



[Minnesota Geographic Board.  
Records.](#)

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BECKER COUNTY

MGB approved name: Trieglaff Lake May 2, 1962. See U.S. Geographic Board  
Correspondence.

*Geog Bd*

*Becker County 57*

FRANK J. LONG  
1000 WEST LAKE DRIVE  
DETROIT LAKES, MINNESOTA

Sept. 25, 1957

Mr. Russell W. Fridley  
Minnesota Historical Society  
St Paul, Minnesota



Dear Mr. Fridley:

In the probable case that you have forgotten me, I was president of the Becker County Historical Society at the time you were in Detroit Lakes and gave your talk on the Northern Pacific.

Some time ago I read or heard that you were appointed to a state committee to give names to unnamed rivers, lakes, etc. in Minnesota. If this is correct I would greatly appreciate a little help from you.

If you look at a large map of Minnesota or Becker County you can find Cotton Lake about ten miles east and a little north of Detroit Lakes. The map will probably show a large island in the lake. This entire island belongs to me (107 acres) and my wife and I built our summer home there several years ago. So far as I know, this island has never been named. If this is true, would it be possible to have the state give it the official name of SHELLEY ISLAND? In way of explanation, Shelley is my wife's name.

Can you give me any help?

FRANK J. LONG  
1000 WEST LAKE DRIVE  
DETROIT LAKES, MINNESOTA

The legal description of the island is :

Lots 1 and 2 Sec. 2 - 139 - 40

Lot 6-11 & Lot 1-12 - 139 - 40

Lot 5 Sec 1 139 - 40

(There would have to be a section corner on the island)



Many thanks for anything that you can do.

I have been in the State Historical Building three times since you were here but unfortunately you were gone all three times.

I am once more president of the Becker Co. Hist. Soc. but expect, and hope, to see Walter Bird elected to that office at the next meeting.

Yours very truly,

Frank J. Long

1, 2, 11, 12

October 9, 1957

Mr. Frank Long  
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

Dear Frank:

You may have thought that I had forgotten you in taking so long to answer your letter of September 25. That is certainly not the case. I remember you, Otto Zeck, Walter Bird, Mr. and Mrs. Berggren very well. The less than adequate speech that I gave before the Becker County Historical Society more than three years ago is an event that has remained with me.

The law governing the State Geographic Board's activities states that the Board is empowered 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." Whether the authority extends to islands is a question. In the near future, I intend to ask for an opinion from the attorney-general to clarify this matter.

If the Board does have jurisdiction over islands, we can send you the procedure to be followed and the forms to be completed. However, I suggest that it might be well for you to consider another name for the island, since in all likelihood the United States Geographic Board would not approve the name Shelley Island. The U. S. Board does not take kindly to naming features for people either living or dead. Both the state and federal boards prohibit the naming of geographical features for living persons.

You will be hearing from me further after we receive an opinion from the attorney-general.

I am sorry to hear that you missed me three times during your past visits to the Society building. I am pleased to learn that you were elected president of the Becker County Historical Society for another term.

With best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Russell W. Fridley  
Director

*J. J.*  
*JAN 26 1938*

N. Our real estate dealer at  
Fargo said the name Pickerel Lake  
is interfering with prospective sales.  
January 12, 1938.

This is the lake where Guide Shields, of  
Detroit Lakes, helped or caught prize pike  
weighing from 8 to 14 lbs.  
Game & Fish Commission,  
State Office Bldg.,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Gentlemen: Re-naming of Lakes.

In connection with my other letter  
of the 12th, understand lakes are to be  
re-named to avoid repetition. The lake  
I wish to call your attention to is now  
called PICKEREL Lake. The old timers  
call it Long Lake. It is situated just  
west of Cotton Lake, is about 4 miles  
long and about a mile wide, is spring-fed,  
reputedly very deep and waters are cool  
even in the hottest of weather. In days  
of higher water wagon loads of pickerel  
were taken out, but receding water has  
destroyed pickerel spawning beds and no  
doubt dried up a small creek which may  
have furnished outlet to another small  
lake. I cannot vouch for that. At the  
south end of our lake is a hill known to  
us as Baldy and is one of three in Becker  
County which have Cairns on the top. The  
other two are Detroit Mountain and Smoky  
and we would like to have the name of  
Pickerel Lake changed to Cairn Lake. This  
is expressive of the cairn on Baldy, is  
a "catchy" name and a short one.

Understand the matter must be  
brought up before the town board, and would  
appreciate any information you can add to  
what I already have.

Yours truly,

% C. Tolg,  
R.F.D. No. 7, Mpls.

Mrs. J. P. Wettleson

*Mrs. J. P. Wettleson*

Wattleson, J. P.

February 28, 1938

Mrs. J. P. Wattleson  
c/o C. Tolg  
R.F.D. No. 7  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

My dear Mrs. Wattleson:

Some time ago you addressed a communication to the Game and Fish Commission in reference to changing the name of Pickerel Lake or Long Lake, in Erie Township, Becker County. This letter has come to my attention as secretary of the State Geographic Board.

In proposed changes in the names of lakes, it seems to us that greater satisfaction will result if local wishes are consulted and if the initial action comes from the communities in which the lake or stream is located. Chapters 35 and 63 of the Session Laws of 1937 lay down a procedure to be followed, which we suggest that you follow. I am enclosing a set of instructions to guide you. If any questions arise, you probably can get additional information from the chairman of the board of county commissioners of Becker County or from the county auditor. If they are unable to answer your questions, please do not hesitate to write to us.

Sincerely yours,

Theodore G. Blegen, Secretary  
State Geographic Board

AJL/t  
Enc.

Becker

February 28, 1938

Mrs. J. P. Wettleson  
c/o C. Tolg  
R.F.D. No. 7  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

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Sincerely yours,

Theodore C. Elegen, Secretary  
State Geographic Board

AJL/t  
Enc.

Pickeral Lake

RECEIVED  
MAR 17 1939  
DIVISION OF  
DRAINAGE & WATERS

NATIONAL CITIZENS MUTUALS

CITIZENS FUND  
MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.  
RED WING, MINN.

NATIONAL IMPLEMENT  
MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY  
OWATONNA, MINN.

To	NAME	Initial
✓	Olson, W. S.	
	Rahja, E.	
	Bark, C. J.	
	Johnson, L. A.	
	Frellsen, S. A.	
	Harrington, J. J.	
	Ekman, C. T.	
	Control File	
	Const. file	

Detroit Lakes Minn  
3/13/39

J. P. WETTLESON, MGR.

504 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.

FARGO, NO. DAK.

PHONE 219

Conservation Dept.  
Div. Drainage & Water  
St Paul Minn

Gentlemen,

Subject: Renaming Lake.

I own a piece of land on Pickeral Lake in Eric Township, Becker County. Inasmuch as there are several Pickeral Lakes and no pickeral in this one would like to start whatever procedure is necessary to change the name, as I understand names are to be changed where there is duplication. Two names occur to me offhand but have no axe to grind.

Cain Lake - because of the fact there is an old Indian cairn at the south end.

Deep Rock Lake - As the shores are rocky and the lake is very deep and there is a shallow Rock Lake about 3 miles north.

Would appreciate any information you can give me on the subject.

Yours truly  
J P Wettleson

Pickeral Lake

MAR 18 1939

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

DIVISION DIRECTORS

ELLERY A. FOSTER  
FORESTRY

RAY D. NOLAN  
LANDS AND MINERALS

HARRY E. SPEAKES  
GAME AND FISH

GUY W. CRAVENS  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER



## DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

HERMAN C. WENZEL  
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

DIVISION DIRECTORS

HAROLD W. LATHROP  
STATE PARKS

ED. L. SHAVE  
TOURIST BUREAU

WALTER S. OLSON  
DRAINAGE AND WATERS

ADDRESS: STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL, MINN.  
March 17, 1939

State Geographic Board  
c/o Minnesota Historical Society  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Attention: Mr. T. Blegen  
Secretary

Dear Mr. Blegen:

We are attaching hereto a letter with respect to re-naming of a lake in Becker County.

We are of the opinion that such matters come directly under your supervision, and are therefore referring this letter to you for your disposal.

Yours very truly,

Walter S. Olson, Director  
Division of Drainage and Waters

LEC

Att.

Pickeral Lake

AJL = Will you  
write to Mr.  
Wetleson and  
explain the  
procedure?

TCB

March 20, 1939

Mr. Walter S. Olson, Director  
Division of Drainage and Waters  
Department of Conservation  
State Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Olson:

Your letter of March 17 referring to us  
a communication from Detroit Lakes in regard  
to the renaming of Pickerel Lake in Erie  
Township has been received and will be duly  
cared for through the State Geographic Board.

Sincerely yours,

TCB/H

Superintendent

Pickereel Lake  
March 21, 1939

Mr. J. P. Wettleson  
Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Wettleson:

Your letter to the division of drainage and waters in the state department of conservation regarding renaming Pickerel Lake in Erie Township in Becker County was referred to the State Geographic Board. Dr. Theodore C. Blegen, secretary of the State Geographic Board, has asked me to send you some information about the procedure that is to be followed in such a case. I am enclosing, therefore, a blank form for this petition which you may follow if you wish, together with other information to guide your procedure in changing the name of this lake.

If there is anything that we can do to assist you won't you please write to either Mr. Blegen, the secretary of the State Geographic Board, or Mr. Herman C. Wenzel, its chairman.

Sincerely yours,

AJL/t  
2 Enc.

Twin Lakes

JUL 15 1941

Fargo, N. Dak. July 10-1941.

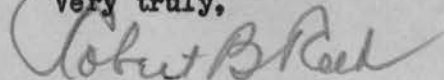
Conservation Department,  
State Office Building,  
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sirs:-

If the committee which was appointed to name or rename the Minnesota lakes is still functioning I would appreciate it if you will pass to them my enclosed request for renaming the two Twin Lakes in Height-of-Land Tp. Becker County. There are so many lakes of this name that we find it very confusing in trying to tell our friends about those lakes.

I do not know the designation or location of this committee but trust that you can give me the proper connection with them.

Very truly,



Robert B. Reed  
1341-11th Ave. N.

To	FUNCTION	Initials
	Director	
	Construction	
	Control	
	Design	
	Fiscal	
	Investigation	
	Records	
	Cons. File	
	Control File	
	Fiscal File	

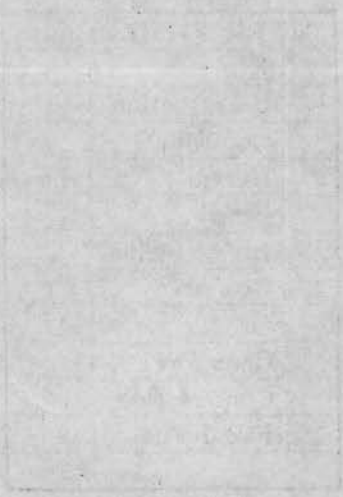
JUL 14 1941

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES & ENGINEERING

RECEIVED

It is requested that you advise this office of any change in the status of the project mentioned above. If you have any questions regarding the information furnished herein, please contact the undersigned.



**RECEIVED**  
JUL 14 1941  
DIVISION OF  
WATER RESOURCES & ENGINEERING

Fargo, N. D. July 10-1941.

Minnesota Lake Names Committee;-

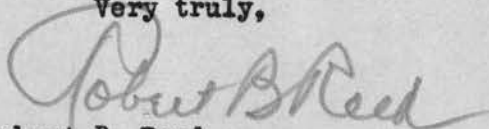
If you are still finding names for the duplicate Minnesota Lakes I should like to suggest names for the two lakes in Height of Land Tp. Becker County which are known as Twin Lakes. As you know there are so many "twin lakes" that the name does not mean a thing.

More than forty years ago I and members of my family and others from Amenia North Dakota began going to these two lakes to fish and for many years have had cottages there and have paid taxes in that county. I was connected for many years with The Amenia and Sharon Land Company of Amenia, N. Dak. both names of that company being taken from New England towns where our family lived before coming to N. Dak.

I should like to suggest the name Amenia Lake for the north lake which will be immediately south of Highway 34 now being graded and the name Sharon Lake for the other lake now known as the "South Twin".

If you do not consider these names suitable I might suggest others or if there is any process necessary in suggesting names I should be glad to be informed of what is required in the matter.

Very truly,



Robert B. Reed  
1341-11th Ave. N.

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

ces 20. Aug 1941

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 14 1941  
DIVISION OF  
WATER RESOURCES & ENGINEERING



RECEIVED  
DIVISION OF  
WATER RESOURCES & ENGINEERING

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10

Becker County

See rolled map of this County .

U.S. Post Office Dept. Blue print Map - No Date

Backus Co

Detroit Lakes, Minnesota

July 31, 1945

Aug 1 1945

State Historical Society  
St Paul, Minnesota

Can you tell me the Indian names  
of this group of lakes out side Detroit  
Lakes, so unfortunately called by the  
names Sally, Melissa, Lizzie etc.  
I have a summer home on Sally and  
in my garden have found many arrow  
heads, fish scrapers etc and know  
that this was one of their meeting places  
and naturally reced the name Sally  
enclosed you will find a stamped  
envelope -  
Thank you.

Sincerely  
Edna H Vincent  
(Mrs J. Vincent)

August 2, 1945

Mrs. J. C. Vincent  
Detroit Lakes  
Minnesota

My dear Mrs. Vincent:

Your letter of July 31 requesting the Indian names for a group of lakes near Detroit Lakes has been referred to me.

I have searched through a number of sources, but unfortunately have been unable to find the information you want.

May I suggest that you write to Mr. John L. Gleason, 2617 Sixteenth Avenue South, Minneapolis. He is connected with the Chippewa Research Society, and is working on Chippewa names of Minnesota lakes. He may be able to help you.

Sincerely,

Assistant editor  
of publications

MWB/b

October 18, 1948

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

Attention Mr. P. J. McCauley

Dear Sir:

As you requested on October 14, we have consulted a number of authorities on the name and spelling of the lake in sections 7, 8, and 9, T. 138, R. 41, Becker County.

No decision on the name has been made by either the U. S. Board on Geographic Names or the Minnesota State Geographic Board. We have been unable to determine the origin of the name.

Most authorities consulted give the name as "Lake Sallie." One or two call it "Lake Sally."

According to Webster's dictionary, the feminine proper name may be spelled either "Sallie" or "Sally."

Since most of the more reliable of the authorities give the spelling "Lake Sallie," we are inclined to favor that spelling.

Very truly yours,

Deputy to the  
Secretary

MWB/b

October 18, 1948

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

Attention Mr. P. J. McCauley

Dear Sir:

In accordance with your telephone request of October 14, we have consulted a number of authorities regarding the name and spelling of the lake in section, 21, T. 138, R. 41, Becker County.

There has been no decision on the name by either the U. S. Board on Geographic Names or the Minnesota State Geographic Board.

According to Warren Upham in his Minnesota Geographic Names, page 33, the lake was named "Lake Melissa" for Melissa Swetland, the daughter of a pioneer settler.

It appears as "Lake Melissa" on maps of the U. S. Geological Survey, on various county maps, and on Winchell's Geological Survey of Minnesota, as well as in a number of other sources. On one or two maps it appears as "Lake Millissa" and "Lake Mellissa."

The correct spelling of the feminine proper name, as given by Webster, is "Melissa."

The preponderance of evidence, it seems to us, is in favor of "Lake Melissa" as the correct name and spelling.

Very truly yours,

Deputy to the  
Secretary

MWB/b