Minnesota Geographic Board.
Records.

Version 3
August 20, 2018

September 8, 1941

Miss Josephine V. Brower
St. Cloud, Minnesota

Dear Miss Brower:

I have just returned to my desk from a month's vacation and find your letter of August 26 awaiting me. I am sorry to note that we have not answered your inquiry. Both Mr. Larsen and Mrs. Berthel, who is a member of the State Geographic Board, are absent on their vacations at the moment, and as I passed on your inquiry to them, I may need to have you restate the problem. I will try to find your former inquiry, but as both Mr. Larsen and Mrs. Berthel are absent, I may not be successful. These geographical questions often require very considerable investigation as well as action by local authorities.

Thank you very much for the data you included on your father and your family, as well as other material.

Yes, I was glad to have an opportunity to read the clipping about Miss Palmer of St. Cloud, taken from the St. Cloud Times of July of this year.

We shall be glad to receive any additional material about your father whenever you have an opportunity to send it to me.

Yours sincerely,

GLN:AH

Curator of Manuscripts

Included in Miss B's letter:
1. Lineage chart of Brower family.
2. Clipping re Margaret Palmer, a pupil of Miss B.
3. Reprint of a news item, "Pioneer of the village of Browerville honored at state fair."
4. Clipping "National Society will catalogue Jacob Brower's records of surveys, etc." St. Cloud Daily Times, Apr. 1941.
5. Autographed photograph of Arthur Fairchild
6. Typewritten paragraph re James Strong, grandfather of J. V. Brower.

Geographical Board

File

August 29, 1941

Mr. Hugh Highsmith
Racine, Wisconsin

My dear Mr. Highsmith:

Your letter of August 24 to the Conservation Department has been referred to Mr. Larsen, who is secretary of the Minnesota Geographic Board, which has under its jurisdiction the naming of unnamed geographic features in Minnesota.

Mr. Larsen is at present out of the city. I am enclosing information about the procedure to be followed in changing the names of lakes and streams in Minnesota, together with copies of the legislative acts which govern this procedure, and a blank petition.

While the Geographic Board has the authority under the law to name unnamed geographic features in the state, it prefers to have local approval for new names. If you wish to submit your suggestion of a name for the lake in question to the Geographic Board, the Board will, if it approves the name, petition the county board in the county in which the lake is located.

If you wish further information, please do not hesitate to write us.

Very truly yours,

Arthur J. Larsen, secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board

By
Editorial assistant

MWB/b

MW Berthel

AUG 27 1941

HUGH HIGHSMITH
RACINE, WISCONSIN

822 Wisconsin St.
August 24,1941

Office of the Director
Division of Conservation
State Office Building
St Paul, Minnesota

Gentlemen:

I am interested in addressing a letter to the department and the gentlemen in charge of mapping the Superior National Forest and the many lakes in your state. What I want specifically is to suggest a name for a now un-named lake I camped on recently.

I will appreciate your advise. Just write the information on the bottom of this letter and return it.

My fish and game report is enclosed.

Yours very truly,

Hugh Highsmith

MWB
Geo. Branch

August 14, 1941

Mr. P. J. McCauley
State Highway Department
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mac:

My assistant tells me that you telephoned me this morning and that you were somewhat perturbed because we had not proceeded more rapidly with the list of lakes that your Highway Department prepared. I wish that sometime when you have a few minutes to spare, you would drop in to see Mrs. Berthel or me. We would like to show you what we are doing in this regard.

In looking over the list which your draftsmen hurriedly prepared last fall, Mrs. Berthel and her assistants found so many errors that it did not seem practicable to mimeograph the list as it was. In this opinion Mr. Johnson concurred. In talking it over with him, therefore, the decision was reached to carry through the checking to completion. Moreover, we find that the list is a partial duplication of material that is being gathered here for the State Geographic Board -- material that includes other geographic features as well as lakes. To make the necessary corrections on the highway list, to separate from our file the additional material on lakes to put with it, and to type the list seemed hardly worth while in view of the fact that we expect in the near future to bring out a list, county by county, of all geographic features, including lakes.

These are factors that have made us move very slowly in this regard. As I said before, I wish you would come and look over the material which has been gathered. We hesitated especially because we were not able to complete the checking of the highway list before the legislature adjourned.

By the way, I have had some correspondence with a Mr. Ditter, who resides in Hennepin County, on the general subject of geographic names. Mr. Ditter proposes a very interesting program for us to follow. Once our preliminary work is completed -- which undoubtedly will be this fall -- we can undertake the larger program contemplated in the Geographic Board law. Mr. Ditter proposes the appointment locally from sportsmen's clubs, conservation groups, and other civic organizations, non-salaried representatives of the State Geographic Board, whose function shall be to contact interested groups and help develop a popular attitude favorable to the task of name changing. What do you think of that?

Sincerely yours,

AJL/D

Superintendent

July 21, 1941

Dr. William L. Strunk
Commissioner of Conservation
State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

My dear Dr. Strunk:

Thank you for your letter of July 17. Of course I can understand that the Department of Conservation is just as badly cramped for stenographic assistance as is the Minnesota Historical Society. I have tried rather vainly to solve that problem through the WPA. It has become increasingly difficult to obtain WPA stenographers, and at the present time I am afraid it is quite impossible.

I think we shall probably have to let the work on the gazetteer of geographic names slide for the next few months in the hope that with the coming of fall some means will be found to solve our problem.

I have had a very interesting conversation with a Mr. Ditter, who is associated with the North Shore Game and Fish Club at Wayzata. He has become very much interested in the work of the Geographic Board and would like to do some volunteer work in that connection. He suggests that in each county of the state, some local sportsman be appointed by the board on a nonsalaried basis to act as a go-between in carrying on the board's work. He thinks, and I agree with him, that such a program would arouse a great deal of interest throughout the state. What do you think of such a plan?

Sincerely yours,

AJL/U

Secretary, State Geographic Board

mwB.

JUL 18 1941

DIVISIONS & DIRECTORS
DRAINAGE & WATERS
WALTER S. OLSON
FORESTRY
HENRY G. WEBER
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TOURIST BUREAU
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

WILLIAM L. STRUNK,
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

ST. PAUL, MINN. July 17, 1941

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen, Secy. & Supt.
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Larsen:

At the present time we find ourselves very much crowded in so far as stenographic help is concerned. Many of our girls are on vacations and I am afraid the situation will continue until well into the fall. Probably sometime in October it would be possible for us to release, for several days or perhaps a week, one of the stenographers associated with this department.

I am wondering if, in the interim, it would not be possible to obtain a stenographer from WPA. Will you kindly look into this matter from your standpoint and I will do the same from this department's standpoint.

Assuring you of our willingness to help in every way possible and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Strunk

William L. Strunk
Commissioner of Conservation

WLS/R

Rule B

July 15, 1941

Dr. William L. Strunk
Commissioner of Conservation
State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Strunk:

You will recall that some time ago we were talking about the possibility of obtaining some stenographic assistance for the transcription of information compiled for the gazetteer of Minnesota geographic names, which has been going on under the supervision of Mrs. Berthel of the Historical Society staff. Is there any way by which such stenographic assistance can be made available through your department for a limited period of time?

I am frank to say that it is too much of a burden for the Historical Society staff to assume at this time. In the first place, we have a very limited number of typists available, and their services are required constantly in the fulfillment of the ordinary duties of the Society. Furthermore, I feel that the Historical Society has contributed unusually heavily to the work of the board. Approximately two-thirds of Mrs. Berthel's time over the last year and a half has been given over to this work. I do not feel that I can draw more from the services of the Historical Society. If you can find within your department any means of assisting in carrying on this work, I am sure it will be worth while.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/U

Secretary, State
Geographic Board

Reed, Robert B., to Conservation Dept., July 10, 1941

See Becker County

TWIN LAKES

June 16, 1941

Mr. W. J. Scott, Superintendent
Consolidated Chippewa Agency
Cass Lake, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Scott:

At Mr. Larsen's request, I am enclosing a list of the decisions made by the State Geographic Board to June 1, 1941.

Sincerely yours,

Editorial assistant

MWB/B

May 17, 1941

Mr. F. J. Scott, Superintendent
Consolidated Chippewa Agency
Cass Lake, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Scott:

This is to acknowledge your letter of May 12 in which you request a list of the lakes whose names have been changed. We have just now received notice from all of the county boards to the effect that the suggested name changes have been approved. We are submitting these names to the United States Board on Geographic Names, and a copy of the list will also be submitted to you.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/U

Secretary, State
Geographic Board

new B

MAY 14 1941

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FIELD SERVICE

Consolidated Chippewa Agency
Cass Lake, Minnesota
May 12, 1941

Mr. Arthur J. Larson, Superintendent
Historical Society
204 Historical Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Larson:

On April 18 we received a copy of a letter written you by Walter S. Olson, Director Division of Water Resources, St. Paul.

We had requested a list of the lakes whose names have been changed and our request was forwarded you in the above mentioned letter.

To date we have had no word from you and are wondering if we may expect the desired list in the near future?

Sincerely yours,

F. J. Scott

F. J. SCOTT
Superintendent

/hac

April 22, 1941

Mr. P. J. McCauley
State Highway Department
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. McCauley:

Thank you for sending us a copy of the resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of St. Louis County adopted on April 8 renaming certain lakes in St. Louis County. I think that very nearly completes the roundup of the names submitted last December to the different counties.

Inasmuch as we already have a copy of this resolution, I wonder if you do not care to retain it for your files. If you would like to have it, please call Mrs. Berthel, on extension 376, and she will send it to you at once.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

AJL/U

Superintendent

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
FIELD SERVICE

Consolidated Chippewa Agency
Cass Lake, Minnesota
April 14, 1941

State Conservation Commission
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Gentlemen:

It has come to our attention that through legislative action several Minnesota lakes have had their names changed recently.

In order that we may bring our records up to date and be in accord with the new legislation we would appreciate your furnishing us a list of the lakes whose names have been changed. We are particularly interested at the moment in Mud Lake and would appreciate hearing from you at your early convenience in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

F. J. SCOTT
Superintendent

/hac

To	FUNCTION	Initial
	Director	
	Construction	
	Control	
	Design	
	Fiscal	
	Investigation	
	Records	
	Const. File	
	Control File	
	Fiscal File	

RECEIVED
APR 16 1941
DRAINAGE & WATERS

APR 18 1941

DIVISIONS & DIRECTORS
DRAINAGE & WATERS
WALTER S. OLSON
FORESTRY
HENRY G. WEBER
GAME & FISH
LEWIS H. MERRILL,
LANDS & MINERALS,
RAY D. NOLAN
STATE PARKS
HAROLD W. LATHROP
TOURIST BUREAU
VICTOR A. JOHNSTON

M W Bathke

STATE OF MINNESOTA
FORESTRY LANDS & MINERALS
STATE PARKS
GAME & FISH DRAINAGE & WATER
TOURIST BUREAU
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

WILLIAM L. STRUNK,
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

ST. PAUL, MINN.

April 17, 1941

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen
Superintendent, Historical Society
204 Historical Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of a letter from Mr. F. J. Scott, Superintendent of the Consolidated Chippewa Agency at Cass Lake, Minnesota, under date of April 14, 1941, requesting a list of the lakes whose names have been changed.

We are attaching Mr. Scott's letter hereto and would appreciate your giving it your attention.

Yours very truly

Walter S. Olson

Walter S. Olson, Director
Division of Water Resources

GG

Enc.

CC: Mr. F. J. Scott

Wieland to Larsen, April 16, 1941

See St. Louis County,

Cloquet River

CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Name or Subject

State Geographic Board

Regarding

Date Mar. 8-1941

Bill introduced in legislature

See
Name or Subject

Hill, Lewis W.

Mrs Burnal

February 24, 1941

Mr. Lyle Evers
5223 Bryant Avenue North
Minneapolis, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Evers:

This is to acknowledge your letter of recent date to the director of the Division of Game and Fish in the Department of Conservation.

Your suggestion regarding the identification of the names of lakes which are duplicated has a certain merit. Perhaps some day that is the method in which we shall have to solve this problem. Obviously it is not going to be possible to avoid all duplications and, as you suggest, it may be impracticable or even impossible to change the names of some lakes where those names have a genuine local significance.

You will be interested to know that during the month of December, 1940, the State Geographic Board passed on something like 270 suggested name changes, most of which relate to the northern portion of our state.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/U

Secretary, State
Geographic Board

HOME OFFICE BUILDING

FEB 13 1941

Scandinavian American Fraternity

HOME OFFICE

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

ELMER ANDERSON, Grand Secretary

Lyle Evers, District Manager
5223 Bryant Ave. No.
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Fers

Director
Division of Game and Fish
337 State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir:

Having read with a great deal of interest the various proposals to rename our Minnesota Lakes it occurred to me that identification could be established by adding a number to those names which are duplicates. We could say Bass Lake No.1, Bass Lake No.2, etc. Thus a friend listening to our fish stories would know immediately which Bass Lake we caught that six pound bass in.

Also, if there is sentiment or historical value attach to the names of certain lakes the value would not be changed yet their location would immediately come to mind.

Wishing you every success, I am

Very truly yours

Lyle Evers

3. Nehaw - is probably Nika or nike in compounds meaning a wild goose of a dark color. wewe is a white wild goose. thus Nike-minis in Leech Lake is called Goose island.

4. Dahmenis. sounds like where there is an island in a lake. but no one knew of any lake by this name in this section

5. Oddososeg is undoubtedly the word for kidney but no one knew of this lake or a lake of this name.

6. Mushgeg - sounds like swamp as used in compounds. As aiabe means buck deer with wawaskeshi understood.

7. Nicado. sounds like Nis kadon I hide or conceal it. but, as such, hardly the name of a lake.

8 Ishbeanakwad or Ishbeon-e-gurt is probably the name of some old Indian. In itself it means "perpetual cloud" or "cloud that extends onward without end."

I think the only way to solve your problem is to get the lake definitely and then what is its Chippewa name. The above is worth little as based on uncertainty.

With kindest regards, I am Yours sincerely,
Benno Warren O.K.

Ponsford, Minn.
Feb. 2, 1941.

Miss Mary H. Berthel,

Dear Miss Berthel:

Have met with very poor success in deciphering those Chippewa names of lakes. Nevertheless we all enjoyed the attempt. And will give you the benefit thereof. Also future results.

1. Ohgeebik meant nothing to the Indians. They claim there is a lake near Urano Bay of Leech Lake called Ga-gijikensikag (where there are a lot of little cedars). Eng. name of this lake not known. Also 3 miles beyond Whipholt Minn. i.e. East of it is Ga-odonibinsikag (where there are many tullibees) Its Eng name is Cedar Lake. This last would be somewhat near T 141-N R. 28 W secs. 25-36. It may be the same as 3 miles of an Indian ~~is~~ often 6 or 7 miles.

2. Wigaw – Cass Co. T. 140 N, R. 31 W. secs. 30, 31. At Hackensack is Ga-wigwassensikag (where there are many little birches) called Birch Lake. Some 10 miles South of Leech Lake is Ga-wigwassimincissiwang (where there is an island in lake with birch trees) called Birch island lake. But neither seems to agree to above location.

HACKENSACK.
DEC 6
3 30PM
1940
MINN.

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Mr Arthur J.Larson

Sec State Geographic Board

St Paul Minn

DEC 9 1940

,Hackensack Minn 12-6th 40

Dear sir;-

Will you kindly advise as to action of Board on matter of Change of name of Pickerel Lake which was up for consideration Dec 2nd,as we want to make some new signs this winter.

Yours Truly

C. W. Ketchum

Mr W Bertel

December 26, 1940

Mr. George A. Soule
616 Black Building
Fargo, North Dakota

My dear Mr. Soule:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 18 addressed to Mr. M. J. Hoffmann, Commissioner of Highways and Chairman of the State Geographic Board of Minnesota.

The State Geographic Board was established by the legislature in 1937 with the express duties of determining the correct and proper names for geographic features in Minnesota and seeing that duplications in names of lakes, streams, and the like, were reduced in number. The legislature in 1937 also clarified the procedure to be followed by residents in areas affected by name changes, to make sure that local wishes are consulted.

I am enclosing herewith copies of chapters 35 and 63, Session Laws of 1937, relating to the Geographic Board. I wish to state that the board does not desire to make name changes which do not fully meet with local approval. In considering proposals for changing the names of lakes or other features in which you and other property owners may be interested, you will have an opportunity to express your opinions.

I might point out that the need for the work of the State Geographic Board is nowhere demonstrated more strikingly than in your letter. It so happens that the board recently had under consideration something over 260 names upon which it was necessary to make decisions. With the exception of one name, all of the decisions involved geographic names in the Chippewa and Superior National Forests of Minnesota. The Pelican Lake mentioned in the Fargo Forum dispatch is, I believe, located in Otter Tail County. There are, however, several other lakes bearing the same name, and it was one of these that was under consideration by the board.

You ask whether the board will change the name of Pelican Lake. I should like to say that if local opinion indicates that such a change is desired, the name of Pelican Lake will be changed. The law specifically requires that petitions submitted to the board of county commissioners be signed by fifteen or more residents of the district. Presumably people maintaining residence in other states are not voting residents of the county. At the public hearing held by the county boards, however, non-residents who have a legitimate interest in the proposed change will have ample opportunity to be heard, and, of course, the State Geographic Board is always glad to receive suggestions and comment.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/U

Secretary, State
Geographic Board

cc Mr. Hoffmann

December 18, 1940

Mr. M. J. Hoffmann
Commissioner of Highways
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

I recently received from a friend a paragraph in the Fargo Forum to the effect that you and several other Minnesota officials compose a geographic board charged with the duty of renaming Minnesota lakes in order to avoid having several lakes with the same name.

Many Fargo residents are very much concerned over this, because they have cottages around one of the lakes named in the article, namely Pelican Lake.

Do you think you will change the name of the lake, and if you have such an intention will there be any opportunity for us to suggest the name we desire.

Any information or suggestions you care to give me will certainly be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Soule
Attorney at Law
616 Black Building
Fargo, North Dakota

[Letter dictated over the telephone by Mr. McCauley of the Highway Dept.]

Gronquist, V. E., to Larsen, May 29, 1940

See Crow Wing County

Long Lake or Lake Merrifield

April 26, 1940

Mr. Robert K. McDonald
State Supervisor, Coordination of Records
908 W. Johnson Street
Madison, Wisconsin

My dear Mr. McDonald:

Your letter of April 12 to the secretary of state, in which you ask what the state of Minnesota calls the geographical location of the boundary line between Minnesota and Wisconsin running north and south from the St. Croix to the St. Louis River, has been referred to the Minnesota Historical Society.

The only official state designation of the line, so far as we have been able to discover, is the description given in the Minnesota enabling act and later incorporated in the state constitution, which reads as follows: from the Iowa line "thence up the main channel of said river [the Mississippi], and following the boundary line of the State of Wisconsin, until the same intersects with the St. Louis river; . . ." This would seem to indicate that Minnesota accepted Wisconsin's designation of that boundary line. The Wisconsin enabling act and the Wisconsin constitution describe the western boundary of Wisconsin thus: ". . . thence [from the mouth of the St. Louis River] up the main channel of said river to the first rapids of the same . . . ; thence due south to the main branch of the River St. Croix . . ."

The only part of the boundary line between the two states that has been contested in the courts is the line from the mouth of the St. Louis River up the main channel of that river to the first rapids. This controversy, however, had nothing to do with the line extending from the first rapids of the St. Louis River southward to the St. Croix.

Sincerely yours,

Editorial assistant

Mary Bertel

APR 16 1940

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
WORK PROJECTS ADMINISTRATION
OF WISCONSIN

P. D. FLANNER
ADMINISTRATOR

April 12, 1940

Secretary of State
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Historical Society

Honorable Sir:

Will you please advise me what the State of Minnesota calls the geographical location of the boundary line between the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin running north and south from the St. Croix river to the St. Louis river, and what the basis of designating this line is?

above information asked for not found in the office M.H. BY K

Very truly yours,

Robert K. McDonald

Robert K. McDonald,
State Supervisor, Coordination of Records
908 West Johnson Street, Madison, Wis.

C
O
P
Y

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Field Service

Consolidated Chippewa Agency
Cass Lake, Minnesota
April 8, 1940

Mr. P. J. McCauley, Senior Engineer
Department of Highways
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

We have received your letter of April 5 inquiring as to the interpretation of the Indian name for a certain lake lying between Bow String and the headwaters of Bow String River.

The Chippewa word Wahatawangang refers to sandy beach or sandy lake. Sandy Lake is therefore the true interpretation of the meaning intended in Chippewa.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ F. J. Scott

F. J. Scott
Superintendent

JJM/ams

APR 11 1940

J. T. ELLISON
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

O. L. KIPP
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

M. J. HOFFMANN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS

W. F. ROSENWALD
TRAFFIC ENGINEER

C. L. MOTL
MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

E. J. MILLER
BRIDGE ENGINEER

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINN.

M.W.B.

April 10, 1940

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen
Secretary, State Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St.Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Larsen: Re; Geographic Board

I am having transmitted to you under separate cover a ream each of mimeographed instructions and petitions in accordance with my promise.

I am also enclosing a copy of a letter which I have just received from the Indian Agent at Cass Lake, which is self-explanatory.

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

P. J. McCauley

P. J. McCauley
Senior Engineer

PJMcC:VBC
Encl.

APR 8 1940

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SECURITY
DIVISION OF SOCIAL WELFARE

WALTER W. FINKE
DIRECTOR

GLOBE BUILDING—FOURTH AT CEDAR
SAINT PAUL

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE UNIT
WILLIAM H. CROWE, CHIEF

April 5, 1940

Mary B.

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen, Sec.
State Geographical Board
Historical Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Re: Geographic Names Project

Dear Mr. Larsen:

This is to formally advise you that your request for sponsorship funds was presented to the Legislative Emergency Committee at its meeting, March 29, 1940.

The Committee did not see fit to act favorably upon your request. Consequently, I am advising you that there are no state funds available to assist you in undertaking your project at this time.

Yours very truly,

Walter W. Finke

Walter W. Finke
Director

WWF:hh

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April 9, 1940

Mr. P. J. McCauley
Minnesota Department of Highways
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. McCauley:

I want to thank you for sending over the grand collection of maps. I know they will prove to be of great value in the work of the Geographic Board.

It strikes me that we have made real progress in these two meetings which we have conducted. I have been so tied up with business, however, that I have not yet been able to write to the United States Forest Service about the names with which we disagree.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/U

Secretary, State
Geographic Board

MWB

J. T. ELLISON
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

O. L. KIPP
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

M. J. HOFFMANN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS

W. F. ROSENWALD
TRAFFIC ENGINEER

C. L. MOTL
MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

E. J. MILLER
BRIDGE ENGINEER

APR 8 1940

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINN.

April 5, 1940

Mr. A. J. Larsen, Secretary
State Geographical Board
Minnesota Historical Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Re: Geographic Board.

Dear Mr. Larsen:

In accordance with my promise to you of yesterday, I am having transmitted to you, under separate cover, prints of the following counties: Cook, Lake, Cass, Itasca, Koochiching, St. Louis, and Beltrami. The petition with letter of instructions will be forthcoming within a day or so.

The Commissioner is highly pleased with our progress.

It will be appreciated very much if you will kindly advise me before you call your next meeting so that I may arrange to be in the City.

Yours very truly,
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
P. J. McCauley
P. J. McCauley
Senior Engineer

PJMcM:ICH

Hendrickson, H.O., to Larsen, Mar. 28, 1940

See Cottonwood County

March 27, 1940

Mr. W. O. Lund
The Lund Press
406 Sixth Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Lund:

I wonder if you could give me an estimate of the cost of printing 3,000 and 5,000 letterheads like the enclosed sample -- on the same stock, without the names and the seal that are crossed out, and with the addition that I have indicated in the address.

We should like to have the estimates just as soon as possible.

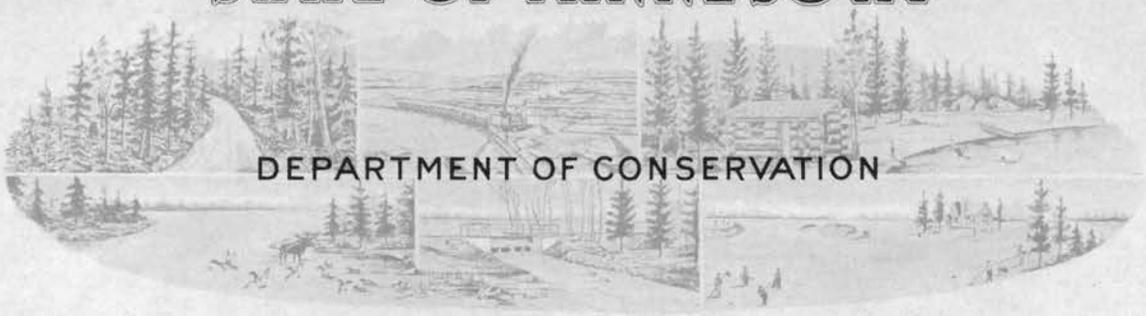
Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Burrel

MAR 14 1940

STATE OF MINNESOTA



STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

March 13, 1940

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen, Sec'y.
State Geographic Board
Historical Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Larsen:

I also am sorry that we were not able to meet at the informal luncheon but a misunderstanding relative to dates developed. I had planned on attending the meeting on Thursday, whereas the meeting was held on Wednesday.

I am assigning Mr. E. V. Willard of this department to act in the capacity of deputy for at least some of the meetings. If you would be so kind as to set the date for the next meeting I shall see to it that the department is properly represented in case I cannot be there myself.

I again wish to express my regrets for my failure to join hands at the first meeting since I took over office.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours

W. L. Strunk

William L. Strunk
Commissioner of Conservation

WLS/R

J. T. ELLISON
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

O. L. KIPP
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

M. J. HOFFMANN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS

W. F. ROSENWALD
TRAFFIC ENGINEER

C. L. MOTL
MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

E. J. MILLER
BRIDGE ENGINEER

MAR 5 1940

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINN.

MWB

March 2, 1940.

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen,
Minnesota State Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir: Re: State Geographic Board.

I am returning the three original lists which you gave me the other day, with six typed copies of each which I have had prepared.

A copy of each list has been furnished Mr. McCauley with the request that he check these and advise you of his findings, and I assume that you will wish to send other copies to Dr. Strunk for investigation by his division. After these reports are received by you I presume that the data could be put in such shape that definite action could be taken by the Board.

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

M. J. Hoffmann

MJH/MN Commissioner of Highways.

March 7, 1940

Dr. William L. Strunk
Commissioner of Conservation
State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

My dear Dr. Strunk:

I was sorry that you were not able to be at our informal luncheon meeting last week. One of the things we discussed was the question of the three lists of names submitted to the State Geographic Board by the United States Forestry Service relating to the names of geographic features in the Superior National Forest. I am enclosing copies of those lists. I think the comments at the beginning of each list will be self-explanatory of what is required of the State Geographic Board. If you are in doubt, however, please call me and perhaps we can arrange a meeting to talk it over.

At the December meeting of the board, the Acting Commissioner of Conservation, Mr. Merrill, suggested that either Mr. Willard or Mr. Olson of the Department of Drainage and Waters might very well act as a deputy for you in doing some of this work. I believe he suggested that Mr. Willard should take it on. Mr. Hoffmann has named Mr. McCauley as his assistant, and I have named Mrs. Mary W. Berthel of our staff my assistant. I think it would be an excellent idea for these people to get together and discuss some of the problems that are involved in this particular list as well as in other matters of the Geographic Board. I shall be glad to meet with them at any time that can be arranged.

A day or so ago I sent you a copy of a letter to Mr. Gravlin written on behalf of the State Geographic Board. Mr. Hoffmann and I talked this over last Thursday and we were of the opinion that it was not fair to any of the three departments to ask them, either collectively or singly, to assume the expenses of the work of the State Geographic Board, for each of them is already burdened with the necessity of practicing stringent economies in the administration of its affairs. I had a talk with Mr. Gravlin on Monday and it was at his suggestion that I wrote that letter.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Secretary, State
Geographic Board

AJL/U

March 7, 1940

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

Dear Mr. Hoffmann:

Thank you for sending me the copies of the lists relating to geographic names in the Superior National Forest. I shall see that they are distributed in the Department of Conservation and that copies are available for work here. I had a letter from Mr. McCauley saying that he was at work on the problem. I hope the Conservation Department will respond as quickly.

Did you get the copy of my letter to Mr. Gravlin? I had a talk with him the other day and he said that his department had no authority to purchase supplies of this nature. He suggested, however, that in view of the fact that the board is a state board and that it has held meetings and has done considerable work in the fulfillment of its particular duties the Executive Council of the state very probably would appropriate sufficient funds to carry on the work. He asked me to write the letter as I did. It occurs to me, however, that we ought to make requests for specific amounts. What is your feeling in this matter?

Sincerely yours,

Secretary, State
Geographic Board

AJL/U

M. Bentel
please file with
State Geog. Board -

MAR 4 1940

M E M O

March 1, 1940

Mr. Arthur J. Larson
Superintendent, Historical Society
Historical Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Re: State Geographic Board

Dear Mr. Larson:

Pursuant to verbal instructions from Mr. Hoffmann, Commissioner of Highways, I am proceeding to make an analysis of the items of culture in connection with the names report referred to in your letter of February 21st to Mr. Hoffmann.

It is my understanding that the different divisions of the Conservation Department are making a similar study. As soon as this is accomplished, you will be advised, as far as the Highway Department is concerned.

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

P. J. McCauley
Senior Engineer

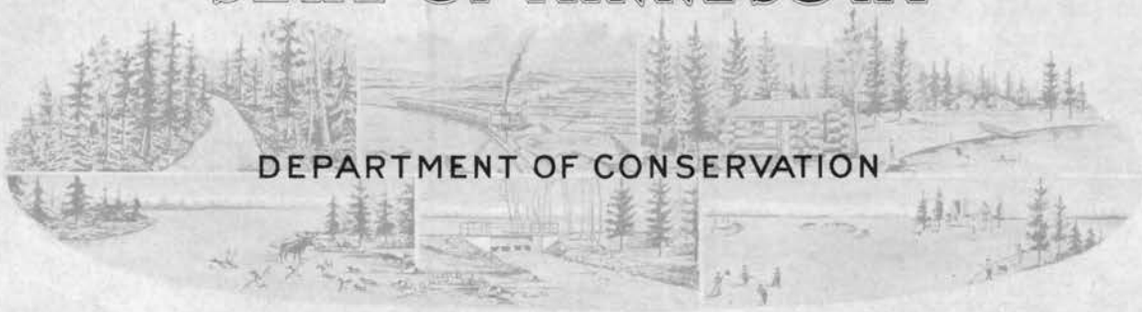
PJMcC:VBC

Geographic Board

File

FEB 28 1940

STATE OF MINNESOTA



STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

February 27, 1940

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen, Supt.
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Larsen:

I should be most happy, as soon as the smoke of battle clears away a little bit, to sit down and really go over our mutual problems.

I am very much interested in the State Geographic Board's work and can assure you of the best cooperation of this department.

Looking forward to seeing you and with kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours

W. L. Strunk

William L. Strunk
Commissioner of Conservation

WLS/R

Geographic Board

FEB 27 1940

MW W B

J. T. ELLISON
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF ENGINEER

O. L. KIPP
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

M. J. HOFFMANN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS

W. F. ROSENWALD
TRAFFIC ENGINEER

C. L. MOTL
MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

E. J. MILLER
BRIDGE ENGINEER

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINN.

File

February 26, 1940.

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen,
Superintendent, Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Sir: Re: Meeting.

This will acknowledge for the Commissioner receipt of your letter of the 21st and confirm my call to you the other day conveying the thought of Mr. Hoffmann that it might be possible to arrange for the luncheon you propose on Wednesday, February 28th.

After you have contacted Dr. Strunk I would appreciate it if you would advise if this would be a satisfactory date.

Yours very ~~truly~~,

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

W. A. Pilcher

WAP/MN Executive Secretary.

mw 13

February 21, 1940

Dr. W. L. Strunk, Commissioner
Department of Conservation
State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Strunk:

As you will note from the enclosed copy of my letter to Mr. Denfeld, the State Geographic Board is beginning to operate. I wonder if we cannot get together for lunch some day next week and talk over informally some of the things that the Board will have to do.

I can see by the papers that you already are inundated by the flood of work that your position entails. I hope you are enjoying it, and I know you will make a great success of it.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

AJL/U

Superintendent

MW 13

February 21, 1940

Mr. Fred Denfeld, Superintendent
Department of Public Property
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Denfeld:

As you perhaps know, the Minnesota legislature in 1937 created a State Geographic Board of Minnesota, composed of the Commissioners of Highways and Conservation and the Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society. Upon that Board falls the duty of deciding all questions relating to official geographic names in the state of Minnesota. Further than that, the legislature required the State Geographic Board to compile and publish a gazetteer of Minnesota geographic names.

Unfortunately the law failed to make any appropriation for the purchase of supplies or for the employment of any services. Nevertheless the law is mandatory, and the state officials represented on the Board have attempted to comply with its provisions in the best possible manner.

We now are engaged in compiling information relative to geographic names in the state, employing for this purpose a force of WPA workers attached to the Minnesota Writers' Project, but working under the direction of the Board and its assistants.

We find, however, that there is a dearth of supplies, and I am writing this letter to inquire whether the inventory of state properties has uncovered any filing equipment which we might use. We are particularly in need of a number of 5 x 8 card filing cases, and one or two correspondence files of ordinary letter size or possibly of a size to accomodate 8 1/2 x 13 legal forms.

Our present survey indicates that the State Geographic Board will need card filing cases of a 5 x 8 size sufficient to accommodate eighty thousand cards. It will need additional filing equipment for smaller size cards at a later time, but there is no present need for them. With regard to the letter filing cases, I believe that one section of three cases will be sufficient to care for the needs of the Board for a period of some months.

Will you let me know at your earliest convenience if any of this equipment is available?

Cordially yours,

AJL/U

Superintendent

cc Dr. Strunk and Mr. Hoffmann

MWB

February 21, 1940

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

Dear Mr. Hoffmann:

This seems to me to be one way of solving the problem of equipment for the State Geographic Board. I wonder if we had not better arrange a meeting of the Board in the very near future to take care of some of the work which has accumulated since our last meeting. Within the last week I received a huge assignment from the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture suggesting name changes and name corrections within the Superior National Forest. I have asked my assistant in this work to get in touch with Mr. McCauley and work over this mass of information. As soon as that is done I think we should probably meet and take formal action on the suggestions.

I have suggested to Dr. Strunk that we have a luncheon meeting some day next week to talk over informally some of the aspects of the Board's work. I wonder if you would not care to join us?

Cordially yours,

AJL/U

Superintendent

Tuesday – Aug. 26 '41

Dear Miss Nute:

I have to thank you for your letter of quite some time ago – In reference to the question I asked about the naming of the labels – I did not hear from Mr Larsen of the

I thought this article might interest Miss Calhoun – of interest

Geographic travel-
and I think I will
look up the data
and try to explain it a few
as I get time the
writing must be
postponed by me —
I have several
items relating to my
father that I would
like very much to
send you — but think
it will be best
to get them together
and send at one time —
that may mean
take less of your
time
Meanwhile I am
enclosing some photo-
graphs — am not sure
they are specially interesting —
I can send you a clearer
photo of the lighthouse that at
some time if you care for
it.
Sincerely
Josephine V. Brown

MWB

OCT 27 1941

Benedict Minn.
Oct. 24 1941.

Mr Arthur Larson
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir!—

Would you please send us a blank for renaming a lake here by our home. We want to change it back to its old name. Thank you.

Mrs Ole Broughton
Benedict
Minnesota.

Prindle, E.M., to Larsen, October 14, 1941

See Crow Wing County

Long Lake; Ossawinnamakee Lake

Braughton, Mrs. Ole, to Larsen, November 14, 1941, and related correspondence

See Hubbard County

Mirage or Horseshoe Lake

November 28, 1941

Mrs. Ole Broughton
Benedict, Minnesota

My dear Mrs. Broughton:

In answer to your letter of October 24, in which you request information as to the procedure for changing the name of a lake in your locality, I am enclosing a copy of instructions for such procedure, as well as a petition to be used by you.

If you wish any further information or assistance in the matter, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary,
Minnesota Geographic Board

AJL/x

DEC 30 1941

State of Minnesota
Department of Conservation
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES AND ENGINEERING
6 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minn.

December 29, 1941

TO ALL STATE DEPARTMENTS AND DIVISIONS:

The Division of Water Resources and Engineering is compiling a catalogue of state maps, which set are to include, if possible, a copy of every map used or issued by every state department or division. These sets of maps are to be used in our central office in the planning and work program.

We ask your assistance in this compilation by furnishing to this division two copies of each type (entire state or partial) of map for incorporation in the finished volume.

If some maps used by your department or division are distributed by other agencies or departments, we would appreciate receiving from you the name and type of map and the agency or department issuing same.

Yours very truly

Walter S. Olson, Director
By J. J. Harrington
J. J. Harrington, Office Engr.
Division of Water Resources

JJH:GG

M. J. HOFFMANN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS

J. T. ELLISON
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

MAR 23 1942

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINN.

O. L. KIPP
ASS'T CHIEF ENGINEER AND
PLANNING ENGINEER

C. L. METHVEN
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

C. L. MOTL
MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

E. J. MILLER
BRIDGE ENGINEER

W. F. ROSENWALD
TRAFFIC ENGINEER

March 19, 1942

Dr. Arthur J. Larsen
Supt. Historical Society
State Historical Society
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Dr. Larsen:

Re: Roadside Development
Roadside Markers

We are forwarding herewith a copy of data recently received from Mr. Erwin Oreck with reference to points of interest along the North Shore drive.

We would appreciate it if you could advise us as to the authenticity of this material as we contemplate using same on roadside markers to be installed in that area.

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Harold E. Olson
B

Harold E. Olson
Engineer of Roadside
Development

HEO:b
Enc.

March 24, 1942

Mr. Harold E. Olson
Engineer of Roadside Development
Department of Highways
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Olson:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of March 19, enclosing the list of geographic names relating to the North Shore area.

We shall be very glad indeed to examine this list and determine within the limit of our resources the authenticity of the names listed. I imagine you will want this returned to you very soon.

Sincerely yours,

AJL:gh

Superintendent

April 11, 1942

Mr. Harold E. Olson
Engineer of Roadside Development
Minnesota Department of Highways
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Olson:

I am enclosing inscriptions for six of the North Shore markers. I hope to have the rest ready for you very soon.

Sincerely,

MWB/b

May 13, 1942

Mr. Harold E. Olson
Engineer of Roadside Development
Minnesota Department of Highways
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Olson:

I am enclosing inscriptions for the rest of the North Shore markers. If there are any others that you would like, please let me know and I will take care of them, if the information is available.

Sincerely,

Editorial assistant.

MWB/b

M. J. HOFFMANN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS

J. T. ELLISON
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
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CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

C. L. MOTL
MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

E. J. MILLER
BRIDGE ENGINEER

W. F. ROSENWALD
TRAFFIC ENGINEER

May 19, 1942

MAY 20 1942

Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Attention: Mary W. Berthel
Editorial Assistant

Dear Madam:

We were greatly pleased to receive the balance of the North Shore marker inscriptions with your letter of May 13.

Your kind cooperation on this project is much appreciated.

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Harold E. Olson

Harold E. Olson
Engr. of Roadside Development

HEO:b

M. J. HOFFMANN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS

J. T. ELLISON
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

JUL 9 1942

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINN.

O. L. KIPP
ASS'T CHIEF ENGINEER AND
PLANNING ENGINEER

C. L. METHVEN
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

C. L. MOTL
MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

E. J. MILLER
BRIDGE ENGINEER

W. F. ROSENWALD
TRAFFIC ENGINEER

July 7, 1942

MWB.

Mr. Arthur J. Larson, Secretary
State Geographic Board
State Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Larson:

Re: State Geographic Board

Reference is made to our recent meeting in which you requested information concerning the following:

County	Name of Lake	T. & R.	Section	Our Map	S.W.P.Map
Hubbard	Mirage Lake to Horseshoe Lake	143-32	22-23-26-27	Mirage	(*) Mirage
Cass	Cedar Lake to Gijik Lake	141-28	25-36	None	(+) None
Cass	Goose or Mud Lake to Wawa Lake	141-29	9-10-15-16	Haka-Wash-Ta	(+) (*) Same
Cass	Kidney Lake to Ododikossi	141-26	8	None	(+) None
Beltrami	Birch Lake to Wegwos Lake	140-31	30-31	Birch	(+) Birch

* -- Same name in Division of Waters, Resources & Engineers, State of Minnesota, June, 1941.

+ -- Not as yet received approval of the United States Board. Case pending as per Lake directory, January 2, 1942.

The above discloses all the information we have in our office.

Yours very truly,
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

P. J. McCauley

P. J. McCauley
Senior Engineer

PJM:MCM

September 22, 1942

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a verification that the State Geographic Board of Minnesota has officially appointed Mr. A. L. Ditter of Wayzata as their special representative effective September 15, 1942, with headquarters at the Historical Building, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Acting Superintendent

LB:PNS

MWB

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

October 3, 1942

10/13

M. J. Hoffmann
1346 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a suggested estimate for the proposed biennial budget request of the State Geographic Board.

Would it be convenient foryou to have a board meeting October 8 or 9, so that we might formally approve a budget and have it submitted?

Sincerely yours,

Lewis Beeson

Acting Superintendent
Minnesota Historical Society

LB:hc

OHW Butler
Geog Board

October 3, 1942

M. J. Hoffmann
1346 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a suggested estimate for the proposed biennial budget request of the State Geographic Board.

Would it be convenient for you to have a board meeting October 8 or 9, so that we might formally approve a budget and have it submitted.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Superintendent
Minnesota Historical Society

LB:hc

October 3, 1942

Wm. L. Strunk
Commissioner of Conservation
356 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find a suggested estimate for the proposed biennial budget request of the State Geographic Board.

Would it be convenient for you to have a board meeting October 8 or 9, so that we might formally approve a budget and have it submitted.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Superintendent
Minnesota Historical Society

LB:hc

M.W.B.
Do you Desire

OCT 7 1942

DIVISIONS & DIRECTORS
GAME & FISH
VERNE E. JOSLIN
FORESTRY
HENRY G. WEBER
LANDS & MINERALS
RAY D. NOLAN
STATE PARKS
HAROLD W. LATHROP
WATER RESOURCES
& ENGINEERING
WALTER S. OLSON
TOURIST BUREAU
VICTOR A. JOHNSTON

STATE OF MINNESOTA
FORESTRY LANDS & MINERALS
STATE PARKS
GAME & FISH TOURIST BUREAU
WATER RESOURCES & ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

WILLIAM L. STRUNK
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

ST. PAUL, MINN. October 6-1942

Mr. Lewis Beeson, Acting Supt.
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Beeson:

I am requesting that you set a date for the budget hearing of the State Geographic Board, sometime next week.

Will you kindly inform me which date is most satisfactory to you.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Strunk

William L. Strunk
Commissioner of Conservation

WLS/R

OCT 15 1942

MLS 13

DIVISIONS & DIRECTORS
GAME & FISH
VERNE E. JOSLIN
FORESTRY
HENRY G. WEBER
LANDS & MINERALS
RAY D. NOLAN
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STATE OF MINNESOTA
FORESTRY LANDS & MINERALS
STATE PARKS
GAME & FISH TOURIST BUREAU
WATER RESOURCES & ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

WILLIAM L. STRUNK
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

ST. PAUL, MINN.

October 13, 1942

Mr. Lewis Beeson, Acting Superintendent
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Beeson:

I am returning to you herewith copy of the biennial budget of the Minnesota State Geographic Board, which you forwarded to me.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Strunk

William L. Strunk
Commissioner of Conservation

WLS/R
Enc.

October 22, 1942

Mr. Mike Hoffmann
Minnesota Highway Department
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Hoffmann:

Since the State Geographic Board meets so infrequently, I am sending you a copy of the minutes of the last meeting while the topics discussed are still fresh in your memory so that you may note down any changes or corrections in the minutes as I have drawn them up. I am also enclosing a copy of a letter I have sent Mr. Ditter.

Sincerely,

Acting Superintendent

LB:PNS

October 22, 1942

Mr. W. L. Strunk
Conservation Department
356 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Strunk:

Since the State Geographic Board meets so infrequently, I am sending you a copy of the minutes of the last meeting while the topics discussed are still fresh in your memory so that you may note down any changes or corrections in the minutes as I have drawn them up. I am also enclosing a copy of a letter I have sent Mr. Ditter.

Sincerely,

Acting Superintendent

LB:PNS

MWB

DIVISIONS & DIRECTORS
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STATE OF MINNESOTA
FORESTRY LANDS & MINERALS
STATE PARKS
GAME & FISH TOURIST BUREAU
WATER RESOURCES & ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

OCT 31 1942

WILLIAM L. STRUNK
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

ST. PAUL, MINN. October 30, 1942

Mr. Lewis Beeson, Acting Supt.
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Beeson:

This is to state that I have gone over the minutes of the last meeting of the State Geographic Board and find them to be all right.

I feel that your letter to Mr. Ditter, incorporating the ideas the board had with reference to his position, is also satisfactory.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

W. L. Strunk

William L. Strunk
Commissioner of
Conservation

WLS/R

File
MWB

move to call attention of municipalities, post offices and railroads to dual names given municipalities and to urge that action be taken to eliminate duality of nomenclature.

November 12, 1942

Mr. R. J. Short, Manager
Highway Planning Survey
Minnesota Department of Highways
1245 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Short:

After Mr. Larsen left for the army September 16, I found a letter of yours dated June 5 to him in his capacity as secretary of the Minnesota State Geographic Board. This letter related to the names of cities and villages in Minnesota, and asked the question if it is within the authority of the Geographic Board to request that action be taken by municipalities to eliminate duplications in their names, and specifically, if the Board could request the municipality to change the local name to that of the popular or post office name, or to secure permission of postal and railroad authorities to use the legal name.

There is no express limitation upon the power of the Board to determine the correct and most appropriate names, or to pass upon and give names to lakes, streams, places, and other geographic features in the state. This power, however, according to an informal opinion expressed by Mr. Chester Wilson of the Attorney General's office, does not extend to names given political subdivisions in the state, such as municipalities. The Board's authority does not extend beyond the geographic names in the strict meaning of the term.

However, I see no reason why the Board might not call the attention of certain municipalities in Minnesota to the duplication in their names, and even to urge them that they take steps to eliminate that duplication; nor do I see any reason why the Board might not take similar action with respect to postal and railroad authorities. This is a matter which should be determined by the Board and which I will call to its attention at its next meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Superintendent

LB/rc

M. J. HOFFMANN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS

J. T. ELLISON
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

JUN 9 1942

4d.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINN.

O. L. KIPP
ASS'T CHIEF ENGINEER AND
PLANNING ENGINEER

C. L. METHVEN
CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

C. L. MOTL
MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

E. J. MILLER
BRIDGE ENGINEER

W. F. ROSENWALD
TRAFFIC ENGINEER

June 5, 1942

See reply c Nov 11 '42

Minnesota State Geographic Board
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Attention: Mr. A. J. Larsen,
Secretary

Gentlemen: Re: Names of Cities and Villages in Minnesota

We are at this time revising the General Highway County maps prepared in the Highway Planning Survey with respect to the location, surface type, and system identification of the highways and a few other features.

We have discovered where the legal name of some of the municipalities differs from the popular, railroad, or post office name. Following I cite five such instances which have recently come to our attention:

Actually Mail.

No, according to unofficial opinion given by Mr Chester Wilson, Nov 2, 1942 L.B.

County	Legal Name	Post Office or Railroad Name	Local Name
Martin	Tenhassen	Ceylon	Ceylon
Sherburne	Lake Fremont	Zimmerman	Zimmerman
Stearns	Kimball Prairie	Kimball	Kimball
Stearns	Holding (see 1940 Census)	Holdingford	Holdingford
Otter Tail	New York (")	New York Mills	

In showing these places on our maps the name of the town is entered first by its legal name and beneath that name in parenthesis by post office name with the letters "P.O." following.

We wish to inquire if it is within the authority of the Board to request action be taken by those municipalities to eliminate the duplicity of the names, - (a) to change the local name to that of the popular or post office name, or (b) to secure permission of postal and railroad authorities to use the legal name.

Under present conditions naming of the places on the maps is difficult, and should no doubt be cleared up. May we have your reply in this matter.

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

R. J. Short

R. J. Short, Manager
Highway Planning Survey

RJS:JJM

Mickelson, John, to Larsen - Nov. 13, 1942

See Aitkin County

Ripple or Mud River

September 21, 1943

Col. P. J. McCauley
Minnesota Highway Department
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

My dear Col. McCauley:

With reference to Oxhide Lake, I have consulted a number of maps and other sources, beginning with those published in the early 1850's. On all the early maps the lake either is not shown, or it is unnamed. The first map on which I found the lake named was one published in 1887 by Warner and Foote, and on that map it is shown as "Oxhide Lake."

The later sources that I consulted were probably the same ones that you have access to; comparatively little has been published on Itasca County. These sources include various State Highway maps; Upham's Minnesota Geographic Names; the Gazetteer of Meandered Lakes, published by the State Department of Drainage and Waters; the platbook of Minnesota published by Hixson in 1916; Winchell's Geology of Minnesota, atlas volume, and vol. 4, plate 65 (1901); county surveyor's maps of Itasca County; a number of tourist maps of the county and general region; and descriptive articles and sketches of Itasca County.

In no case did I find the name "Oxide." All sources give it as "Oxhide" or "Ox Hide."

I found the following information about Ulysses Sherman Grant, the geologist. He lived from 1867 to 1932, was graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1888, and received a Ph.D. degree from Johns Hopkins in 1893. He was assistant state geologist of Minnesota, 1893-99; instructor of geology in the University of Minnesota, 1897-98; acting dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Northwestern University, 1907-08 and 1916-19; and was a geologist for the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, the U. S. Geological Survey, the Illinois Geological Survey, and the Oregon Bureau of Mines and Geology. He was also associate editor of the American Geologist for a number of years, and was the author of many articles and other works on geology -- among them, jointly with Winchell, volumes 4 and 5 of the Geology of Minnesota.

I hope this will give you the information you need. It is unfortunate that there is so little material on Itasca County.

Sincerely yours,

MWB/b

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

April 3, 1944.

Miss Irene Warming,
Document Division,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

My dear Miss Warming:

We are in receipt of your postal card dated March 21 in which you made inquiry regarding the decisions of the Board on Geographical Names during the period from July 1, 1940 to June 30, 1941.

Enclosed is a copy of the list of decisions made by the Board between July 1, 1940 and June 30, 1941.

Regarding the preliminary report on Minnesota geographic names about which you inquired, we do not know of any such publication; however, decisions on various Minnesota place names and features will be found now and then in our monthly decision lists which you receive each month.

Sincerely yours,

Edwin J. Foscue

Edwin J. Foscue,
Assistant Director.

Enclosure.

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Saint Paul

April 20, 1944

Mr. Chester Wilson
Commissioner of Conservation
356 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am enclosing a report on the work of the State Geographic Board to date. I hope you will find time to read it before the next meeting of the Board which has tentatively been set for May 2.

May I suggest that your deputy on the Board Mr. E. V. Willard be present at the meeting as well as yourself. Mr. Willard is familiar with the Board's activities.

Sincerely yours,

Lewis Beeson
H.C.

Acting Superintendent

LBe/hc

REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE STATE GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

The act establishing the State Geographic Board (Laws, 1937, ch. 63), to consist of the Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of State Highways, and the Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, made it the duty of the board, and gave it the power and authority, to determine the correct and most appropriate names of geographic features in the state; to name unnamed features; to change names of features, in co-operation with county boards, for the purpose of eliminating duplication of place names within the state; and to prepare an official dictionary of geographic names which it shall publish either as a completed whole or in parts when ready.

In order for the board to carry out the duties laid upon it by the legislature, it must first collect and tabulate available information about Minnesota place names. It cannot determine the correct and most appropriate names of geographic features unless it knows the various names by which a feature is called, and something about the history of those names. It cannot name unnamed features unless it knows what those features are. It cannot eliminate duplication of place names unless it knows what duplication exists in the state. And, most certainly, it cannot prepare and publish an official gazetteer of Minnesota without assembling and arranging the information for it.

As soon as it was organized, the board made plans for listing the names of all geographic features in Minnesota, with the location of each by township, range, and section, information about the origin of each name, and other pertinent data. WPA workers

on a project sponsored by the board culled the names from maps, atlases, gazetteers, travel accounts, newspapers, and numerous other sources, and compiled the information on slips. Before the work of gathering all available material was completed, WPA was disbanded. With the cessation of WPA, the result of the project's work was turned over to the board. It consisted of approximately 200,000 slips, each containing information about one place name acquired from a single source. Since many sources were used, there are several slips for most names. While this mass of material is badly written, unorganized, and filed in the worst possible arrangement, nevertheless it has great value. The proportion of inaccuracies is small, considering the lack of training of all the workers and the poor caliber of some of them; and the inaccuracies are fairly easy to detect in comparing all the slips for one name.

The work of checking, consolidating, and putting these records into shape is a large task. The permanent records are typed on 5 x 8 cards. Ultimately the records should include a card for every natural and cultural feature in the state, with as much of the following information as can be provided: the location by county, township, range, and section; the various names and spellings under which a feature is known; the pronunciation of unusual names; the origin of the name -- when and by whom named, for whom or what named, why so named; its area or dimensions, such as the acreage of lakes, the height of hills, etc.; the dates of platting and incorporation of cities and villages; the date of organization of townships; and, in the case of lakes and streams, the number assigned by the Water Resources Division

of the Conservation Department. Cross references are made for each of the various names by which a feature is known. Decisions of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names are typed on the cards in red, and decisions of the State Geographic Board are indicated by a red asterisk, and the date of the decision is given in each case; and decisions of both boards are written in on a master map, which was given to the board by the Highway Department. (Sample cards, showing how this information is listed, are attached to this report.)

To make the records convenient for reference, at least three different files will have to be maintained: (1) a file arranged alphabetically under each of the eighty-seven counties, as experience has shown that the work of collecting information and building up the records can best be done by counties; (2) a file arranged alphabetically for the state as a whole, to take care of features that are included in more than one county, as well as to refer to place names when it is not known in what counties they are located; and (3) a file arranged by location -- township, range, and section -- to take care of the many unnamed features in the state.

These records can be used as the basis for the published gazetteer. The information listed above includes all the information required by the U. S. Board on Geographical Names for inclusion in its decisions, as well as additional data. It is for the state board to decide just how much of this information should be included in its gazetteer. In making such a decision, it should consider the needs of all that will have use for it -- the various state departments as well as other agencies throughout the state, and the public generally.

Since no funds have been allotted to the board by the legislature, the problem of getting this work done is a serious one. At a meeting on December 21, 1939, the board named the following deputies to carry on its active work under the general supervision of the secretary: for the Commissioner of Highways, Mr. Phillip McCauley; for the Commissioner of Conservation, Mr. E. V. Willard; and for the Superintendent of the Historical Society, Mrs. Mary W. Berthel. As the board's records are kept with the secretary at the Historical Building, the secretary assigned to Mrs. Berthel the duty of answering requests for information that come to the board, the supervision of the WPA workers stationed at the Historical Building, and the work of getting the records into usable shape. Most of the workers on the project were stationed at the WPA Writers' Project office in Minneapolis, and efforts to supervise their work and correlate it with that of the WPA workers at the Historical Society were not highly successful. There was much duplication of work, and much wasted effort. Nevertheless, a large amount of valuable information was accumulated which, under existing circumstances, could not have been acquired otherwise.

Mrs. Berthel has devoted a great deal of time to this work. At various times, for periods of weeks and sometimes months, the Historical Society has arranged to relieve her of her normal activities to allow her to carry on the Geographic Board work. Since the cessation of WPA, she has spent much time in organizing the records and handling correspondence. The work is still seriously handicapped by the disorganization of the records. If a way could be found to hire a typist, even for part time,

progress in getting the records in shape could be accelerated considerably.

In spite of difficulties, considerable progress has been made with the records. The information has been checked, consolidated, edited, cross-referenced, and filed alphabetically under 23 of Minnesota's 87 counties; and cards covering 12 counties have been made for the general alphabetical file for the state as a whole. In the file by counties only a few of the cards have been typed, but the information on them is usable.

Even a casual inspection of the records so far accumulated gives evidence of the enormous confusion in Minnesota place names. Not until all the records are consolidated and properly filed will it be possible to know just how great this confusion is. Confusion and duplication in names exist for all types of geographic features, but they are more extensive in the case of lakes then with other features. In the Gazetteer of Meandered Lakes of Minnesota published by the Department of Drainage and Waters in 1928, there are listed 99 Long, 91 Mud, 76 Rice, 43 Bass, 40 Twin, 39 Round, 36 Clear, 32 Sand, Sandy, or Sands, 25 Pine, and 25 Cedar lakes, and many others that are duplicated several times. How many more unmeandered lakes repeat these names we do not know. There are hundreds of lakes throughout the state that are known by more than one name -- some of them by as many as five or six names -- and hundreds more that bear no names.

The public should be acquainted with this situation and with the need for remedying it, for the board must have the support of the public to accomplish its purposes. The little

publicity that the work of the board has received at various times has brought forth a response in the way of inquiries about names and the procedure to follow in changing them which is evidence of a considerable interest in the subject throughout the state. It is hardly worth while to have much publicity, however, until the records are in order, for it encourages inquiries which are difficult, if not impossible, to handle under the present circumstances. Some requests for information require hours of research, when a few minutes would suffice if the records were usable.

In the matter of naming features and changing names, it has been the policy of the board to be guided by local sentiment. The adoption of a name by the board may make a name legal, but the name will not be used unless it has the approval of local residents. The following policy in regard to name changes was adopted by the board at a meeting on December 2, 1940:

(1) Names recommended by the U. S. Forest Service shall be reviewed by the State Geographic Board, and those accepted by the board shall be submitted to the boards of county commissioners in the counties concerned for local approval. The names approved by the local authorities shall then be submitted by the State Geographic Board to the U. S. Board on Geographical Names.

(2) Name changes that originate locally shall be submitted to the State Geographic Board for consideration after local approval has been obtained through hearings conducted by the boards of county commissioners. The State Geographic Board shall then submit approved names to the U. S. Board on Geographical Names.

(3) The State Geographic Board may initiate action by submitting to the county board for their consideration names upon which it desires to determine local opinion.

Considerable work has been done by the board in cooperation with the U. S. Forest Service in naming unnamed features and reducing the duplication and confusion in names in the Superior and Chippewa national forests. The foresters consulted numerous maps and other printed sources, and held meetings with local residents, county and township officers, and state game wardens to determine the correct names and spellings for the geographic features in the national forests, to suggest names for unnamed features, and to eliminate duplication and confusion. The lists of over 200 names compiled as a result of these investigations, with the necessary explanations, were submitted to the State Geographic Board in 1940. These names were approved by the state board, after investigation, and by all the county board concerned.

This method proved to be very successful in eliminating confusion and duplication of names in the areas of the national forests; and, at a meeting of the board on June 18, 1942, the question was raised whether agencies of the state might not be called upon to perform a similar service for areas outside the national forest. It was suggested by Dr. Strunk, who was then

a member of the board, that the game wardens and other employees in the Department of Conservation might undertake this work within the areas assigned to them, and that action so initiated might go far toward eliminating unnecessary duplication of names and toward giving satisfactory names to hitherto unnamed features. So far, nothing has been done in regard to this matter.

A serious difficulty that the board has met in naming and renaming geographic features has been the inertia of local people. The board has had many requests to change names; but when the persons making the requests are sent petition blanks and informed of the procedure to follow, they apparently drop the matter and no more is heard from them.

If, as the records of a county are completed, they could be mimeographed and sent to game wardens and other field workers of the various state departments in that county, to the county boards and other officers, and to the local newspapers, enough interest might be aroused locally to result in action. The mimeographed records would show very clearly the extent of confusion and duplication in names in the area, and they might also bring forth from local people corrections and additional information that would be highly useful to the board. A statement of the board's policy in regard to the type of names which it considers appropriate should accompany the mimeographed lists. The board has not yet adopted such a policy; but since its decisions are submitted to the U. S. Board on Geographical Names, it might be well to follow the policy that governs the national board.

A budget request, providing for a biennial appropriation of $5000 to carry on the work of the board, was presented to the 1943 legislature, but no appropriation was made.

August 25, 1944

Mr. P. J. McCauley
State Highway Department
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. McCauley:

Two of the girls who have been employed on the Geographic Board project during the summer are leaving September 1. The third girl, Bernadine Moben, could continue working until September 15, if funds were available to pay her. If we could keep her until the 15th, I think we could complete the typing of the records, with the exception of streams and miscellaneous features, which I expect to do myself.

I am enclosing a map showing what we have accomplished to date, and what remains to be done.

Sincerely,

April 24, 1945

Reverend Francis Bolek
Canisius College
Main and Jefferson Streets
Buffalo 8, New York

My dear Mr. Bolek:

Your letter of April 14 requesting information about certain Polish place names in Minnesota has been referred to me.

I am listing below the names in which you are interested, with the information that I have been able to find. I infer from your letter that you are not interested in the histories of the places, but only in information about the names themselves.

1. Alma Township, Marshall County. This township was organized in 1882, and was named for Alma Dahlgren, the first child born in the township and the daughter of Peter O. Dahlgren, county treasurer for many years.

2. Alberta Township, Benton County. This township was organized in 1868. According to one authority, it was named for an early settler, a farmer whose first name was Albert. Further information about the name I have been unable to find.

3. Florian, Marshall County. I have been unable to find anything about the origin and significance of this name. The place has no post office, and the earliest map on which it appears is a railroad map of 1930.

4. Gatzke, Marshall County. So far as I have been able to discover, the origin and significance of this name is unknown. The earliest map on which I have found it is in an atlas of 1914.

5. Gnesen Township, St. Louis County. This township was named by Polish settlers for a city in the province of Posen, Prussia.

6. Gratzek, Marshall County. The only place I have been able to find this name is on a map published in 1899. Modern maps and other sources do not give it. I have been unable to find any information about the significance of the name.

7. Grygla, Marshall County. This village was incorporated in 1917, and has a post office. I have found no information about the name.

8. Leo, Roseau County. The earliest map on which I have found this name is in an atlas of 1913. The only authority that gives any information about the name says that it was named for Pope Leo XIII.

9. Lida Township, Otter Tail County. The township, organized in 1879, was named for its large Lake Lida, which received its name sometime before 1874. I have found no information about the origin of the name. A village named Lida appears on a map of 1894 and on some later maps, but is not shown on recent maps.

10. Opole, Stearns County. This was a post office established in 1890 but since discontinued, though the name still appears on recent maps. I have found no information about the origin of the name.

11. Poland, St. Louis County. I have found no mention of this name on any map or in any other source.

12. Puposki, Beltrami County. This is not a Polish name. The village was named from the near-by lake. The name was first recorded by Beltrami on his expedition in 1823, before there was any white settlement in Minnesota. He states that the name came from the Chippewa Indian name of the lake, Puposky-wiza-kany-augen, meaning "end of shaking lands," or peat lands.

13. Sobieski, Morrison County. The village was incorporated in 1915. The origin of the name is unknown, so far as I have been able to determine.

14. Trosky, Pipestone County. This village, platted in 1884 and incorporated in 1893, was named by the town lot company which platted townsites along the Burlington Railroad, but the derivation of the name is unknown.

15. Urbank, Otter Tail County. I have been unable to find any information about the origin of this name. The first map on which I find it is a railroad map of 1930.

16. Warsaw, Rice County. The post office was established here in 1856, and was named for the town of Warsaw in New York State, whence many of its early settlers came.

17. Wilno, Lincoln County. I have found no information about the origin and significance of this name.

18. Kroze, Kittson County. I have been unable to find this name in any source.

19. Pularski, Benton County. On a county highway map of 1935 this appears as "Pularski Store." It is given on a more recent map as "Pularskis." This would indicate that it is a little community that has grown up about a country store owned by one Pularski.

20. Prebish, Benton County. A county map of 1935 shows this as "Prebish Store." As in the case of Pularski, it probably got its name from the man who owns the store.

I regret that I have been able to find so little information for you. The only way I can suggest that you might obtain further information is to write to postmasters, township clerks, or storekeepers in the various places. Or perhaps county auditors might be able to refer your letters to persons who could give you the information you want.

Sincerely,

Assistant editor
of publications

MWB/b

The State of Wisconsin
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
816 STATE STREET
MADISON 6

EDWARD P. ALEXANDER
DIRECTOR

JUL 18 1945

July 16, 1945

Miss Gertrude Krausnick, Librarian
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

My dear Miss Krausnick:

I am trying to get some record of the number of maps that were issued by Silas Chapman, pioneer map publisher of Milwaukee, and he is leading me a merry chase.

I find that in 1855 Chapman had a sectional map of Minnesota copyrighted (that is, entered in the records of the District Court). We have a copy of this 1855 map, also one for 1856 and 1857. Then in 1865 he seems to have secured another copyright for a Chapman map of Minnesota, and published one each year to and including 1869. We have all of these in our files-- 8 Chapman maps of Minnesota in all.

Can you let me know, without too much trouble, if you have any Chapman maps of Minnesota for dates in addition to these? I don't need any details as to size, exact title, etc, but merely the dates.

I should also like the same information for Chapman's Dakota maps, if you have any. In 1869 and again in 1872 he copyrighted maps of Dakota; we have one for each of these years in our collections, but no other Chapman maps of the Dakotas.

Thank you in advance for any help you can give me. Some day I hope to get up to St. Paul again, but a combination of circumstances, including a strong disinclination to stand for several hours, will probably keep me away for a few months longer.

With best wishes from

Alice E. Smith

S:S

Alice E. Smith

August 2, 1945

Miss Alice Smith
State Historical Society of Wisconsin
816 State Street
Madison 6, Wisconsin

Hello Alice! Remember me?

Your letter to Miss Krausnick re Silas Chapman maps was turned over to me, since I have inherited the Society's Minnesota map collection for Geographic Board work.

We have Chapman maps of 1855, 1856, 1865, 1868, 1871, and 1872. The two last were not on your list, and we seem to lack those of 1857, 1866, 1867, and 1869, which you listed.

I found no Dakota maps, but that doesn't mean that we don't have them, because I didn't make the thorough hunt that I should have. As you may remember, our maps are in a disgraceful state of dirt and disarrangement. If it won't be too late for you, when I come back from my vacation in two or three weeks, I'll don jeans and a dust cap and do what I can for you.

Bertha just got back from a vacation in Seattle, and she's healthy and tan and starry-eyed from looking at the scenery. I'm going to stay home for my vacation and entertain my fourteen year old nephew from New York, who informed me by telegraph that he wants to hunt, fish, motor-boat, play tennis, badminton, golf, and baseball, and several other things that I don't remember, so, if I live, I'll probably have a good figure by the time he leaves.

I'm looking forward to the time when traveling improves -- then I'll see you, here or in Madison, or both. Come that time, I'm going to take my car and go places -- me and a hundred million others.

Here's my love.

MWB/b

MWB

July 26, 1945

Mr. Carl Vitz
Public Library
Minneapolis 3, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Vitz:

I believe I promised you a statement about the records of the Minnesota State Geographic Board, which are housed at the Historical Society.

The Minnesota Legislature in 1937 established the State Geographic Board (Laws, 1937, ch. 63) to consist of the Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of State Highways, and the Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society. The act authorized the Board to determine the correct and most appropriate names of geographic features in the state; to name unnamed features; to change the names of features, in order to eliminate duplication of names; and to prepare and publish an official dictionary of Minnesota geographic names.

No funds were appropriated for the Board to carry out the duties laid upon it by the Legislature; but under a WPA project sponsored by the Board, a card index of Minnesota geographic names was compiled from maps, atlases, gazetteers, travel accounts, newspapers, and numerous other sources. The index lists each geographic feature by township, range, and section, and includes such information as the various names and spellings under which a feature is known; names by which it was formerly known; the pronunciation of unusual names; the origin of the name -- when and by whom named, for whom or what named, why so named; the area and dimensions of features, such as the acreage of lakes, the height of hills, etc.; the dates of platting and incorporation of cities and villages; and the dates of organization of townships. Cross references are made for each of the various names by which a feature is known.

The index at present consists of 18,500 five by eight inch typewritten cards, including cross references, arranged alpha-

betically under counties. It is not complete, since information from many important sources, including early maps, has not yet been incorporated in it. Moreover, information compiled by the WPA for several counties has not yet been put into usable form and typed. The Board has also an index on three by five manila cards arranged alphabetically under the state as a whole. When these records are completed, they can be used as the basis for a state gazetteer.

The little publicity that the work of the Board has received at various times has brought forth a response in the way of inquiries about Minnesota place names which is evidence of a considerable interest in the subject throughout the state. It is hardly worth while to have much publicity, however, until the records are more nearly complete, for it encourages inquiries which are difficult, if not impossible, to handle under the present circumstances. Some requests for information require hours of research, when a few minutes would suffice if the records were complete.

The work of answering inquiries relating to geographic names falls upon Mrs. Berthel, a member of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, who supervised the WPA project, and the compellation of the two indices. This work could become quite extensive with publicity and since it is not part of Mrs. Berthel's regular duties at the Society, the Society has not sought to exploit the records in its custody. This is unfortunate because the records, even as they stand at present, contain extremely valuable information. You made some suggestions to me about possibilities of enlisting outside help in completing the research on geographic names in Minnesota and of making the information available for use. I would appreciate very much hearing from you further about this matter, because I would like to follow up any possibilities for help that might be practicable.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Superintendent

LBe/ar

Erlbach

Information for Mr. Vitz

July, 1945

The Minnesota Legislature in 1937 established the State Geographic Board (Laws, 1937, ch. 63) to consist of the Commissioner of Conservation, the Commissioner of State Highways, and the Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society. The act authorized the Board to determine the correct and most appropriate names of geographic features in the state; to name unnamed features; to change the names of features, in order to eliminate duplication of names; and to prepare and publish an official dictionary of Minnesota geographic names.

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December 4, 1945

Mr. Donald W. Norton
W. 1791 First National Bank Building
St. Paul, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Norton:

In response to your telephone inquiry this afternoon, I am enclosing a sheet of instructions for naming or changing names of lakes and streams in Minnesota, and a blank petition to be filled out and presented to the county board.

If you wish any more information on the subject, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely yours,

ARTHUR J. LARSEN, secretary

By
Deputy to the secretary

MWB/b

February 28, 1946

Mr. P. J. McCauley
State Highway Department
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. McCauley:

I am enclosing the little sketch of the Split Rock Lighthouse which I promised you.

Please do not hesitate to make any changes in it that you wish, and if you want additional information, I shall be glad to give it to you if I can.

Sincerely yours,

Assistant editor
of publications

MWB/b

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

406 Pence Building
Minneapolis 3, Minn.

March 26, 1946

Director of Conservation
Conservation Department
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

At the last regular monthly meeting of the Minneapolis Detachment of the Marine Corps League a suggestion was made in which I think your department might be interested. I was asked to call the matter to your attention.

It was suggested that action be taken by the Marine Corps League to encourage the Conservation Department to name some of the lakes in Minnesota after the nine Congressional Medal of Honor men of World War II. I am sure that this idea will appeal to you and request that some consideration be given to the matter by your department. There may be times when the official name of a lake somewhere in the state is changed. At sume time it would be a fine thing if these Congressional Medal of Honor men might be honored by having a lake named after them. Some members of the Detachment went even further and suggested that the Conservation Commission might initiate changes in the names of the lakes and rename tham after the Congressional Medal of Honor men.

I will be very happy to receive any comments which you may wish to make on this suggestion.

Very truly yours,

s/ L. A. Hill

Commandant

CHESTER S. WILSON
COMMISSIONER
E. V. WILLARD
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

STATE OF MINNESOTA
FORESTRY LANDS & MINERALS
STATE PARKS
GAME & FISH TOURIST BUREAU
WATER RESOURCES & ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

DIVISIONS & DIRECTORS
GAME & FISH
FRANK D. BLAIR, ACTING
FORESTRY
HENRY G. WEBER
LANDS & MINERALS
RAY D. NOLAN
STATE PARKS
HAROLD W. LATHROP
WATER RESOURCES
& ENGINEERING
WALTER S. OLSON
TOURIST BUREAU
VERNE E. JOSLIN

ST. PAUL 1, MINN.

May 15, 1946.

L. A. Hill, Commandant
Marine Corps League
406 Pence Building
Minneapolis 3, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to your letter received sometime ago, inquiring as to the desirability of naming some of our lakes in honor of the nine Minnesota Congressional Medal of Honor men of World War I and II.

This is a splendid suggestion and should receive serious consideration. The Department of Conservation, however, does not have authority to name or rename lakes. That authority is vested in the board of county commissioners of the various counties. Under the law the counties must initiate the movement to name or rename lakes. The petition asking for such action, however, is usually referred to the State Geographic Board with offices in the Historical Society Building in St. Paul, for their recommendations. This is done in order to save duplications and to get the most appropriate names in each case.

As a suggestion, why wouldn't it be a splendid move on your part to determine from which counties these honored men enlisted and then contact the county boards of these counties asking each board to select a lake and name it for the particular hero who came from their county. It seems to me that such a suggestion should receive spontaneous approval and result in early action in each case. I am sending a copy of your letter and my reply to the State Geographic Board.

Very truly yours,

E. V. Willard - Deputy
Commissioner of Conservation

EVW/R

Geol Corresp.

1849 · MINNESOTA TERRITORIAL CENTENNIAL · 1949

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA

July 1, 1947

Mr. M. C. Michaelson
Room 29 City Hall
Minneapolis 15, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Michaelson:

Miss Nute, who is out of town at present, has referred to me your postcard requesting information about the names of certain lakes northeast of Ely.

I have been unable to find the original Indian names of Lakes Agnes and Alice. I suggest that you write to Mr. William Madison, 2300 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, who may be able to give you the information. He is active in the Ojibway-Dakota Research Society of Minnesota, which is making a study of the original Indian names of geographic features in the state.

"Gabimichigami" in the Chippewa language means "body of water lying diagonally."

Sincerely yours,

Associate editor

MWB/b

M. J. HOFFMANN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS

O. L. KIPP
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
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CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

C. L. MOTL
MAINTENANCE ENGINEER

July 14, 1949

Mrs. M. W. Berthel
Geographic Board
Historical Society Bldg.
Capitol Square
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

Dear Mrs. Berthel: Re: Illgen City

Enclosed please find letter from Mr. John Lind, the director of the North Shore Resort Owners Association, address, Two Harbors, for your information in connection with Illgen City.

Yours very truly,
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

P. J. McCauley
Senior Engineer

PJM:BJF

Enc.

C
O
P
Y

NORTH SHORE RESORT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Two Harbors, Minnesota

Mar. 17, 1949

P. J. McCauley
Senior Engineer
Dept. of Highways
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. McCauley:

I did not mention our map with the intention of conveying the impression that it was a map. The intention was only to convey the location or rotation in which the various localities or scenic spots appear on our strip map of the shoreline and the North Shore section of Highway #61.

You will note that Palisade Head is approximately seven miles northeast of Beaver Bay and before arriving at Baptism River, traveling east. That is all that I wanted to convey.

Thank you very much for your quick action and enclosed find our 1949 tourist folder, which conveys the location and fairly close mileage from Duluth of each of the scenic spots and resorts, rivers and towns.

As to the Illgen City matter: This has been a sore spot on the shore ever since Mr. Rudolph Illgen began using the name Illgen City. To the uninitiated and newcomer on the shore it created the impression that there was a city on the spot at which could be secured the necessities or luxuries people wanted. Many went there to find a drug store, others groceries, movies, dances, dry goods or clothing or whatever they needed, only to find a resort that did not even offer them good service.

We would be very pleased to give more information on that question to the offices to which the question has been referred, if you can tell us where to write. And thank you!

Very truly yours,

John Lind /s/

John Lind, Director
NO. SHORE RESORT OWNERS ASS'N