



[Minnesota Geographic Board.  
Records.](#)

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cc: H. E. Swanson  
P. J. McCauley  
Minnesota State  
Geographic Board

September 7, 1951

Mr. C. E. Schmid  
County Auditor  
New Ulm, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Schmid:

This section of the Minnesota Highway Department has as one of its functions the making of county maps showing roads, man-made culture, streams and lakes. One such map of Brown County has been made and a print sent to Mr. C. N. Robertson, County Highway Engineer, on January 22, 1951.

Our basic information indicates conflicting names for two streams in your county, further confused because one extends into Redwood County and is known there by one of the conflicting names. Such questions involving geographic names are usually referred to and ruled on by the Minnesota State Geographic Board. We have been advised that the usual procedure is for the Board of County Commissioners to bring such matters to the attention of this board requesting them for a decision in the matter. Will you please bring this matter to the attention of the County Board at their next meeting?

The names in question are as follows:

The stream immediately to the southwest and north of the Village of Sleepy Eye and draining Sleepy Eye Lake should be named, according to Mr. Robertson, Sleepy Eye Creek. Mr. Robertson's authority for this name is the Government Plat of TWP 109, R 33 of the land survey made in 1858. This creek is not named on any source of information that we have; it is now a part of Judicial Ditch number 1 of Redwood and Brown County, the outcome of a petition filed in the Redwood County Auditor's office on July 2, 1917; The stream in T 109, R 33, making a junction with the Big Cottonwood River in Section 11 of the above numbered township, is said by Mr. Robertson to be called "North Branch of Big Cottonwood River". Mr. N. H. Winchell, in his "Geology of Minnesota" in 1882, named this stream as Sleepy Eye Creek; Furthermore, a resident, Mr. Herman Schultz, residing near the south line of Section 36, T 110, R 34, Redwood County, who is now about 71 years old and who has lived in the same house all his life, states that it was called "North Branch of the Big Cottonwood River" up "until about 15 years ago". This implies that it is now called by a different name; On the other hand, Mr. Kragh, a resident of Morgan and a member of the Redwood County Board of Commissioners for the last 25 years, states he has always heard it named Sleepy Eye Creek.

Mr. C. E. Schmid

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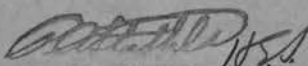
September 7, 1951

The above are the facts as we have record of them. Priority of data and local usage will, of course, be factors for the Minnesota State Geographic Board to weigh in reaching a conclusion.

Your cooperation in bringing this matter before your Board will be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

  
P. R. Staffeld, Acting Manager  
Highway Planning Survey

PRS:ces  
HES

Brown County

See rolled map of this County.

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