



[Minnesota Geographic Board.
Records.](#)

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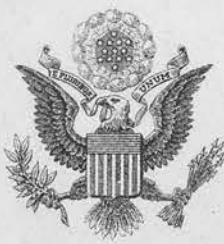
Winchell, Geology of Minnesota, Final Report, vol.4, 1899:

Its [Beltrami County's] limit upon the north is the international boundary, which it should be remembered has a northern extension on the west side of Lake of the Woods, so as to include what is called the "northwest angle." p. 131.

Although we have not visited the "northwest angle" . . . p. 138.

It is obvious from other references that Winchell is calling the peninsula the Northwest Angle.

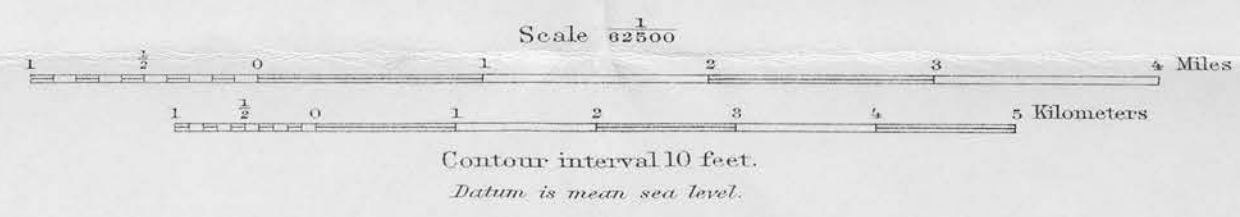
COPY



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
FROM THE GULF OF GEORGIA
TO THE NORTHWESTERMOST POINT OF THE LAKE OF THE WOODS
SHEET No. 59



SURVEYED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER O. H. FITTMANN, 1908-1915
E. C. BARNARD, 1915-1921
E. LESTER JONES, 1921-
HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONER
W. F. KING, 1908-1915
J. J. MCARTHUR, 1917-1924
J. D. CRAIG, 1925-



FOR THE UNITED STATES
E. C. BARNARD, CHIEF TOPOGRAPHER.
C. H. SINCLAIR, CHIEF ASTRONOMER.
TOPOGRAPHY BY J. H. VAN WAGENEN, H. C. O. CLARKE,
R. K. LYNT, AND E. V. PERKINSON.
TRIANGULATION BY JESSE HILL AND E. R. MARTIN.
SURVEYED IN 1912 AND 1915.

FOR HIS MAJESTY
J. J. MCARTHUR, D. L. S., SURVEYOR IN CHARGE.
TOPOGRAPHY BY H. M. BARTON AND H. P. MOULTON.
TRIANGULATION BY J. L. RANNIE, D. T. S.,
F. P. STEERS AND H. M. BARTON.
INSPECTION BY J. L. RANNIE, D. T. S.

We certify that this chart is one of the quadruplicate set of fifty-nine (59) charts adopted under Articles VI and VII of the treaty between Great Britain and the United States, signed at Washington April 11, 1908, and that we have marked hereon the Boundary Line as re-established by the Commissioners designated above, in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Treaty of 1908 and of Article I of the Treaty between the United States and His Britannic Majesty, in respect of the Dominion of Canada, signed at Washington, February 24, 1925.
Signed December 7, 1927

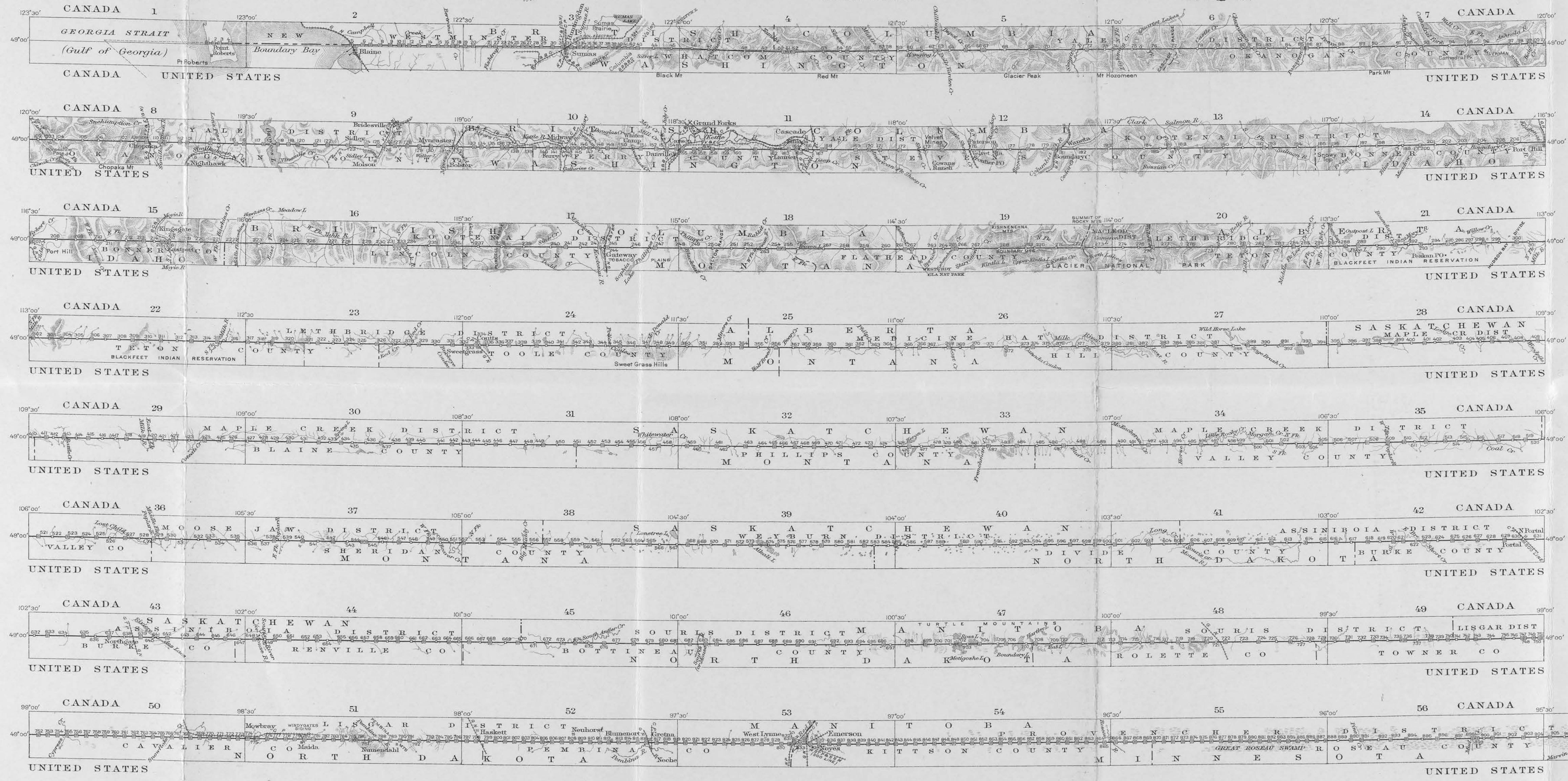
E. Lester Jones
United States Commissioner
J. D. Craig
His Britannic Majesty's Commissioner

Boundary Monuments
On original sites
On new sites
Boundary Line
Boundary Turning Point, unmarked

SHEET NO. 59

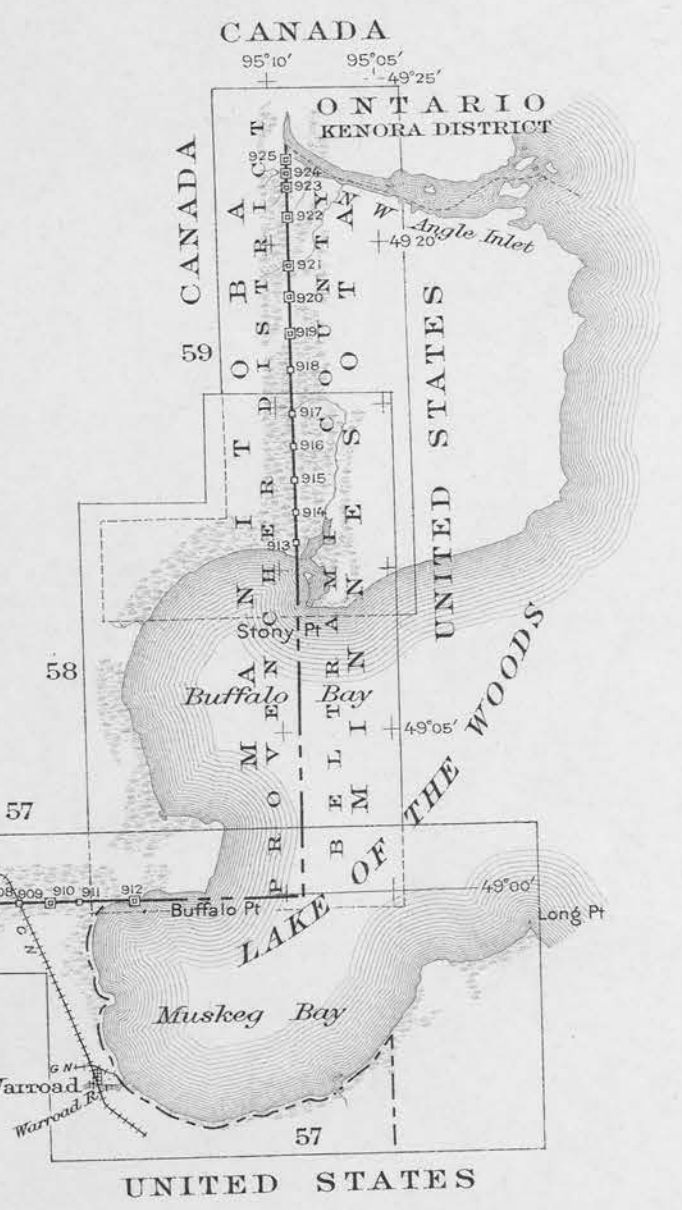
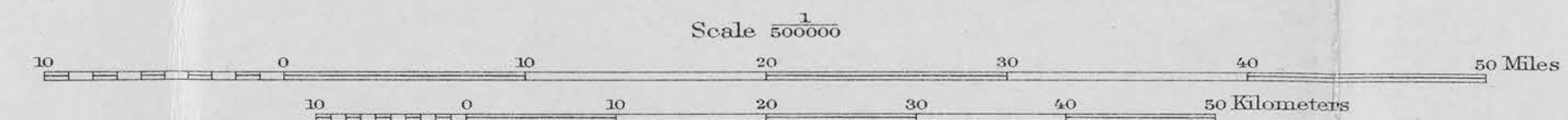


INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
FROM THE GULF OF GEORGIA
TO THE NORTHWESTERNMOST POINT OF THE LAKE OF THE WOODS
INDEX SHEET



Boundary Monument
5 feet high

Boundary Monuments
On original sites ■
On new sites □



FEB 23 1942

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

February 20, 1942.

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

Dear Sir:

This Board has been requested by the International Boundary Commission to approve the new name Delafield Peninsula, which the Boundary Commission desires to apply in honor of Major Joseph Delafield.

I enclose the proposed decision approving the name and a copy of letter from the Boundary Commission, dated November 7, 1941, requesting the approval. I also enclose two of the International Boundary Commission's maps showing the location of the feature. I am very much in sympathy with this proposal and hope that your board will see no objection to it. Supplemental to the information contained in the proposed decision and in Governor Riggs' letter, I may also add that Major Delafield served as captain and major during the War of 1812 and I believe he was also a Revolutionary soldier.

Governor Riggs has asked me if I could obtain approval of the name at an early date because the diary of Major Delafield, mentioned in his letter, is now ready for publication. I should have written to you on this subject before but was prevented from doing so by arrears in some of our more urgent work caused by the transfer of one of my staff to a government office in the West and by the absence of my secretary on her vacation. If your board can give approval to the proposed name at an early date it will be very greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Martin
Executive Secretary.

C
P
Y

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION
United States, Alaska, and Canada

United States Section

WASHINGTON
November 7, 1941

Dr. George C. Martin
U. S. Board on Geographic Names
Department of Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Martin:

Major Joseph Delafield was the Agent for the United States during the final phases of the demarcation of the International Boundary, under the terms of the Treaty of Ghent, from the St. Lawrence River to the Northwesternmost point of Lake of the Woods. By his ability he rose from the position of Secretary to the U. S. Commissioner to Agent. There was much disagreement between the Commissioners and it is entirely due to the force and perseverance of Major Delafield that that large triangle within the State of Minnesota from the present boundary to Duluth and thence via the St. Louis and Vermillion Rivers to Lake Namakan, was saved to the United States. Had it not been for Major Delafield, it is quite possible that this line would have been adopted. From 1818 to 1824 he personally traversed the northern routes, always claiming more than he expected to obtain, but always blocking the British contentions. Finally the Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 settled the dispute along lines which were practically those laid down by Major Delafield.

I have assisted Prof. Robert McElroy in the editing of a very complete and heretofore unpublished diary of Major Delafield and have been struck by the fact that no natural feature has been called after him. For his distinguished services I feel that his name should appear somewhere along his route of travel. As his explorations ended at Lake of the Woods, I suggest that the peninsula jutting into Lake of the Woods on the West side and cut off from Canada by the Meridian line drawn from the Northwesternmost Point of Lake of the Woods to the 49th Parallel boundary be designated as Delafield Peninsula.

Kindly advise me if this can be accomplished.

Sincerely,

(sgd) Thomas Riggs
United States Commissioner

Delafield Peninsula: a peninsula on the west side of the Lake of the Woods between Buffalo Bay and Northwest Angle Inlet and east of that section of the International Boundary that extends from Stony Creek to Harrison Creek, Lake of the Woods County, Minn. Named in honor of Major Joseph Delafield, born [redacted], died [redacted], who was Agent for the United States during the final phases of the demarcation of the International Boundary under the terms of the Treaty of Ghent, and who was largely instrumental in obtaining northeastern Minnesota for the United States.

Note: dates of birth and death have been requested and will be inserted.

March 27, 1942

Mr. Earl V. Chapin, Editor
Warroad Pioneer
Warroad, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

The Minnesota State Geographic Board which is composed of the Commissioner of Conservation, the Highway Commissioner, and the Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, and which has the duty of approving or disapproving any changes in state geographic names, has been asked to express its opinion on a proposed change in a name which effects Roseau County. I have been requested to ask you for your confidential opinion because the matter has not yet reached the stage where publicity would be advisable.

The U.S. Geographic Board has received a proposal from some official Canadian organization for a change in the name of the Northwest Angle from the Northwest Angle to Delafield Peninsula. I have not looked up who Delafield is, but I believe he was a prominent Canadian who was connected with the Angle some way. You probably know who he was.

I know that at least two of the three members of the State Board do not regard this proposal favorably, but before acting they would like an expression of local opinion. They would like to know, for instance, if the Angle is usually called The Northwest Angle in your locality and how long it has been called by that name. Do you know of any sentiment in your locality in favor of changing the name?

Sincerely yours,

Curator of Newspapers

LB/b

MWB
WRITERS AND
DESIGNERS OF
RESORT
ADVERTISING

MAR 31 1942

**Earl V. Chapin
& Associates**

WARROAD, MINNESOTA



EARL V. CHAPIN

State Editor of
The F. W. P., "Minnesota:
A State Guide"

Contributor to
Country Home
Farm Journal
Author & Journalist
American Home
Modern Mechanix
Forum
And Others



JOHN E. DRIEMEN

Formerly With
New York Sun
Christian Science
Monitor

Contributor to
Esquire
Liberty
Mac Leans
Life
And Others



**A. J. M'DONALD
H. R. M'DONALD**

Associate
Technical
Staff

Printing
Lithographing
Estimates
Layouts

FROM THE NEED TO THE FINISHED PRODUCT
COPYWRITING PHOTOGRAPHY DESIGNING
COLOR OFFSET LITHOGRAPHING PRINTING

March 30, 1942.

Mr. Lewis Beeson,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Beeson:

Yours of the 27th in regard to changing the name
Northwest Angle is in hand.

Offhand I would say that the people of this area would
strenuously object to the change of name suggested by this
Canadian organization which you mention.

The particular piece of land in question has been known
as the Northwest Angle, or "the Angle" for such a long time
that I do not believe that any official change of name would
ever meet with popular approval, or a new name ever come into
popular use, and would merely result in confusion, as it
would then appear on the maps as one thing, and be called
another.

Though I have lived in this country most of my life, and
know a great deal about the history of the Lake of the Woods,
I too confess that I have never heard of Delafield. The
Northwest Angle is, after all, U. S. territory, inhabited by
people of this country, and visited by sportsmen of this
country only. Personally I think it would be a grave mistake
to name the most unusual geographic oddity of the United States
after some Canadian politician whom no one in this country
knows.

It seems to me that if any locality around the Lake of the
Woods were to have a change of nomenclature, ~~that~~ it should
bear the name of La Verendrye, first white man to explore the
region. La Verendrye is the one name which is inextricably
identified with the Lake of the Woods, yet as far as I know,
it has not been given to a single one of its 14,000 islands,
or to a single promontory of its hundreds of miles of irregular
shore line.

Sincerely yours,

Earl V. Chapin
Editor, Warroad Pioneer.

MWB



M. J. HOFFMANN
COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Department of Highways

1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINN.



April 6, 1942.

APR 8 1942

J. T. ELLISON
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
AND CHIEF ENGINEER

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

Dear Mr. Larsen: Re: Northwest Angle.

I have your letter of March 31st and have noted the correspondence attached from Messrs. Riggs and Martin.

While I can appreciate their desire to honor Major Delafield's memory by designating the present portion of Lake of the Woods County, north of the lake of the same name, as Delafield Peninsula it does not seem advisable from my point of view to eliminate the present name of Northwest Angle, which is not only known as such throughout our state but by many interested in the historical interests of the state.

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Commissioner of Highways.

MJH/MN

April 10, 1942

Mr. Mike J. Hoffmann
Commissioner of Highways
State Highway Department
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Hoffmann:

Thank you for your letter of April 6. Your view on the question of renaming the Northwest Angle and mine coincide. If I can get a similar expression of opinion from Dr. Strunk, I shall communicate the unanimous opinion of the State Geographic Board to Mr. Martin.

Partly out of curiosity, we wrote to Chapin, editor of The Warroad Pioneer. He has come back with a very hot letter. I am sure it would be very disturbing to the people locally to attempt to rename the area.

Sincerely yours,

AJL:gh

Superintendent

APR 10 1942

DIVISIONS & DIRECTORS
DRAINAGE & WATERS
WALTER S. OLSON
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HENRY G. WEBER
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VICTOR A. JOHNSTON



WILLIAM L. STRUNK,
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

ST. PAUL, MINN.

April 9-1942

Mary B.

Dr. Arthur J. Larsen, Sec'y.
Minnesota Historical Society
Saint Paul, Minnesota

My dear Dr. Larson:

Just a line to state that my reaction relative to designating the peninsula jutting into Lake of the Woods on the west side as Delafield Peninsula is a sympathetic one.

Any action to be taken along this line will receive my support.

Very truly yours,

William L. Strunk
Commissioner of Conservation

WLS/R



SBe
Madama T.

APR 16 1942

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

April 11, 1942.

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

Dear Mr. Larsen:

I wrote you February 20, 1942, concerning the new name Delafield Peninsula which the International Boundary Commission desires to have approved so that it can be used in a forthcoming publication of a diary of Major Joseph Delafield, which I understand contains much detailed and valuable information concerning Major Delafield's very notable work in surveying and in international negotiations for the acceptance of the present northern boundary of Minnesota.

No reply has been received to my letter of February 20 and I fear that either my letter or your reply may have gone astray.

The United States Boundary Commissioner, Hon. Thomas Riggs, tells me that the book containing Major Delafield's diary is already in proof and that it is very desirable that action be taken on the proposed new name at an early date. I will greatly appreciate it if you will tell me whether you foresee, or whether the Minnesota Geographic Board has indicated, any objection to a decision by this Board, approving the name Delafield Peninsula for use on maps and charts and in publications issued by the Federal Government.

I assume that the county board is not legally concerned in the matter, inasmuch as the law of March 8, 1937, establishing the State Geographic Board and defining its duties gives the State Board authority, in sec. 2 (b):-

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

The legal requirement for action by the county boards seems to be restricted to changes of names with the purpose of eliminating duplication, as provided in sec. 2 (c) which defines further powers and duties of the State Board as follows:

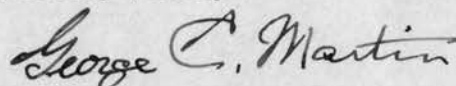
"In cooperation with the county boards and with their authority, to change the names of lakes, streams, places, and other geographic features, with the end in view of eliminating as far as possible, duplication of names within the state;"

Since this is a new name which the State Board has authority to pass upon, rather than being a change of name on which the law requires action by the County Board, will it not be possible for the State Board to act upon the matter, at least informally and to the extent of indicating its objection or non-objection at an early date. If that can be done then this board will take prompt action. I hope that can be done because it surely would be unfortunate if the publishers of the book in question should feel that they had to proceed with the publication of the book without awaiting action on the proposed new name which they, without any legal requirement, were so good as to ask for. In explanation of that last sentence, let me add that although the recommendation for the approval of the new name came to this board technically through the International Boundary Commission, the first publication of the new name is to appear in a book that is being published privately.

I should not like to see this name omitted from this book in which its first publication would be most appropriate, and neither would I like to see the name published without official approval.

Your advice on all aspects of the problem will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George C. Martin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Executive Secretary.

USBN

June 3, 1942.

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

Dear Mr. Larsen:

I have not received any reply to my letter to you of April 11, 1942, concerning the proposed new name Delafield Peninsula. I fear that either my letter or your reply must have gone astray. If you did not receive my letter, please inform me and I will send you a copy of it or if you have already sent a reply, which certainly must have been lost in the mails, I will be very grateful if you will forward a copy of it.

Sincerely yours,

George C. Martin
Executive Secretary.

JUN 17 1942

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION
UNITED STATES, ALASKA, AND CANADA
WASHINGTON, D. C.

THOMAS RIGGS
UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER

NOEL OGILVIE
CANADIAN COMMISSIONER

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

UNITED STATES, ALASKA, AND CANADA

UNITED STATES SECTION

WASHINGTON

June 15, 1942

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

Dear Mr. Larsen:

Dr. George C. Martin of the Board on Geographical Names has, I believe, addressed two or three letters to you regarding the naming of the peninsula jutting into Lake of the Woods, east of the international boundary line, after Major Joseph Delafield, the Agent for the United States from 1818 to 1824 during the survey of the boundary from the St. Lawrence River to the Northwesternmost Point of Lake of the Woods.

As you know, it was entirely due to the activities of Major Delafield that a large piece of Minnesota, including the city of Duluth, was saved to the Nation. It is, therefore, fitting that his name be attached to some natural feature.

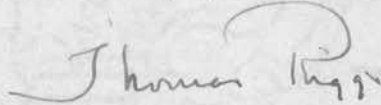
There is now a book in the hands of a publisher containing the unpublished diary of Major Delafield which is amazing in all the information contained therein. Proof is now being read, but final publication is being held up pending approval by your board. The name "Delafield Peninsula" has been approved by the American and Canadian International

2.

Boundary Commissioners, but naturally, as the area in question lies wholly within Minnesota, it would be a graceful act to have recognition given by the Minnesota Board. The Federal Board interposes no objections.

I will appreciate it immensely if you will give this matter your very earliest attention so that the book can be completed.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas R. Higgins".

United States Commissioner

a

June 29, 1942

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

My dear Mr. Martin:

At a meeting on June 18, 1942, the Minnesota State Geographic Board decided not to accept the name "DeLafield Peninsula" for the area of land jutting into Lake of the Woods east of the international boundary line, for the following reasons: the area has been known for many years as the Northwest Angle; local and state sentiment would not support the proposed action; and the change of name would result in confusion from the legal and other standpoints.

The State Board suggests that an unnamed island, point, bay, strait, or other feature in the Lake of the Woods area might very appropriately be named for Major DeLafield.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary,
Minnesota State Geographic Board

AJL/x

Presented by
Mr. C. W. Wright
948 New South Bldg. in Sept., 1943

THE UNFORTIFIED BOUNDARY

*A Diary of the first survey of the Canadian Boundary
Line from St. Regis to the Lake of the Woods by*

MAJOR JOSEPH DELAFIELD

American Agent under Articles VI and VII of the
Treaty of Ghent

From the original manuscript recently discovered

EDITED BY

ROBERT McELROY

Professor Emeritus of Oxford University
and former Professor at Princeton University

THOMAS RIGGS

United States Commissioner, International Boundary Commission,
United States, Alaska and Canada, and former Governor of Alaska

PRIVATELY PRINTED IN NEW YORK

1943

The Unfortified Boundary

EDITED BY

Prof. Robert McElroy and Governor Thomas Riggs

*A diary with a history of the fixing of the
American-Canadian boundary line*

OF ALL boundaries between lands of great nations none has long remained unfortified, either by man or nature, except that between the United States and Canada. That boundary, more than 3000 miles long, has been unfortified for more than a century and a quarter. This unique situation is due not only to the high character and similar ideals of most of the people of the two countries, but also to the skill and forbearance of the men who so established it that none could claim it was fixed by any but fair and open negotiation and agreement.

The main part of this book is an account of the day by day incidents in journeys of Major Joseph Delafield, the Agent in charge of the American surveys from Northern New York to the Lake of the Woods from 1817 to 1823. The description of the people and of the natural features of the country, especially through the wilderness, the Great Lakes, and tributary rivers, is of unusual interest.

The historical value of the book is enhanced by the Editors' Introduction of 131 pages. It is based on extensive and exact research. It is well documented and is the best account of the fixing of the American-Canadian boundary that has yet been written. The maps reproduced from the Federal Archives make the work easier to follow.

The book being a record of historical value is fully indexed and has been printed on all rag paper for its greater perma-

nence. It is in one octavo volume of 490 pages with twelve maps and illustrations, and is bound in buckram. Only 1000 copies are being published, each volume is to be numbered. The price has been fixed at \$7.50 a volume. As the printer has been called into the service of the United States, the distribution of the edition has been placed in the hands of the undersigned, to whom subscriptions should be sent. It is anticipated that the edition will be ready for delivery in about five weeks.

For convenience a subscription form follows.

WILMURT BURR LINKER
20 Exchange Place
New York City

20 May 1943

To

WILMURT BURR LINKER, ESQ.,
20 Exchange Place,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Please send me.....copies of the book
"The Unfortified Boundary" for which please find enclosed
..... dollars subscription at \$7.50 a copy.

Address.....

Name.....

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION
UNITED STATES, ALASKA, AND CANADA
WASHINGTON, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION
UNITED STATES, ALASKA, AND CANADA
UNITED STATES SECTION

THOMAS RIGGS
UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER
NOEL OGILVIE
CANADIAN COMMISSIONER

WASHINGTON 25
September 4, 1943

So Vandenberg

Dear General Delafield:

I send you herewith the map you ask for. I sincerely hope that the Minnesota Board is going to honor the State by naming this peninsula after Major Delafield.

I am delighted to hear that the Diary will be off the press so soon. All publishers are having a bad time of it at the present time.

I returned only day before yesterday from an inspection of the boundary work on the St. Mary River and while living at a comfortable hotel at Sault Ste. Marie and travelling the river in a Coast Guard motor boat thought of the lack of comforts endured by your ancestor.

There is one person who would greatly appreciate a copy of the book and that is Hon. Chase S. Osborn, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Osborn is a former Governor of Michigan, a voluminous writer on historic subjects and even in his eightieth year is going strong in his research. His daughter carries on with him.

I have not heard from McElroy for some time. I trust all is well with him.

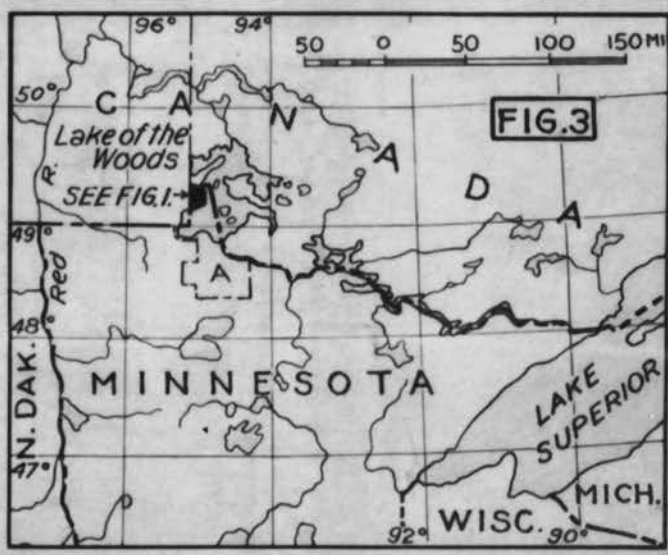
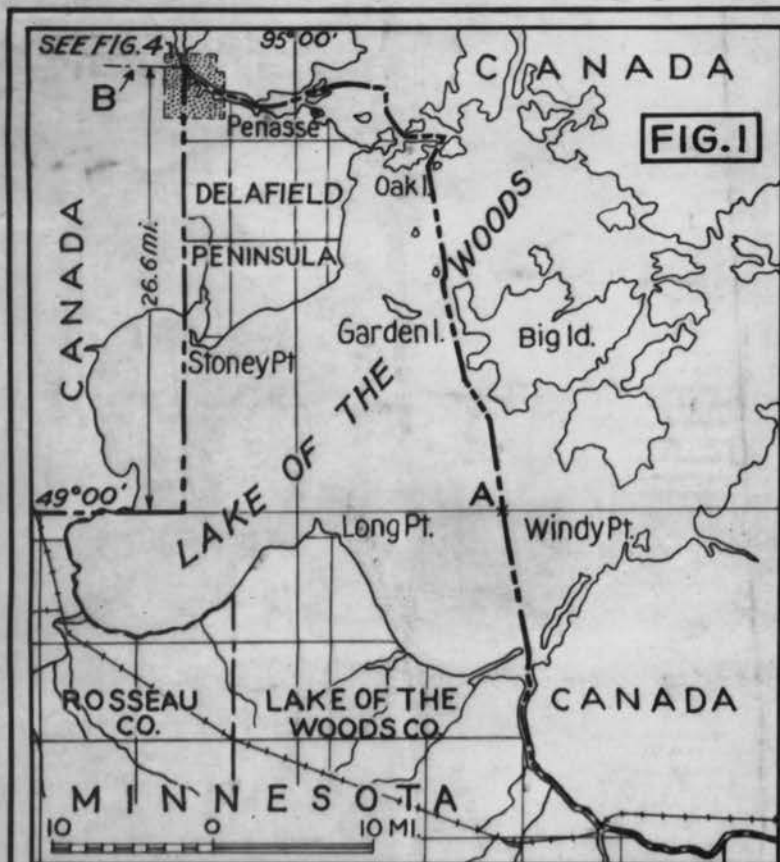
Sincerely yours,

Thomas Riggs

a

Gen. John Ross Delafield
20 Exchange Place
New York, New York

NW angle Seal Forest



EXPLANATION OF MAPS.
 FIG. 1:- Lake of the Woods showing Delafield Peninsula, Penasse, and the general boundary line.
 FIG. 2:- Mitchell's map of 1755, showing proposed boundary described in Treaty of 1782-83.
 FIG. 3:- Modern map, covering the same region and of about the same scale as Mitchell's map, showing, (A) Lake of the Woods Co. and (B), Delafield Pen.
 FIG. 4:- Detailed map of Northwest Angle Inlet country showing, (A), the Most Northwest cor. established, 1824-25 and confirmed by treaty of 1842; (B), the relocated corner of 1925 and, (1 to 4), intersections of lines.

OCT 4 1943

DELAFIELD, MARSH, PORTER & HOPE
COUNSELLORS AT LAW
20 EXCHANGE PLACE
NEW YORK

JOHN ROSS DELAFIELD
ROBERT McC. MARSH
GEORGE H. PORTER
CLAUDE A. HOPE
WILMURT B. LINKER

EUGENE BLANC, JR.
JAMES C. MULLIGAN
WILLIAM R. LOCKWOOD

SAMUEL THORNE
COUNSEL

RAMON SIACA

CABLE ADDRESS
"DELMARSH" NEW YORK

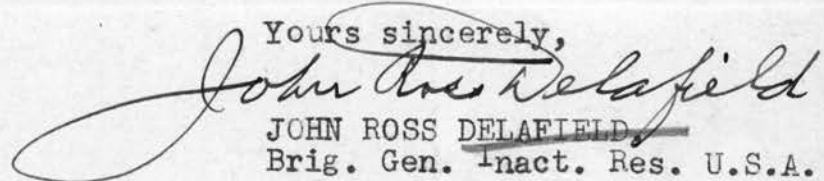
September 30, 1943.

Dear Sir:

I have a letter from Mr. C. W. Wright telling me of his conference with you, and of your suggestions. I am sending you under a separate enclosure another copy of The Unfortified Boundary, and am also writing to Governor Thomas Riggs of The International Boundary Commission, who is the originator of the idea, for his further good suggestions.

With appreciation for your good help in the matter.

Yours sincerely,


JOHN ROSS DELAFIELD
Brig. Gen. Inact. Res. U.S.A.

To
Dr. Lewis Beeson,
Superintendent,
The Minnesota Historical Society,
204 Minnesota Historical Building,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

JRD-VM

P. S. I have referred again to Mr. Wright's letter, and see that he suggests the additional copy of the book is for purposes of review, etc. If a further additional copy is required for this, please let me know.

September 30, 1943

Mr. M. J. Hoffman
State Highway Department
1246 University Avenue
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

I think we probably should have a meeting of the State Geographic Board soon because I believe we need to discuss and arrive at an understanding about the proposal to rename the peninsula known as the Northwest Angle in honor of Major Delafield, the American agent for the Boundary Commission which finally drew the line between the United States and Canada. A proposal to make this change was presented to the board some time ago and was turned down. It is, I believe, going to be re-submitted soon. I am enclosing copies of two letters I have written with respect to the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Superintendent and Secretary, Board

LBe/mb
Enc.

September 30, 1943

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

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I think we probably should have a meeting of the State Geographic Board soon because I believe we need to discuss and arrive at an understanding about the proposal to rename the peninsula known as the Northwest Angle in honor of Major Delafield, the American agent for the Boundary Commission which finally drew the line between the United States and Canada. A proposal to make this change was presented to the board some time ago and was turned down. It is, I believe, going to be re-submitted soon. I am enclosing copies of two letters I have written with respect to the matter.

Sincerely yours,

LBe/mb
enc.

Acting Superintendent

Secretary, Board

Warroad Pioneer, February 13, 1941: Game warden journeys "to Northwest Angle" on parole duty.

Oct. 9, 1941: Headline: "Victor Johnson Takes Publicity Pictures of The Northwest Angle."

"The Northwest Angle shots will be incorporated in Mr. Johnson's series on Minnesota. . . ."

Oct. 23, 1941: Headline: Move On Foot to Move Settlers Out of North West Angle."

"County Commissioners and Welfare Workers of Lake of the Woods County were in the Northwest Angle country last week, conferring with people residing there over the proposal that they move to the other part of the county near Baudette. . . . At the present time, the county is spending over one thousand dollars more in the Angle country for these services, than it is receiving in taxes. According to reports from St. Paul it is also planned to make a huge game reserve of this wild and relatively inaccessible country. . . . The area in question comprises about three townships. . . ."

International Joint Commission, Final Report on the Lake of the Woods Reference, (1917)

"The northwest point of the Northwest Angle of the Lake of the Woods
...." P.140.

Frank Gardner, an early settler on the Lake of the Woods, p.142:
".... the first settlers on the Northwest Angle came in about the
same time."

MEMO

8/24/43

MWB:

A Mr. Wright at Main 5241 called today. He wants to discuss the naming of a peninsula on the Lake of the Woods after Delafield, the surveyor of the Northwest Angle. This is the proposal that was turned down last year by the State Geographic Board, which at that time thought the suggestion was to rename the entire Northwest Angle for Delafield. I told Mr. Wright the board's reasons for not assenting to the renaming of the Northwest Angle, saying that local sentiment was against it as well as historical associations. He seemed to think that the proposal last year was not to rename the entire Angle but to name a peninsula after Delafield and I told him that if this were the case, it probably could be done but that a factor effecting the decision of the board would be whether the peninsula in mind already had a name or not. Mr. Wright is going to write a descendant of Delafield who lives in New York about the matter and then will call us in about three weeks.

LBe

FEB 5 1944

THOMAS RIGGS
UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER

NOEL OGILVIE
CANADIAN COMMISSIONER

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION
UNITED STATES, ALASKA, AND CANADA
WASHINGTON, D. C.

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

UNITED STATES, ALASKA, AND CANADA

UNITED STATES SECTION

WASHINGTON 25

February 22, 1944

Dear Dr. Beeson:

After considerable delay I have received from the Archivist microfilms of the official journal and letters of Joseph Delafield, Agent for the United States, and the Treaty of Ghent. I take pleasure in presenting these films to your society and trust that they will be of interest.

I am in hopes that your Board will not forget to suggest the naming of some natural feature for Major Delafield who did so much to preserve for the state of Minnesota that great wedge of territory which contains the Mesabi iron deposits.

A recent letter from General Delafield reads in part as follows:

"I have been reading a book, The Voyageur's Highway, Minnesota's Border Lake Land, by Grace Lee Nute of the Minnesota Historical Society. It has to do mostly with the Grand Portage to the Lake of the Woods. At page 15 she writes:

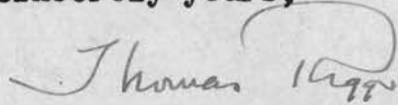
"Fortunately for dwellers on the Mesabi and Vermilion iron ranges, not to mention other Americans who profit from the natural resources in the wedge of territory now generally called the Arrowhead Country, Jay did not accept this line. - - - -"

"I wonder how general the name Arrowhead Country is? If it is not too well established, that part of Minnesota might be named The Delafield Wedge, or some such name.

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

"Do you think it worth while taking this up with the Minnesota authorities, or have you something else in mind?"

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas H. Ingham". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

United States Commissioner

a

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils,
Reconnaissance Soil Survey of Lake of the Woods County, Minnesota,
p.1.

"The detached part of the county, known as the 'northwest angle,' which comprises most of Angle Township, is the northernmost part of the United States." It is called Northwest Angle on the map accompanying the bulletin.

DEC 6 1943

THOMAS RIGGS
UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER

NOEL OGILVIE
CANADIAN COMMISSIONER

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION
UNITED STATES, ALASKA, AND CANADA

UNITED STATES SECTION

WASHINGTON 25
December 2, 1943

*MWB.
I would like
your reactions to
these suggestions. I
shall have a meeting
with in January, L.A.*

Dear Dr. Beeson:

Some time ago you expressed a desire for films of the official journal of the Boundary Commissioners acting under the articles of the Treaty of Ghent. Today I spent some time in the National Archives and have ordered microfilms of the journal and the letters of Major Joseph Delafield, Agent for the United States. When these are completed, it will give me great pleasure to present them to the Society.

I had a most pleasant visit with Dr. Solon J. Buck, the Archivist, who had at one time been Superintendent of your Society and explained to him our desire to have some natural feature named for Major Delafield. He seemed in thorough accord with the proposal, but explained that as he has been disconnected with society proceedings for so long that he is not at the present time conversant with unnamed features.

Of course, I still hope that the Angle townships could be named Delafield Peninsula although there seem to be difficulties. As an alternative I could suggest that the bay of Lake Superior, at the head of which lies Duluth, might be named Delafield Bay. I cannot find on any map or chart that any name is attached to it. Still another suggestion, but one for a rather minor feature, would be the peninsula on the south side of Pigeon Bay which terminates in Pigeon Point. This might be appropriate as had it not been for Delafield this point would have been in Canada. With your local knowledge you may suggest something else. General Delafield has suggested the peninsula in the southern part of Lake of the Woods terminating in Long Point.

*St. Louis Bay
L.A. 12/20, Geo. W. H.
January 4-1944 (1944)*

Muskegon Bay

Dr. Lewis Beeson
Acting Superintendent
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, Minnesota

*Proper name of Lake
townships - Lake of the Woods
and part of Lake Superior
African continent*

I have examined other parts of the water boundary, but the eastern parts have long since had established names. The St. Lawrence, Niagara, Detroit, and St. Mary Rivers have nothing which could be used. High Falls on the Pigeon River can rank among the beautiful falls of the country but half of the falls lie in Canada and probably Canada would object.

There seem to be a number of islands in Sanaga Lake. Could these islands be grouped as the Delafield Archipelago?

Saginaw Bay in Rainy Lake is a duplication in name of the one in Lake Huron.

I assume that you have the International Boundary Commission maps extending from Lake Superior to the Northwest Angle. If not, I shall be glad to send you a set.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Higgin

United States Commissioner

a

Gay Rd. does not have.

June 29, 1942

Mr. Thomas Riggs, United States Commissioner
International Boundary Commission
United States, Alaska, and Canada
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Riggs:

At a meeting on June 18, 1942, the Minnesota State Geographic Board decided not to accept the name "DeLafield Peninsula" for the area of land jutting into Lake of the Woods east of the international boundary line; for the following reasons: The area has been known for many years as the Northwest Angle; local and state sentiment would not support the proposed action; and the change of name would result in confusion from the legal and other standpoints.

The State Board suggests that an unnamed island, point, bay, strait, or other feature in the Lake of the Woods area might very appropriately be named for Major DeLafield.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary,
Minnesota State Geographic Board

AJL/x

October 1, 1943

Mr. Thomas Riggs
International Boundary Commission
United States, Alaska, and Canada
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Riggs:

The Minnesota Historical Society has just received for its library a copy of the Delafield Diary edited by you and Robert Hollroy. I have written General Delafield telling him of the interest various members of the staff of the Society have in the book and suggesting that if we could obtain a review copy, we certainly would review it in the Society's quarterly magazine. The book is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of Minnesota history. I have told General Delafield of the Society's interest in obtaining copies of Delafield's official journal in the National Archives and of his letters, and have indicated that we would consider publishing the journal if that project had not been pre-empted by you or others, interested in the field.

I know from a copy of your letter of September 4, 1943, to General Delafield, and from other correspondence, of your interest in having the peninsula in the Lake of the Woods renamed after Major Delafield. I am indicating to General Delafield the major reason why the State ~~Geographic~~ Board refused sometime ago to agree to the proposal and will take this opportunity of outlining the Board's point of view to you.

The policy of the Board from its beginning has been not to suggest the renaming of a geographical feature when the feature already has a name which is accepted locally and generally by the people of the state. This is the situation with respect to the peninsula. I am aware that on most maps the peninsula is unnamed. However, without any extensive search at all, I have located references as far back as Winchell's Geology of Minnesota, Final Report, volume 4 (1899). There are references to the Northwest Angle on pages 131, 138, and elsewhere from which it is obvious that Winchell is calling the peninsula the Northwest Angle. The International Joint Commission's Final Report on the Lake of the Woods Reference (1917) refers to the peninsula as the Northwest Angle on pages 140 and 142. More important to the Board, however, than these references is the accepted use of the term among the people and newspapers of the state. I have not ascertained how far back that use goes, but I am enclosing for your information two quotations from the Norwood Pioneer:

October 9, 1941: Headline: "Victor Johnson Takes Publicity Pictures of the Northwest Angle."

"The Northwest Angle shots will be incorporated in Mr. Johnson's series on Minnesota. . . ."

October 23, 1941: Headline: "Move on Foot to Move Settlers Out of North West Angle."

"County Commissioners and Welfare Workers of the Lake of the Woods County were in the Northwest Angle country last week, conferring with the people residing there over the proposal that they move to the other part of the country near Naudette. . . . At the present time, the country is spending over one thousand dollars more in the Angle country for these services, than it is receiving in taxes. According to reports from St. Paul it is also planned to make a huge game reserve of this wild and relatively inaccessible country. . . . The area in question comprises about three townships. . . ."

I do not believe that the Board would object to the change of name if the proposal were initiated by the people of the locality and if it were certain that ^{the people of the state would support it. The Board believe, however,} as evidence that the people of Minnesota would accept ^{that} the change any action it might take would be futile.

Personally, I think that Major Delafield should be honored by naming for him some geographical feature along the northern boundary. There are numerous unnamed features of sufficient importance to warrant such a designation. There are others with trite names or with names which are duplicated elsewhere which could be named after the Major with the support of the people. It is my hope that some other geographical feature in Minnesota could be selected which would have the approval of General Delafield.

There is another difficulty which I might suggest to you were the peninsula to be renamed. I have reasons to suspect that opposition might come from the Canadian side of the border, particularly the French-Canadian side. If one were to name the peninsula after a historical personage the argument might well be that the proper name to be given this peninsula is La Verendrye. The state of Minnesota hopes to develop the region into a state park and to seek the co-operation of the people of Canada in that project. These are two of the more important factors to consider when a change of name is proposed.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to General Delafield.

Sincerely yours,

Acting Superintendent

LBa/mb
Enc.

MU 13.
October 1, 1943

General John Ross Delafield
20 Exchange Place
New York, New York

Dear General Delafield:

On behalf of the Minnesota Historical Society I wish to thank you for your gift of the Delafield Diary presented through Mr. Wright for the Society's library. We at the Society see many books each year, but seldom has one attracted more immediate attention and interest than this one containing your grandfather's diary. It fits in with the interests of a number of our staff members and fills a gap in our knowledge of the history of Minnesota which long has needed filling. As I told Mr. Wright, we would appreciate very much having a copy for review in the Society's quarterly magazine, Minnesota History.

The Minnesota Historical Society certainly is going to follow up the numerous clues to other material contained in this publication. We hope to film Major Delafield's official journal which is, I understand, in the National Archives, and would like to have permission to copy other material of value which is in the possession of the family. I do not intend to intrude upon a field which others may have marked out for themselves, but if the editors of the diary and others who may be known to you have not already indicated a desire to edit or publish the journals, I am sure that the Society would be glad to consider the possibility of doing so.

With respect to the renaming of the peninsula in honor of your grandfather, I have told Mr. Wright my own attitude and the probable attitude of the State Geographic Board. The Board's policy from the beginning has been not to rename a geographic feature when it already has been given a name which has been generally and commonly accepted by the people of the locality and of the state. The fundamental reason for this policy is that if the Board were to rename a geographic feature already having a commonly accepted name, the new name would have no validity or usage if it did not appeal to the local inhabitants. We cannot change a name unless the new name is going to be used. I think a better approach to your problem would be to win the assent and support of the people of the region affected for the change of name.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to Mr. Thomas Riggs.

Sincerely yours,

LBe/mb
Enc.

Acting Superintendent