



[Minnesota Geographic Board.
Records.](#)

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JUN 21 1937



State of Minnesota
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
Saint Paul
ELMER A. BENSON

GOVERNOR

June 18, 1937.

Benson, Elmer A.

Mr. Theodore Blegen,
Secretary,
State Historical Society,
B u i l d i n g.

Dear Mr. Blegen:

Chapter 63, of Laws of 1937, creates a State Geographic Board to consist of the Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of State Highways, and the Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, which Board is to perform certain functions in connection with the naming and re-naming of lakes and other bodies of water and to cooperate with the U.S. Geographic Board in eliminating duplications and conflicting designations of geographic features of the state.

For the purpose of giving the Board an opportunity to organize and to consider the field in which it is to function under this law, I am calling a meeting of the Board, to be held in the office of the Commissioner of Conservation on Tuesday, June 22nd, at 3:30 P.M.

Hoping that you will be present at this meeting, I am

Sincerely yours,

Elmer A. Benson
Governor

EAB:C

Fuller, Geo. N.

July 6, 1937

Dr. George N. Fuller
State Historical Commission
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Dr. Fuller:-

We have just organized in Minnesota a State Geographic Board and are studying the problem of just what to do. I wonder if you would be willing to let me know something about the activities of your Michigan Board. Do you take the initiative in suggesting changes of names, and in general how far to you go? Any information that you can give us will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours

TCB/P

MacKenzie, H. W.

July 6, 1937

Mr. H. W. MacKenzie, Secretary
Department of Conservation
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. MacKenzie:-

We have just organized in Minnesota a State Geographic Board and are studying the problem of just what to do. I wonder if you would be willing to let me know something about the activities of your Wisconsin Board. Do you take the initiative in suggesting changes of names, and in general how far to you go? Any information that you can give us will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours

TCB/P

JUL 12 1937

WM. H. LOUTIT
GRAND HAVEN, CHAIRMAN

PHILIP SCHUMACHER
ANN ARBOR

HARRY H. WHITELEY
DOWAGIAC

JOSEPH P. RAHILLY
NEWBERRY

WM. J. PEARSON
BOYNE FALLS

THOMAS J. MASTERSON
IRON MOUNTAIN

HAROLD TITUS
TRAVERSE CITY

WAYLAND OSGOOD
SECRETARY

STATE OF MICHIGAN



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
LANSING

P. J. HOFFMASTER, DIRECTOR

July 9, 1937

C. A. PAQUIN
EDUCATION
H. R. SAYRE
FIELD ADMINISTRATION
F. A. WESTERMAN
FISH AND FISHERIES
MARCUS SCHAAF
FORESTRY
H. D. RUHL
GAME
R. A. SMITH
GEOLOGY
F. P. STRUHSAKER
LANDS
P. S. LOVEJOY
LAND USE PLANNING
W. J. KINGSCOTT
PARKS

S. G. FONTANNA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Mr. Theodore E. Blegen, Secretary
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul Minnesota

Dear Mr. Blegen:

Your letter of July 6 to Dr. George N. Fuller of the State Historical Commission, relative to the activities of our geographic names board, has been referred to me by Dr. Fuller for consideration and reply.

Our board is of quasi-legal standing, being appointed by the Governor under certain general prerogatives of his office. This board was appointed to meet a need for some sort of clearing house to handle the problem of lake and stream name changes desired by the various and many communities in the lake regions of Michigan. There are so many duplications of names, particularly certain names such as Mud, Round, Long, Crooked, Crystal, Clear, Pine, etc., that much confusion has arisen, particularly among the resort and recreation people and their clientele. Of the more than 4000 lakes with names, 46 names account for 1252 of the lakes; 2771 lakes share their names with others; and only 1416 have names that are entirely individual. The rapid development of the resort and recreation resources of the State led to a rather general although unorganized and independent movement for the elimination of these duplicated names and especially of many of the very unappropriate names which were found to work to the disadvantage of resort and recreation development along certain lakes.

Our committee acts as the clearing house for all these movements, a bureau of information as to procedure for the selection and adoption of appropriate names that these names shall have legal recognition in the State laws and also with the Federal authorities. Through the press we have given notice to the public that our committee would be glad to assist any local organization in this work. To forestall any resentment on the part of local authorities such as the county boards of supervisors, we made it clear that we had no authority and would not attempt to exert any authority in the selection and adoption of names, and emphasized the fact that the selection and adoption of lake and stream names

#2 Mr. Theodore E. Blegen

was entirely a matter for the local authorities, which, in this State, is the county board of supervisors.

From the National Board of Geographic Names we obtained information as to the policies of that organization with respect to lake and stream names, and also as to their specific requirements in the way of formal application, procedure, conditions, and supporting evidence. We then drafted a leaflet of instructions as to procedure and certain forms for record in the county, in our office, and in the office of the National Geographic Board. We are sending a set of these leaflets.

As to the part we play in suggesting names, we keep away from recommending specific names and content ourselves with the general suggestion that the name should be distinctive, that is not duplicated elsewhere in the State, that the name might well be in honor of some pioneer citizen or settler, an Indian Chief, a historic event, or place, a distinctive physical feature, and the like. We usually cite to the inquirer that in Michigan we have some 200 "Mud" lakes, scores of Round, Long, and Crooked lakes, numerous Blue and Black Lakes, like numbers of Bear, Bass, Perch, Pickeral, etc. We perhaps over-emphasize the importance of getting distinctive names, because of the utter confusion we have among the lakes having numerous duplicated names.

Our experience has been that local organizations such as the pioneer societies, literary clubs, women's clubs, resort associations, real estate development companies, etc., take an active interest and cooperate sometimes to a degree more or less embarrassing. Generally the county boards of supervisors listen with rather sympathetic ears and give rather ready assent to the adoption of distinctive and appropriate names of lakes in their respective counties.

Lack of personnel that could be actively assigned to this work has made progress much slower than one could desire, but for all that we have aided in the changing of scores of names in the last few years. We are slowly reducing the list of our duplicated lake and stream names.

Very truly yours



R. A. Smith, STATE GEOLOGIST
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DIVISION

ras/b

PROCEDURE FOR OFFICIALLY CHANGING NAMES OF LAKES

(Same procedure applies to streams)

1. Have the County Board of Supervisors of the county in which the lake or lakes are situated pass a resolution favoring and approving the proposed change in name of the lake or lakes. This resolution must mention each lake separately, stating:
 - (a) Name or names by which the lake is now known
 - (b) Location by section, township and range
 - (c) The proposed name
 - (d) Reason that the proposed name is considered necessary or advisable.
2. Have the County Clerk furnish you a certified copy of the County Board of Supervisors' resolution of approval.
3. Forward this certified copy of the resolution to George N. Fuller, Sec'y. Michigan Historical Commission, State Office Building, Lansing, Michigan.
4. The State Committee on Geographic Names will then consider and act on the proposed name or names as approved in the County Board of Supervisors' resolution. If the State Committee concurs with the County Board of Supervisors in their action, that Committee will forward the certified copy of the County Board's resolution together with its recommendations to the U. S. Geographic Board, Washington, D.C., for that Board's consideration. The action of the U. S. Geographic Board will be final. Their approval will assure the use of the proposed name or names on all future maps on which the place and feature names have official standing.
5. If the lake or stream lies partly in another county or counties, joint action should be taken by the counties concerned.
6. The U. S. Geographic Board will advise the State Committee as to the final and official decision on the proposed name changes. The State Committee will then transmit copies of that decision to the County Clerk and yourself.

Yours respectfully,

STATE COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

G. N. Fuller, Chairman, Lansing
R. A. Smith, Lansing
L. R. Schoenmann, Lansing

STATE OF MICHIGAN

STATE COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Room 641 State Office Building, Lansing, Michigan

G. N. Fuller, Chairman

To:

The resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of _____
 adopted while in session at _____, Michigan on the _____ day of
 _____ 19____, proposing that the name of _____
 located within that county and which empties into _____
 on section _____, township number _____ north _____ east
 south, range number _____ west, be changed
 from _____ to _____
 for the reason that _____

is hereby approved disapproved by the State Committee on Geographic Names for the
 reason _____

Signed and Certified
 by the
 State Committee on Geographic Names
 on

_____ Chairman

_____ 19____

Original copy forwarded to the United States Geographic Board, Washington, D. C.

on _____ 19____.

By _____

(For Rivers and streams)

STATE OF MICHIGAN

STATE COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Room 641 State Office Building, Lansing, Michigan

G. N. Fuller, Chairman

Dated _____ 19__

To:

This is to advise you that the resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of _____ when in session at _____, Michigan on the _____ day of _____ 19__, proposing that the name of _____ located within the county of _____ sections _____ north _____ east and situated on section _____, township number _____ south, range _____ west, be changed from _____ to _____ for the reason that _____

_____ has _____ been approved by the State Committee on Geographic Names _____

_____ and has _____ been approved by the United States Geographic Board _____

Very respectfully yours,

Chairman
State Committee on Geographic Names

(For Lakes)

Form for Officially Changing the Name

of

Lakes

To Whom It May Concern:

At a session of the Board of Supervisors of the county of.....

held at.....Michigan on the.....day of.....19...

the following resolution was adopted:

MOVED by Supervisor.....

SECONDED by Supervisor.....

That the name of.....located within the county of

.....section north,
.....and situated on sections....., township number.....south,

east,
range number.....west, be changed from.....

to.....for the reason.....

MOTION CARRIED

Whereas it is desired that the name adopted by the above resolution be used in the
future maps, reports and documents that may be published by the State of Michigan
and the United States Government;

Therefore, in order that the above action of the Board of Supervisors shall be brought
to the attention of the proper State and United States officials;

Be it further resolved that the County Clerk be hereby directed to forward a signed
and certified copy of these resolutions together with attached map or township
plat showing the particular lake affected to the State Committee on Geographic
Names, Room 323 State Office Building, Lansing, Michigan for transmittal by that
Committee to the United States Geographic Board.

Signed and Certified by.....

County Clerk

Dated.....19....

Form for Officially Changing the Name

of

Rivers and Streams

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

To Whom It May Concern:

At a session of the Board of Supervisors of the county of.....

held at..... Michigan on the..... day of..... 19.....

the following resolution was adopted:

MOVED by Supervisor.....

SECONDED by Supervisor.....

That the name of..... located within the county of

..... and which empties into.....,

on section....., township number..... north, east, south, range number..... west, be changed from

..... to..... for the reason that

MOTION CARRIED

Whereas it is desired that the name adopted by the above resolution be used in the future maps, reports and documents that may be published by the State of Michigan and the United States Government;

Therefore, in order that the above action of the Board of Supervisors shall be brought to the attention of the proper State and United States officials;

Be it further resolved that the County Clerk be hereby directed to forward a signed and certified copy of these resolutions together with attached map or township plat showing the particular river or stream affected to the State Committee on Geographic Names, Room 641 State Office Building, Lansing, Michigan for transmittal by that Committee to the United States Geographic Board.

Signed and Certified by.....

County Clerk

Dated..... 19.....

JUL 14 1937

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

FILE REFERENCE:

Geographic Names

MADISON

July 13, 1937

Mr. Theodore C. Blegen
Secretary and Superintendent
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Blegen:

I regret that this is my first opportunity to reply to your letter of July 6, inquiring about the activities of the Wisconsin state geographic board.

There is attached for your information a copy of section 23.25 of the Wisconsin statutes, which deals with the establishment and duties of the Wisconsin geographic board. I believe that it will answer most of your questions as to method of procedure.

It is the usual policy of the Wisconsin board not to name lakes and streams for individuals unless they are no longer living, or there is some historical value attached. However, in rare instances, this policy is laid aside. Indian names are acceptable, but care is exercised that words from local tribes are used.

At the inception of its work in 1931, the Wisconsin board took the initiative in some cases by asking that local people suggest new names for lakes and streams which were known by names much duplicated in the state. This was especially true in one or two of the northern counties, where opportunity arose with the compilation and publication of new sets of township maps by the land economic inventory of Wisconsin. All of the names as shown on these maps were approved by the state geographic board and by the U. S. Board.

As a general rule, however, it is the local residents who wish to eliminate duplication or name a feature hitherto unnamed, and apply to the board for official action, who start the ball rolling. In instances where the state board does not approve of the names suggested, the person first asking that a name be designated as official is requested to submit new names, and at times the field personnel of the conservation

Mr. Theodore C. Blegen - July 13, 1937

2

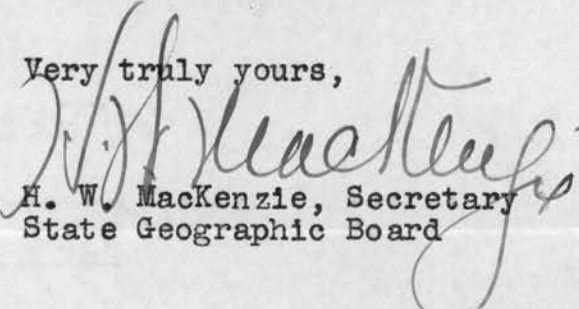
department is appealed to for assistance in this line. The Wisconsin board is fortunate in having the field force of the conservation department to assist in contacting the local people. Without it, there would be much more delay in securing suggestions for names, etc., since we would have to depend upon the co-operation of county officials.

The names, after they have been approved by the state geographic board, are submitted to the county board for approval. Following this, they are forwarded to the U. S. Geographic Board, upon whose sanction the change becomes final. The procedure sometimes requires several months, as the boards do not convene often, and favorable action is not always forthcoming.

At times, a county board will take the initiative and pass a resolution changing the name of a geographic feature in their county, then submitting it to the state board for approval. In whatever way the action starts, however, it must have the approval of the county board and the state geographic board before it is finally submitted to the U. S. board.

I trust that this will give you somewhat of an insight into the workings of the Wisconsin geographic board, and if we can be of any further help, we shall always be glad to hear from you.

Very truly yours,


H. W. MacKenzie, Secretary
State Geographic Board

Enc.

Wisconsin Conservation Department
Madison, Wisconsin

Section 23.25 GEOGRAPHIC BOARD, MEMBERSHIP, POWERS.

(1) Membership. The state geographic board shall consist of the conservation director, the state geologist, and the state chief engineer. The conservation director shall be the secretary and executive officer of the board, and the conservation commission shall be its administrative agent.

(2) Duties. It shall be the duty of the state geographic board and it shall have power and authority:

(a) To determine the correct and most appropriate names of the lakes, streams, places and other geographic features in the state, and the spelling thereof;

(b) To pass upon and give names to lakes, streams, places and other geographic features in the state for which no single generally accepted name has been in use;

(c) In co-operation with county boards and with their approval, to change the names of lakes, streams, places and other geographic features, with the end in view of eliminating, as far as possible, duplication of names within the state;

(d) To prepare and publish an official state dictionary of geographic names and to publish the same, either as a completed whole or in parts when ready;

(e) To serve as the state representative of the United States geographic board and to co-operate with the said board to the end that there shall be no conflict between the state and federal designations of geographic features in the state.

(3) Acts official. Whenever the state geographic board shall have given a name to any lake, stream, place or other geographic feature within the state, or determined the correct spelling of any such name, it shall be used in all maps, reports and other publications thereafter issued by the state or any of its political subdivisions, and shall be deemed the official name of such geographic feature.

(4) Actions final. No person shall in any advertisement or publication attempt to modify local usage or name unnamed geographic features without first obtaining the approval of the state geographic board. In case of a violation of this subsection, the geographic board shall promptly announce its disapproval and shall thereafter adopt an official name for such feature.

July 15, 1937

Mr. H. W. MacKenzie, Secretary
State Geographic Board
Wisconsin Conservation Department
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. MacKenzie:

Please accept my thanks for your valuable letter of July 13. This gives me just the information that we wanted with reference to the work in Wisconsin. I am planning to read your letter to our board when we hold our second meeting. I know that the board will appreciate your courtesy in writing so fully.

Sincerely yours,

TCB/F

July 15, 1937

Mr. R. A. Smith, State Geologist
Geological Survey Division
Department of Conservation
641 State Office Building
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am very much obliged to you for your valuable letter of July 9 and the enclosures that accompanied it. We are soon to have the second meeting of our Minnesota Board and I know that the members will be interested in knowing about the situation in Michigan.

Sincerely yours,

TCB/F

JUL 17 1937

Borning, Bernard C.

1320 - 7th. St., S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 15, 1937

Theodore C. Blegen
Superintendent of the State Historical Society
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Blegen:

I am interested in getting information and data on the work and objectives of the newly created state geographic board. I have already talked with Mr. Willard, the former chairman of the board, and he suggested that I communicate with you regarding further information, especially with regard to work already done along comparable lines by the state historical society independantly, or in cooperation with the national geographic board.

Could you furnish me with any available publications or bulletins of the desired information, including data on the

naming of Minnesota lakes and other
geographic features? Have you available
statistics as to duplications of such names?

I shall greatly appreciate any such
information you can furnish, and shall
be very much indebted to you if you
would reply at your earliest convenience.
I thank you.

Very sincerely,
Bernard C. Borning

July 19, 1937

Mr. Bernard C. Borning
1320 - 7th Street SE
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Borning:

Replying to your inquiry of July 15 I think perhaps the best plan for you would be to come over to the State Historical Society and look into the questions that you have raised. Perhaps the most useful general source of information at present is Dr. Warren Upham's Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origin and Historic Significance which was published by this Society some years ago. The index to this volume throws much light upon the definitions of names within the state. The volume itself attempts to explain all the geographic names in Minnesota. We also have here on file the decisions of the National Geographic Board so that you can find out on what Minnesota names there have been national rulings. As to the State Geographic Board itself, the work is so new that we are still engaged very much in assembling preliminary information.

Sincerely yours,

TCE/F

Wenzel, H.C.

July 19, 1937

Mr. Herman C. Wenzell
Commissioner of Conservation
State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Wenzell:-

Under an act of the legislature approved March 8, 1937, the establishment of a Minnesota State Geographic Board was provided. I enclose for your information a copy of the act and you will notice that the Board is made up of the Conservation Commissioner, the Commissioner of Highways, and the Superintendent of the State Historical Society. ✓

An organization meeting of the Board was held on June 22, and in order to give you an idea of what was done, I am enclosing a copy of the minutes of the meeting. ✓

Following up the suggestion made at the meeting that an opinion should be sought from the attorney general as to the validity of the law, I took that matter up with Attorney General Ervin. I enclose herewith a copy of the reply received from his office. I have also corresponded with the U. S. Geographic Board and with neighbor boards in Wisconsin and Michigan, and I shall be glad to bring with me to the next meeting of our own Board the letters that I have giving information about the work in these near by states. ✓

I think that we are probably in a position to block out a more definite program of action for our Board when it holds its next meeting. May I suggest that you call such a meeting whenever you would like to have it held. I may add that I am about to go away for a little vacation but if I find that I cannot attend the meeting I shall delegate the curator of our museum, Mr. Willoughby M. Babcock, to attend in my place.

With good wishes

Sincerely yours

TCB/P

MEMBERS OF
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
G. W. FRIEDRICH, St. Cloud
CHAIRMAN
R. J. AHLSTROM, MINNEAPOLIS
VICE-CHAIRMAN
DR. B. F. EDERER, MORRIS
SECRETARY
JOHN R. FOLEY, WABASHA
R. R. BAILEY, VIRGINIA
E. V. WILLARD
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION



JUL 22 1937

W-7-19
File
E. V. WILLARD
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION
MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL, MINN.

July 21st, 1937

Mr. Theodore C. Blegen
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Blegen:-

I have received your letter of July 19th, calling my attention to the act which was approved this year by the Legislature, establishing the Minnesota State Geographic Board, and note what you say.

I have been exceedingly busy re-organizing the department as provided for in the new law and I believe it will be at least two or three weeks before I can get into this matter, after which time I shall notify the members of the Board and we will take up the questions provided for in the law.

I appreciate your calling my attention to this.

Very truly yours,

H. C. Wenzel

Herman C. Wenzel
Commissioner of Conservation

HCW/R

Minnesota Conservation

Cass, Henry E.

HERMAN C. WENZEL
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION



ROOM 356
STATE OFFICE BLDG.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

September 17th, 1937

Mr. Henry E. Cass, Deputy Director
Division of Lands and Minerals
B U I L D I N G

Dear Mr. Cass:-

With this I am sending you the material covering the proposal made by Edward G. Pleva for working on the names of lakes, streams, rivers, etc. in Minnesota with a view toward classifying, indexing and re-naming them where necessary. This work is to be done under the direction of the Geographic Board and you will note that Mr. Pleva expects no compensation for his services.

As indicated, Mr. Wenzel is agreeable that Pleva should be given an opportunity to do this work provided there are no strings attached. I have studied the matter and believe that Mr. Pleva is sincere and is anxious to pursue this work more or less as a hobby and a matter of service to the State.

I suggest that you have a talk with Mr. Pleva at your early convenience with the object of getting the work started as soon as possible if the set-up seems to merit the approval of this department.

Yours very truly,

Guy W. Cravens

Guy W. Cravens
Deputy Commissioner
of Conservation

GWC:MH
Incl.

9/24/37

Aug. 8, 1937

The Extra Session of the legislature passed two bills concerning a Geographic Board for the state of Minnesota. One bill (S.F. 556, Chap. 63, 1937 Statutes, p. 108) created the board, outlined its duties, and established its membership. The other bill (S.F. 557, Chap. 35, 1937 Statutes, p. 68) outlined the procedure for dealing with the place names of Minnesota and their changes.

To accomplish the things outlined by the bills, considerable research must be done. I, Edward G. Pleva, am a teaching assistant in the department of geography at the university and am to receive my Ph. D. degree next year. I consider myself qualified by training and experience to do the work as outlined in the bills.

No appropriation was passed to accomplish the things outlined in the bill. Since I see a wonderful opportunity to make a name for myself in my chosen field, I offer my services to the state free of charge. My only request is that I be given ^{DUÉ} credit for the work. Since my chosen field is college teaching and my future is fairly well lined up for me, I will not use the appointment as a wedge to make a position for myself later on.

I am familiar with the purpose of the bill, having worked on the toponymy of Minnesota as a hobby for five years. I am qualified on the basis of geographic training, knowledge of research methods, cartographical ability, and interest.

Since I spend twenty hours ^{Per Week} on my departmental duties at the university and about fifteen hours on my own research, I will have about twenty hours a week to spend on work for the geographic board.

I will present my methods to the board and will work under its instruction. I will sign up for a seminar ^{AT THE UNIVERSITY} under Dr. Blegen who could keep check on my work.

Edward G. Pleva

Suggested Outline for Organization and Work of the Board

Organization and Duties

See Chapter 63, 1937 Statutes, p. 108 and Chapter 35, 1937 Statutes, p. 68.

Policy of the Board

The policy of this board shall be the same as that of the United States Geographic Board of which this board shall be the Minnesota representative. See Section 2e of Chapter 63, 1937 Statutes, p. 108, and the Vith Report of the United States Geographic Board.

Aims

To collect and make available to the board the necessary data for intelligent selection and changing of place names. Also to publish the findings of the research as a gazeteer and compendium of the geographic place names of Minnesota.

Method of Assembling Data

Card Index File (alphabetically according to U.G. Geographic Board standards). Unnamed geographic features filed by Section-Township-Range.

Township maps (toponymical features plotted on township maps)

Check sheets (by counties according to the method presented by Upham).

(Examples of the above methods illustrated next page and pages following).

Materials (brief)

Primary; Essential works are those by Upham, Gannet, Calkin, Gilfillan, Williamson, the U.S. Geographic Board, the Gazeteer of Streams and Rivers by the Division of Drainage, and the Gazeteer of Meandered Lakes by Willard, Verwyst, Swanson.

Secondary; Work by Hall, Long, Pike, Nicollet, Hill, War department railroad surveys, Winchell, Upham, State histories such as Folwell, Neill, exploratory records such as the Rainy River expedition, the Natural History survey, Railroad reports, International surveys such as the International Waters survey, geologic reports, county and state collections

Reference; Works such as the Census Department's List of Minor Civil Divisions, the Post Office List of Post Offices, the famous Indian Census, other toponymical surveys such as Manitoba, New York, Ireland, Germany, Arizona, California, the Oxford dictionary, Smithsonian institute.

Special; Work by persons interested in Minnesota toponymy, correspondence, interviews, newspapers, railroad files.

Cartographical; Highway plats, Land office maps, Post office route maps, county maps, roads and farm maps, geologic maps, early exploratory maps, plat books.

Private; Many surprising sources I have been able to locate.

Things I Would Require for the Work

About 20,000 3"x 4½" index cards (initial order of 1000)	total 10.00
Ten card index boxes (I can get these second hand at Farnhams Stationery Store at .19 each)	total 1.90
Two reams white paper	
Two reams second sheets	
Twenty five sheets carbon paper	total 2.50
Three typewriter ribbons	total 1.50
	<hr/>
	15.90

Other requirements

A safe place to leave the files, either at the Historical Building or at the Conservation department.

Access to the state libraries and to the cartographical material of the highway and conservation departments.

After the work is under way, there will be many letters to write in verifying certain things. At that time I will request stationery and postage.

I will furnish the following.

The brain work

The typewriter

Carfare to and from St. Paul from the campus.

TEMPERANCE RIVER

So named from the fact that it has no bar at its mouth as contrasted with the other Lake Superior North Shore streams each of which has an off shore bar. The Temperance River empties into deep water.

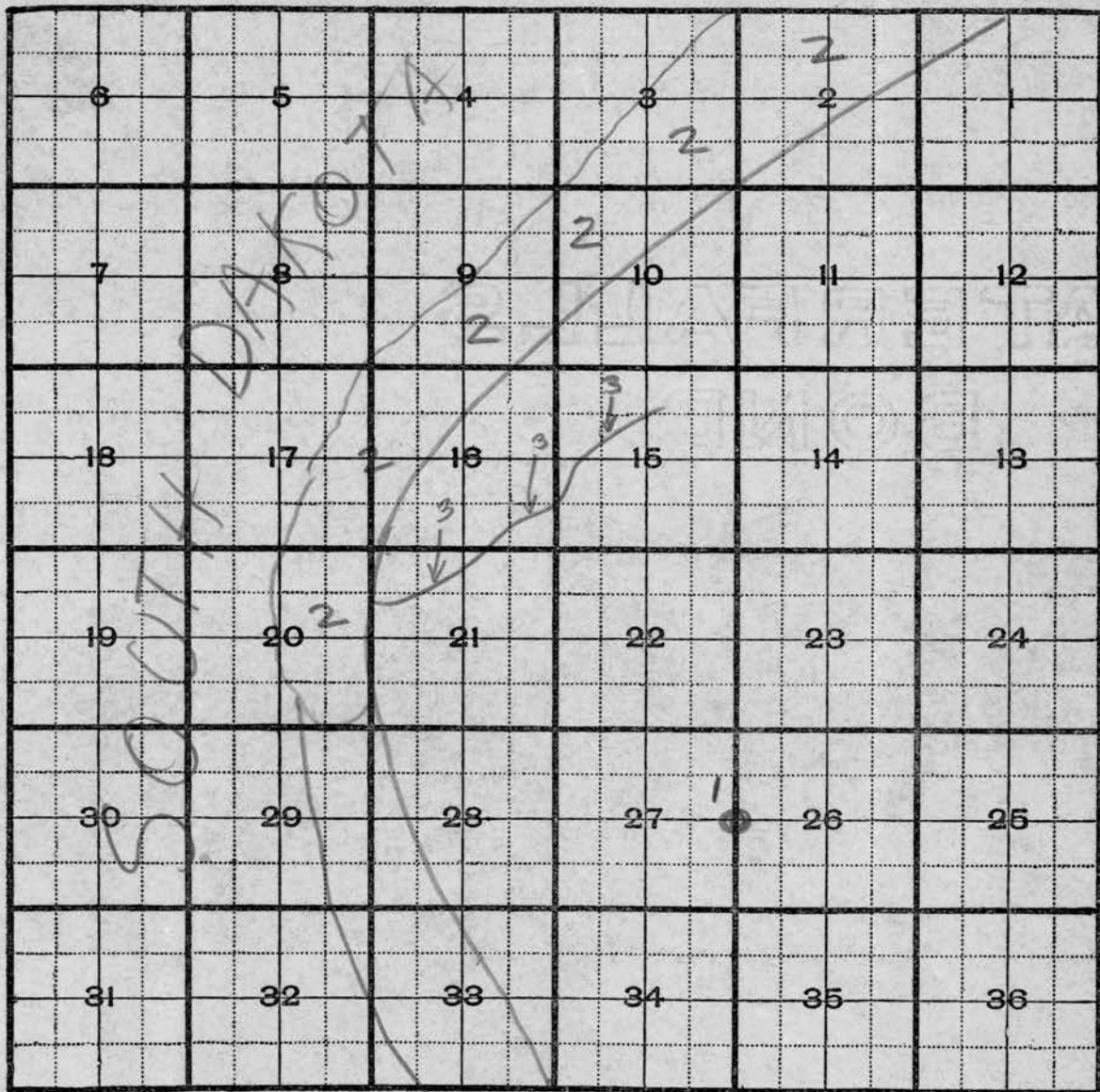
Gazeteer of Rivers and Streams, 1912

(Example of card index)

FOLSOM, TRAVERSE COUNTY

Township No. 125 N Range No. 49 W Mer. P. M.

- 1. Becker
- 2. Lake Traverse
- 3. Steer Creek
- etc
- etc



COOK COUNTY

Cultural Features

Villages, Townships, and Post Offices.

Grand Marais (P.O., V.)

Mineral Center (P.O.)

etc.

Roads

Gunflint Trail

etc.

Lakes

Winchell

etc.

Streams

Temperance

Hypsometric features

Mount Josephine

etc.

(Example of a check list. These lists will be valuable for my own use and although not the accepted method of presenting the material, nevertheless are valuable. These lists organize the material in a way not possible with simple card index or plat map method.)

SEP 21 1937

See Board

U.S. Forest Service
Walker, Minnesota
September, 19, 1937

Mr. Theodore C. Blegen
Secretary & Superintendent
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Blegen:

Reference is made to my official letter of September 9 concerning the return of Dr. Warren Upham's "Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origin and Historic Significance."

In the letter mentioned above I said that the book would be returned within two weeks, but I find that it will be of much use for another project on which I am working, and I would like to ask if the loan may be extended for another two weeks.

I have been interested for the past two years in writing a history of the Superior National Forest but I have never been in Minnesota long enough at a time to have access to any Minnesota publications pertaining to that portion of the country. Dr. Upham's book contains much useful information for Cook, Lake, and St. Louis counties, and I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to gather this information while the book is available.

Unless I hear from you to the contrary I shall plan to keep this book until the first week in October when it will be returned to you.

Very truly yours,

Clifford G. Anderson
CLIFFORD G. ANDERSON

*J. M. Wallace =
Southern
Northwestern*

St. Paul, Minnesota
September 25, 1937


Mr. Edward G. Pleva
725 Huron Street S. E.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Pleva:

I have recently received a letter from Mr. Guy W. Cravens, Deputy Commissioner of Conservation, concerning your interest in the State Geographic Board, and they have sent me your proposal in this connection.

I would like very much to have you arrange for a meeting between ourselves in order to discuss the whole plan. The reason I am requesting this is due to the fact that the Board has designated me as assistant secretary. I would suggest that you phone me, and we will plan an appointment.

Yours very truly,



Henry E. Cass
Deputy Director
Division of Lands & Minerals

HEC-g

September 27, 1937

Mr. Clifford G. Anderson
United States Forest Service
Walker, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I have been out of town for a few days and therefore have not had an opportunity to reply to your letter of September 19. By all means, retain the book for a few weeks longer if you would like to do so. I am interested in knowing about your idea of writing a history of the Superior National Forest. I think you would find a good deal of material here at the Minnesota Historical Society bearing upon that subject. Had you thought of ever coming down to do some hunting in our records?

Sincerely yours,

TCB/H

Superintendent

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

EDWARD C. GALE, PRESIDENT
IRA C. OEHLER, VICE PRESIDENT
LESTER B. SHIPPEE, VICE PRESIDENT
EVERETT H. BAILEY, TREASURER

THEODORE C. BLEGEN
SECRETARY AND SUPERINTENDENT

GERTRUDE KRAUSNICK, LIBRARIAN
GRACE L. NUTE, CURATOR OF MANUSCRIPTS
WILLOUGHBY M. BABCOCK, CURATOR OF
MUSEUM AND ARCHAEOLOGIST

December 1, 1937

To the Members of the State Geographic Board:

A meeting of the board is hereby called under the authority of the chairman to be held in the office of the Commissioner of Conservation on Monday, December 6, at 3:00 P.M.

With the help of the assistant secretary and also of Mr. Pleva, and Mr. Babcock of the Minnesota Historical Society staff, I have drafted (1) a form letter to be sent to the chairman of the board of county commissioners in each county of the state; (2) a form of a petition to be used in the counties proposing hearings before the county boards on changes of names; (3) a form for the county boards to use in transmitting to the Geographic Board resolutions calling for changes; (4) a form for the Geographic Board to use in recording its action on the county resolutions and transmitting a record of that action to the county board; and finally (5) a form for a proclamation to be issued by the board after a change has been proposed.

I am proposing in the second place that the board take over and utilize a portion of the Minnesota Historical Society's WPA project with a view to making a systematic collection of information on cards with reference to geographic names in the state. We have a group of five persons, including an excellent supervisor, who can undertake this work, to be done of course under our general supervision.

A form for a possible letterhead has been submitted through the office of the State Printer and will be brought to the meeting for consideration. As things now stand, however, the board has no funds upon which to draw in buying stationery, supplies, or equipment.

Very truly yours,

TCE/H

of Dec. 13 7

Elsberg, N. W.

December 8, 1937

Mr. N. W. Elsberg, Commissioner
State Highway Department
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Elsberg:

There will be a meeting of the State Geographic Board on Wednesday, December 15, at 10:00 A.M. in the office of the Commissioner of Conservation to consider plans.

I trust that you can be present, or, if that should be impossible, arrange to have a representative at the meeting. Forms have been drafted for possible use in reaching the counties in the state. The chief purpose of the meeting will be to consider these forms and, in general, plans for an active program to be carried on by the Board.

Sincerely yours,

TGB/H

Superintendent

Wenzel, H.C.

December 8, 1937

Mr. Herman C. Wenzel, Commissioner
State Department of Conservation
State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Wenzel:

There will be a meeting of the State Geographic Board on Wednesday, December 15, at 10:00 A.M. in the office of the Commissioner of Conservation to consider plans.

Forms have been drafted for possible use in reaching the counties in the state. The chief purpose of the meeting will be to consider these forms and, in general, plans for an active program to be carried on by the Board.

Sincerely yours,

TCB/H

Superintendent

December 22, 1937

Memo. to Mr. Pleva

As I am obliged to attend a conference in Minneapolis, I am leaving a few things for you to examine in case you come to the Society today. More especially I should be glad if you would look at a tentative draft of a letter to be sent to the chairman of the county boards and revised copies of some four or five forms which we are considering using. While you are here I wonder if you would consider again the question of just what kind of work could be done through a WPA project in carding information. Mr. Babcock has been doing a little experimental work along this line, and I should be very glad if you would arrange to talk things over with him a little.

TCB

DEC 22 1937

I have spoken to Mr. Babcock and have read the attached letter and forms. My reaction ~~has been~~ ^{is} favorable. However one or two more points come to mind. I will submit to you within a day or two my suggestions for the work under a WPA project. These suggestions may not be out of line with those of Mr. Babcock, but ~~they~~ may throw a little more light on certain aspects.

E. Pleva

To the Chairman of the Board of _____ County:

Dear Sir:

The State Geographic Board, established under the provisions of Chapter 63, Minnesota Session Laws of 1937, and consisting of the Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of Highways, and the Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, is now organized and prepared to exercise the functions assigned to it by the law.

The powers and duties of the State Geographic Board are defined as follows: (1) to determine the correct and most appropriate names of the lakes, streams, places, and other geographic features in the state and the spelling thereof; (2) to pass upon and give names to such geographic features for which there is no single generally accepted name; (3) in co-operation with the county boards and with their approval, to change the names of such geographic features with the view to eliminating as far as possible duplication of names within the state; (4) to prepare and publish an official state dictionary of geographic names; and (5) to act as the state representative of the United States Geographic Board.

When names have been assigned by the State Geographic Board, they are to be used on all maps, records, documents, and other publications issued by the state or any of its departments and political sub-divisions, and such names shall be deemed the official name of such geographic features. No county board may order the change of or establish the name of any lake, river, or other body of water without the written approval of the State Geographic Board endorsed upon any resolution determining or fixing said name. A copy of the law is enclosed herewith.

Despite the wide powers given to the State Geographic Board under the law, the board feels that in general the naming of unnamed features and the changing of names now in use should be done in accordance with local sentiment as expressed by resolutions of the county boards, on the basis of formal petitions and hearings as provided under Chapter 35, Minnesota Session Laws of 1937. The board, of course, reserves the right to exercise its powers under the law when circumstances in its judgment warrant such action. The procedure for local action is laid down in Chapter 35, Minnesota Session Laws of 1937, a copy of which is attached hereto.

The main purpose of this letter is simply to let you know that the State Geographic Board is now in a position to consider requests from your board for the naming of unnamed geographic features in your county and for the changing of names where such action may be desirable or necessary to clear up confusion and to avoid duplication. Adequate evidence as to the facts should be submitted with the resolution of the county board making such request.

The state board has drafted forms for petitions to the county boards by citizens and also for resolutions by the county boards to the state board. These are intended simply as suggestions of possible procedure and I am enclosing herewith mimeographed copies of the forms as they have been worked out. I trust that you will find them satisfactory and useable.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary

? = petition?

To the County Board(s) of _____ County(Counties).

We, the undersigned, (legal voters residing within _____ County(Counties), the State Geographic Board), petition the County Board(s) of _____ County(Counties) to fix a day and place of hearing for (changing the name, naming) of a (lake, river, stream, _____) located within said county (counties) in section(s) _____, township(s) _____, range(s) _____ (east, west), from _____ to _____, for the reason that _____

Filed with Auditor _____ 19 _____	County Name _____	Signed _____	Address (give county) _____
Bond set at \$ _____ 19 _____	1-	_____	_____
Presented to Board(s) _____ 19 _____	2-	_____	_____
Notice of Hearing to State Geographic Board _____ 19 _____	3-	_____	_____
Hearing set for _____ (A.M. P.M. _____) 19 _____ at _____ Minnesota.	4-	_____	_____
	5-	_____	_____
	6-	_____	_____
	7-	_____	_____
	8-	_____	_____
	9-	_____	_____
	10-	_____	_____
	11-	_____	_____
	12-	_____	_____
	13-	_____	_____
	14-	_____	_____
	15-	_____	_____

To the State Geographic Board, Saint Paul:

A resolution of the County Board (s) of _____ County (counties)
 while in hearing at _____ Minnesota, on the _____ day of _____ 19____,
 upon a petition duly filed according to law, requesting ^{the (changing the name, naming)} ~~that the name~~ of a (lake,
 river, stream _____) located within said county (counties) in section (s) _____,
 township (s) _____, range (s) (east, west) ~~be changed, given~~ from _____
 to _____ for the reason that _____

(approving, disapproving) such change has been passed.

Chairman of Hearing

Certified by _____

Clerk of _____ County(counties) _____

on _____ 19 _____

STATE GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

(Address

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA.

To:

The resolution of the County Board (s) of _____ County (counties) while in hearing at _____ Minnesota on the _____ day _____ 19____, approving the proposal for (changing the name, naming) of a (lake, river, stream, _____) located within said county (counties) in section(s) _____, township(s) _____, range(s) _____ (east, west) from _____ to _____, for the reason that _____

was (approved, disapproved) at the meeting of the State Geographic Board held on _____ day of _____ 19____ at _____ (A.M. P.M.) in Saint Paul.

The name of said (lake, stream, river, _____), located in section(s) _____, township(s) _____, range(s) _____ (east, west) is hereby declared to be _____, by virtue of the power and authority granted this State Geographic Board under Chapter 63 Minnesota Session Lawd of 1937, approved March 8, 1937.

Chairman

Signed and certified by the State Geographic Board on _____ day of _____, 19____.

Copy of resolution and record of action filed with U.S. Board on Geographic Names, Washington, D.C. on _____ day of _____ 19____

STATE GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

Address

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

PROCLAMATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 63 Minnesota Session Laws of 1937 and under the authority and power vested in it by the said act, the STATE GEOGRAPHIC BOARD hereby declares the following to be the correct and most appropriate name of _____, a (lake, stream, place, geographic feature), located in _____ county(counties), in section(s) _____, township(s) _____, range(s) (east, west), Minnesota, the spelling to be as follows:

Following issuance of this notice, under the provisions of Section 3 of the said act, being Chapter 63 Minnesota Session Laws of 1937, the above name and the above spelling will hereafter be used on all maps, records, documents and other publications issued by the State or any of its departments and political sub-divisions for the said (lake, stream, place, geographic feature), and such name shall be deemed the official name of such geographic feature.

 Chairman

Signed and certified by the
 State Geographic Board on
 _____ day of _____ 19__.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

STATE GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

(Address)

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

PROCLAMATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

After due investigation, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 63, Session Minnesota Session Laws of 1937 and under the authority and power vested in it by the said act, the STATE GEOGRAPHIC BOARD hereby declares and pronounces the following to be the name given to the unnamed (lake, stream, place, geographic feature) located in _____ county(counties), in section(s) _____, township(s) _____, range(s) (east,west), Minnesota, the authorized spelling of said name to be as follows:

Following publication of this notice, under the provisions of Section 3 of the said act, being Chapter 63 Minnesota Session Laws of 1937, the above name and the above spelling will hereafter be used on all maps, records, documents and other publications issued by the State or any of its departments and political sub-divisions for the said (lake, stream, place, geographic feature), and such name shall be deemed the official name of such geographic feature.

Chairman

Signed and certified by the
 State Geographic Board on the
 _____ day of _____ 19__.

JUL 9 1937

MATTHIAS N. ORFIELD
DAVID J. ERICKSON
DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL

William S. Ervin
Attorney General
State Capitol
Saint Paul, Minnesota

ORDNER T. BUNDLIE
ROY C. FRANK
HARRY W. OEHLER
FRANK H. OSTERLIND
JOHN A. PEARSON
ROY C. SMELKER
ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL

July 2, 1937

File with
State Geographic
Board Records

Mr. Theodore C. Blegen
Secretary
State Geographic Board
HISTORICAL BUILDING

Dear Mr. Blegen:

We herewith acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 30 to Attorney General William S. Ervin. In your letter you ask our opinion as to the powers of the State Geographic Board and also whether Article 4, Section 33, of the Constitution of the State of Minnesota in any way interferes with the exercise of said powers.

It is impossible for us to give you a detailed opinion as to the powers of the board without your submitting specific questions. The law under which the board is operating is very specific and sets forth in detail the duties, powers and authority of the board. Unless the board is confused as to the extent of some particular power, we do not feel that we should go into a general discussion of the law. We will, however, be very pleased to answer any definite question that you may submit to us. Section 33 of Article 4 of the Constitution does not interfere in any manner with the exercise of the powers granted by said act.

Respectfully yours

WILLIAM S. ERVIN
Attorney General

By *Roy C. Frank*
ROY C. FRANK
Assistant Attorney General

RCF/IMM

State Geog. Board

Ervin, Wm. S.

June 30, 1937

Hon. William S. Ervin
Attorney-general for the State
of Minnesota
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Ervin:

I have been instructed by the newly established State Geographic Board to write you for an opinion as to the powers of the board under the act approved on March 8. I enclose herewith a copy of the act in question. At the first meeting there seemed to be some question as to whether Article 4, Section 33, of the Constitution of the state of Minnesota might stand in the way of the exercise of the powers granted by the new act. The board would be very glad to have an opinion from you on the law in question.

Sincerely yours,

TCB/H

Superintendent

Letters sent to
Krolap, Fred
Wetters, Miss.

HERMAN C. WENZEL
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION



Wenzel, H.C.

ROOM 356
STATE OFFICE BLDG.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

January 24th, 1938

Mr. Theodore Blegen, Sec'y.
Minnesota State Geographic Board
State Historical Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Blegen:-

The attached letter relative to the renaming of lakes, is being referred to you for attention, until such time as the Board holds another meeting.

Very truly yours,

Herman C. Wenzel
Commissioner of Conservation

HCW/R

JAN 29 1938



GENERAL DRAFTING CO., INC.

Mapmakers
21 WEST STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

January 25, 1938.

Minnesota State Geographical Board,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Gentlemen:

We have recently seen a newspaper story to the effect that a study is being made to avoid duplications in the names of the many lakes in your state.

In order that the various maps which we publish may be as up-to-date as possible, we would appreciate your informing us of any changes you may make as soon as this information is available.

Very truly yours,

DD Donaldson

GENERAL DRAFTING CO., INC.

DD:ES

January 31, 1938

General Drafting Company, Inc.
21 West Street
New York City

Attention: Mr. D. Donaldson

Gentlemen:

The newly created Minnesota State Geographic Board is tackling the problem of duplication of names, particularly the names of lakes, in this state, but the work is so complicated and involves so many problems that we have been obliged to work out fundamental plans for the collecting and tabulation of information as a first step. In other words, our work thus far has been preliminary. When we reach the stage of actual changes, I shall be very glad to keep your name on our mailing list for copies of proclamations regarding such changes.

Sincerely yours,

TCB/H

Superintendent

Publisher of
"Jewett" Plats
of Northern Minnesota

FEB 17 1938

Agent for
Walter S. Booth & Son
Legal Blanks

Itasca County Abstract Company, Inc.

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE
GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

February 14th, 1938

State Geographic Society
St. Paul, Minn.
Gentlemen,-

We notice in the newspapers that your
body is engaged in re-naming lakes as yet unnamed,
or which have duplicate names.

We publish maps of northern Minnesota,
on a scale of 1 inch to the mile and most of the
lakes have names, more or less correct, which we
desire to keep up to date.

In case you name, or change the name, of
any lake in northern Minnesota we would appreciate
if you would advise us of your action.

Yours very truly

Itasca County Abstract Company

G. C. McAllister
Secretary

P.S. You can see some of these maps in State Auditor's
office, we believe.

*return to ALL
G.C. McAllister*

*AGL: Will
you let him
know about
Lulkin
Lake?
TCB*

*Hold over.
What are
these maps?*

February 26, 1938

Mr. G. C. McAllister, Secretary
Itasca County Abstract Company
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

My dear Mr. McAllister:

Thank you for your letter of February 14 regarding your work in publishing maps. The State Geographic Board will be very glad to send you copies of proclamations to notify you of changes in names or the designation of names for hitherto unnamed lakes, streams, and other geographic features in Minnesota.

Up to the present time the work of the State Geographic Board has been largely of a preliminary nature, consisting of the collection of information regarding the lakes, streams, and other geographic features. It is expected, however, that greater activity will be displayed as this preliminary work is completed and as the interest of the people is aroused.

You undoubtedly will be interested to know that the board has taken action with regard to one geographic feature. Upon petition, the board of county commissioners of Lake County recommended that the hitherto unnamed lake located in section 17, township 59 N., range 11 W. of the 4th P.M., in Lake County, which is the ultimate source of the St. Louis River, be named Lake Culkin. This recommendation was approved by the State Geographic Board on September 16, 1937.

It occurs to me that since your firm is engaged in the publication of maps, and since they conform to the official names, it would be an excellent idea for this board to have copies of such maps. I do not know whether or not it is practicable for you to give us copies, but since the board has no funds upon which to draw for the purchase of such materials, we can only ask you for them. We shall greatly appreciate the courtesy.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Blegen, Secretary
State Geographic Board

AJL/t

McAllister, A.C.

February 28, 1938

Mr. G. C. McAllister, Secretary
Itasca County Abstract Company
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

My dear Mr. McAllister:

Thank you for your letter of February 14 regarding your work in publishing maps. The State Geographic Board will be very glad to send you copies of proclamations to notify you of changes in names or the designation of names for hitherto unnamed lakes, streams, and other geographic features in Minnesota.

Up to the present time the work of the State Geographic Board has been largely of a preliminary nature, consisting of the collection of information regarding the lakes, streams, and other geographic features. It is expected, however, that greater activity will be displayed as this preliminary work is completed and as the interest of the people is aroused.

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Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Blegen, Secretary
State Geographic Board

AJL/t

MAR 15 1938

Itasca County Abstract Company, Inc.

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

March 11th, 1938

State Geographical Board
St. Paul, Minn.
Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, Secretary,
Dear Mr. Blegen, -

We have your letter of the 28th and have marked Lake Culkin on our originals, and when the next edition containing this township is printed it will be so shown.

Regarding copies of all of our plats being furnished you, beg to state that it would seem as if you should have these maps, if for nothing more than to show what old time timber cruisers used in their work.

However as there are nearly 800 of these, the amount, at 25¢ each, would be more than this small concern could absorb. It is quite a physical job to assemble all of these maps from their individual boxes, to say nothing of the cost. We are disposed to make a very substantial reduction in this case, but feel that the state is more able than we to pay a little something. If we could get \$50 out of it we would be satisfied.

Yours very truly

Itasca County Abstract Company

H. P. McAllister
Secretary

*AGL
+
GK:
What
do
you
say?*

*Jones fund
JK*

~~D.T. file on Geog. Board file, please.~~

Cass, Henry E.

March 12, 1938

Mr. Henry E. Cass, Deputy Director
Division of Lands and Minerals
Room 14, State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Cass:

I am sending you this note to let you know that, in accordance with our conversation the other day, I took the sample of a proposed letterhead for the State Geographic Board over to Mr. McGowan's office. He informed me that as soon as he could get a requisition through he would order five thousand of them. I told him that you would call him to confirm my statement that the expense would be met by the Conservation Department. I imagine, therefore, that the letterheads will arrive in a short time.

Sincerely,

Head of the Newspaper Department

MAR 17 1938

The GEORGE F. CRAM COMPANY
Geographers · Engravers · Printers · Publishers
ESTABLISHED 1867
Maps · Atlases · Globes
Indianapolis, U.S.A.

HOME OFFICE & PLANT
730 EAST WASHINGTON STREET

TELEPHONE RILEY 5564

March 14, 1938

Minnesota State Geographical Board
St. Paul, Minnesota

Gentlemen:

We understand that you are re-naming a great many of the lakes in Minnesota and would like to obtain data in regard to the name changes as soon as the information is ready for distribution. The information, of course, is for use in keeping our maps up-to-date. Will you not write us as to when we may be able to obtain this material and the cost of the same?

We shall greatly appreciate this courtesy.

Very truly yours

THE GEORGE F. CRAM COMPANY

F. L. Lyle

Editorial Department

FLL

TCB

March 21, 1938

From the information that I have been able to gather regarding the "Jewett plats" of Minnesota offered for sale by the Itasca County Abstract Company, it seems to me that if funds are available for this purpose it would be a wise investment. The ordinary price of these maps is twenty-five cents each, and if there are, as the secretary of the company states, nearly 800 of them the approximate total cost of them would be about \$200. These maps are offered to the Minnesota Historical Society or to the State Geographic Board for \$50. Presumably that price includes the cost of packing and shipping.

If the maps follow with as great faithfulness the detail shown on similar plats in the offices of the secretary of state and state auditor, it seems to me that the bargain would be hard to pass by. The chief usefulness of the maps at the present time will be for reference purposes in connection with the work of the State Geographic Board and for that purpose they will be very valuable. If the Jones fund can be utilized for the purchase of these maps, I should recommend that they be bought.

AJL

Geographic Board

March 21, 1938

Mr. G. C. McAllister, Secretary
Itasca County Abstract Company
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

My dear Mr. McAllister:

Mr. Blegen has asked me to write you for some information about the series of maps to which you referred in your letter of March 11. I might say at the outset that the State Geographic Board has no funds upon which to draw for the purchase of any materials. It happens, however, that the Minnesota Historical Society is interested in this series of maps, but the amount of the expenditure necessitates careful consideration on the part of the executive committee of the society before a purchase can be made. For that reason we should like to have as much detailed knowledge about the maps as it is possible for us to get.

Can you tell me, first of all, whether this series of 800 maps in any way duplicates itself, or do the maps represent 800 distinct townships or groups of townships? The plats which I have seen in the state auditor's office, I believe, are drawn on a scale of two inches to a mile, and I am uncertain whether your maps follow this scale, or, as you indicated in your letter of February 14, if they are drawn on a scale of one inch to the mile. Do you show details as carefully as they are shown on these larger maps, making due allowance, of course, for any reduction in size? I realize that these questions can best be answered by looking at copies of the maps, and if you can send us one or two samples for examination, we will be in a position to make a recommendation to the executive committee of the society with regard to their purchase.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t

Head of Newspaper Department

MAR 26 1936

Itasca County Abstract Company, Inc.

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

March 24th, 1936

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen
Newspaper Dept.
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minn.
Dear Mr. Larsen, -

As requested in your favor of the 21st, we are sending copies of three townships, selected at random, which will give you some idea as to what the maps consist of.

There are no duplicates. They comprise practically the entire timber area of northern Minnesota, excepting Pine county and roughly excepting townships south of Mille Lacs Lake. The excepted area was largely logged over, and entirely located, before Jewett & Son started in business, so there was no demand for this locality.

The originals of these maps are all hand drawn, and you will see that the Jewetts, who made them, were certainly master craftsmen.

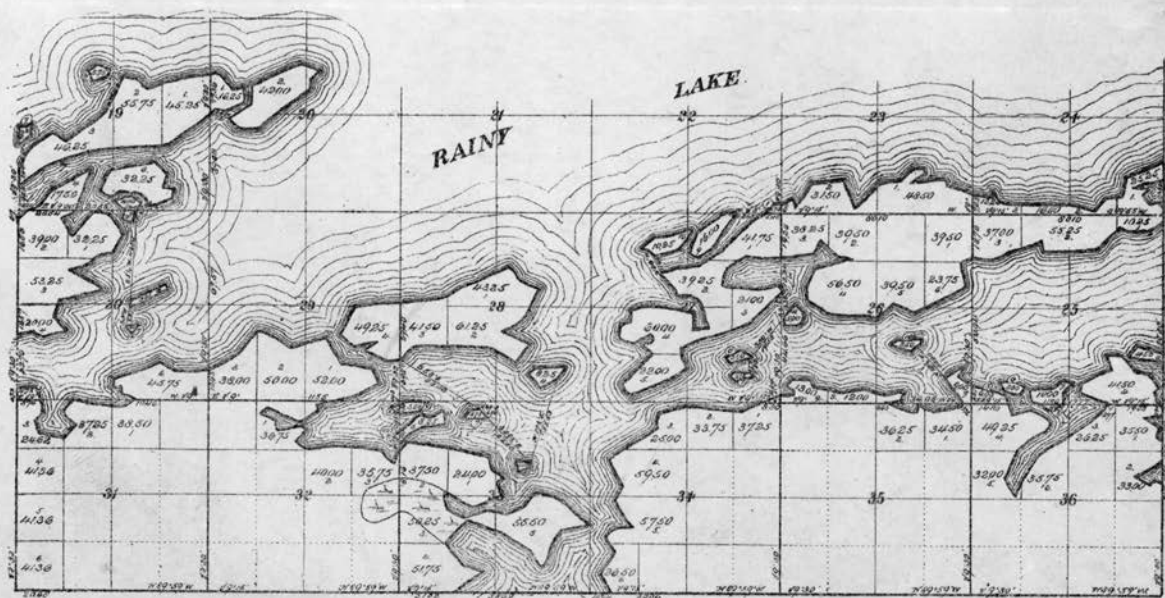
As originally drawn there were very few roads shown, aside from those shown on the Government maps, from which our drawings were made, but as later editions were printed the roads are added where it was at all possible to get approximate accuracy. The maps themselves are remarkable as regards their accuracy, and when you consider the immense job of making the originals, it is more so. Only one mistake has been called to our attention, as being different from the Government survey.

Yours very truly

Itasca County Abstract Company

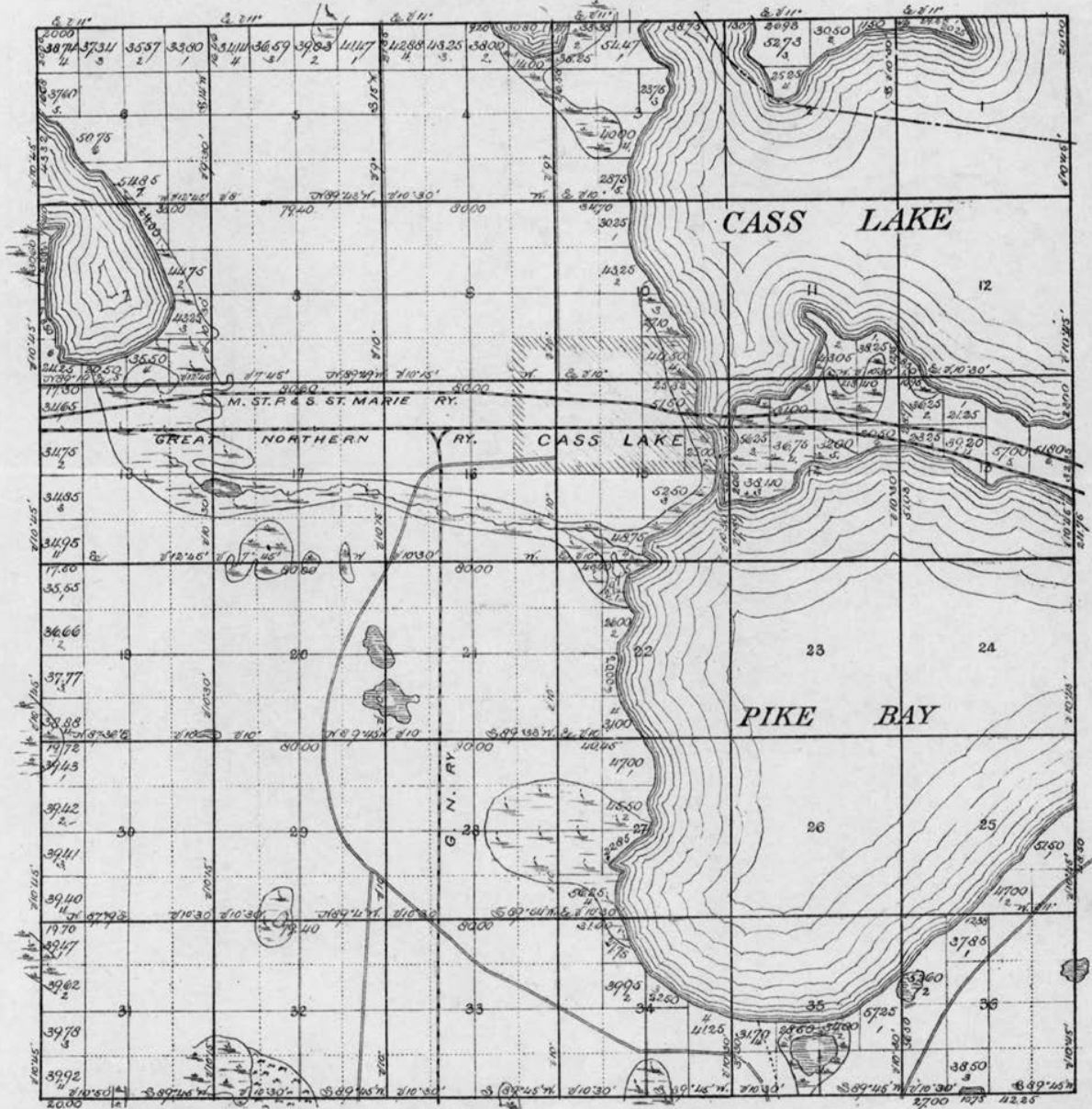
A. P. McCallister
Secretary

Township No 71 N Range No 22 W 4th Mer.



PUBLISHED BY JEWETT & SON, ST. PAUL.

Township, N^o 145 N. Range, N^o 31 W. 5th Mer.





PUBLISHED BY
 ITASCA COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY
 GRAND RAPIDS, MINN.

ITASCA COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY
GRAND RAPIDS, MINN.

PRINTED MAPS



Minnesota Historical Society

St. Paul

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen
Newspaper Department

Minn

TCB

March 28, 1938

Attached hereto are three samples of the "Jewett Plats" published by the Itasca County Abstract Company. It seems to me that, regardless of their other virtues or weaknesses, these maps would be extremely valuable for the work of the State Geographic Board. Mr. McAllister's letter, I believe, answers the questions raised by the committee in considering the question of purchasing this set.

AJL

Geog. Board

March 28, 1938

Mr. G. C. McAllister, Secretary
Itasca County Abstract Company
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

My dear Mr. McAllister:

Thank you for your letter of March 24, inclosing sample copies of your township plats. With the information at hand we now can proceed to a study of the recommendations to be made to the executive committee of the society regarding their purchase.

There is one further question which occurs to me as relevant. These maps are not dated in any way. Do you, by any chance, have records of the dates when these maps were published? I suppose that they are copied directly from the plats made by the United States land office. That would give us a starting date. Assuming that the society does purchase these maps I hope that it will be possible to obtain, as a set, the maps published in one edition. By the way, how many editions have been published so far?

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t

Head of Newspaper Department

APR 1 1938

Itasca County Abstract Company, Inc.

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

March 30th, 1938

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen
Newspaper Department
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minn.
Dear Mr. Larsen,-

Replying to your favor of the 28th would say that we do not know much about when these little maps were first published, but we would guess somewhere between 1880 and 1885, although it might well be prior to 1880. My personal recollection dates back to the early '90s and they were going strong then, ~~ix~~ used very extensively in this county.

Regarding the editions printed, it would be impossible to even guess how many have been printed, but we would think that not more than one or two for the great majority of the townships. Each edition consisted of about 200 of each town, it if this was exhausted another would be printed. Outside of this county we are still working on the originals obtained from Jewett 20 years ago, for a majority of the townships, and it is not impossible that they are part of the original edition. Owing to the fact that we use them on abstracts in this county and in Carlton county we have had several editions, of some of the towns, in these counties.

The Jewetts used to have agents all over northern Minn., who carried a stock of maps of their territory and sold them on commission. We just run onto two maps returned by two of these agents; One was B.F. Case, in the State Auditor's office and the other Beckfelt & Mather, of Grand Rapids. They used a rubber stamp on the plats. Mr. Case must be dead, although some of the older employes, if any, in the court house probably remember his, and B & M have been out of business for many years.

Yours very truly

Itasca County Abstract Company

H. S. McAllister
Secretary



THE LUND PRESS, INC.

APR 5 1938

Printers

MAIN 6338

LEAVE IT TO LUND • 406 SIXTH AVENUE SOUTH • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

April
Fourth
1938

Dr. Theo. C. Elegen
Minnesota Historical Society
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Elegen:

We sent you several days ago a proof of a letterhead for the State Geographic Board, which has not been returned.

We were asked by the State Printer to send Herman C. Wenzel a proof also. This proof we have an O.K. on, and would like to hear from you before proceeding with the printing.

Yours very sincerely,

WOL.vs

THE LUND PRESS, INC.

Handwritten signature

1938

Memo. to ~~CK~~ and AJL

The Executive Committee, after considering carefully the question of these plats, concluded not to authorize the purchase in view of the availability of virtually the same material in the archives of the Secretary of State.

TCB

April 22

Files
Mgr. Bacon

JERRY D. BACON & SONS.
PROPRIETORS

KEITH V. BACON,
MANAGER

MAY 12 1938



Hotel Dacotah
EUROPEAN
J.D. BACON & SONS. PROP.
GRAND FORKS,
N. D.



DACOTAH LOUNGE

May 9, 1938

*AGL: Will
you please
draft an
answer?
TCB*

Mr. Mike Holm
Secretary of State
State Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

REC'D.
MAY 11 1938
DIV. OF GAME & FISH

Dear Sir:

A recent conversation has given rise to the question of the procedure necessary to rename a lake in northern Minnesota. I am writing this letter to learn what steps are necessary to officially change the existing name of a lake to a chosen one.

It has been maintained that permission of the War Department is necessary to change the existing name of a lake no matter where it lies within the State. Is this true?

I shall appreciate any information that you can give me. Thank you.

Yours very truly,
Ben Patterson
Ben Patterson

DRIVE-IN-GARAGE WITH LOBBY ENTRANCE

File

Patterson

May 17, 1938

Mr. Ben Patterson
Grand Forks, North Dakota

My dear Mr. Patterson:

Your letter to secretary of state Mike Holm was referred to the State Geographic Board of Minnesota for answering. It is not necessary to obtain the permission of the war department in order that the name of a lake may be changed.

However, there are definite steps prescribed by law which must be followed in order that a change may be made legally, and for your convenience I am enclosing a set of instructions showing this general procedure. The county auditor of the county in which the lake is located undoubtedly can give you any of the information you might need. The State Geographic Board, however, would like to keep informed of any activity along this line. Therefore, I will appreciate it if you will let me know what lake it is you wish to have renamed, and also what steps you take to bring this about. If you have any further questions to ask, please do not hesitate to write me.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t
Enc.

Theodore C. Blegen, Secretary
State Geographic Board

June 2, 1938

Mr. Ben Patterson
Hotel Dacotah
Grand Forks, North Dakota

My dear Mr. Patterson:

Our letter to you of May 17, 1938, was returned to us unclaimed. On the chance that you may have left a forwarding address at the Hotel Dacotah we are sending it again to that address with a request that it be forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Blegen
Secretary, State Geographic Board

AJL/t

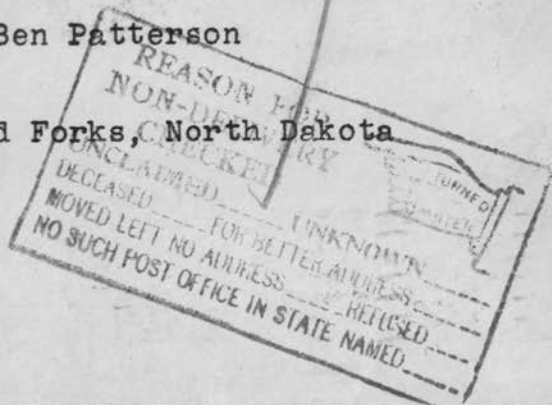
By

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA



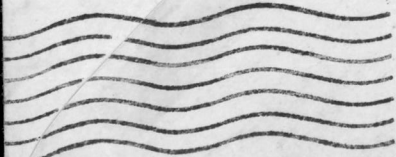
Mr. Ben Patterson

Grand Forks, North Dakota



GRAND FORKS, N. DAK.
MAY 19 1938
(GEN. DEL.)

GRAND FORKS, N. DAK.
MAY 1 3:30 PM 1938



File
Geo. Bond

OCT 7 1938

Edmund L. Kowalczyk
1166 Milwaukee Avenue,
Apartment 222,
Chicago, Illinois.

October 5, 1938.

Minnesota Historical Society,
Central Avenue and Cedar Street,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Gentlemen:

Would it be possible for you to supply me with
some historical data in regard to the following towns *in Minnesota*:

- 1-FLORIAN ? *rep. o. not incorp-*
- 2-GATZKE *Marshall Co.*
- see Beltrami Account -* 3-PUPOSKY *Geo. names 39*
- 4-TROSKY *.. 4/8*

I will be grateful to you for any information you
may supply me with.

Very sincerely yours,

Edmund Louis Kowalczyk
Edmund Louis Kowalczyk

ELK-s1

File Board
Geog.

November 28, 1938

Mr. Edmund L. Kowalczyk
1166 Milwaukee Avenue, Apt. 222
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Mr. Kowalczyk:

Sometime ago you addressed a letter to the Minnesota Historical Society requesting information about certain geographic names in Minnesota. Under the auspices of the newly established State Geographic Board of Minnesota, we have had a group of workers gathering information of this kind. The origin of many names, however, is obscure and we are unable to give a great deal of information about them.

With regard to the name Florian, the only information that we have so far obtained is that it is, or was, a post office in Marshall County. Gatzke likewise is a post office in Marshall County, and Trosky is a railroad village and post office in Elmer Township in Pipestone County. For these three names we have been unable to discover any information relating to the origins of the names. We shall keep your letter in mind, however, and as soon as it is possible for us to answer the question of the origin of these three names we shall be very glad to pass the information on to you.

With regard to the fourth name listed by you -- Puposky -- we find that the word is of Ojibway origin. Giacomo Beltrami, on his visit to the headwaters of the Mississippi River in 1823, found that the Indians gave the name Puposky to Mud Lake, which is Durand and Maple Ridge townships in Beltrami County. This name he translated as meaning "the end of the shaking land," meaning, according to his translation, swamps the surface of which is shaken when one walks upon it. The name also has been translated simply as Mud Lake. You may find Beltrami's account in pages 301 to 482 of his Pilgrimage in Europe and America Leading to the Discovery of the Source of the Mississippi and Bloody River, with a Description of the Whole Course of the Former, and of the Ohio, which was published in London in 1828. For other information about the name I suggest that you consult Warren Upham, Minnesota Geographic Names,

Page 2. E. L. Kowalczyk, 11/28/38

which is volume 17 of the Minnesota Historical Society
Collections.

I am sorry that we are unable to get you more information about these other names. As I said before, however, as soon as more information about them has been uncovered, we shall be glad to send it on to you.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t

Head of Newspaper Department

OCT 22 1938

LOUIS W. HILL, JR.
1453 W-FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA .

October 20, 1938.

GARFIELD 1132

AJL

Do you know about this?

Dr. Theodore Blegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Dr. Blegen:

In case you are not already familiar with the fact, I am just sending you this note. I understand that the Great Northern Railroad has a file which, although not complete, has a good deal of information concerning the naming of the various towns along the line. I also understand that some other railroad published a book concerning the naming of the towns along its line.

||

|||

TAB

Sincerely,

Louis W. Hill, Jr.

LWH:TC

Geographic
Board

TCB

October 26, 1938

I was interested to know that the Great Northern Railroad has collected information about geographic names along its line. I wonder if we can get access to that file. If you think it desirable, I might contact Mr. Moore of the Great Northern publicity staff. He has been very friendly and probably would try to make this information available for us. Or would you rather write directly to Mr. McKenney?

The book to which Mr. Hill referred is A History of the Origin of the Place Names Connected With the Chicago and Northwestern and Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railways, by W. H. Stennett (Chicago, 1908). This society has a copy. Do you suppose the Great Northern contemplates a publication of a similar nature.

AJL

OCT 28 1938

STATE OF MINNESOTA

ELMER A. BENSON
GOVERNOR

DIVISION DIRECTORS
ELLERY A. FOSTER
FORESTRY
RAY D. NOLAN
LANDS AND MINERALS
HARRY E. SPEAKES
GAME AND FISH

DIVISION DIRECTORS
HAROLD W. LATHROP
STATE PARKS
ED. L. SHAVE
TOURIST BUREAU
WALTER S. OLSON
DRAINAGE AND WATERS

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

GUY W. CRAVENS
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

ADDRESS: STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

HERMAN C. WENZEL
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

October 27, 1938

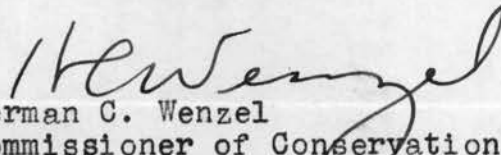
Mr. Theodore Blegen, Sec'y.
State Geographic Board
Historical Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Blegen:

I am in receipt of your letter of October 26th, suggesting that we hold a meeting of the State Geographic Board next Monday.

This is agreeable to me and I have set the time at 11 A.M. next Monday morning, October 31st, if agreeable to you.

Very truly yours,


Herman C. Wenzel
Commissioner of Conservation

HCW/R

October 28, 1938

Mr. N. W. Elsberg
Highway Commissioner
1246 University Ave.,
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Elsberg:-

There will be a meeting of the State
Geographic Board at 11 o'clock on Monday,
October 31, in Mr. Wenzel's office, 356
State Office Building. We hope very much
that you will be able to attend.

Very truly yours

Secretary State Geographic Board

Mr Cass called again at about 2:15 -

He seems to want to see you about this thing. He speaks of "duplication of effort" of some sort in a way that I can't quite comprehend. There is this much to say, it seems to me, any work done in this field must inevitably lead the worker to this place, and I am not aware that anything of the sort has been done, except for the work of the Pleoan. This thing becomes something of a mystery to me.

but it apparently has the
case all upset.

A. J. L.

TCB

November 23, 1938

Mr. Cass called, in some perturbation, yesterday regarding the form card for the geographic names project. He informed me that in the report submitted by Mr. Pleva at the conclusion of his work this summer, a supply of form cards especially devised for such a project could be obtained in any quantity from the University of Minnesota, and because of this, the mimeographing of the card, which we submitted was being discontinued.

It happens that the form for the card which we devised was worked out independently by us. However, it was discussed with Mr. Pleva at different times during the summer. Mr. Pleva did not mention at any time any form cards devised by the university even though I specifically asked for information of that sort. The card which we devised was discussed with Mr. Cass several months ago. It has been demonstrated that it is satisfactory and we now have had a supply of ten thousand printed. Using this card as a basis, the work of compiling information on geographic names in ten counties is now complete.

Mr. Pleva's report has not been seen by Mr. Blegen although Mr. Pleva was employed, I believe, on the condition that he work in co-operation with Mr. Blegen. Neither Mr. Blegen nor I have had an opportunity to see the recommendations he made.

AJL

TCB

December 2, 1938

During a conference with Mr. Vandemark, a tentative plan was worked out for the co-operation of the Writers' Project with the State Geographic Board in the compilation of information about Minnesota geographic names. Mr. Vandemark will write to you making this proposal in a definite form so that the State Geographic Board can pass upon the plan and decide whether or not it wishes to accept the aid of the Writers' Project. The plan consists of the following features:

The personnel assigned to work on this project will be ~~entirely~~ under the direction of the State Geographic Board, or its agent.

Mr. Vandemark will furnish a competent editor to revise the temporary slips for typing.

Mr. Vandemark will furnish three or four competent research workers to assist in the compilation of material. These workers will be persons of more than average educational training and with experience in research work. He does not have available any typists, and it therefore will be necessary for us to provide such typists as the work will require.

May I recommend that this offer be accepted? There are several reasons why I think it advisable to do so. In the first place, the State Geographic Board is required by law to compile a list of geographic names and publish the same. The Writers' Project is under orders to perform work of the same nature. The scope of the work to be undertaken by the Writers' Project,

indeed, is more extensive than that contemplated in the preparation of a gazetteer of Minnesota geographic names, but the additional information required is of a type which can readily be gathered from special compilations already made. A second reason why I think we should take advantage of this is the fact that the Writers' Project apparently is under no restrictions as to the quality of its personnel, and, therefore, is able to obtain competent workers with much less difficulty than we have encountered. A third feature in favor of the plan is that the State Geographic Board will be in a position to set up a standard of work, and will have supervision of it.

This whole proposal will be submitted to you, of course, as a tentative plan. There is no understanding or agreement at the present time, but if the board will accept the offer, the agreement can be put into force immediately.

The question of sponsorship of the Writers' Project "Encyclopedia of Minnesota" was brought up, but I did not consider that I had any authority to discuss that phase of the work. I explained to Mr. Van de Mark the nature of the board, and told him that, since it is without funds, the question of publication is one which I could not answer. He probably will bring up this question of sponsorship in his letter to you.

A. J. L.

Geog. Board

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
LONDON, CANADA

February 7, 1939

Dr. Arthur J. Larsen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Saint Paul, Minn., U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Larsen;

I wish to thank you very much for your letter. As I indicated in my report concerning place-names, things beyond my control made it impossible to do what I had intended. If I had been permitted to carry out my original plans I know I could have made a definite contribution to the general problem. However I am very pleased to hear that what I did do was satisfactory.

I cannot get place-names completely out of my brain. I still find myself putting bibliographical data on cards despite the fact that I have been told "place-names are of no significance". One of the most popular talks I am giving through the extension division here is "How Places Get Names".

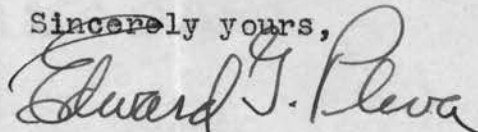
I enjoy my teaching assignments very much. The Canadian student is a high type of scholar, much more highly selected than the average American under-graduate. My methods are new to the teaching situation here but I have been encouraged by everyone from the President down to continue just the way I began.

I wish you luck regarding the 1936 Atlas. I know I wasted two valuable days last summer parking on the Highway Department door-step.

The Canadiana section of the University Library here is a joy to see. As can be expected, the area covered spills over the edges somewhat and there is much of interest concerning Minnesota. There are numerous items in my special interests that I never saw in the Minnesota Historical or University libraries. I would be glad to send you a listing of these items if you would care to see it.

We enjoy Canada and Canadian living very much but of course Minnesota will always be Home. Maybe the gods will be propitious and someday we may get back to where our interests really lie.

Sincerely yours,


Edward G. Pleva

EP:s

MAR 28 1939

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DIVISION DIRECTORS

ELLERY A. FOSTER
FORESTRY

RAY D. NOLAN
LANDS AND MINERALS

HARRY E. SPEAKES
GAME AND FISH

GUY W. CRAVENS
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

HERMAN C. WENZEL
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DIVISION DIRECTORS

HAROLD W. LATHROP
STATE PARKS

ED. L. SHAVE
TOURIST BUREAU

WALTER S. OLSON
DRAINAGE AND WATERS

ADDRESS: STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL, MINN.

March 27, 1939

Prof. Theo. Elegen,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Minnesota Historical Bldg.,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Friend:

What progress is your committee making relative to renaming Minnesota's lakes? At recent meetings throughout the state, principally with Chambers of Commerce and resort associations, I have been asked what the committee has done. I was not able to give accurate information.

Sincerely,

Ed L. Shave
Ed L. Shave, Director
MINNESOTA TOURIST BUREAU

ELS/1

*A94:
Will you
please
draft a
reply?
70B*

March 30, 1939

Mr. Ed L. Shave, Director
Minnesota Tourist Bureau
Department of Conservation
State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Shave:

The State Geographic Board of Minnesota is actively at work on the problem of changing names of lakes and other geographic features in Minnesota. Up to the present time, however, its work has been more or less of a preliminary nature. The state law creating the board separated its work into two general divisions. One phase of the work is that of listing all geographic names, and determining their origins. The second phase consists of giving names to lakes, streams, or other geographic features which have not been named previously, and of changing names where it seems necessary and desirable because of duplication.

In general, it has not seemed practicable to undertake the second phase of the work on a large scale until a considerable amount of progress has been made in listing and classifying existing geographic names. Since last August we have had a group, ranging in size from three to five persons, working constantly on the problem of listing these geographic names and determining their origins. Up to the present time the names in twenty-seven of Minnesota's eighty-seven counties have been listed in a preliminary form. The work is continuing as rapidly as it is possible for us to do it.

In fulfilling the second function of the geographic board it has been found advisable to proceed with some care in order that local sentiment may always guide the action of the board. We do not want to be arbitrary in any way, and the law clearly provides for co-operation between the people of a community and the geographic board. May I recite briefly the methods in the laws for changing the names of geographic features or for giving names to features which do not have names? A petition signed by fifteen legal voters of a county should be presented to the board of county commissioners describing the lake or stream in question, giving

both the old name, if there is one, and the new name and telling why the new name is desirable. The county board then is asked to hold a public hearing on this question and determine local sentiment. If the county board then makes a recommendation to the State Geographic Board, this body is free to take action on the name with the assurance that it will have local support behind the action of the board. That is one method of procedure. The more direct, but also more arbitrary, way is for the geographic board to change the names or give new names without this consultation of community feeling.

Unfortunately, the chief difficulty seems to lie in getting the local communities to take action. At the present time there are at least four very definite propositions before the State Geographic Board upon which the board, in view of this policy of obtaining local support, cannot act until the counties have expressed their preferences. As soon as local action is taken, the geographic board can and will proceed with dispatch in these matters. Perhaps you, in your contacts with the people of the state, can emphasize the fact that the board must have the co-operation of the people. I might add that numerous inquiries have been addressed to the board, but that after they have been referred to county officials they seem to lag or to lapse entirely.

I hope that this will explain the policy of the State Geographic Board in its action on these rather important questions. We are eager to proceed as rapidly as we can get support from the people.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t

Secretary, State Geographic Board

Geog. Board

July 5, 1939

Regional Forester, North Central Region
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
161 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Attention: Mr. A. G. Hamel, Acting Regional Forester

E
MAPS, R-9
Geographic Names

My dear Mr. Hamel:

Mr. Blegen has asked me to acknowledge your letter of June 24, and the letter and enclosure of May 23. I am afraid it is my fault that nothing has been done on this suggested project of co-operation between the State Geographic Board and the Forest Service to clarify geographic name discrepancies in the national forest areas of Minnesota. Because the personnel of the State Geographic Board was uncertain, it seemed advisable not to push the work at this time. I therefore laid your letter aside until the board was ready to take action. I think I can predict that the board will gladly co-operate in this plan or any other which may be suggested to it.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t

December 11, 1939

Mr. M. J. Hoffmann, Commissioner
Department of Highways
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Hoffmann:

I have just written a letter to Mr. Merrill suggesting that the members of the State Geographic Board, of which you are a member, ought to get together at some time convenient to themselves within the next week or ten days to discuss some of the problems confronting the Board. Would you be able to attend such a meeting in the very near future? Perhaps you can tell me what would be the most convenient day for such a meeting. I am sure that there will be at least two matters requiring official action by the State Geographic Board which will have to be taken up before the end of the year, and there are other things to discuss as well.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur J. Larsen
Acting Superintendent

AJL/U

December 11, 1939

Mr. Lewis H. Merrill, Acting Commissioner
Department of Conservation
State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Merrill:

I wonder if it would not be advisable for the members of the State Geographic Board of Minnesota to get together to hold a conference about the work of the Board. I suppose that because of my contact with the work over a period of a year and a half I am more familiar with what has been done and what needs to be done than either you or Mr. Hoffmann, who is the other member of the Board. It seems to me that if we could get together and talk about some of these problems we would be able to arrive at some conclusions regarding the future policy of the Board as well as thresh out some of the questions now confronting it.

Can you suggest any date within the next week or ten days which would be most convenient for you? I am sure that there will be at least two matters requiring official action by the State Geographic Board which will have to be taken up before the end of the year, and there are other things to discuss as well.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur J. Larsen
Acting Superintendent

AJL/U