

“What Street Do You Live On?” Video - Script:

What is the name of your street? Shawnee is named for the noble Native Americans who lived here first. What an honor! Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Madison or Monroe name prior United States Presidents! How proud you must be! Perhaps your street name is Walnut, Chestnut, Cherry, Poplar, Elm or Sycamore. These are streets named for strong and beautiful trees. If your address is a road named Lenn, Vanada, Bell, Libbert or Grimm then you are lucky to live where five historic Newburgh families of the same name built their homes over one hundred...even two hundred years ago!! Listen as I tell you their interesting stories:

Grimm Road is named for the Grimm family. They moved from Germany to America over one hundred seventy years ago in 1847. First they lived in Pennsylvania. After a few years they moved to Indiana and Mr. Grimm purchased 80 acres of land near Newburgh for a farm. Unfortunately, Mr. Grimm died unexpectedly at a young age and his children needed to work very hard to keep the family farm. Every member of the family had important daily chores. Chickens, ducks and geese needed to be fed, eggs collected from the hens, cows to be milked, butter to be churned from that milk, trees to be cut down, fields to be plowed and planted using a horse drawn plow, vegetable gardens to be tended, beans, corn, pickles, sauerkraut, applebutter to be canned, wheat harvested and ground into flour, pigs to be butchered for ham and bacon! Just about everything needed for life came from the farm. The food to eat, the clothes to wear, the goods to sell at the market all came from the farm. The Grimms were very hard workers.

Lenn Road is named for the James Stephen Lenn family. The Lenn family immigrated to America from Ayrshire, Scotland in the 1700s (more than 220 years ago!) and first settled in Pennsylvania. They were accomplished woodsmen and fought for the Patriot cause in the Revolutionary War. One of the Lenn children, James Stephen Lenn, fought at Yorktown under General Washington and was a friend of the legendary Daniel Boone. He settled in this area in 1804. He also fought in the famous Battle of Tippecanoe. This battle crushed the power of the Native Americans living in this portion of the Old Northwest Territory. Descendants of James S Lenn fought in the Civil War and many Lenn descendants currently reside in the Newburgh/Evansville area. One descendant even wrote a book entitled “The Trek”, a history of the Lenn family. The Lenn family has very deep roots in United States history.

Libbert Road is named for the Libberts of Germany that came by ship to America in 1854. Gottlieb and Luisa Libbert landed in New Orleans, LA and came by steamboat up the Mississippi River to the Ohio River and disembarked in or near Newburgh. Like so many early settlers, they purchased 40 acres of land and started farming. There was little land for sale in Germany. America offered so much good fertile and affordable land! In time, some of the children and grandchildren of Gottlieb and Luisa left farming. Some became coal miners in the mines of Newburgh. One even died at age 56 when slate rock fell on him. Others moved away from Newburgh all the way to California and became involved in the movie making business! Yes, the Libbert family led exciting lives!

Vanada Road, east of the town of Newburgh, is named for the the Vanada family. Two hundred fifty years ago, in 1771, three brothers boarded the ship “America” and came to Philadelphia, PA from Germany. They settled in Pennsylvania first but within a few years traveled down the Ohio River to this area. The land they cleared is still today part of the Vanada family farm. This farm has been awarded the prestigious title “Centennial Farm” as it has been in the same family over 100 years...in fact over 200 years! In that long time the Vanada family experienced many adventures that included fighting a huge bear, surviving an Indian attack, traveling by river boat to New Orleans LA often to sell the corn, pork and potatoes from their farm and enlisting as soldiers in several conflicts including the Civil War. At one time a stop along the traction train line to Rockport was called Vanada Station. Although two brothers, Martin and George, operated a general store on Water St in Newburgh and both lived to be 94 years of age, the name Vanada is synonymous with farming7 generations strong!

These important families contributed in many ways to the growth and success of Newburgh. The roads bearing their names all travel a beautiful place we call home...Newburgh IN.