred by Indians.
Carroll	1833	Named for Charles Carroll, last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence.
Champaign	1805	Comes from the French word meaning "a plain," because of the character of its surface.
Clark	1818	Named for General George Roberts Clark, who defeated the Indians near Springfield, the county seat.
Clermont	1800	Comes from the French works meaning "clear mountain".
Clinton	1810	Named for George Clinton, Vice President of the United States when it was organized.

County	Date Named	Origin of Name
Columbiana	1803	A fanciful named derived from the names of Columbus and Anna.
Coshocton	1810	Indian word meaning "black bear town."
Crawford	1820	Named in honor of Colonel William Crawford, burned at the stake by the Indians nearby.
Cuyahoga	1810	Named for the Cuyahoga River, an Indian word meaning "crooked" or "winding stream".
Darke	1809	Named for General William Darke, Revolutionary War hero.
Defiance	1845	Named for Fort Defiance which was built by General Anthony Wayne.
Delaware	1808	Named after the Delaware Indians.
Erie	1838	Named for the Erie Indians, signifies "the cat" or "the nation of the cats."
Fairfield	1800	Governor Arthur St. Clair, Governor of the Northwest Territory, named this country for the beauty of its "fair fields."
Fayette	1810	Was named in honor of General Lafeyette.
Franklin	1803	Was named for Benjamin Franklin.
Fulton	1850	Was named for the inventor of the steamboat, Robert Fulton.
Gallia	1803	Is from the ancient name of France, "Gaul," settled by the famous "French Five Hundred."
Geauga	1805	The name Geauga or Sheauga, signifying "racoon", was given by the Indians to the Grand River which flows through this county.
Greene	1803	Named for General Nathaniel Greene, Revolutionary War hero.
Guernsey	1810	Named for the Isle of Guernsey from whence come many of the settlers of this county.
Hamilton	1790	Named for Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury when the county was organized.
Hancock	1820	Named for John Hancock, signer of Declaration of Independence and President of the Continental Congress.
Hardin	1820	Named for General John Hardin, Revolutionary War officer killed there by Indians while on a peace mission.
Harrison	1813	Named in honor of General William Henry Harrison, hero of the War of 1812.
Henry	1820	Named for Patrick Henry, celebrated statesman and orator of the Revolutionary Period.
Highland	1805	Gets its name from the county's terrain.
Hocking	1818	A short form of the Indian word hock-hocking, meaning "bottle river". The Hocking River flows through this county.
Holmes	1824	Named for the gallant Major Holmes, and officer of the War of 1812, who was killed in the unsuccessful attack on Mackinac.
Huron	1809	Was the name given by the French to the Wyandot Indian Tribe who lived in that locale.

County	Date Named	Origin of Name
Jackson	1816	Named for General Andrew Jackson, who won a great victory over the British at New Orleans in 1815.
Jefferson	1797	Named in honor of Thomas Jefferson, Vice President when the county was formed.
Knox	1808	Named for General Henry Knox, Secretary of War under President George Washington.
Lake	1840	Named Lake because of its location on Lake Erie.
Lawrence	1815	Named for Captain James Lawrence, the gallant naval officer of the War of 1812.
Licking	1808	Derived its name from its principal stream, called by the white men "Licking River."
Logan	1818	Named for General Benjamin Logan, who destroyed the Mac-o-Chee towns within the borders of the county.
Lorain	1829	Named after the Province of Lorraine in France.
Lucas	1835	Named for the Governor Robert Lucas, who during the Ohio-Michigan boundary dispute, sent the militia there to support Ohio's claims.
Madison	1810	Named for President James Madison, who was in office when the county was organized.
Mahoning	1846	Derives its name from the Mahoning River. "Mahoni" means a "lick" or "mahonik" means "at the lick."
Marion	1820	Named in honor of General Francis Marion, "Swamp Fox" of Revolutionary War fame.
Medina	1812	Named for Medina in Arabia, the town to which Mohammed fled from Mecca.
Meigs	1819	Named for a two-term governor from neighboring Washington County, Jonathan Meigs, who was Postmaster General when the county was organized.
Mercer	1820	Named for General Hugh Mercer, killed during the Battle of Princeton in 1777.
Miami	1807	The word "Miami" in the Ottawa Indian language is said to signify "mother."
Monroe	1813	Named for James Monroe, fifth President, who was a candidate for this office at the time the county was organized.
Montgomery	1803	Named for General Richard Montgomery, who lost his life in the attack on Quebec during the Revolutionary War.
Morgan	1817	Named in honor of General Daniel Morgan of Revolutionary War fame.
Morrow	1848	Named for Governor Jeremiah Morrow, who was also United States Senator.
Muskingum	1804	The word "Muskingum," in Indian, is said to signify "eye of an elk," or "glare from the eye of an elk." In the language of the Delaware Indians, it means "town at the river's side".
Noble	1851	The last of the eighty-eight counties to be formed in the state; named in honor of James Noble, one of the first settles of that area.

County	Date Named	Origin of Name
Ottawa	1840	Named for the Ottawa Indian tribe. The name in their language means "trader."
Paulding	1820	Named for John Paulding, one of the captors of Major John Andre, British spy in the Revolutionary War.
Perry	1818	Named for Commodore Perry, who defeated the British in the naval battle of Lake Erie.
Pickaway	1810	The name is a misspelling of the word "piqua," which is the name of a Shawnee tribe, and means "a man formed out of ashes."
Pike	1815	Bears the name of Brig. General Zebulon Montgomery Pike, who discovered the mountain which was "Pike's Peak" in Colorado.
Portage	1807	Derived from the old Indian "Portage Path," which is about seven miles long and runs between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas Rivers.
Preble	1808	Named for Captain Edward Preble, naval commander in the Revolutionary War and the War with Tripoli.
Putnam	1820	Named for General Israel Putnam, who fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill and served in the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War.
Richland	1808	So called because of its rich soil
Ross	1798	Named for James Ross of Pennsylvania, a candidate for governor of that state in 1798.
Sandusky	1820	Bears the name of an Indian word meaning "cold water." In Wyandot and Huron languages, it is sa-un-dos-tee, "water within water pools." In Shawnee, it is po-ta-ke-sepe, or "rapid river."
Scioto	1803	Named for the Scioto River which flows through it. "Scioto" came from an Indian word meaning "deer."
Seneca	1820	Named for the Seneca Indians, who had a reservation there.
Shelby	1820	Named for Isaac Shelby, an officer in the Revolutionary War.
Stark	1808	Named for General John Stark of Revolutionary War fame.
Summit	1840	Named for having the highest land on the line of the Ohio Canal, which was called originally "Portage Summit".
Trumbull	1800	Named for Jonathan Trumbull, governor of Connecticut when the county was organized.
Tuscarawas	1803	Got its name from the Tuscarawas River, an Indian name meaning "open mouth".
Union	1820	So named as it came from parts of four counties: Delaware, Franklin, Madison and Logan.
Van Wert	1820	Named for Isaac Van Wart, one of the captors of the British spy, Major John Andre.
Vinton	1850	The county was named for Samuel Finley Vinton, an Ohio stateman known as the "father of the department of the interior."
Warren	1803	Named for General Joseph Warren, who was killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill.
Washington	1788	Ohio's first county, named for George Washington, President of the Constitutional Convention when the county was organized.

County	Date Named	Origin of Name
Wayne	1808	Named for General "Mad Anthony" Wayne of Revolutionary War fame, who was outstanding for his campaigns against the Indians in Ohio.
Williams	1820	Named for David Williams, another captor of Major Andre.
Wood	1820	Named for the chivalrous Colonel Wood, officer of the War of 1812, who was General William Henry Harrison's engineer and builder of Fort Meigs, which was within the borders of the county.
Wyandot	1845	Named for the Wyandot tribe, the last tribe to leave Ohio for their reservation west of the Mississippi in 1843.

Source: Marzulli, Lawrence J., Development of Ohio's Counties and their Historical Courthouses. Published by County Commissioners Association of Ohio, 1980

Downes, Randolph Chandler, "Evolution of Ohio County Boundaries". Published by Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society, 1927