



[Minnesota Geographic Board.
Records.](#)

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Cameron, John J.

June 28, 1937

Mr. John J. Cameron, Secretary
U. S. Geographic Board
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Cameron:

Under the terms of an act passed by the Minnesota State Legislature, there has recently been organized in Minnesota a State Geographic Board. I enclose herewith a copy of the act providing for this body.

We held an organization meeting last week, and as secretary of the board I was instructed to gather some information as to the scope of the work carried on by similar boards in other states. We are as yet somewhat uncertain just what kind of program to launch and I should be very grateful to you if you will either supply me with information about the activities of other state boards or give me the addresses of some of them so that I may get in touch with them. As you will see by the terms of the law, we are planning to co-operate as effectively as we can with the U. S. board.

Sincerely yours,

TCB/H

Superintendent

U.S. Geographic Board

JUL 6 1937

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON

July 2, 1937

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

Dear Mr. Blegen:

Your letter of June 28, addressed to Mr. John J. Cameron, has been received. Mr. Cameron is no longer connected with this organization.

I enclose two pamphlets that are the only publications of this office, which is the successor to, and has the same functions as, the former U. S. Geographic Board. You will find therein statements concerning the history, organization, and functions of the present Board. I also enclose mimeographed statement, recently prepared for distribution to Government officers, concerning names to be submitted for decision.

The State geographic boards that seem to be most active at present are those of Michigan, Wisconsin and New York. Those of Michigan and Wisconsin seem to be operating along lines that are very similar to those outlined in the bill creating the Minnesota board. That of New York is active and efficient, but its prescribed or adopted activities are somewhat different. There also are State geographic Boards of lesser activity, with which this office is maintaining active relationships, in California, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. I would suggest that you write to the officers of these boards as below.

Michigan: Dr. George N. Fuller, Sec. State Historical
Commission,
Lansing, Mich.

Wisconsin: Mr. H. W. Mac Kenzie, Secretary,
Department of Conservation,
Madison, Wis.

New York: Dr. A. C. Flick, Chairman,
Director of Archives and History,
University of New York,
Albany, New York.

California: Prof. Tracy L. Storer, Chairman,
University of California,
Davis, California

Oregon: Mr. Lewis A. McArthur, Secretary,
Public Service Building,
Portland, Oregon

Pennsylvania: Dr. George H. Ashley, Secretary
Dept. of Internal Affairs,
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Rhode Island: Mr. Howard Chapin, Chairman,
Librarian, Rhode Island Historical Society,
Providence, Rhode Island.

In other States there are, or have been, organizations that carried on some of the functions of a State geographic board, or were established for the purpose of preparing State gazetteers, some of which may still be active and help to you. I doubt whether many of these organizations are still functioning, but enclose addresses of their officers as on file in this office. Many of these are doubtless out of date through change in personnel or abolishment of the organization.

Whenever there is anything that I can do to aid you in your work, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Martin
Executive Secretary

List of State Geographic Boards

Alabama: Mrs. Marie Bankhead Owen, Director (1933)
Dept. of Archives and History,
Montgomery, Alabama

Mrs. Owen was named by the Governor in 1926 to cooperate
in the preparation of a State gazetteer.

Arkansas: Mr. Dallas T. Herndon, Secretary,
State History Commission,
Little Rock, Arkansas

Mr. Herndon was appointed by the Governor, Feb. 4, 1927,
to cooperate with the U. S. Geographic Board in pre-
paration of a State gazetteer.

Florida: Mr. Herman Gunter, State Geologist, Tallahassee, was
appointed by the Governor on Oct. 29, 1926, to
cooperate with the U. S. Geographic Board in the
preparation of a State gazetteer.

Hawaii: Hawaiian Advisory Committee of the U. S. Geographic Board
was appointed in 1912 by the Governor of the Territory
following the suggestion of the Secretary of the
Interior that such a body be created.

Mr. Robert D. King, Surveyor of the Territory,
Executive Chambers, Honolulu, is Secretary

Idaho: The Idaho Geographic Board of 9 members was appointed by
the Governor, June 25, 1927.

Mr. John Case, President of the Sons of Idaho, Boise,
Mr. James H. Hawley, Pres. of Idaho State Historical Soc.,
Mr. C. J. Brosnan, Dept. of History, Univ. of Idaho
members of the board.

Indiana: The Governor, on Dec. 10, 1926, appointed a body of three
to cooperate with the U. S. Geographic Board in the
preparation of a State gazetteer. The members were:

,Dean Stanley Coulter, Dept. of Conservation, Lafayette,
Mr. John D. Williams, Dir. of State Highways, Indianapolis,
Prof. J. A. Woodburn, Dept. of History, Univ. of Indiana,
Bloomington, Ind.

Kentucky: On March 9, 1927, the Governor appointed a "Kentucky Geographic Council" to cooperate in the matter of a State gazetteer. Its members were:

Dr. Willard Rouse Jillson, Dir. Kentucky Geological Survey, Frankfort, Chairman,
Mr. Otto A. Rothert, Sec. Filson Club, Louisville,
Mr. H. V. McChesney, Vice Pres., Kentucky State Historical Society, Frankfort.

Massachusetts: The Massachusetts Geographic Board was appointed by the Governor on Nov. 2, 1926, for the purpose of compiling a gazetteer. Upon its completion, the members resigned, June 27, 1932. Its secretary, who was a member of the board, Miss Ellen Mudge Burrill, 200 State House, Boston, will answer any questions concerning the names compiled.

Nebraska: Dr. George E. Condra, Conservation Dept., University of Nebraska, Lincoln, was appointed by the Governor on October 15, 1926, to cooperate in the preparation of a State gazetteer.

New Hampshire: The New Hampshire Geographic Board was appointed by the Governor on Oct. 27, 1926. Its membership consisted of:

Hon. Enoch D. Fuller, Secretary of State, Concord
Mr. Frederick A. Gardner, Concord,
Mr. Harlan C. Pearson, Concord

New Jersey: On October 26, 1926, the Governor appointed Dr. Henry B. Kummer, Director, Dept. of Conservation and Development, Trenton, to cooperate in the compilation of a State gazetteer. To assist him, Prof. J. Volney Lewis, Prof. of Geology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, was named.

New Mexico: On October 18, 1926, the Governor appointed three members to serve as the New Mexico Geographic Board, Santa Fe. Its membership was:

Mr. George Neel, State Engineer, Santa Fe,
Dr. E. H. Wells, State Geologist, and Pres. School of Mines, Socorro,
Dr. A. O. Bowden, Pres. State Normal School, Silver City.

North Dakota: In December 1926, the Governor appointed a committee of five to cooperate in the preparation of a State gazetteer. Comprising the committee were:

Dr. O. G. Libby, Chairman, Prof. of American History,
University of North Dakota, Grand Forks,
Prof. Howard E. Simpson, Prof. of Geography and
Geology, Univ. of North Dakota
Rev. C. Hall, Mission School for Indian, Elbow Woods

Oklahoma: On Oct. 12, 1926, the Governor appointed the Oklahoma Geographic Board, consisting of three members:

Hon. Charles F. Barrett, Adjutant General, Oklahoma City,
Mr. Joseph B. Thoburn, Sec. Historical Soc., " "
Dr. Charles N. Gould, Dir. State Geol. Survey, Norman

Utah: The Governor, on Oct. 22, 1926, appointed a Utah Geographic Board consisting of six members.

Mr. O. J. Grimes, Salt Lake City, was secretary.

Vermont: The Vermont Board of Geographic Names was created by an Act of Feb. 2, 1917. It consisted of the State Librarian, State Geologist, and an officer of the Vermont Historical Society.

Mr. Harrison J. Conant, State Librarian, Montpelier,
was Chairman in 1926.

Virginia: In 1927 the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Richmond, was charged with the duty of cooperation with the U. S. Geographic Board in the preparation of a State gazetteer.

Wyoming: The Wyoming Geographic Board of seven members was appointed by the Governor on March 21, 1928. Its Chairman was the Deputy State Engineer, and its Secretary, the State Historian.

Miss Ruth Harrington, State Historian, Cheyenne.

July 6, 1937

Mr. George C. Martin, Executive Secretary
Board on Geographical Names
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Martin:-

Thank you very much for your letter of July 2. I know that the Board will be greatly interested in the information that it contains and also in the enclosures. I shall write promptly to Dr. Fuller in Michigan and Mr. MacKenzie in Wisconsin since they are neighboring states of ours.

Sincerely yours

TGB/P

Mille Lacs County

March 3, 1938

Dr. George C. Martin, Secretary
United States Board on Geographical Names
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Martin:

The State Geographic Board of Minnesota is confronted with the question of determining the name of a lake in Minnesota which is known as Mille Lacs. On page 520 of the Sixth Report of the United States Geographic Board a decision is recorded which announces the name as "Mille Lacs." The decision, however, does not state whether the word "lake" is used in connection with this name.

We should like to know whether the United States board has on record any recent decision applying in this case, and whether the name should be Mille Lacs Lake, Lake Mille Lacs, or simply Mille Lacs. We should like to know what the application here of the general rule regarding a repetition of similar terms — in this case the word "lake" — would be. Common usage has in this case developed no uniformity in the terminology, and all three terms appear to be used indiscriminately. What will be the attitude of the board in other problems of a similar nature?

The Minnesota State Geographic Board is now beginning its task of compiling a "gazeteer" of Minnesota geographical names, and in connection with that work it has been necessary to devise some form of a permanent filing card upon which to record the names by which features are known, together with other pertinent information. A tentative card has been designed based in part upon that used by the United States board as shown on page 57 of the Sixth Report. I am curious to know some of the physical details of this card. What is its size? Do you, by any chance, have a sample that you could send me?

The board also is confronted with the necessity of acquiring a set of the decisions of the United States Geographic Board and its successor, the United States Board on

G. C. Martin, 3/3/38, page 2

Geographical Names. For the present, work is being carried on with borrowed copies which, however, soon must be returned to their owners. I understand that Mrs. Warming, the document clerk on the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society, recently has written you asking for such a set. I hope it will be possible for you to send it to us. We also shall appreciate receiving copies of publications as they are issued. Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, is, as you know, the secretary of the State Geographic Board, and if publications are sent, to him they will be made available for use in connection with the work of the board.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t

Head of Newspaper Department

Memorandum regarding Mille Lacs [Lake]

February 25, 1938

AGL

Dear Mr. Blegen:-

I am in receipt of a request from the Highway Department for the preparation of an inscription for a marker to be used at Garrison on the shore of Mille Lacs Lake. The inscription is to be semi-geographical in character.

In working upon material for this marker, I find that there are a number of different forms of the name for this lake, in use. It seems to be spelled both with the final "s" viz., Mille Lacs, and without it, viz., Mille Lac. Should the word "Lake" be used with "Mille Lac[s]" or not, and if so, before or after?

Mrs. Berthel informs me that an old U.S. Geographic Board decision declares the proper form to be "Mille Lacs," without the word "Lake." Elliott Coues, Pike Expedition, 1:311-14 has a long discussion on the matter, holding that through usage, the words "Mille Lacs" have become merely two words in English and have lost their earlier French meaning. Hence Lake Mille Lacs would be proper. The 1937 Highway Map uses "Mille Lacs Lake."

In view of the powers and duties laid upon the State Geographic Board to rule upon such matters, it seems to me that the Board should make a decision in this case, to permit an authoritative and correctly spelled form to be used upon this permanent marker. As the Highway Department is anxious to proceed with the manufacture of this marker and has asked me to get the inscription out as soon as possible, I should appreciate some sort of ruling on the matter as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Willoughby M. Dabovich

Curator of Museum and Archeologist

*File
with letter to
U.S. Board of
Geographical Names*

MAR 11 1938

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON

March 9, 1938

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

My dear Mr. Larsen:

Your letter of March 3, concerning investigation of geographic names in Minnesota, has been received. A request for publications, dated March 2, was received from Mrs. Warming. In reply thereto, such publications as are available were sent. I am sorry that a copy of the Sixth Report could not be sent, but you will have no difficulty in obtaining as many copies as you desire from the sale stock of the Superintendent of Documents, who has a large supply. Three of the pamphlets subsequent to the Sixth Report are out of print, and are not on the sale list. Typed copies of all the Minnesota decisions in these are enclosed.

The decision card for Mille Lacs indicates that the decision was intended to apply both to the county and to a lake, and that the names of the two features should be written Mille Lacs County and Mille Lacs Lake.

Present procedure, as in the last two pamphlets, is to head each decision with the full map name in its approved form, as indicated on page 3 of the pamphlet entitled "Decisions rendered between July 1, 1936, and June 30, 1937." It is unfortunate that this procedure was not adopted before. Nobody can tell what some of the decisions in the Sixth Report mean, without looking up the original records, and sometimes not then. Whenever you have difficulty on this point, do not hesitate to write me.

Present practice in approving names is to adopt the order Mille Lacs Lake rather than Lake Mille Lacs, because the former is more easily alphabetized, unless established usage or euphony requires the latter order. We couldn't get away with Superior Lake even if we wanted to.

I enclose a few copies of the decision card which we are now using. When it is necessary to cite more maps and reports than will go in the space under "Names" and "Authorities," we cross out "Local Usage" and let the list of cited maps run on down into that space, and give local usage under a new typed heading, either lower on the card, or on its back, or on one or several attached blank cards, like one of the enclosed. I have cited as many as 80 or 90 published usages, and a half card or more of statements of "local usage" on a single case, which meant *having* 3 or 4 attached cards. I find it helpful, in referring to the filed cards, not to have anything on the back of any card, except ^{on} the last one of an attached group, or the back of a single card. It also helps, in reference to filed cards, if the typing on attached cards does not go too close to its top.

If there is further information that I can give you, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Martin
Executive Secretary

U. S. Board on Geographical Names
decisions on names in Minnesota

Decision rendered between July 1, 1934, and June 30, 1935

Sauk Centre: city and township, Stearns County,
Minn. (Not Sauk Center.)

Decisions rendered between July 1, 1935 and June 30, 1936

*Bezhik Lake: a lake in secs. 9 and 16, T.64 N., R.14 W.,
Superior National Forest, Minn. (Not Bezhick.)
Chippewa word meaning "one". Pronounced Bē-zhīk.

*Bibon Lake: a lake in secs. 26 and 27, T.66 N., R.13 W.,
Superior National Forest, Minn. (Not Bibōn.) Chip-
pewa word meaning "winter." Pronounced Bī'bōn.

Blacksmith Lake: a small lake in sec. 13, T.144 N.,
R.28 W., Chippewa National Forest, Cass County, Minn.

*Eskwagama Lake: a lake in sec. 6, T.62 N., and sec. 31,
T.63 N., R.10 W., Superior National Forest, Minn.
(Not Esquagama.) Chippewa word meaning "last lake."
Pronounced Ĕsh kwā'gā mā.

*Niswi Lake: a lake in secs. 16 and 21, T.64 N., R.14 W.,
Superior National Forest, Minn. (Not Nisswi.)
Chippewa word meaning "three." Pronounced nīsh'wī.

Nushka Lake: a lake about a mile long in secs. 33, 34,
T.145 N., R.27 W., Chippewa National Forest, Cass
County, Minn. (Not Rice Lake.)

*Pakwene Lake: a lake in sec. 5, T.65 N., R.11 W.,
Superior National Forest, Minn. (Not Pakwéne.)
Chippewa word meaning "smoke", "There is smoke."
Pronounced pāk wě'nē.

Pike Lake: a lake in secs. 13 and 24, T.60 N., R.10 W.,
Superior National Forest, Minn.

Tuttle Lake: a small lake in E. 1/2 sec. 29, T.146 N.,
R.26 W., Chippewa National Forest, Itasca County,
Minn. Named for a Mr. Tuttle, an Indian, now
deceased, who developed a large farm on the north
end of the lake.

*Wabang Lake: in secs. 30 and 31, T.67 N., R.13 W.,
Superior National Forest, Minn. (Not Wābang.)
Chippewa word meaning "tomorrow." Pronounced
wā bāng.

U. S. Board on Geographical Names
decisions on names in Minnesota

Decision rendered between July 1, 1934, and June 30, 1935

Sauk Centre: city and township, Stearns County,
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Superior National Forest, Minn. (Not Bezhick.)
Chippewa word meaning "one". Pronounced Bē-zhīk.

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Superior National Forest, Minn. (Not Bibōn.) Chip-
pewa word meaning "winter." Pronounced Bī'bōn.

Blacksmith Lake: a small lake in sec. 13, T.144 N.,
R.28 W., Chippewa National Forest, Cass County, Minn.

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T.63 N., R.10 W., Superior National Forest, Minn.
(Not Esquagama.) Chippewa word meaning "last lake."
Pronounced Ēsh kwā'gā mā.

*Niswi Lake: a lake in secs. 16 and 21, T.64 N., R.14 W.,
Superior National Forest, Minn. (Not Nisswi.)
Chippewa word meaning "three." Pronounced nīsh'wī.

Nushka Lake: a lake about a mile long in secs. 33, 34,
T.145 N., R.27 W., Chippewa National Forest, Cass
County, Minn. (Not Rice Lake.)

*Pakwene Lake: a lake in sec. 5, T.65 N., R.11 W.,
Superior National Forest, Minn. (Not Pakwēne.)
Chippewa word meaning "smoke", "There is smoke."
Pronounced pāk wē'nē.

Pike Lake: a lake in secs. 13 and 24, T.60 N., R.10 W.,
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R.26 W., Chippewa National Forest, Itasca County,
Minn. Named for a Mr. Tuttle, an Indian, now
deceased, who developed a large farm on the north
end of the lake.

*Wabang Lake: in secs. 30 and 31, T.67 N., R.13 W.,
Superior National Forest, Minn. (Not Wābang.)
Chippewa word meaning "tomorrow." Pronounced
wā bāng.

March 12, 1938

Dr. George C. Martin, Secretary
United States Board on Geographical Names
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Martin:

Thank you for your letter of March 9 regarding the policy of your board in the case of Mille Lacs Lake. We are glad to have on record a statement of the general policy of the board in cases of this sort, for the problem of close co-operation between the State Geographic Board of Minnesota and the United States Board on Geographical Names will be simplified if we know more generally the established procedure of the national board.

We also were interested in seeing the card in use at Washington. It bears out our feeling that the simpler such a card can be made, the more satisfactory it will be. The card we have designed for experimental purposes is a little larger than those you use, but in view of the fact that we are trying to include a little more information on the card, it scarcely could be made smaller. We are experimenting with a card five by eight inches in size.

The copies of the publications of the national board, which you sent to Mrs. Warming, have been received, and I wish to thank you for them. We have sent to the Superintendent of Documents for such of them as you were unable to furnish.

Sincerely yours,

Head of the Newspaper Department

AUG 30 1939

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON

August 28, 1939

Mr. Arthur J. Larsen,
Acting Secretary,
State Geographic Board,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Larsen:

Your letter of August 24, and also copy of Minnesota Geographic Names, have been received.

That publication will be a most valuable addition to the library of this board, and will be extremely useful whenever any Minnesota names are being considered. Please accept my sincere thanks for it.

I enclose copy of the latest publication issued by this board. You will find, on page 63, a list of earlier publications. If you will indicate which of these you have not received, copies will be sent to you, if available.

Very truly yours,

George C. Martin
Executive Secretary.

DEC 9 1940

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON

December 6, 1940.

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

Dear Sir:

I enclose copies of "advance notice, subject to correction" of decisions rendered October 18, 1940, and October 31, 1940. You will find a decision on a name in Minnesota in each of these notices.

These advance notices in this form are sent out to a restricted list of correspondents which includes those who have special interest in, or special knowledge of, the names therein, and who are likely to have need for prompt notice of the board's action, or who may wish to submit information as to errors, or requests for amendment or reconsideration of the decisions, before the decisions are finally promulgated by being printed in the annual pamphlet which goes to press soon after July 1st.

Thank you again for the information that you furnished concerning the name Rices Point.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Martin
Executive Secretary.

MAR 29 1940

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON

March 27, 1940.

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

Dear Sir:

The State Department of Highways has called the attention of this office to two instances in which there is an apparent discrepancy between decisions of the former United States Geographic Board and local usage.

In 1897 a decision was rendered on the name of the river forming the boundary between Minnesota and North Dakota. That decision designated the river as Red River, whereas the Department of Highways states that from all information it has been able to obtain, the river should be called Red River of the North.

A recent study of map usage reveals that both names appear to be used with equal frequency. Has the Minnesota Geographic Board issued a decision on the correct name of this stream, or is there any legal basis for either form?

On March 11, 1903, a decision was rendered on the name Gabimichigami Lake situated at the intersection of Townships 64 and 65 North, Ranges 5 and 6 West, Lake County. The letter from the Department of Highways states that Gabemichigamma Lake is the spelling employed by the State Drainage and Water Commission.

There seems to be no uniformity in map usage regarding the spelling of this name. Cabemichigamme Lake, Cabemichigamma Lake, and Gabimichigama Lake are among other forms appearing on maps. Has the Minnesota Geographic Board rendered a decision on the name of this lake or is there any information in the files of your office to indicate what the correct form should be?

If you can furnish any information or offer any suggestions concerning correct usage in these two cases, your advice will be greatly appreciated and very helpful to this office in determining the correct forms to be used on government maps.

Very truly yours,

George C. Martin
Executive Secretary.

Mary B

April 16, 1940

Mr. George C. Martin, Executive Secretary
United States Board on Geographical Names
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Martin:

We have been endeavoring to find authority for the various names listed in your letter of March 27. Our research leads us to believe that the correct name of the river forming the boundary between Minnesota and North Dakota should be Red River. Warren Upham, in his Minnesota Geographic Names, states that the river received its name from the lake of the same name. Apparently the term "Red River of the North" was devised and used by Joseph N. Nicollet to distinguish it from the Red River which is tributary to the lower Mississippi. It would seem to me that it is unnecessary to so differentiate between the two rivers. Most people in Minnesota know it simply as the Red River. The name itself is a translation from the Ojibway name which refers, according to Upham, to the red and vermilion hues of the smooth water surface reflecting the color of the sky at sunset on summer evenings.

So far as Gabemichigamma Lake is concerned, we are unable to find any authority for any spelling. All the names cited appear to be corruptions of an Ojibway form. The Minnesota Geographic Board has not rendered a decision on the name of this lake, and so far, I am afraid, our information is nil.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/U

Secretary, State
Geographic Board

December 16, 1940

Mr. George C. Martin, Executive Secretary
U. S. Board on Geographical Names
Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Martin:

Thank you for your letter of December 6 and the inclosed copies of the advance notices of decisions of the U. S. Board on Geographical Names rendered on October 18 and 21, 1940.

The Minnesota State Geographic Board, on December 2, 1940, approved the following names, which were submitted to the State Board by the commissioners of Cass and Beltrami Counties:

Beltrami Lake: a lake of 784 acres in secs. 30, 31; 25, 26, 35, 36, T. 148 N., R. 32, 33 W., Beltrami County, Minn. Partly in the Chippewa National Forest. (Not Gnat Lake nor Gnatt Lake). So named July 8, 1940, by Beltrami County Board of Commissioners, upon petition by local residents, for Giacomo C. Beltrami (1779-1855), an Italian explorer who traveled in the region in 1823. Name approved by Minnesota State Geographic Board, December 2, 1940.

Variety Lake: a lake of 153 acres in secs. 32, 33, T. 140 N., R. 31 W., Chippewa National Forest, Cass County, Minn. (Not Pickerel Lake). So named June 4, 1940, by Cass County Board of Commissioners, upon petition by local residents, for the variety of fish species in the lake. Name approved by Minnesota State Geographic Board, December 2, 1940.

The State Geographic Board on December 2, 1940, also accepted 127 corrections of minor errors, misspellings, and misapplications, which were submitted by the forest supervisors of the Superior and Chippewa National Forests after field investigation. We were advised by the forest supervisors that it is unnecessary to submit these minor corrections to the U. S. Board on Geograph-

ical Names. If you wish us to do so, however, we shall be glad to send them to you.

On the same date the Board also approved 116 names which were recommended by the supervisors of the two forests to correct major discrepancies. It will be necessary to submit these names to the boards of commissioners in the counties concerned in order to obtain local approval before they become official. Those that the county boards approve will be submitted to the U. S. Board on Geographical Names.

Sincerely,

Secretary,
State Geographic Board

AJL/B

7m B-
File

JUN 20 1941

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON

June 17, 1941.

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

My dear Mr. Larsen:

On December 16, 1940, you wrote me that the Minnesota Geographic Board on December 2, 1940, had approved the names Beltrami Lake and Variety Lake which were submitted to the State Board by the commissioners of Cass and Beltrami Counties. On June 11, 1941, the Executive Committee of this Board approved those two names for use on maps and in publications issued by the Federal Government in the form of decisions that you will find on pages 1 and 4 of the enclosed "advance notice."

These "advance notices, subject to correction" are sent out in this form, very soon after the Executive Committee acts upon the names, to a restricted list of correspondents which varies from time to time with the names concerned. The purpose of thus sending advance notices is to give timely notice of the committee's action to those who have special need for it, and also to give opportunity and make a request for corrections, or request for reconsideration, before the decisions are finally promulgated by being printed in the Board's annual pamphlet of decisions which is always prepared for publication soon after July 1. In case you see any errors in these decisions I, consequently, will appreciate prompt notice.

This Board also has before it, for consideration, about 115 other names in Minnesota which I understand to have been approved by your Board and which came to me from the U. S. Forest Service in March, April, and May 1941. No action has been taken on any of those names and I think that they will have to be laid over until the members of the committee and I return from our summer field trips.

Very sincerely yours,

George C. Martin

Executive Secretary.

June 24, 1941

Mr. George C. Martin
Executive Secretary
Board on Geographical Names
United States Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Martin:

This is to acknowledge receipt of the "advance notice" of the decisions of the United States Board on Geographical Names, rendered July 11, 1941. I am grateful to learn that the two names that we suggested have received the approval of the United States Board. I trust that they will remain on the approved list.

My attention has just been called to the fact that among the name changes that now are before the Board are several involving international boundary waters. I assume that there will be difficulties in changing these names because of the international complications. Please consider the recommendations of the Minnesota State Geographic Board merely as recommendations, based upon our research and that of the United States Forest Service. If the names can be changed, I think it would be beneficial.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/D

Superintendent

MWB.

NOV 3 1941

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON

October 30, 1941.

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

Dear Mr. Larsen:

I enclose a list of names of lakes in or near the Chippewa and Superior National Forests, in Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, St. Louis, Lake, and Cook Counties, Minnesota, which have been submitted to this board by the U. S. Forest Service for decisions.

Will you please check these names as to whether the names and spellings agree with those which your board has approved, and tell me of any errors. I have given only very abbreviated descriptions which I believe will be adequate for identification of the features for this present purpose. More precise definitions will be included in the decisions.

I expect that this board will take action on these names very soon after reply is received from you.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Martin
Executive Secretary.

November 28, 1941

Mr. George C. Martin, Executive Secretary
U. S. Board on Geographical Names
U. S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Secretary
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Martin:

I am returning the list of names of lakes in and near the Chippewa and Superior National Forests which was enclosed in your letter of October 30. The list was submitted to the U. S. Board on Geographical Names by the U. S. Forest Service for decisions.

The spellings of all the names have been checked with the Minnesota Geographic Board Decisions on those names, and all agree, with the exception of "Lake 14," which reads "Lake Fourteen" in the State Board decisions. If the number is spelled out in the name, it will serve better for alphabetting purposes in gazetteers. Does the State Board's decision conflict with the policy of the U. S. Board on Geographical Names as to numerals in geographic names? If you have a definite policy in this matter, will you please let us know for our guidance in making future decisions?

Sincerely yours,

Secretary,
Minnesota State Geographic Board

AJL/mwb

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
WASHINGTON

June 23, 1943.

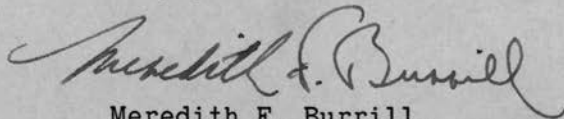
Mr. Edward C. Gale, President,
Minnesota Historical Society,
Cedar and Central Sts.,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

My dear Mr. Gale:

The United States Board on Geographical Names is making a collection of source materials on place names. We would like to have copies of your publications on place names including reprints of articles on this subject as they appear in your journal. We are also interested in previous issues of your magazines having similar articles.

The Board will soon issue its seventh report containing all decisions on place names from 1890 to 1943. This can be forwarded to you in exchange for your publications.

Sincerely yours,



Meredith F. Burrill,
Director.

July 16, 1943

Mr. Meredith F. Burrill, Director
Board on Geographical Names
U. S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Burrill:

We have received your request of June 23 for publications on place names. The only publication issued by the Minnesota Historical Society on place names is Warren Upham's Minnesota Geographic Names (Collections of the Minnesota Historical Society, volume 17 -- St. Paul, 1920). 735 pages.

Some time ago a copy of this volume was sent to the U. S. Board on Geographical Names by the Minnesota State Geographic Board, of which the superintendent of this society is the secretary. If you do not have this volume, let us know and we shall be glad to send you a copy.

The State Geographic Board has in process the compilation of a gazetteer of Minnesota, which, it is hoped, will be published ultimately. It will be far more comprehensive than the Upham volume, and will do much to eliminate the great confusion existing in Minnesota place names.

Sincerely yours,

Editorial assistant.

NWB/b

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

August 18, 1943.

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

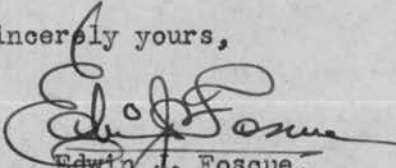
My dear Mr. Larsen:

We are revising the Sixth Report of the United States Geographic Board. On page 109 of this report we find, "Avoca: lake, Ramsey County, Minn. (Not Snake.)" We are unable to locate Avoca Lake on any map.

A letter from Mr. M. W. Carley, Acting County Surveyor, St. Paul, Minnesota, states: "There is no lake in Ramsey County by the name of Lake Avoca, or Snake Lake. Either the lake has dried up or it is known by another name. We have no record of any lake by either of the names mentioned."

Is there a lake by either name in any county in Minnesota? If there is, will you please give us the correct location? A franked envelope is enclosed for your reply.

Sincerely yours,


Edwin J. Fosque,
Acting Director.

Enclosure.



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

OCT 6 1943

Miss Mary W. Berthel, Editorial Assistant,
Minnesota Geographic Board,
Saint Paul, Minnesota.

SEP 30 1943

My dear Miss Berthel:

Thank you for the helpful information in your letter of September 20, which informed us of the misprint "Snake" for "Snail" in the case of the legislative act which changed the name to Lake Avoca.

We also appreciate your calling our attention to some errors in the Sixth Report which will be corrected in the next report.

Sincerely yours,

Meredith F. Burrill,
Director.