



[Minnesota Geographic Board.  
Records.](#)

## **Copyright Notice:**

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit [www.mnhs.org/copyright](http://www.mnhs.org/copyright).

Bass Lake

AUG 30 1937

Smith, I.

MEMBERS OF COMMISSION  
G. W. FRIEDRICH, ST. CLOUD  
CHAIRMAN  
R. J. AHLSTROM MINNEAPOLIS  
VICE-CHAIRMAN  
DR. B. F. EDERER, MORRIS  
SECRETARY  
JOHN R. FOLEY, WABASHA  
R. R. BAILEY, VIRGINIA



DIVISION OF GAME & FISH  
A. C. HANSON  
DIRECTOR

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO THE  
DIVISION OF GAME & FISH  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING

Faribault Co.

E. V. WILLARD  
COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION  
ST. PAUL, MINN.

August 30, 1937

Isabella R. Smith and Others,  
Winnebago,  
Minn.

Dear Madam:

Sometime ago I received petitions signed by a number of people urging that the name of Bass Lake be not changed to any other name. There was no letter submitting the petitions and none of those who signed them gave their address. I am directing this letter to you as you are the first one to have signed one of the petitions, and directing it to Winnebago in the hope you will receive it.

The Department has one request suggesting that the name of this lake be changed.

I am referring the petitions to Mr. Theodore C. Blegen, Superintendent of the Minnesota State Historical Society, who is also Secretary of the State Geographic Board, so that the same may come to the attention of the Board at its next meeting.

In view of the fact that there are no less than 43 Bass Lakes in the State, it may be understood why those who are interested in this body of water might wish to give it a name which would give it an individuality which it does not enjoy in a group of so many bodies of water with the same name. I do not believe, however, that the Board is going to take any action which will create local opposition or will meet with objections from a substantial number of citizens living in the community.

Very truly yours,

Herman C. Wenzel,  
Commissioner of Conservation.

HCW:VZK  
CC: Mr. Theodore C. Blegen

MWB  
 perhaps from  
 earlier letter  
 L B

OCT 30 1944

Red Wing, Minnesota  
 October 16, 1944

Division of Drainage and Waters,  
 Minnesota State Capitol,  
 Saint Paul, Minn.

Will you kindly tell me the date at which Minnesota Lake in  
 north central Faribault County dried up or disappeared? I  
 would also like to ascertain when it was first given that name,  
 or the name of Clear Lake.

Sincerely yours,

*Frances Densmore*

(Miss) Frances Densmore

To	FUNCTION	Initial	To	FILE	Ident. No.
	Director			Construction	
	Deputy Director	CTE		Control	
	Construction			Design	
	Cost			Fiscal	
	Design			Legal	
	Fiscal			Permit	
	Proj. Planning			Photo	
	Records			Survey Notes	
	Research			Weather Sta.	

RECEIVED  
 OCT 17 1944  
 DIVISION OF  
 WATER RESOURCES & IN

October 25, 1944

Miss Frances Densmore  
Red Wing, Minnesota

My dear Miss Densmore:

The Division of Drainage and Waters has referred your letter of October 16 to the State Geographic Board to answer your question as to when Minnesota Lake in Faribault County "was first given that name, or the name of Clear Lake." I understand that the Division has answered the first question in your letter, as to when the lake dried up.

I have not found the name "Clear" applied to this lake in any of the numerous sources that I have consulted.

Warren Upham, in his Minnesota Geographic Names, p. 187, under Faribault County, mentions this lake as "Minnesota Lake . . . the former large lake, which has been lately drained and apportioned to the adjoining farms." He continues: "It is a name received from the Sioux or Dakotas, meaning slightly whitish water, which they also applied to the Minnesota river, thence adopted by this state." But he gives no indication as to when the name was first given to the lake, or as to whether the Sioux actually called that particular lake "Minnesota."

On the earliest maps of Minnesota Territory the lake is not shown. On the Sewall map of 1858 it is shown as "Lake Minnesota," and on all the numerous maps published since then that I consulted it appears as "Minnesota Lake."

I am sorry that I am unable to give you more definite information.

Sincerely,

Deputy to the Secretary  
Minnesota State Geographic Board  
Minnesota Historical Society.

Faribault County

See rolled map of this County.

P.O. Dept. Blue Print map - No Date.