



HISTORY



Organized in April, 1836, Kosciusko County, Indiana is named in honor of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, a Polish Noble who fought with George Washington in the Revolutionary War. He was born in Warsaw, Poland, thus suggesting the name "Warsaw" for the county seat. Warsaw was platted in 1836 by W.H. Knott, proprietor, and acknowledged before Jacob Rannells, justice of the peace. The town's first cabin was built by Matthew D. Springer, and the first store was opened in 1835 by William J. Pope on what

has become the corner of Lake and Market Streets. The first industries were founded in 1836, when Philip Lash started a blacksmith shop and John Giselman opened a chair shop. In 1854, when Warsaw was incorporated into a town, there were approximately 750 residents.

Most of Kosciusko County is located in the northern watershed of the Wabash River system, with the Tippecanoe River Valley being its chief physical feature.

Granite, basalt, spar, iron, and clay deposited during the Boulder Epoch helped to create the rich soil of Kosciusko County, which has contributed to the county's strong agricultural heritage.

The first county schools appeared in Prairie and Turkey Creek townships, with others soon following suit. One-teacher schools were the rule until 1854, when a school in Warsaw with 140 pupils was staffed by two teachers, Joseph A. Funk and Emeline Yocum. In 1906, the first rural consolidated school was built in the county.

The first train left Warsaw in 1870 on the Big Four Railroad, and by 1883 the Nickel Plate east-west line was completed through the southern part of Kosciusko County.

LIFESTYLE

Located in north-central Indiana's lake region, Kosciusko County offers a strong industrial and agricultural base and many recreational activities. More than 70 civic and service organizations serve the needs of the area, with members giving many hours of volunteer, committee, and fund-raising time.

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