

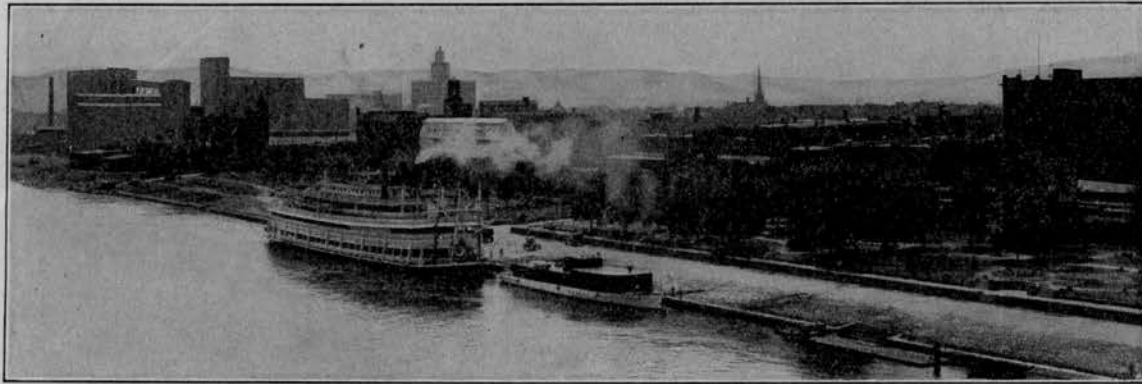


[Minnesota Geographic Board.
Records.](#)

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

NOV 8 1926



*See
my
6:214*

Winona Association of Commerce, Inc. Winona, Minnesota

OFFICE OF
R. E. SEATON
SECRETARY-MANAGER
TELEPHONE 1454

November 6, 1926

Mr. Solomon J. Buck
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minnesota

Gentlemen: Dear Sir,

C. B. O'BRIEN - PRESIDENT
G. R. LITTLE - VICE PRESIDENT
J. B. LEVEILLE - VICE PRESIDENT
W. F. QUEISSER - TREASURER

Under date of October 11th., I received a letter from the United States Geographic Board, Washington, D. C., copy of which I am sending you for your information.

A. M. OSKAMP
CHAIRMAN CIVIC BUREAU
H. J. MCCONNON
CHAIRMAN MANUFACTURERS'
AND JOBBERS' BUREAU
E. W. BARTHOLOMAE
CHAIRMAN MERCHANTS' BUREAU
CARL J. GOETZMAN
CHAIRMAN AGRICULTURAL
AND GOOD ROADS' BUREAU
H. C. KRIER
LABOR BUREAU

I wrote Governor Christianson on October 13th., requesting him to appoint this committee to designate names. Under date of November 3, I received a letter from Governor Christianson a copy of which I am sending you and which is self-explanatory.

It seems to me that this is very important as there are a number of movements now being planned in Minnesota to advertise our scenic beauties and natural resources. If the State Historical Society will request from the Governor that he appoint a volunteer committee or any other method of procedure that the Historical Society would wish to endorse I believe we can begin this important work at once.

DIRECTORS:

M. J. BOYLE
H. CHOATE
F. H. DOELLNER
CARL GERLICHER
G. C. KISSLING
A. L. ROBERTS
F. J. RUCKER
A. W. DOERER
L. T. FISCHER

We are very much interested in this matter in and around Winona. I personally would be glad to co-operate in any way possible with you or with a committee the Governor might appoint or in any other way but most certainly would like to get some action in this matter.

We have some beautiful spots in Minnesota which have never been named. They should be named and placed in the publicity which the state will use from now on. May I hear from you concerning your reaction to this.

Very truly yours,

R. E. Seaton,
Secretary-Manager.

MEMBER
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RES/BM

(C O P Y)

UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

WASHINGTON

Room 5329 Interior Bldg.
Washington, Oct. 11, 1926

Mr. R. E. Seaton, Sec'y-Mgr.
Winona Association of Commerce
Winona, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of October 6, 1926, suggesting the name "Wenonah" for the range of hills along the Mississippi river between the town of Red Wing and Root river on the Minnesota side and between St. Croix and Wisconsin rivers on the Wisconsin side.

I do not find any Geographic Board record of the hills along the Mississippi river, naming them or considering them in any way.

The ordinary procedure to secure the adoption of a new name is to secure support of county and State officials and influential citizens familiar with conditions, in the form of recommendations or petitions, to the end that the Geographic Board may be fully advised of public sentiment therein. An accurate description of the character and extent of the hills, their importance, etc., should be furnished.

Have you not in mind the high bluffs on both banks of the river resulting from erosion by the great river in cutting through the range of hills rather than the hills themselves? The name you suggest is appealing and would, I think, please everybody if finally adopted.

I may advise you in this connection that I have recently mailed to the Governors of all the States a letter requesting State co-operation toward the preparation of an official geographic dictionary, or gazetteer, of the United States, suggesting the creation of State geographic boards for this purpose. Such boards should prepare for recommendation to the Federal board lists of geographic names occurring within each State and might be submitted under three heads: long-used acceptable names; names in use which are considered objectionable, and should be changed, if possible; and third names for features now without names but which the public interest should be named. The great length of the first list would be its chief difficulty, but it would not take long; but---the other two would require very careful consideration.

In view of our program it occurs to me that if the Governor of Minnesota shall appoint a State board, which we urge, the proper procedure would be for you to lay the Wenonah name matter before that board with such favorable material as you may in the mean time get together. I assume that recommendations made by State boards will have favorable consideration, if our rules permit, at any rate they will have sympathetic consideration always,

Very respectfully,

Frank Bond,
Chairman.

(C O P Y)

STATE OF MINNESOTA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ST. PAUL
Theodore Christianson, Governor

November 3, 1926

Mr. R. E. Seaton,
Winona Association of Commerce
Winona, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Seaton:

Your letter of October 14th, enclosing one to yourself from the chairman of the United States Geographic Board in which he suggests the creation of a State Geographic Board, is at hand.

I cannot appoint any such board without legislative authorization, and have no appropriation for its expenses, but would be glad to co-operate with a voluntary group to do this work. The State Historical Society would, I am sure, lend its facilities.

Very truly yours,

Theodore Christianson

V SJ

November 10, 1926

Mr. R. E. Seaton
Winona Association of Commerce
Winona, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Seaton:-

I have read with much interest your letter of November 6 and the enclosed, and I quite agree with you that some provision for state action in the matter of place names would be very desirable. Certainly such action should be in co-operation with the United States Geographic Board.

On the whole, I am inclined to think that the best procedure would be to attempt to get legislative authorization and a small appropriation for the work, although it might be possible to raise the funds from private sources. The Minnesota Historical Society has at its disposal a great deal of material that would be of value to such a committee and would be glad to co-operate in every way possible. Its funds, however, are insufficient for the tasks that it already has on hand and it would not be possible for the society itself to take on this enterprise under present conditions.

By the way, I wonder if you are familiar with Chapter 157 of the Laws of 1925, which provided a method of changing the names of lakes and streams and of supplying names for such as have none at present. This does not apply to other geographic features but its passage by the last legislature indicates an interest in the subject.

If some organization, such as the Ten Thousand Lakes of Minnesota Association, or some group of individuals would start the ball rolling, I believe that the desired results could be achieved in time. At present, however, the Historical Society has more irons in the fire than its resources will enable it to keep warm; and, consequently, it would be unwise for us to try to start anything new.

Sincerely yours

B/P

See U. S. Geog. Bd.,

Adams, Andy

Leg of a cowboy

New York, Grosset & Dunlap, ~~1912~~

C1903

~~.75~~ 2.00

23 II, 76 ST. PAUL BK.

1.60

B

K



UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM CONTAINING EXCERPTS FROM THE UNIFORM LETTER TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE SEVERAL STATES RELATING TO AN OFFICIAL GAZETTEER, DATED OCTOBER 9, 1926, THE MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 29, 1926, RELATING TO PROCEDURE AND OTHER INFORMATIVE DATA

FROM THE LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

The United States Geographic Board, formerly the Board on Geographic Names, created by Executive order September 4, 1890, is about to undertake the preparation of an official gazetteer of the United States. The primary purpose of this work is to provide all Federal Government activities with a correct dictionary of geographic names within the United States, its Territories and insular possessions, for official use in publications of the departments and establishments of the Government. This is an important undertaking, and the board believes that in view of the great interest of the people of the several States in the final determination of the geographic names which shall obtain within their boundaries, assistance of the States would greatly expedite the work; and, what is more important, State cooperation would insure results more acceptable both to the States and to the General Government.

With this object in view the United States Geographic Board has requested its chairman to correspond with the governors of the several States and ask their cordial cooperation in the preparation of the official gazetteer. The paramount interest of the States in the names of places or natural features within their own boundaries is apparent, and the attitude of the United States Geographic Board toward such interest, under the principles which guide its decisions, will, of course, be cooperative and sympathetic.

Several of the States now have geographic boards or similar organizations which for some years have been working with the United States Geographic Board in the successful settlement of conflicts and other problems connected with local place names. Not all of these boards have an official status, but all have helpfully cooperated with the Federal board. Comparatively speaking, however, the volume of work accomplished through this cooperation, while interesting and valuable, has not been great. It is believed that official State boards appointed by the governor and clothed by him with authority to cooperate with the United States board in preparing comprehensive lists of geographic names within their respective jurisdictions would contribute greatly, and, in fact, exercise a strong and favorable influence toward the preparation of an accurate and satisfactory gazetteer. To strengthen the hands of the State boards qualified assistants or collaborators might be appointed

in the several counties, such as county superintendents of schools, county clerks and assessors, or private citizens familiar with local geographic names and conditions.

Every State has citizens who by education, training, and experience are qualified for this work. The assistance which the Federal board has received in the past from State boards, geographical societies, clubs like the Sierra Club, etc., abundantly proves this. The experience of this board, however, seems to justify a reference to conclusions reached long ago that acceptability of its work, as well as stability after completion, in large measure will depend upon its disassociation from the influence of personal ambitions, as well as from suspicion of partisan politics. The ambitions of municipalities and of private activities to utilize the authority of the Geographic Board for advertising purposes are well known and understood.

The aim of the Geographic Board is a correct and comprehensive list of geographic names within each State. Every feature listed should be specifically located so as to avoid that confusion which always follows deficient descriptions. Such lists will be more satisfactory and more easily understood if they are uniform, and to this end recommendations might be made under three separate groups: First, a list to contain acceptable names of long standing or of present local usage; second, names which for some reason are objectionable, with the reason therefore and with recommendations; and third, new names for features without names but which, in the public interest, should be named.

In many States, possibly all, there is an objectionable duplication of names, such as coyote, bear, sheep, cottonwood, or sage. Whenever practicable, the board believes such duplications of common names should be eliminated, thus avoiding confusion.

In the creation of the official gazetteer the United States Geographic Board, considering the gratuitous service of its members since September 4, 1890, hopes there shall be found citizens in each State who will gladly embrace the opportunity to render this small but important public service, whether or not funds are available to pay increased compensation therefor. With the exception of the chairman, whose full time is now given to the board, the members of the United States Geographic Board, as in the past, give time needed for board work without extra compensation.

MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 29, 1926

Inquiries are being received from State geographic boards asking more specific information than that contained in the letters to the governors of the several States dated October 9, 1926, relative to the procedure to be followed in the collection and preparation of material for the official geographic dictionary.

The cooperation which the United States Geographic Board is asking of the States is in connection with a matter of so much concern to the people that they are entitled to the privilege of preparing lists of geographic names within their respective jurisdictions and thereafter urge their acceptance for the official gazetteer. It is possible that the preparation of these lists may require more labor than on first consideration appears necessary; nevertheless the board believes the importance of the work, which should first have the approval of the States, justifies the effort necessary to do that work well.

While the board has adopted rules and principles to guide it in the selection and spelling of geographic names, the ultimate purpose of its creation is unsatisfied until all departments of the Government accept and use the decisions rendered. The interest of the people of the States, however, is the interest of the daily user to whom the names have a local significance or a historic value not elsewhere understood or appreciated. It is therefore the hope of the Federal board that the State boards or agents shall find it possible to direct and supervise the preparation of lists of acceptable geographic names within their respective States, names which the States will recommend for final fixation by the United States Geographic Board. Possibly 95 per cent of the names listed will be those in use, the remaining 5 per cent embracing new names for unnamed features which in the public interest should be named, and the few, if any, objectionable names which should be changed. The submission of these recommendations would give to the Federal board the State's viewpoint, which, as far as the rules of the board would permit, would receive sympathetic consideration.

If the procedure thus outlined is followed, it is certain to produce two results generally satisfactory. These are an official geographic dictionary correct as to the information furnished and a dictionary completed in ample time to be of service to persons now living. Forty-eight active State boards with county assistants familiar with local names in a comparatively short time would prepare the lists of acceptable names in general use; but if doubt arises, care should be taken to determine local usage, which is a most influential factor. The selection of new names, also, is a matter requiring the most careful consideration.

The information given should be uniform as to subjects considered and should embrace the following in a single paragraph:

First. The name correctly spelled.

Second. The character of the feature named (mountain, town, etc.).

Third. Its location by careful and specific description.

Fourth. A citation of other names now or formerly used but disapproved.

Fifth. A brief statement of the origin of the name if historic or otherwise important.

Sixth. The pronunciation of the name by phonetic spelling, with syllabic accents, if not pronounced in accordance with English rules.

The duty of preparing lists of acceptable names for recommendation to the Federal board is one not devoid of responsibility, but when discharged it may be assumed that unless important reasons exist why a recommendation should be questioned the Federal board will feel justified in accepting the names in local use as they are recommended by the States.

The Federal board prefers not to advise the State boards as to the authorities they shall consult in the effort to prepare lists of correct names. Official and unofficial maps and other publications will, of course, be consulted and agreement between such authorities would be influential. Conflicting records suggest reference to a local representative for advice or local usage.

The naming of post offices and the spelling of such names is by law vested in the Post Office Department, but the United States Geographic Board has exclusive authority to fix the town name for official use whether or not a post office is established therein.

Incorporated towns have legal names, and as to other centers of population, majority local usage, if not objectionable, should prevail. Objectionable names without legal standing should be listed separately with explanation and recommendation, but experience shows that it is difficult to change a name in local use unless the people using it most accept the changed name in good faith. Local sentiment should therefore be consulted.

Sometimes names found in legislative enactments are spelled in several ways—sometimes two ways in the same act. The State should decide which name to recommend, but where legal spellings have been modified and become established by local and general usage a rule of the Federal board prefers the modified form.

The Federal board would welcome recommendations for changing names which are duplicated to the extent of causing misunderstandings, but this matter requires careful handling. Adding or subtracting something will sometimes differentiate names not otherwise distinguishable without complete abandonment of local usage. State boards may not always find it possible to get local approval of proposed changes in names, but if a change is considered imperative recommendation should be made with the reason therefor regardless of local opposition. In general, names established by law should be listed unless both local and general use seem to require recognition of a change; and other names in local use should be listed also unless there are serious reasons why a change should be made.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Lists by States.—It is suggested that the lists of names prepared in conformity to the suggestion in the letters to the governors be alphabetically arranged for the entire State and not for the separate counties, each list to contain all geographic names pertinent thereto. Such lists will then contain several or possibly all of the kinds of features named—towns, creeks, mountains, etc.

General principles considered.—In the interest of uniform recommendations some of the principles which guide the United States Geographic Board in the selection of names may briefly be referred to as follows:

Euphonious and suitable names of Indian, Spanish, or French origin should be retained.

The spelling and pronunciation of unobjectionable names in local usage should not be changed.

Names of living persons should be applied rarely and only persons of great eminence should be thus honored. Recommendations of new names honoring deceased persons should be supported by the reasons therefor.

As a rule names of one word are easily pronounced and most likely to become permanently established.

The name of an important stream should follow up its longest branch. Where practicable independent names should be given to the branches or tributaries of rivers rather than "The North Branch of the Middle Fork," for example.

Where corrupt spellings of names have become established by local usage attempts at restoration of the original spelling, are as a rule useless.

FRANK BOND, *Chairman.*

NOVEMBER 10, 1926.



UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM CONTAINING EXCERPTS FROM THE UNIFORM LETTER TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE SEVERAL STATES RELATING TO AN OFFICIAL GAZETTEER, DATED OCTOBER 9, 1926, THE MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 29, 1926, RELATING TO PROCEDURE AND OTHER INFORMATIVE DATA

FROM THE LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

The United States Geographic Board, formerly the Board on Geographic Names, created by Executive order September 4, 1890, is about to undertake the preparation of an official gazetteer of the United States. The primary purpose of this work is to provide all Federal Government activities with a correct dictionary of geographic names within the United States, its Territories and insular possessions, for official use in publications of the departments and establishments of the Government. This is an important undertaking, and the board believes that in view of the great interest of the people of the several States in the final determination of the geographic names which shall obtain within their boundaries, assistance of the States would greatly expedite the work; and, what is more important, State cooperation would insure results more acceptable both to the States and to the General Government.

With this object in view the United States Geographic Board has requested its chairman to correspond with the governors of the several States and ask their cordial cooperation in the preparation of the official gazetteer. The paramount interest of the States in the names of places or natural features within their own boundaries is apparent, and the attitude of the United States Geographic Board toward such interest, under the principles which guide its decisions, will, of course, be cooperative and sympathetic.

Several of the States now have geographic boards or similar organizations which for some years have been working with the United States Geographic Board in the successful settlement of conflicts and other problems connected with local place names. Not all of these boards have an official status, but all have helpfully cooperated with the Federal board. Comparatively speaking, however, the volume of work accomplished through this cooperation, while interesting and valuable, has not been great. It is believed that official State boards appointed by the governor and clothed by him with authority to cooperate with the United States board in preparing comprehensive lists of geographic names within their respective jurisdictions would contribute greatly, and, in fact, exercise a strong and favorable influence toward the preparation of an accurate and satisfactory gazetteer. To strengthen the hands of the State boards qualified assistants or collaborators might be appointed

in the several counties, such as county superintendents of schools, county clerks and assessors, or private citizens familiar with local geographic names and conditions.

Every State has citizens who by education, training, and experience are qualified for this work. The assistance which the Federal board has received in the past from State boards, geographical societies, clubs like the Sierra Club, etc., abundantly proves this. The experience of this board, however, seems to justify a reference to conclusions reached long ago that acceptability of its work, as well as stability after completion, in large measure will depend upon its disassociation from the influence of personal ambitions, as well as from suspicion of partisan politics. The ambitions of municipalities and of private activities to utilize the authority of the Geographic Board for advertising purposes are well known and understood.

The aim of the Geographic Board is a correct and comprehensive list of geographic names within each State. Every feature listed should be specifically located so as to avoid that confusion which always follows deficient descriptions. Such lists will be more satisfactory and more easily understood if they are uniform, and to this end recommendations might be made under three separate groups: First, a list to contain acceptable names of long standing or of present local usage; second, names which for some reason are objectionable, with the reason therefore and with recommendations; and third, new names for features without names but which, in the public interest, should be named.

In many States, possibly all, there is an objectionable duplication of names, such as coyote, bear, sheep, cottonwood, or sage. Wherever practicable, the board believes such duplications of common names should be eliminated, thus avoiding confusion.

In the creation of the official gazetteer the United States Geographic Board, considering the gratuitous service of its members since September 4, 1890, hopes there shall be found citizens in each State who will gladly embrace the opportunity to render this small but important public service, whether or not funds are available to pay increased compensation therefor. With the exception of the chairman, whose full time is now given to the board, the members of the United States Geographic Board, as in the past, give time needed for board work without extra compensation.

MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 29, 1926

Inquiries are being received from State geographic boards asking more specific information than that contained in the letters to the governors of the several States dated October 9, 1926, relative to the procedure to be followed in the collection and preparation of material for the official geographic dictionary.

The cooperation which the United States Geographic Board is asking of the States is in connection with a matter of so much concern to the people that they are entitled to the privilege of preparing lists of geographic names within their respective jurisdictions and thereafter urge their acceptance for the official gazetteer. It is possible that the preparation of these lists may require more labor than on first consideration appears necessary; nevertheless the board believes the importance of the work, which should first have the approval of the States, justifies the effort necessary to do that work well.

While the board has adopted rules and principles to guide it in the selection and spelling of geographic names, the ultimate purpose of its creation is unsatisfied until all departments of the Government accept and use the decisions rendered. The interest of the people of the States, however, is the interest of the daily user to whom the names have a local significance or a historic value not elsewhere understood or appreciated. It is therefore the hope of the Federal board that the State boards or agents shall find it possible to direct and supervise the preparation of lists of acceptable geographic names within their respective States, names which the States will recommend for final fixation by the United States Geographic Board. Possibly 95 per cent of the names listed will be those in use, the remaining 5 per cent embracing new names for unnamed features which in the public interest should be named, and the few, if any, objectionable names which should be changed. The submission of these recommendations would give to the Federal board the State's viewpoint, which, as far as the rules of the board would permit, would receive sympathetic consideration.

If the procedure thus outlined is followed, it is certain to produce two results generally satisfactory. These are an official geographic dictionary correct as to the information furnished and a dictionary completed in ample time to be of service to persons now living. Forty-eight active State boards with county assistants familiar with local names in a comparatively short time would prepare the lists of acceptable names in general use; but if doubt arises, care should be taken to determine local usage, which is a most influential factor. The selection of new names, also, is a matter requiring the most careful consideration.

The information given should be uniform as to subjects considered and should embrace the following in a single paragraph:

First. The name correctly spelled.

Second. The character of the feature named (mountain, town, etc.).

Third. Its location by careful and specific description.

Fourth. A citation of other names now or formerly used but disapproved.

Fifth. A brief statement of the origin of the name if historic or otherwise important.

Sixth. The pronunciation of the name by phonetic spelling, with syllabic accents, if not pronounced in accordance with English rules.

The duty of preparing lists of acceptable names for recommendation to the Federal board is one not devoid of responsibility, but when discharged it may be assumed that unless important reasons exist why a recommendation should be questioned the Federal board will feel justified in accepting the names in local use as they are recommended by the States.

The Federal board prefers not to advise the State boards as to the authorities they shall consult in the effort to prepare lists of correct names. Official and unofficial maps and other publications will, of course, be consulted and agreement between such authorities would be influential. Conflicting records suggest reference to a local representative for advice or local usage.

The naming of post offices and the spelling of such names is by law vested in the Post Office Department, but the United States Geographic Board has exclusive authority to fix the town name for official use whether or not a post office is established therein.

Incorporated towns have legal names, and as to other centers of population, majority local usage, if not objectionable, should prevail. Objectionable names without legal standing should be listed separately with explanation and recommendation, but experience shows that it is difficult to change a name in local use unless the people using it most accept the changed name in good faith. Local sentiment should therefore be consulted.

Sometimes names found in legislative enactments are spelled in several ways—sometimes two ways in the same act. The State should decide which name to recommend, but where legal spellings have been modified and become established by local and general usage a rule of the Federal board prefers the modified form.

The Federal board would welcome recommendations for changing names which are duplicated to the extent of causing misunderstandings, but this matter requires careful handling. Adding or subtracting something will sometimes differentiate names not otherwise distinguishable without complete abandonment of local usage. State boards may not always find it possible to get local approval of proposed changes in names, but if a change is considered imperative recommendation should be made with the reason therefor regardless of local opposition. In general, names established by law should be listed unless both local and general use seem to require recognition of a change; and other names in local use should be listed also unless there are serious reasons why a change should be made.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Lists by States.—It is suggested that the lists of names prepared in conformity to the suggestion in the letters to the governors be alphabetically arranged for the entire State and not for the separate counties, each list to contain all geographic names pertinent thereto. Such lists will then contain several or possibly all of the kinds of features named—towns, creeks, mountains, etc.

General principles considered.—In the interest of uniform recommendations some of the principles which guide the United States Geographic Board in the selection of names may briefly be referred to as follows:

Euphonious and suitable names of Indian, Spanish, or French origin should be retained.

The spelling and pronunciation of unobjectionable names in local usage should not be changed.

Names of living persons should be applied rarely and only persons of great eminence should be thus honored. Recommendations of new names honoring deceased persons should be supported by the reasons therefor.

As a rule names of one word are easily pronounced and most likely to become permanently established.

The name of an important stream should follow up its longest branch. Where practicable independent names should be given to the branches or tributaries of rivers rather than "The North Branch of the Middle Fork;" for example.

Where corrupt spellings of names have become established by local usage attempts at restoration of the original spelling, are as a rule useless.

FRANK BOND, *Chairman.*

NOVEMBER 10, 1926.



UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM CONTAINING EXCERPTS FROM THE UNIFORM LETTER TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE SEVERAL STATES RELATING TO AN OFFICIAL GAZETTEER, DATED OCTOBER 9, 1926, THE MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 29, 1926, RELATING TO PROCEDURE AND OTHER INFORMATIVE DATA

FROM THE LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

The United States Geographic Board, formerly the Board on Geographic Names, created by Executive order September 4, 1890, is about to undertake the preparation of an official gazetteer of the United States. The primary purpose of this work is to provide all Federal Government activities with a correct dictionary of geographic names within the United States, its Territories and insular possessions, for official use in publications of the departments and establishments of the Government. This is an important undertaking, and the board believes that in view of the great interest of the people of the several States in the final determination of the geographic names which shall obtain within their boundaries, assistance of the States would greatly expedite the work; and, what is more important, State cooperation would insure results more acceptable both to the States and to the General Government.

With this object in view the United States Geographic Board has requested its chairman to correspond with the governors of the several States and ask their cordial cooperation in the preparation of the official gazetteer. The paramount interest of the States in the names of places or natural features within their own boundaries is apparent, and the attitude of the United States Geographic Board toward such interest, under the principles which guide its decisions, will, of course, be cooperative and sympathetic.

Several of the States now have geographic boards or similar organizations which for some years have been working with the United States Geographic Board in the successful settlement of conflicts and other problems connected with local place names. Not all of these boards have an official status, but all have helpfully cooperated with the Federal board. Comparatively speaking, however, the volume of work accomplished through this cooperation, while interesting and valuable, has not been great. It is believed that official State boards appointed by the governor and clothed by him with authority to cooperate with the United States board in preparing comprehensive lists of geographic names within their respective jurisdictions would contribute greatly, and, in fact, exercise a strong and favorable influence toward the preparation of an accurate and satisfactory gazetteer. To strengthen the hands of the State boards qualified assistants or collaborators might be appointed

in the several counties, such as county superintendents of schools, county clerks and assessors, or private citizens familiar with local geographic names and conditions.

Every State has citizens who by education, training, and experience are qualified for this work. The assistance which the Federal board has received in the past from State boards, geographical societies, clubs like the Sierra Club, etc., abundantly proves this. The experience of this board, however, seems to justify a reference to conclusions reached long ago that acceptability of its work, as well as stability after completion, in large measure will depend upon its disassociation from the influence of personal ambitions, as well as from suspicion of partisan politics. The ambitions of municipalities and of private activities to utilize the authority of the Geographic Board for advertising purposes are well known and understood.

The aim of the Geographic Board is a correct and comprehensive list of geographic names within each State. Every feature listed should be specifically located so as to avoid that confusion which always follows deficient descriptions. Such lists will be more satisfactory and more easily understood if they are uniform, and to this end recommendations might be made under three separate groups: First, a list to contain acceptable names of long standing or of present local usage; second, names which for some reason are objectionable, with the reason therefore and with recommendations; and third, new names for features without names but which, in the public interest, should be named.

In many States, possibly all, there is an objectionable duplication of names, such as coyote, bear, sheep, cottonwood, or sage. Wherever practicable, the board believes such duplications of common names should be eliminated, thus avoiding confusion.

In the creation of the official gazetteer the United States Geographic Board, considering the gratuitous service of its members since September 4, 1890, hopes there shall be found citizens in each State who will gladly embrace the opportunity to render this small but important public service, whether or not funds are available to pay increased compensation therefor. With the exception of the chairman, whose full time is now given to the board, the members of the United States Geographic Board, as in the past, give time needed for board work without extra compensation.

MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 29, 1926

Inquiries are being received from State geographic boards asking more specific information than that contained in the letters to the governors of the several States dated October 9, 1926, relative to the procedure to be followed in the collection and preparation of material for the official geographic dictionary.

The cooperation which the United States Geographic Board is asking of the States is in connection with a matter of so much concern to the people that they are entitled to the privilege of preparing lists of geographic names within their respective jurisdictions and thereafter urge their acceptance for the official gazetteer. It is possible that the preparation of these lists may require more labor than on first consideration appears necessary; nevertheless the board believes the importance of the work, which should first have the approval of the States, justifies the effort necessary to do that work well.

While the board has adopted rules and principles to guide it in the selection and spelling of geographic names, the ultimate purpose of its creation is unsatisfied until all departments of the Government accept and use the decisions rendered. The interest of the people of the States, however, is the interest of the daily user to whom the names have a local significance or a historic value not elsewhere understood or appreciated. It is therefore the hope of the Federal board that the State boards or agents shall find it possible to direct and supervise the preparation of lists of acceptable geographic names within their respective States, names which the States will recommend for final fixation by the United States Geographic Board. Possibly 95 per cent of the names listed will be those in use, the remaining 5 per cent embracing new names for unnamed features which in the public interest should be named, and the few, if any, objectionable names which should be changed. The submission of these recommendations would give to the Federal board the State's viewpoint, which, as far as the rules of the board would permit, would receive sympathetic consideration.

If the procedure thus outlined is followed, it is certain to produce two results generally satisfactory. These are an official geographic dictionary correct as to the information furnished and a dictionary completed in ample time to be of service to persons now living. Forty-eight active State boards with county assistants familiar with local names in a comparatively short time would prepare the lists of acceptable names in general use; but if doubt arises, care should be taken to determine local usage, which is a most influential factor. The selection of new names, also, is a matter requiring the most careful consideration.

The information given should be uniform as to subjects considered and should embrace the following in a single paragraph:

First. The name correctly spelled.

Second. The character of the feature named (mountain, town, etc.).

Third. Its location by careful and specific description.

Fourth. A citation of other names now or formerly used but disapproved.

Fifth. A brief statement of the origin of the name if historic or otherwise important.

Sixth. The pronunciation of the name by phonetic spelling, with syllabic accents, if not pronounced in accordance with English rules.

The duty of preparing lists of acceptable names for recommendation to the Federal board is one not devoid of responsibility, but when discharged it may be assumed that unless important reasons exist why a recommendation should be questioned the Federal board will feel justified in accepting the names in local use as they are recommended by the States.

The Federal board prefers not to advise the State boards as to the authorities they shall consult in the effort to prepare lists of correct names. Official and unofficial maps and other publications will, of course, be consulted and agreement between such authorities would be influential. Conflicting records suggest reference to a local representative for advice or local usage.

The naming of post offices and the spelling of such names is by law vested in the Post Office Department, but the United States Geographic Board has exclusive authority to fix the town name for official use whether or not a post office is established therein.

Incorporated towns have legal names, and as to other centers of population, majority local usage, if not objectionable, should prevail. Objectionable names without legal standing should be listed separately with explanation and recommendation, but experience shows that it is difficult to change a name in local use unless the people using it most accept the changed name in good faith. Local sentiment should therefore be consulted.

Sometimes names found in legislative enactments are spelled in several ways—sometimes two ways in the same act. The State should decide which name to recommend, but where legal spellings have been modified and become established by local and general usage a rule of the Federal board prefers the modified form.

The Federal board would welcome recommendations for changing names which are duplicated to the extent of causing misunderstandings, but this matter requires careful handling. Adding or subtracting something will sometimes differentiate names not otherwise distinguishable without complete abandonment of local usage. State boards may not always find it possible to get local approval of proposed changes in names, but if a change is considered imperative recommendation should be made with the reason therefor regardless of local opposition. In general, names established by law should be listed unless both local and general use seem to require recognition of a change; and other names in local use should be listed also unless there are serious reasons why a change should be made.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Lists by States.—It is suggested that the lists of names prepared in conformity to the suggestion in the letters to the governors be alphabetically arranged for the entire State and not for the separate counties, each list to contain all geographic names pertinent thereto. Such lists will then contain several or possibly all of the kinds of features named—towns, creeks, mountains, etc.

General principles considered.—In the interest of uniform recommendations some of the principles which guide the United States Geographic Board in the selection of names may briefly be referred to as follows:

Euphonious and suitable names of Indian, Spanish, or French origin should be retained.

The spelling and pronunciation of unobjectionable names in local usage should not be changed.

Names of living persons should be applied rarely and only persons of great eminence should be thus honored. Recommendations of new names honoring deceased persons should be supported by the reasons therefor.

As a rule names of one word are easily pronounced and most likely to become permanently established.

The name of an important stream should follow up its longest branch. Where practicable independent names should be given to the branches or tributaries of rivers rather than "The North Branch of the Middle Fork," for example.

Where corrupt spellings of names have become established by local usage attempts at restoration of the original spelling, are as a rule useless.

FRANK BOND, *Chairman.*

NOVEMBER 10, 1926.



UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD
WASHINGTON, D. C.
MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM CONTAINING EXCERPTS FROM THE UNIFORM LETTER TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE SEVERAL STATES RELATING TO AN OFFICIAL GAZETTEER, DATED OCTOBER 9, 1926, THE MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 29, 1926, RELATING TO PROCEDURE AND OTHER INFORMATIVE DATA

FROM THE LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

The United States Geographic Board, formerly the Board on Geographic Names, created by Executive order September 4, 1890, is about to undertake the preparation of an official gazetteer of the United States. The primary purpose of this work is to provide all Federal Government activities with a correct dictionary of geographic names within the United States, its Territories and insular possessions, for official use in publications of the departments and establishments of the Government. This is an important undertaking, and the board believes that in view of the great interest of the people of the several States in the final determination of the geographic names which shall obtain within their boundaries, assistance of the States would greatly expedite the work; and, what is more important, State cooperation would insure results more acceptable both to the States and to the General Government.

With this object in view the United States Geographic Board has requested its chairman to correspond with the governors of the several States and ask their cordial cooperation in the preparation of the official gazetteer. The paramount interest of the States in the names of places or natural features within their own boundaries is apparent, and the attitude of the United States Geographic Board toward such interest, under the principles which guide its decisions, will, of course, be cooperative and sympathetic.

Several of the States now have geographic boards or similar organizations which for some years have been working with the United States Geographic Board in the successful settlement of conflicts and other problems connected with local place names. Not all of these boards have an official status, but all have helpfully cooperated with the Federal board. Comparatively speaking, however, the volume of work accomplished through this cooperation, while interesting and valuable, has not been great. It is believed that official State boards appointed by the governor and clothed by him with authority to cooperate with the United States board in preparing comprehensive lists of geographic names within their respective jurisdictions would contribute greatly, and, in fact, exercise a strong and favorable influence toward the preparation of an accurate and satisfactory gazetteer. To strengthen the hands of the State boards qualified assistants or collaborators might be appointed

in the several counties, such as county superintendents of schools, county clerks and assessors, or private citizens familiar with local geographic names and conditions.

Every State has citizens who by education, training, and experience are qualified for this work. The assistance which the Federal board has received in the past from State boards, geographical societies, clubs like the Sierra Club, etc., abundantly proves this. The experience of this board, however, seems to justify a reference to conclusions reached long ago that acceptability of its work, as well as stability after completion, in large measure will depend upon its disassociation from the influence of personal ambitions, as well as from suspicion of partisan politics. The ambitions of municipalities and of private activities to utilize the authority of the Geographic Board for advertising purposes are well known and understood.

The aim of the Geographic Board is a correct and comprehensive list of geographic names within each State. Every feature listed should be specifically located so as to avoid that confusion which always follows deficient descriptions. Such lists will be more satisfactory and more easily understood if they are uniform, and to this end recommendations might be made under three separate groups: First, a list to contain acceptable names of long standing or of present local usage; second, names which for some reason are objectionable, with the reason therefore and with recommendations; and third, new names for features without names but which, in the public interest, should be named.

In many States, possibly all, there is an objectionable duplication of names, such as coyote, bear, sheep, cottonwood, or sage. Wherever practicable, the board believes such duplications of common names should be eliminated, thus avoiding confusion.

In the creation of the official gazetteer the United States Geographic Board, considering the gratuitous service of its members since September 4, 1890, hopes there shall be found citizens in each State who will gladly embrace the opportunity to render this small but important public service, whether or not funds are available to pay increased compensation therefor. With the exception of the chairman, whose full time is now given to the board, the members of the United States Geographic Board, as in the past, give time needed for board work without extra compensation.

MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 29, 1926

Inquiries are being received from State geographic boards asking more specific information than that contained in the letters to the governors of the several States dated October 9, 1926, relative to the procedure to be followed in the collection and preparation of material for the official geographic dictionary.

The cooperation which the United States Geographic Board is asking of the States is in connection with a matter of so much concern to the people that they are entitled to the privilege of preparing lists of geographic names within their respective jurisdictions and thereafter urge their acceptance for the official gazetteer. It is possible that the preparation of these lists may require more labor than on first consideration appears necessary; nevertheless the board believes the importance of the work, which should first have the approval of the States, justifies the effort necessary to do that work well.

While the board has adopted rules and principles to guide it in the selection and spelling of geographic names, the ultimate purpose of its creation is unsatisfied until all departments of the Government accept and use the decisions rendered. The interest of the people of the States, however, is the interest of the daily user to whom the names have a local significance or a historic value not elsewhere understood or appreciated. It is therefore the hope of the Federal board that the State boards or agents shall find it possible to direct and supervise the preparation of lists of acceptable geographic names within their respective States, names which the States will recommend for final fixation by the United States Geographic Board. Possibly 95 per cent of the names listed will be those in use, the remaining 5 per cent embracing new names for unnamed features which in the public interest should be named, and the few, if any, objectionable names which should be changed. The submission of these recommendations would give to the Federal board the State's viewpoint, which, as far as the rules of the board would permit, would receive sympathetic consideration.

If the procedure thus outlined is followed, it is certain to produce two results generally satisfactory. These are an official geographic dictionary correct as to the information furnished and a dictionary completed in ample time to be of service to persons now living. Forty-eight active State boards with county assistants familiar with local names in a comparatively short time would prepare the lists of acceptable names in general use; but if doubt arises, care should be taken to determine local usage, which is a most influential factor. The selection of new names, also, is a matter requiring the most careful consideration.

The information given should be uniform as to subjects considered and should embrace the following in a single paragraph:

First. The name correctly spelled.

Second. The character of the feature named (mountain, town, etc.).

Third. Its location by careful and specific description.

Fourth. A citation of other names now or formerly used but disapproved.

Fifth. A brief statement of the origin of the name if historic or otherwise important.

Sixth. The pronunciation of the name by phonetic spelling, with syllabic accents, if not pronounced in accordance with English rules.

The duty of preparing lists of acceptable names for recommendation to the Federal board is one not devoid of responsibility, but when discharged it may be assumed that unless important reasons exist why a recommendation should be questioned the Federal board will feel justified in accepting the names in local use as they are recommended by the States.

The Federal board prefers not to advise the State boards as to the authorities they shall consult in the effort to prepare lists of correct names. Official and unofficial maps and other publications will, of course, be consulted and agreement between such authorities would be influential. Conflicting records suggest reference to a local representative for advice or local usage.

The naming of post offices and the spelling of such names is by law vested in the Post Office Department, but the United States Geographic Board has exclusive authority to fix the town name for official use whether or not a post office is established therein.

Incorporated towns have legal names, and as to other centers of population, majority local usage, if not objectionable, should prevail. Objectionable names without legal standing should be listed separately with explanation and recommendation, but experience shows that it is difficult to change a name in local use unless the people using it most accept the changed name in good faith. Local sentiment should therefore be consulted.

Sometimes names found in legislative enactments are spelled in several ways—sometimes two ways in the same act. The State should decide which name to recommend, but where legal spellings have been modified and become established by local and general usage a rule of the Federal board prefers the modified form.

The Federal board would welcome recommendations for changing names which are duplicated to the extent of causing misunderstandings, but this matter requires careful handling. Adding or subtracting something will sometimes differentiate names not otherwise distinguishable without complete abandonment of local usage. State boards may not always find it possible to get local approval of proposed changes in names, but if a change is considered imperative recommendation should be made with the reason therefor regardless of local opposition. In general, names established by law should be listed unless both local and general use seem to require recognition of a change; and other names in local use should be listed also unless there are serious reasons why a change should be made.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Lists by States.—It is suggested that the lists of names prepared in conformity to the suggestion in the letters to the governors be alphabetically arranged for the entire State and not for the separate counties, each list to contain all geographic names pertinent thereto. Such lists will then contain several or possibly all of the kinds of features named—towns, creeks, mountains, etc.

General principles considered.—In the interest of uniform recommendations some of the principles which guide the United States Geographic Board in the selection of names may briefly be referred to as follows:

Euphonious and suitable names of Indian, Spanish, or French origin should be retained.

The spelling and pronunciation of unobjectionable names in local usage should not be changed.

Names of living persons should be applied rarely and only persons of great eminence should be thus honored. Recommendations of new names honoring deceased persons should be supported by the reasons therefor.

As a rule names of one word are easily pronounced and most likely to become permanently established.

The name of an important stream should follow up its longest branch. Where practicable independent names should be given to the branches or tributaries of rivers rather than "The North Branch of the Middle Fork," for example.

Where corrupt spellings of names have become established by local usage attempts at restoration of the original spelling, are as a rule useless.

FRANK BOND, *Chairman.*

NOVEMBER 10, 1926.



UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM CONTAINING EXCERPTS FROM THE UNIFORM LETTER TO THE GOVERNORS OF THE SEVERAL STATES RELATING TO AN OFFICIAL GAZETTEER, DATED OCTOBER 9, 1926, THE MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 29, 1926, RELATING TO PROCEDURE AND OTHER INFORMATIVE DATA

FROM THE LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

The United States Geographic Board, formerly the Board on Geographic Names, created by Executive order September 4, 1890, is about to undertake the preparation of an official gazetteer of the United States. The primary purpose of this work is to provide all Federal Government activities with a correct dictionary of geographic names within the United States, its Territories and insular possessions, for official use in publications of the departments and establishments of the Government. This is an important undertaking, and the board believes that in view of the great interest of the people of the several States in the final determination of the geographic names which shall obtain within their boundaries, assistance of the States would greatly expedite the work; and, what is more important, State cooperation would insure results more acceptable both to the States and to the General Government.

With this object in view the United States Geographic Board has requested its chairman to correspond with the governors of the several States and ask their cordial cooperation in the preparation of the official gazetteer. The paramount interest of the States in the names of places or natural features within their own boundaries is apparent, and the attitude of the United States Geographic Board toward such interest, under the principles which guide its decisions, will, of course, be cooperative and sympathetic.

Several of the States now have geographic boards or similar organizations which for some years have been working with the United States Geographic Board in the successful settlement of conflicts and other problems connected with local place names. Not all of these boards have an official status, but all have helpfully cooperated with the Federal board. Comparatively speaking, however, the volume of work accomplished through this cooperation, while interesting and valuable, has not been great. It is believed that official State boards appointed by the governor and clothed by him with authority to cooperate with the United States board in preparing comprehensive lists of geographic names within their respective jurisdictions would contribute greatly, and, in fact, exercise a strong and favorable influence toward the preparation of an accurate and satisfactory gazetteer. To strengthen the hands of the State boards qualified assistants or collaborators might be appointed

in the several counties, such as county superintendents of schools, county clerks and assessors, or private citizens familiar with local geographic names and conditions.

Every State has citizens who by education, training, and experience are qualified for this work. The assistance which the Federal board has received in the past from State boards, geographical societies, clubs like the Sierra Club, etc., abundantly proves this. The experience of this board, however, seems to justify a reference to conclusions reached long ago that acceptability of its work, as well as stability after completion, in large measure will depend upon its disassociation from the influence of personal ambitions, as well as from suspicion of partisan politics. The ambitions of municipalities and of private activities to utilize the authority of the Geographic Board for advertising purposes are well known and understood.

The aim of the Geographic Board is a correct and comprehensive list of geographic names within each State. Every feature listed should be specifically located so as to avoid that confusion which always follows deficient descriptions. Such lists will be more satisfactory and more easily understood if they are uniform, and to this end recommendations might be made under three separate groups: First, a list to contain acceptable names of long standing or of present local usage; second, names which for some reason are objectionable, with the reason therefore and with recommendations; and third, new names for features without names but which, in the public interest, should be named.

In many States, possibly all, there is an objectionable duplication of names, such as coyote, bear, sheep, cottonwood, or sage. Wherever practicable, the board believes such duplications of common names should be eliminated, thus avoiding confusion.

In the creation of the official gazetteer the United States Geographic Board, considering the gratuitous service of its members since September 4, 1890, hopes there shall be found citizens in each State who will gladly embrace the opportunity to render this small but important public service, whether or not funds are available to pay increased compensation therefor. With the exception of the chairman, whose full time is now given to the board, the members of the United States Geographic Board, as in the past, give time needed for board work without extra compensation.

MEMORANDUM OF OCTOBER 29, 1926

Inquiries are being received from State geographic boards asking more specific information than that contained in the letters to the governors of the several States dated October 9, 1926, relative to the procedure to be followed in the collection and preparation of material for the official geographic dictionary.

The cooperation which the United States Geographic Board is asking of the States is in connection with a matter of so much concern to the people that they are entitled to the privilege of preparing lists of geographic names within their respective jurisdictions and thereafter urge their acceptance for the official gazetteer. It is possible that the preparation of these lists may require more labor than on first consideration appears necessary; nevertheless the board believes the importance of the work, which should first have the approval of the States, justifies the effort necessary to do that work well.

While the board has adopted rules and principles to guide it in the selection and spelling of geographic names, the ultimate purpose of its creation is unsatisfied until all departments of the Government accept and use the decisions rendered. The interest of the people of the States, however, is the interest of the daily user to whom the names have a local significance or a historic value not elsewhere understood or appreciated. It is therefore the hope of the Federal board that the State boards or agents shall find it possible to direct and supervise the preparation of lists of acceptable geographic names within their respective States, names which the States will recommend for final fixation by the United States Geographic Board. Possibly 95 per cent of the names listed will be those in use, the remaining 5 per cent embracing new names for unnamed features which in the public interest should be named, and the few, if any, objectionable names which should be changed. The submission of these recommendations would give to the Federal board the State's viewpoint, which, as far as the rules of the board would permit, would receive sympathetic consideration.

If the procedure thus outlined is followed, it is certain to produce two results generally satisfactory. These are an official geographic dictionary correct as to the information furnished and a dictionary completed in ample time to be of service to persons now living. Forty-eight active State boards with county assistants familiar with local names in a comparatively short time would prepare the lists of acceptable names in general use; but if doubt arises, care should be taken to determine local usage, which is a most influential factor. The selection of new names, also, is a matter requiring the most careful consideration.

The information given should be uniform as to subjects considered and should embrace the following in a single paragraph:

First. The name correctly spelled.

Second. The character of the feature named (mountain, town, etc.).

Third. Its location by careful and specific description.

Fourth. A citation of other names now or formerly used but disapproved.

Fifth. A brief statement of the origin of the name if historic or otherwise important.

Sixth. The pronunciation of the name by phonetic spelling, with syllabic accents, if not pronounced in accordance with English rules.

The duty of preparing lists of acceptable names for recommendation to the Federal board is one not devoid of responsibility, but when discharged it may be assumed that unless important reasons exist why a recommendation should be questioned the Federal board will feel justified in accepting the names in local use as they are recommended by the States.

The Federal board prefers not to advise the State boards as to the authorities they shall consult in the effort to prepare lists of correct names. Official and unofficial maps and other publications will, of course, be consulted and agreement between such authorities would be influential. Conflicting records suggest reference to a local representative for advice or local usage.

The naming of post offices and the spelling of such names is by law vested in the Post Office Department, but the United States Geographic Board has exclusive authority to fix the town name for official use whether or not a post office is established therein.

Incorporated towns have legal names, and as to other centers of population, majority local usage, if not objectionable, should prevail. Objectionable names without legal standing should be listed separately with explanation and recommendation, but experience shows that it is difficult to change a name in local use unless the people using it most accept the changed name in good faith. Local sentiment should therefore be consulted.

Sometimes names found in legislative enactments are spelled in several ways—sometimes two ways in the same act. The State should decide which name to recommend, but where legal spellings have been modified and become established by local and general usage a rule of the Federal board prefers the modified form.

The Federal board would welcome recommendations for changing names which are duplicated to the extent of causing misunderstandings, but this matter requires careful handling. Adding or subtracting something will sometimes differentiate names not otherwise distinguishable without complete abandonment of local usage. State boards may not always find it possible to get local approval of proposed changes in names, but if a change is considered imperative recommendation should be made with the reason therefor regardless of local opposition. In general, names established by law should be listed unless both local and general use seem to require recognition of a change; and other names in local use should be listed also unless there are serious reasons why a change should be made.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS

Lists by States.—It is suggested that the lists of names prepared in conformity to the suggestion in the letters to the governors be alphabetically arranged for the entire State and not for the separate counties, each list to contain all geographic names pertinent thereto. Such lists will then contain several or possibly all of the kinds of features named—towns, creeks, mountains, etc.

General principles considered.—In the interest of uniform recommendations some of the principles which guide the United States Geographic Board in the selection of names may briefly be referred to as follows:

Euphonious and suitable names of Indian, Spanish, or French origin should be retained.

The spelling and pronunciation of unobjectionable names in local usage should not be changed.

Names of living persons should be applied rarely and only persons of great eminence should be thus honored. Recommendations of new names honoring deceased persons should be supported by the reasons therefor.

As a rule names of one word are easily pronounced and most likely to become permanently established.

The name of an important stream should follow up its longest branch. Where practicable independent names should be given to the branches or tributaries of rivers rather than "The North Branch of the Middle Fork," for example.

Where corrupt spellings of names have become established by local usage attempts at restoration of the original spelling, are as a rule useless.

FRANK BOND, *Chairman.*

NOVEMBER 10, 1926.

FEB 16 1927



UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

WASHINGTON

Room 5329 Interior Bldg

February 14, 1927

Mr. Jacob Hodnefeld,
State Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

Complying with your request of February 10, I enclose copy of leaflet relating to the official gazetteer now under way under the direction of the United States Geographic Board. The letter to the several Governors of States of more than half of the Chief Executives and twenty-four State boards or agencies in charge have been appointed and are going to work. Have you heard anything on this important matter from your Governor? I wrote him on Oct. 9, and on Oct. 11 wrote, also, the President of your State Historical Society and the President of the State University, but have had reply from none as yet.

This leaflet will advise your society of what we are urging the States to do, if they are at all interested in geographic names within Minnesota.

Very truly yours,
Frank Bond,
Chairman.

*Just a passing sample of U.S.
Geographic Board decisions -*

DECISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

The United States Geographic Board, on October 6, 1926, rendered the following decisions:

(No decisions were rendered in July, August, or September.)

- Bokes**; creek, Ohio, rising in the northeastern part of Logan County, and flowing southeast across Union County to the west bank of Scioto River in Delaware County. (Not Boke's, Boque's, nor Boques.)
- Bokes Creek**; township, Logan County, Ohio. (Not Bokescreek.) Revision of previous decision. See Fifth Report.
- Broughton**; bluff, Multnomah County, Oreg., a rocky point 400 feet high, on east bank of Sandy River, opposite Troutdale, south bank Columbia River. So named on recommendation of the Girl Scouts of Portland, in honor of Lieut. William Broughton, of Vancouver's expedition, whose explorations of the Columbia River, 1792, ended a few miles above this point.
- Burnt**; canyon, Lincoln County, Nev., west slope Highland Range, in secs. 28 and 29 of T. 1 N., R. 66 E., near lat. $37^{\circ} 55'$, long. $114^{\circ} 35'$. (Not One Wheel.)
- Charlevoix**; lake (Lake Charlevoix), 14 miles long, Charlevoix County, Mich., draining to Lake Michigan, northwest coast of lower peninsula. (Not Long nor Pine.) The change from Pine Lake was made at the request of the county board of supervisors.
- Daley**; lake, Tillamook County, Oreg., in secs. 12 and 13, T. 5 S., R. 11 W., about 12 rods from the ocean, near long. $45^{\circ} 08'$. (Not Fletcher.) Local name after a pioneer.
- Dead Deer**; canyon, Lincoln County, Nev., east slope Highland Range, in T. 1 S., R. 66 E., near lat. $37^{\circ} 53'$, long. $114^{\circ} 34'$.
- Ely**; range, Lincoln County, Nev., extending northwest from long. $114^{\circ} 25'$ to long. $114^{\circ} 30'$, near the town of Pioche and lat. $37^{\circ} 55'$. (Not Ely Mountains or Pioche Hills.)
- Fairview**; range, Lincoln County, Nev., northwest of Bristol Range, between lat. $38^{\circ} 10'$ and $38^{\circ} 15'$, near long. $114^{\circ} 40'$. (Not Ely.)
- Fakahatchee**; river, Collier County, Fla., emptying into Chokoloskee Bay, 11 miles east of Cape Romano. (Not Fah-kah-hatchee, Fakhahnatchee, Fakanachi, nor Fakanachia.)
- Frees**; creek, Rosebud County, Mont., on the south bank of Odell Creek, east bank Tongue River, near lat. $45^{\circ} 24'$, long. $106^{\circ} 18'$. (Not Coal Road Draw.) After an old homesteader at mouth of creek.
- Friendly**; reach, of the Columbia River, in Multnomah County, Oreg., and Clark County, Wash., extending 8 miles, from Kelley Point, mouth of Willamette River, upward to long. $122^{\circ} 37'$. So named by Lieut. William Robert Broughton, of Vancouver's expedition, December, 1792, in commemoration of the friendly behavior of an old Indian chief, whose residence was on the south shore near the upper end. Name restored on recommendation of the Wa-ki-ta-ti-na group of Camp Fire Girls, Portland.
- Giza**; town, capital of Province of same name, in northern Egypt, Africa, on west bank of Nile River, opposite Cairo. (Not Djizeh, Geezoh, Ghizeh, Gisch, nor Gizeh.)

Hess; creek, Yamhill County, Oreg., flowing south in the eastern part of the city of Newberg to the north bank of Willamette River. (Not Hess Branch, Hess Mill Creek, Joseph Hess Mill Branch, nor Mill Creek.) Local name, after owner of mill on stream in the early fifties.

Highland; peak, 9,395 feet high, Lincoln County, Nev., highest point of Highland Range, in sec. 3, T. 1 S., R. 66 E., near lat. 37° 54', long. 114° 35'.

Königsberg; capital city and district, East Prussia, Germany. (Not Koenigsberg, Konigsberg, nor Krolewiecz.) Revision of previous decision. See Fifth Report.

Link; river, about 1¼ miles long, Klamath County, Oreg., connecting Upper Klamath Lake with Lake Ewauna. (Not Klamath.) Revision of previous description. See Fifth Report.

Little Deschutes; river, Deschutes and Klamath Counties, Oreg., rising in the Cascade Range, in southeast part of T. 26 S., R. 6½ E., flowing northeast about 50 miles to east bank Deschutes River, in T. 20 S., R. 11 E. (Not East Fork.) Revision of previous decision. See East Fork in Fifth Report.

Matecumbe; two of the Florida Keys, distinguished as Upper and Lower, in Monroe County, Fla. (Not Matabomba, Matabomba, Matabomba, Metacombe, nor Metacumbe.)

Meriwether; canyon, Lewis and Clark County, Mont., on northeast bank Missouri River, 20 miles northeast of Helena, near lat. 46° 52', long. 110° 53'. (Not Picnic.) Proposed by the Commercial Club, Helena, Mont., in honor of Capt. Meriwether Lewis, who camped there on the night of July 19, 1805.

Mission; flats, Kootenai County, Idaho, on north bank Coeur d'Alene River, 2 to 4 miles west of Cataldo, near lat. 47° 33', long. 116° 24'. Proposed

by the Forest Service in reference to the remains of an old mission on the east side.

Nicholas; creek, Kootenai County, Idaho, west bank North Fork Coeur d'Alene River, near lat. 47° 48', long. 116° 31'. (Not North Fork Canyon.)

North; fork, Coeur d'Alene River, from the northwest, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties, Idaho, near lat. 47° 40', long. 116° 22'. (Not Little Coeur d'Alene River nor Little North Fork.)

Pahroc; mountains and valley, Lincoln County, Nev., near lat. 38°, long. 115°. (Not Pahroc.)

Plantation; key, Monroe County, Fla., between Windlys Island and Key Largo, Florida Keys, near lat. 25°. (Not Long Island.)

Rock; creek, Washington County, Oreg., crossing Southern Pacific Railroad 2½ miles southeast of Hillsboro and tributary on north bank Tualatin River (not Dawson, from forks just south of Orenco to mouth).

Seltat; peak, 6,632 feet high, Alaska and British Columbia, Canada, marking a sharp angle on the international boundary, 4 miles southwest of Kelsall River, near lat. 59° 36', long. 136° 21'. Indian name of creek 3 miles west.

Sheridan; point, Skamania County, Wash., on north bank Columbia River, 1¼ miles below Cascade Locks, sec. 14, T. 2 N., R. 7 E., near long. 121° 55'. Old popular name, after Lieut. (later Gen.) Philip Sheridan. Revived on recommendation of the pupils of the Ainsworth School, Portland. (Not Sheridan's.)

Shoshone; range, Shoshone County, Idaho, between Big Creek and Coeur d'Alene River, near lat. 47° 50', long. 116°. (Not North Fork.) Revision of previous decision. See North Fork Range in Fifth Report.)

Sniktau; peak (Mount Sniktau), 13,241 feet high, Clear Creek County, Colo., near lat. 39° 41', long. 105° 51'. Proposed by the Colorado Geographic Board, the Colorado Mountain Club, and the State Historical Society, in honor of E. H. N. Patterson, 1828-1880, a pioneer of this region, publisher of a mining journal and famous as a correspondent under the nom de plume "Sniktau," a name given him by California Indians. (Not Engelmann nor Big Professor.) See Engelmann, Fifth Report, applied to another peak.

Snug; harbor, Alaska, west coast Cook Inlet, in west side south end

Chisik Island, near lat. 60° 06'. (Not Tuxedni.) Revision of previous decision. See Tuxedni in fifth report.

Tuxedni; bay, Alaska, penetrating 12 or 15 miles into west coast of Cook Inlet, near lat. 60° 12'. (Not Tük-sed'-ni, Tukusitnu, nor Tukuzit.)

Yalmar; village and railroad station, southeastern part of Marquette County, Mich., about 14 miles southeast of Marquette, Skandia township—T. 46 N., R. 24 W. (Not Yalmer.) Local name, after Yalmar Bahrman, early settler in that vicinity.

Just to indicate the personnel of State boards as far as designated Board

State Geographic Boards

Thirteen appointed for Gazetteer duty and two older boards also at work.

The official gazetteer or geographic dictionary of the United States recently planned by the United States Geographic Board is now receiving attention from fifteen State boards appointed by the Governors. Two of these State boards have been cooperating with the Federal board for some years but the rest have been appointed in response to the request of the Geographic Board dated October 9, 1926, for the specific purpose of listing and recommending geographic names for the official gazetteer. The personnel of the State boards now ready for work, and their official positions are as follows:

- Alabama. Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, Director of Archives and History, Montgomery.
- California. Mr. Milton J. Ferguson, State Librarian, Sacramento.
- Florida. Mr. Herman Gunter, State Geologist, Tallahassee.
- Nebraska. Dr. George E. Condra, Conservation Department, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
- New Hampshire. Hon. Hobart Pillsbury, Secretary of State, Concord; Mr. Frederick A. Gardner, Concord, and Mr. Harlan C. Pearson, Concord.
- New Jersey. Dr. Henry B. Kummel, Director of the Department of Conservation and Development, Trenton.
- New Mexico. Mr. George Neel, State Engineer, Santa Fe; Dr. E. H. Wells, State Geologist, and President of the School of Mines, Socorro; Dr. A.O. Bowden, President of the State Normal School, Silver City.
- New York. Dr. A. C. Flick, President, State Geographic Board, is Director of Archives and History, State University, Albany; Representatives of the State College of Forestry, ~~the~~ the Commissioner of Education, *the State Geologist and one other.*

- Oklahoma. Dr. Charles N. Gould, Director of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, Norman; Hon. Charles F. Barrett, Adjutant General, Oklahoma City; Hon. John B. Thoburn, Secretary, Historical Society, Oklahoma City.
- Pennsylvania. Dr. George H. Ashley, State Geologist and President of the State Geographic Board, Harrisburg; Robert Y. Stuart, Secretary of Forests and Waters, Harrisburg; Harry W. Shoemaker, President, Pennsylvania Historical Commission, and John H. Campbell, Chief, Land Office, Department of Internal Affairs, Harrisburg.
- Rhode Island. Mr. Howard M. Chapin, Librarian, Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence; Mr. Everett A. Kingsley, Secretary, Rhode Island Boundary Commission, Providence; Mr. Abram T. Atwood, Chairman State Board of Public Roads, Providence.
- Utah. State Board of Park Commissioners appointed to cooperate with the United States Geographic Board, consisting of Governor George H. Dern, Salt Lake City; Dr. George Thomas, President, University of Utah, Salt Lake City; Dr. E. G. Peterson, President State Agricultural College, Logan; Mr. Lafayette Hanchett, Salt Lake City; Mr. Randall L. Jones, Cedar City; Mr. O.J. Grimes, Secretary of the Board, Salt Lake City.
- Vermont. Mr. Robert M. Ross, Commissioner of Forestry, Montpelier.
- West Virginia. Hon. Thomas Ray Dille, Secretary, State Historical Society, Morgantown.
- Wisconsin. Professor E.F. Bean, State Geologist, University of Wisconsin, Madison; Honl John Callahan, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Madison; Mr. E.E. Witte, Chief, Legislative Reference Library, Madison.

A memorandum of suggestions relating to procedure, which may be followed to the end that uniformity in effort made and results reached may obtain, is being furnished the State boards as fast as they are appointed and the Federal board is much gratified at the interest being taken in the work. The presidents of State universities and of State historical societies are promising hearty cooperation in the effort to create a satisfactory official gazetteer.

The manifest interest shown by the State governments in spite of the activities of the political campaign, now closed, indicates a future activity in all of the States that will insure completion of the work within a reasonable period and a geographic dictionary which will be acceptable to the people of the States as well as to the Departments and independent activities of the Federal government.

Since the above was written the States of Missouri, Arkansas, Indiana, Massachusetts, North Dakota, Virginia, Oregon, ^{Wyoming} also have qualified and others are expected soon.

February 14, 1927

Hon. Frank Bond, Chairman
United States Geographic Board
5329 Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Some time ago Mr. R. E. Seaton, secretary-manager of the Winona Association of Commerce, tried to interest us in a project for assigning and revising geographic names in Minnesota. Enclosed herewith you will find copies of some correspondence which, together with your letter of October 11 to Mr. Seaton, of which you doubtless have a copy, will explain the situation to you.

Mr. Seaton came in for a conference on this subject the other day and, after reading over again your letter to him, it occurred to me that your attention should be called to the fact that a large part of the work that you suggest for state geographic boards has already been done for Minnesota. I have in mind volume 17 of the Minnesota Historical Collections, a work entitled Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origin and Historic Significance, compiled by Warren Upham and published in 1920.

The Minnesota Historical Society is, of course, much interested in this whole subject, and will be glad to cooperate in any movement that may develop. As I indicated to Mr. Seaton, however, we are not in a position to take the initiative in the matter. If you have on hand any copies of the letter to governors requesting state cooperation referred to in your letter to Mr. Seaton, I should be glad to receive one.

Sincerely yours

B/P

FEB 19 1927



UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD
WASHINGTON

February 17, 1927.

Mr. Solon J. Buck,
Superintendent, Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

My dear Mr. Buck:

I thank you for your letter of February 14 inclosing carbons of Governor Christianson's letter of November 3 to Mr. R. E. Seaton of Winona; of Mr. Seaton's letter of November 6 to you, and of your letter of November 10 to Mr. Seaton. They afford information that I have needed because they show that my letter of October 9 to the Governor was not overlooked and that Minnesota has as great an interest in the proposed official gazetteer as the other states.

So far as I know, of the 24 states that have state boards or other agencies already appointed by the Governors, but three have been authorized by state legislatures, those of New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont, whose state geographic boards were created some years ago. The Governors of the other states have appointed state boards to take hold of our gazetteer work without waiting for the passage of laws and usually the members are largely state officials or members of state historical societies. The number of members varies between one and eight, the average being about three, I think.

I note that in his letter to Mr. Seaton, Governor Christianson states that he would be glad to cooperate with a voluntary group to do this work. I think it very likely that the Governors consulted with those who were qualified for the work before appointing them to membership on the state boards and of course advised that no funds were available for the work. However, a few of the state boards are seeking small appropriations, to meet clerical expenses, from their legislatures now in session.

I am inclosing a few leaflets which contain my letter to the Governors of October 9, 1926, with the exception of a few lines on personnel of state boards; my memorandum of October 29 in full, and additional suggestions. A chairman of a state board desired a copy of these papers in printed form so that he could furnish one to each county assistant he proposed to appoint. I think you will find in this leaflet suggestions of interest. You will note, near the middle of the third page, a brief statement of the information desired for the official gazetteer and the form suggested to secure uniformity. One paragraph is deemed sufficient for each name submitted and the information given is under six heads, but in many cases the last two may not be needed.

I have before me the volume of Minnesota geographic names referred to by you. It contains much material which will assist your board or agency in the preparation of the lists of names for the official geographic dictionary, but of course the publication is much more exhaustive, especially along historical and political lines, than will be required to meet official gazetteer needs. Being historical in character it does not, very naturally, discuss unnamed features and I find much explanatory matter as to origin of names which we would not need, and also that many features like lakes are located with reference to the sections in a township without giving the township and range numbers, but referring instead to the political township name, such as Eagle, Lagarde, etc. I note also that when more than one spelling is given no authoritative selection is made. Similarly, when two or more names are applied to a feature, the state, through its board, should decide which to adopt and so recommend to the Federal board, listing the other names as rejected. This will enable us to decide upon our first name requirement and furnish the Government departments with the correct name, correctly spelled, which shall be used in all official publications. These things seem to us to mean a state board or agency, whatever it is called, qualified to select the name based largely upon local usage, which is to be recommended for the gazetteer.

I am inclosing also a sample U.S. Geographic Board decision and a carbon list showing the personnel of the first fifteen state boards.

Very truly yours,


Chairman.

March 26, 1927

Hon. Frank Bond, Chairman
United States Geographic Board
5329 Interior Building
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Bond:-

My failure to reply before this to your letter of February 17 has not been due to any lack of interest but to lack of opportunity to give the matter of a State Geographic Board the consideration that it deserved.

I have thought about it somewhat, however, and have decided to take it up with our Governor, but it would be useless to attempt to do so until after the adjournment of the legislature, which will be about a month from now. In the meantime I hope to have opportunity to talk the matter over with a few people who might be interested and, if their cooperation can be secured, I think that the Governor can be prevailed upon to appoint a Board.

Sincerely yours

B/P

MAR 17 1928

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT



ADDRESS REPLY TO
DISTRICT FORESTER
AND REFER TO

FEDERAL BUILDING
DENVER, COLORADO

EM
Maps
Historical Data.

March 14, 1928

Mr. Solon J. Buck,
Supt. Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Frank Bond, Chairman of the U.S. Geographic Board, has recently corresponded with me relative to the Board's plans for undertaking the preparation of an official gazetteer or geographic dictionary of the United States.

Mr. Bond advises that twenty-eight State organizations have thus far been created. He has acquainted me with the situation existing in Minnesota with respect to forming such organization, and has advised that you have offered the services of your good offices in cooperating in any movement that may develop.

I consider this a very meritorious undertaking, and wish to advise that as soon as a State organization has been formed, the Forest Service is willing to cooperate with that organization by furnishing information relative to the areas within the National Forests.

Very truly yours,


ALLEN S. PECK

District Forester.

Copy

ST. LOUIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AFFILIATED WITH THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
410 COURT HOUSE, DULUTH

Hold for
Meeting of
State Geographic
Board

Duluth, Minn.

March 14, 1934

Judge W. E. Scott
Two Harbors, Minn.

Dear Judge Scott:

The Society is doing some work in St. Louis County geography in relation to the St. Louis River among other matters. This important river reaches Seven Beaver Lake, which is in T. 58-12 in St. Louis County and extends somewhat into your county in T. 58-11. Maps of Lake County available to us show that the river seems to continue out of Seven Beaver Lake into the northwestern part of T. 58-11, and a couple of miles into the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of T. 59-11 where the river seems to terminate in a small lake of about sixty acres. This lake is shown on some maps.

This Society would like to know if you know the name of this small lake, and if it is considered the source of the St. Louis River. Any information you can give us in this matter will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

St. Louis County Historical Society

By Helen J. Peterson
Secretary

Copy

March 17, 1934

St. Louis County Historical Society
410 Court House
Duluth, Minnesota

Attention: Helen J. Peterson, Secy.

Dear Miss Peterson:

The problem in connection with finding the true head of the St. Louis River is similar to that of finding the one of the Mississippi.

I delayed answering your letter of March 14, 1934, a couple of days until I could see Mr. Hans C. Hanson, our County Engineer, who is very familiar with the County. It so happens that he has followed St. Louis River up through the Seven Beaver Lake and into the lake which is its true source. As you say, this lake is in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 17, of T. 59-11. It is a small lake, as I understand it, surrounded by a spruce swamp.

It has no name, as far as I can determine. I am not certain in which manner places are given names. I think some National Geographic Board in Washington, D. C. has something to do with naming important lakes, mountains, etc. However, the naming of this small but important lake will not be noticed by that board and will be given by other persons, I suppose. Although it is a small and insignificant lake, it is as important to our section as Lake Itasca is to its section.

I would suggest that the name be made after the person who put it on the map and that would be Lake Culkin.

Yours sincerely,

W. E. Scott

Copy

HAMMERMILL
BOND
MADE IN U.S.A.
July 26, 1935

National Geographic Society

Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Will you kindly give me the name of the federal organization which has charge of the naming of mountains, rivers, etc. of the country. I think it goes by the name of the National Geographic Commission, but I am not certain.

This information will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

William E. Scott, Secy.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 29, 1935

Mr. William E. Scott,
Lake County Historical Society,
Two Harbors, Minnesota.

My dear Mr. Scott:

The Government office in charge of the naming of geographic places is now the Division of Geographic Names. It is a branch of the U. S. Department of Interior, Washington, D. C. Mr. John Cameron is Secretary to the Division.

This organization formerly was called the U. S. Geographic Board.

Assuring you that we always are glad to be of assistance to you, I am

Very truly yours,

Gilbert Grosvenor

Editor.

GW

August 16, 1935

Division of Geographic Names
U. S. Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Attention: John Cameron, Secy.

Gentlemen:

The North Shore Historical Assembly is an association of Lake, Cook, and St. Louis Counties in Minnesota, which counties border on the north shore of Lake Superior and are the only counties in Minnesota which border this shore. Every year we hold what is called a North Shore Historical Assembly, the purpose of which is to sustain interest in the fascinating history of the American North Shore of Lake Superior. The Assembly meets alternately in these three counties, and this year the host was the Lake County Historical Society, of which I happen to be the Secretary. The outstanding man in our Assembly is, without question, the Hon. William E. Culkin, Executive President of the St. Louis County Historical Society, who has, for years, done excellent research work in regard to the history of this region.

For many years it was supposed that St. Louis River, which flows into the Head of the Lakes, rose in Seven Beaver Lake in St. Louis County, whereas, in reality, it rises in our county (Lake) in Section 17, 59-11. The pond from which it rises is located in the Southwest quarter of this section, and I have come to the conclusion, after considerable inquiry, that this lake had never received a name of any kind. The Superior National Forest map issued in 1923 by the U. S.

8/16/35

Department of Agriculture contains no name for this lake or pond. This is also true of the map issued by the Wales Protective Association and used by the State Forestry Department.

In honor of Mr. Culkin, this North Shore Historical Assembly above mentioned, desires to name this pond in Section 17, 59-11, after Mr. Culkin, and call it "Lake Culkin". A motion was made and carried to that effect by the Historical Assembly that I, as Secretary of the Society, contact you and respectfully request you, in behalf of the Society to have this unnamed lake or pond called "Lake Culkin" in honor of Mr. Culkin.

If you are hesitant in naming this lake without further investigation, I will be glad to assist you in any investigation you may desire to make. Also please feel free to write letters of inquiry to the Head of the Lakes in regard to Mr. Culkin's standing and working in historical matters.

Our Society will be interested in hearing from you at your early convenience in regard to this.

Yours sincerely,

William E. Scott
Secretary

Div. of Geog. Names
U. S. Dept. of Inter.
Washington, D. C.

Mr. John Cameron, Secy.

Copy

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
DIVISION OF GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1935

Mr. William E. Scott
Secretary, Lake County Historical Society
Two Harbors, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Scott:

This office has received your letter of August 16, concerning the naming of a lake in Minnesota after Mr. William E. Culkin.

The rule concerning the naming of geographic features after living persons, as stated in the Sixth Report of the U. S. Geographic Board, to whose functions this office has succeeded, is as follows:

"Names of living persons should be applied very rarely, and in general only those of great eminence should be thus honored."

The above rule has been reaffirmed by the Advisory Committee on Geographic Names, which passes upon all decisions made in this office, and is in accordance with the generally accepted usage by geographers in this country and abroad.

The Secretary of the Interior, who has administrative charge of the work of this office, and to whom all decisions go for final review, is opposed to the naming of geographic features after any living persons.

For these reasons, I doubt if it will be possible to obtain the approval of the name that you propose.

I would suggest that you submit some other name for this lake, perhaps the name of some pioneer explorer or settler, whose intimate connection with this region should be perpetuated.

Very truly yours,

George C. Martin

Executive Secretary

Copy

June 25, 1937

Dr. Theodore C. Blegen
President, State Historical Society
Historical Annex Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Blegen:

This letter is with reference to Chapter 63 of the Laws of 1937, State of Minnesota, concerning the act to establish a State Geographic Board and defining its duties.

I note that the Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society is one of the three members of the Board and for that reason I am writing to you about what I consider a very important matter.

For some time it was supposed that the St. Louis River had its source in Seven Beaver Lake located in Township 58 Range 12 in St. Louis County. However, due to the efforts of the Hon. William E. Culkin of Duluth, the true source of this river has been traced to a small pond or lake surrounded by a spruce swamp located in Township 59, Range 11. This lake, as yet, has no official name and the North Shore Historical Assembly, consisting of the Historical Societies of St. Louis, Lake, and Cook Counties, passed a joint resolution in their annual session of 1935 requesting me to make every possible effort to have the Lake named after Mr. Culkin whom you know very well and who, for many years, has been the president of the St. Louis County Historical Society. He is, without question, the outstanding historian at the Head of the Lakes.

Until this law was passed, I did not know what we could do about the matter except to contact various map makers and write to the Division of Geographic Names, Department of the Interior, at Washington, D. C. This latter office wrote to me under date of August 21, 1935, as follows: "Names of living persons

Copy

Dr. Blegen--6/25/37--No. 2

should be applied very rarely, and in general only those of great eminence should be thus honored." I did not push the matter further with the office because they, of course, do not know Mr. Culkin. He is now an old gentleman and from our standpoint at the Head of the Lakes, he is of great eminence in our local historical circles.

Section 2B of the law above referred to states that it shall be the duty of the State Geographic Board and it shall have power and authority to "pass upon and give names to lakes, streams, palces and other geographic features in the state for which no single generally accepted name has been in use". It so happens that there has been no name applied to this particular lake or pond. The Superior National Forest Map issued in 1923 by the United States Department of Agriculture contains no name for it. This is also true of the Wales Protective Association map which is also used by the State Forestry Department.

We trust that, in behalf of the three Historical Societies at the Head of the Lakes, your State Geographic Board will give careful consideration to our request that this little lake situated in Section 17, Township 59, Range 11, in Lake County, be called Lake Culkin in honor of the Hon. William E. Culkin of Duluth.

Yours sincerely,

WES/emo

William E. Scott
Secretary
Lake County Historical Society

Copy

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

Theodore C. Blegen
Secretary and Superintendent

June 30, 1937

Hon. William E. Scott, Secretary
Lake County Historical Society
Two Harbors, Minnesota

Dear Judge Scott:

This will acknowledge your letter of June 25. The State Geographic Board has just had a preliminary meeting to consider the organization and scope of its work, and we have not yet been able to deal with specific questions. I suspect that the proper procedure in the first instance would be to submit your proposal to the Board of County Commissioners. Backed as it is by the North Shore Historical Assembly, I should think there would be no objection whatever to the name proposed, though of course I am aware of the general principle followed by the United States Geographic Board. Meanwhile I shall be glad to lay the matter before the chairman of the state board, who is the conservation commissioner.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Blegen

Superintendent

TCB/H

Copy

July 6, 1937

W. L. Fowler, President
Lake County Historical Society
Two Harbors, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Fowler:

I know you are considerably interested in having the lake or pond which is the true source of St. Louis River named after Mr. William E. Culkin of Duluth.

On June 25, 1937 I wrote to Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, President of the State Historical Society, outlining the situation. Dr. Blegen is a member of the new State Geographic Board.

I have received an answer from him saying that he believed the proper procedure would be to submit our proposal to the Board of County Commissioners and work from that point on. Therefore, I am now submitting this question to you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

WES:HO

William E. Scott

WHEREAS, William E. Culkin, the Executive President of the St. Louis County Historical Society, who is about eighty years of age, has been exceedingly active for many years in the interest of local history at the Head of the Lakes, and

WHEREAS, due largely to his efforts, it has been pointed out that the true source of the St. Louis River is a small unnamed lake or pond located in Section 17, Township 59 North, Range 11 West of the 4th P. M., in Lake County, and

WHEREAS, the North Shore Historical Assembly composed of the three counties bordering on the north shore of Lake Superior, namely St. Louis, Lake and Cook, at its annual meeting held on August 3, 1935, at Beaver Bay, Minnesota, duly passed a motion urging that every effort be made to have this unnamed lake or pond named "Lake Culkin" in honor of the Hon. William E. Culkin of Duluth, Minnesota, and

WHEREAS, the Lake County Board of Commissioners feels that Mr. Culkin should be so honored in partial recognition of his excellent work done in developing the historical records of the Head of the Lakes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lake County Board of Commissioners that they recommend to the State Geographic Board that this lake or pond located in Section 17, Township 59 North, Range 11 West of the 4th P. M., Lake County be called "Lake Culkin".

Commissioner Lorntson moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution and the same was declared adopted upon the following vote: Yeas, Lorntson, Degerstedt, Ojard, Hagberg and Lomasney. Total yeas, five. Nays, none. (Adopted August 11, 1937).

State of Minnesota)
County of Lake) ss
Office of County Auditor)

I, Paul W. Nelson, Auditor of the County of Lake, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing resolution with the original filed in my office on the 11th day of August, 1937, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE at Two Harbors, Minnesota, this 12th day of August, 1937.

(COUNTY AUDITOR'S SEAL)

Paul W. Nelson

County Auditor