

Town of Cedar Lake
Chronological Calendar

- 1961 Dr. King begins research on Incorporation
- May 1963 Public meeting held by Mr. Thorpe opposing Incorporation of Cedar Lake.
- Nov. 20, 1963 More than 100 Cook property owners oppose any connection with plans to Incorporate the Cedar Lake area and promise remonstrance petitions. Straley Thorpe appears as Attorney for the opposition.
- Dec. 9, 1963 Petition filed with the County Commissioners to Incorporate the area known as Cedar Lake. At this time the petition became public property and a legal question could be raised.
- Jan. 7, 1964 "Committee of 10" group opposed to incorporation, circulates petitions which would block formation of Town.
- Mar. 2, 1964 Opposition charges Incorporation Laws unconstitutional at Hearing with Lake County Commissioners.
- May 17, 1964 Opposition files petition asking Commissioners to reject, over-rule and dismiss petition to Incorporate.
- Jun. 8, 1964 Lake County Commissioners approve Incorporation of Cedar Lake.
- Sep. 22, 1964 Opposition notifies Commissioners it will fight Incorporation, blocking action by appointed election officials.
- Oct. 19, 1964 Appeal seeking to void the Incorporation Petition filed in Lake Superior Court Room 5.
- Oct. 20, 1964 Thirty-seven candidates file for seven Trustee and Clerk-Treasurer posts to be decided in election.
- Oct. 28, 1964 Judge James Richards issues Temporary Injunction blocking election.
- Jan. 22, 1965 Judge Richards sets aside ruling by Commissioners creating Cedar Lake as a Town, ruling the Commissioners did not have jurisdiction.
- Feb. 23, 1965 Indiana Senate passes by 34-2 a bill aimed at legalizing Incorporation of Cedar Lake.
- Mar. 3, 1965 Indiana House approves Bill.
- Mar. 11, 1965 Gov. Roger D. Branigin signs Senate Bill 316, making Incorporation legal.
- Mar. 18, 1965 Cedar Lake Board of Election Commissioners sets March 30th for Town Election.
- Mar. 22, 1965 Thorpe appeals to Judge Richards to halt election.
- Mar. 23, 1965 Thirty-two persons file as candidates for seven Trustee and Clerk-Treasurer posts.

Mar. 26, 1965 Judge Richards disqualifies himself in the case.

Mar. 27, 1965 Special Judge C. Jerome Smith denies request for opposition to block election.

Mar. 30, 1965 Voters elect seven Trustees and Clerk-Treasurer.

Apr. 1, 1965 Officers take Oath of Office

May 19, 1965 Dispute venued to Porter County Circuit Court at request of those in favor of Incorporation.

Jun. 1965 Begin preliminary work on Sewer Project.

Aug. 18, 1965 Thorpe threatens civil action against individual Town Officers to recover taxes.

Dec. 6, 1965 Judge Alfred Pivarnik upholds incorporation; Cedar Lake functions as a Town.

Dec. 23, 1965 Thorpe files appeal to Indiana Supreme Court challenging incorporation of Cedar Lake.

May 1966 Approval of \$637,000-Department of Interior.

Jul. 1966 Final Plans for Sewer approved by Board.

Aug. 1966 Sewer Bids Opened.

Oct. 17, 1966 Petition against Town Sewer Project filed with Town Board. Petition prepared by Attorney Thorpe.

Dec. 6, 1966 Judge Felix Kaul rules in favor of Town Board. Attorney Thorpe appeared, as a witness for his clients.

Dec. 22, 1966 Indiana Supreme Court in split 2-2 vote lets incorporation stand.

Jan. 12, 1967 Opposition files notice with Indiana Supreme Court for rehearing.

Feb. 1967 Execution of Grant Agreement

Jun. 13, 1967 Indiana Supreme Court, by 4-1 vote, rules incorporation invalid.

Jun. 13, 1967 Bond Sale Arranged

Jun. 15, 1967 Work begins to reincorporate.

Jun. 28, 1967 Petition signed and completed.

Jul. 1, 1967 Attorney Thorpe requests two public meetings be held before petition filed with the County Commissioners.

- Jul. 10, 1967 First meeting held.
- Jul. 11, 1967 Second meeting was held by Mr. Thorpe at which time he stated he wanted to explain his position to the public and to conduct a public opinion poll. He stated that if the majority of the citizens wanted sewers under incorporation, he would aid in incorporating this area.
- Jul. 17, 1967 Petition filed with Lake County Commissioners.
- Aug. 2, 1967 Thorpe releases results of his poll showing the majority of the citizens of the area favoring incorporation. At that time it was revealed that Mr. Thorpe was the Attorney for those opposing the new incorporation.
- Sept. 1967 Lost \$974,000 HUD Grant
- Sep. 8, 1967 Hearing held by County Commissioners on petition.
- Oct. 30, 1967 Lake County Commissioners adopt Ordinance incorporating Cedar Lake, effective Nov. 1, 1967.
- Oct. 30, 1967 Thorpe files notice of appeal with Commissioners.
- Nov. 29, 1967 Thorpe files appeal in Lake Superior Court Room 1 asking Indiana Statute under which Cedar Lake incorporated declared unconstitutional, naming Board of County Commissioners and Election Inspectors as defendants.
- Dec. 18, 1967 Injunction sought by Thorpe to stop election. Denied. Thorpe removes Election Inspectors as defendants.
- Dec. 19, 1967 Election held for Town Officers.
- Dec. 29, 1967 Officers took Oath of Office.
- Jan., 15, 1968 Elected Officials file appeal in Lake Superior Court asking to be made a party as private citizens and taxpayers to Thorpe's appeal.
- Feb. 28, 1968 Elected Officials appeal in Lake Superior Court asking to be made a party as Town Government to Thorpe's appeal.
- May 16, 1968 Judge Frank A. J. Stodola denies intervention appeals, holding the petitioners are directly affected by the action, but they lack a direct interest. Motion to strike, by Mr. Thorpe, granted.
- Jun. 21, 1968 Town Board members vote against taking appeal asking they be named defendants to the Indiana Supreme Court. Both Defendant and Plaintiff gave notice to the Town Board that they were ready to institute the original action if appeal not taken.
- Oct. 18, 1968 Mr. Thorpe informs Charles L. Kouder, Jr. by telephone conversation, instituted by Mr. Thorpe, that he was ready to prove his allegations raised before the Board of County Commissioners.

Nov. 8, 1968 Attorney for the Defendant granted Nov. 25, hearing date.

Nov. 25, 1968 Mr. Thorpe did not appear in Court.

Dec. 6, 1968 First day of Hearing.

Dec. 16, 1968 Second and final day of Hearing. Trial scheduled for 9:00 A.M. Delay by Mr. Thorpe until 10:30 A.M. Mr. Thorpe had himself Sworn as a witness for his clients and testified concerning a public opinion poll that he instituted, but was taken by others. He failed to mention, to the court, that another poll, sponsored by the Gary Post-Tribune, had been taken at the same time. He was not cross-examined. The Judge closed the Court after accepting Mr. Thorpe's evidence. Mr. Thorpe's testimony was not consistent with the published reports given to the newspaper by Mr. Thorpe, at the time the poll was taken, 18 months prior to Mr. Thorpe's sworn testimony.

Jan. 17, 1969 Mr. Thorpe was given one week to submit his brief, on Dec. 16, 1968. To this date, he has not done so. Mr. Thorpe filed his original complaint on November 29, 1967. After a 14 month delay, Mr. Thorpe is still seeking to keep this matter from reaching the Supreme Court of Indiana.

In my opinion, the delay on the disposition of this case, involving a whole community, could not have taken place without the apparent collusion of the Court and all Attorneys that purport and represent both sides.

Mr. Thorpe, by his actions, in this case has sought to deprive me of my Constitutional Rights under Art. 1 & 12 of the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of Indiana.

Apr. 2, 1969 Court Ruled. Court finds for the Plaintiffs on their Appeal Petition to Incorporate is hereby denied.

Apr. 16, 1969 Kouder convicted of Indirect Contempt of Court on evidence submitted by Thorpe.

Apr. 21, 1969 Case Appeal to the Indiana Supreme Court

Aug. 22, 1969 Petition for appointment of a Receiver of the old Town 1965-1967 filed in Porter Circuit Court by members of the original Town (Al Bunge, Barbara Fuchs, Donald Miller and Charles Kouder)

Sep. 29, 1969 Indiana Supreme Court Rules in favor of new Town

(Original author believed to Geraldine Kortokrax. Reproduced by Cedar Lake Historical Association Curator-Historian, Scott Boccock, February 24, 2019.)