



[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.

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum •

DEPARTMENT Minnesota Historical Society

TO : George A. Selke
FROM : Russell W. Fridley
SUBJECT: Silver Lake West - Ramsey and Anoka Counties

DATE: December 9, 1958

RECEIVED
Department of Conservation
Administration
DEC 9 1958
Answered

In regard to your Memorandum of December 2nd, I think that you as chairman of the State Geographic Board should inform the Ramsey and Anoka County boards of the legal procedure to be followed for changing the names of lakes.

Mrs. Holmquist has drafted a suggested letter and I am enclosing it. Also, enclosed is the correspondence that you wish to have returned.

This matter will be placed upon the agenda for our meeting on December 29th.

Encls.

RWF

DATE : December 2, 1958

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT Conservation - Administration

Office Memorandum

TO : Mr. Russell W. Fridley, Director, Historical Society

FROM : George A. Selke

SUBJECT: Silver Lake West - Ramsey and Anoka Counties

Please note the attached correspondence. Do you think you as secretary, or I as chairman, of the Geographic Board, should contact the Ramsey and Anoka County Boards, and inform them of the legal procedure for changing the names of lakes? Kindly advise.

This should perhaps be put on the agenda for our meeting on the 29th.

Please return the correspondence.

G.A.S.

Dec. 5

Russ

Re: Ramsey County Baord's action in voting to change the name of Silver Lake West

Our attention has been called to the November 24 issue of the St. Paul Dispatch which states that the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners voted to rename Silver Lake West in honor of Mrs. Lucile Blank. While we have the highest regard for Mrs. Blank, we regret to inform you that this action does not accord with the law setting up procedures for changing the names of lakes as passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 1937. Enclosed you will find mimeographed copies of the law as well as material outlining the steps that must be taken to change the name of a body of water in the state of Minnesota.

You will note that county boards are not authorized to initiate proceedings to change such names. Further, the statute provides that "No name of any lake, river or stream or any other body of water, which name has existed for 40 years" can be changed. Silver Lake West has born that name at least since 1885, and therefore is not eligible for change under the existing laws.

In addition, the rules of the United States Geographic Board, which has final jurisdiction in such matters, provide that the names of living persons shall not in general be given to geographic features.

We thought it wise to call your attention to these facts before any additional action is taken by the Ramsey County board. If a properly endorsed petition suggesting such a name change for Silver Lake West were formally presented to the Minnesota State Board, it would have to be turned down for the reasons outlined above.

JDA



GOPHER NEWSLETTER

For Teachers

GOPHER HISTORIAN

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ST. PAUL 1, MINN.

DATE :

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DEPARTMENT Conservation - Waters

Office Memorandum

December 1, 1958

TO : Mr. George A. Selke, Commissioner

FROM : Mr. Sidney A. Frellsen, Director

SUBJECT: Silver Lake, West - Ramsey and Anoka Counties

DEC 2 1958

Answered _____

Attached is a copy of a news item which was in the St. Paul Dispatch-Pioneer Press of November 24, 1958.

The law setting up the procedure for changing the names of lakes is found in MSA, Section 378.01 to 378.06.

Section 378.01 reads in part "No name of any lake, river, stream or other body of water, which name has existed for 40 years, shall be changed under the provisions of Section 378.01 to 378.06", and further does not authorize the county boards to initiate proceedings to rename a lake. This can be done only, according to the statutes cited, by the State Geographic Board or any 15 or more legal voters residing within the county where all or part of such lake is located.

The name has existed at least since 1885 when the manuscript for Volume II, The Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota, by N.H. Winchell, State Geologist, was submitted to be printed, (publication was in 1888) since it appears on a map of Anoka County therein facing Page 399.

I suggest that before further action is taken by the Ramsey County Board, that it be notified of the portion of the statutes quoted above.

It may also be of interest to you to read the guiding principles of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names contained in a communication of the U.S. Forest Service for the guidance of its personnel. A copy is attached and your attention is directed specifically to item No. 3 on the first page.

Enc.

-2-

made to initiate a petition nor to seek approval of the Minnesota State Geographic Board. Your communication will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at its next meeting on December 15, 1958.

We assure you that any assistance which will lead to the ultimate correction of this duplication in lake names will be greatly appreciated by the Board of County Commissioners and the residents of the County of Ramsey.

Yours very truly,

EUGENE A. MONICK, County Auditor

By *James D. Swan, Jr.*
James D. Swan, Jr.
Executive Secretary

JDS:is
attach.

The activities of the service within the national forests require suitable names for topographic features previously unnamed, and the elimination of erroneous, conflicting, or duplicating names in local usage. To assist in this important work it is essential that every forest officer should be conversant with the fundamental principles governing the application of names.

The United States Geographic Board, which includes in its membership a representative of each of the map-making bureaus of the Government, was created by President Harrison in 1890 for the primary purpose of bringing about uniform usage of geographic nomenclature throughout the executive departments. It was ordered that all place names suggested by any officer or employee of the Government must have the approval of the Board before publication, and that decisions of the board in cases of dispute shall be accepted in all departments of the Government as the final authority.

PRINCIPLES OF UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

As a broad general policy the Geographic Board has decided that names in common use at present should be adopted unless clearly unworthy of perpetuation.

The board has adopted the following guiding principles, but reserves the privilege of departing therefrom whenever it deems it advisable:

1. Euphonic and suitable names of Indian, Spanish, or French origin should be retained.

2. Names suggested by peculiarities of the topographic features designated — such as their form, vegetation, or animal life — are generally acceptable, but repetition in one locality should be avoided. Names such as "Elk," "Beaver," "Cottonwood," and "Bald" are altogether too numerous.

In suggesting new names an attempt should be made to secure those which have a meaning and indicate something definite. If Indian names are submitted their meaning and, if possible, the tribe name should be given.

3. Names of living persons should be applied very rarely, and only those of great eminence should be thus honored. No personal names should be attached because of relationship, friendship or personal interest, nor should names of obscure persons be given. Names of eminent men now dead may thus be perpetuated, particularly those of early explorers, naturalists, geologists, topographers, etc. In each case what the person did or represented should be stated.

4. Long and clumsily constructed names and names composed of two or more words should be avoided. It is a foregone conclusion that such names will not be adopted by the public. If the name selected consists of more than one word, the words should be combined if practicable.

5. The multiplication of names for different parts of the same features, such as a river or mountain range, should be avoided. Only one name should be applied to a stream or mountain range throughout its entire length; in the case of a river the name should follow up its longest branch.

6. The naming of forks, prongs, branches, etc., as "East Fork" or "North Prong" of a river, should be avoided unless there is a special reason for it. In most cases, independent names should be given to a river's branches.

7. Spelling and pronunciation which is sanctioned by local usage should, in general, be adopted.

8. Where names have been changed or corrupted, and such changes or corruptions have become established by local usage, it is not usually advisable to attempt to restore the original form.

9. In cases where what was evidently originally the same word appears with various spellings sanctioned by local usage when applied to various features, these various spellings should be regarded as in effect different names, and, as a rule, it is inadvisable to attempt to produce uniformity.

10. Where a choice is offered between two or more names for the same place or locality, all sanctioned by local usage, that which is most appropriate and euphonious should be adopted.

11. The possessive form should be avoided whenever it can be done without destroying the euphony of the name or changing its descriptive application.

12. In names ending in "burgh" the final "h" should be dropped.

13. Names ending in "borough" should be abbreviated to "boro."

14. The word "center" as a part of a name should be so spelled and not "centre."

15. The use of hyphens in connecting parts of names should be discontinued.

16. The letters "C.H." (courthouse) appended to the names of county seats should be omitted.

17. In the case of names consisting of more than one word, it is sometimes desirable to combine them into one word.

18. It is desirable to avoid the use of diacritic characters.

19. It is desirable to avoid the use of the words "city" and "town" as parts of names.

In connection with the numerous projects involving forest mapping and preparation of maps, great care must be taken to make the nomenclature

rigidly conform to the principles outlined by the board. Definite provisions shall be made for recording cases where duplicate names should be changed, new names fixed, or confusion between existing names settled. In each region the regional engineer will be responsible for the details of the work and will insure cooperation with local organizations and individuals that are interested in the subject of geographic names, review all recommendations, and prepare the material in proper form for presentation through the Forester to the United States Geographic Board.

At frequent intervals the board issues leaflets announcing the recent decisions, and periodically these are embraced in a published report comprising all the decisions made to date. Copies of these publications are furnished by the Forester to each region to keep its records complete and to advise the field officers of such changes as may affect their forest.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES BOARD

A graphic record is kept in each of the regional offices and in the Washington office of all United States Geographic Board decisions and will be consulted whenever a map is being compiled or revised. The record is composed of a set of quarter-inch maps of the forests on which are posted in colored inks in a distinctive manner all proposed changes in name and all decisions of the board, correcting existing names, supplying new names, and underscoring correct names. New decisions by the board should be recorded as soon as received. New maps should be substituted when published and data transferred to them.

December 10, 1958

Board of County Commissioners
Ramsey County
Court House
St. Paul, Minnesota

Gentlemen:

Re: Ramsey County Board's action in voting
to change the name of Silver Lake West.

Our attention has been called to the November 24 issue of the St. Paul Dispatch which states that the Board of Ramsey County Commissioners voted to rename Silver Lake West in honor of Mrs. Lucile Blank.

While we have the highest regard for Mrs. Blank, we regret to inform you that this action does not accord with the law setting up procedures for changing the names of lakes, as passed by the Minnesota Legislature of 1937. Enclosed you will find mimeographed copies of the law, as well as material outlining the steps that must be taken to change the name of a body of water in the state of Minnesota.

You will note that county boards are not authorized to initiate proceedings to change such names. Further, the statute provides that "No name of any lake, river or stream, or any other body of water, which name has existed for 40 years" can be changed. Silver Lake West has borne that name at least since 1865, and therefore is not eligible for change under the existing laws.

In addition, the rules of the United States Geographic Board, which has final jurisdiction in such matters, provide that the names of living persons shall not in general be given to geographic features.

We thought it wise to call your attention to these facts before any additional action is taken by the Ramsey County Board. If a properly endorsed petition suggesting such a name change for Silver Lake West were formally presented to the Minnesota State Board, it would have to be turned down for the reasons outlined above.

Very truly yours,

George A. Selke
Commissioner of Conservation, and
Chairman, State Geographic Board

R

CC/ Board of County Commissioners - Anoka County



STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
SAINT PAUL 1

December 17, 1958

Mr. Eugene A. Monick, County Auditor
Court House
St. Paul, Minnesota

Att. Mr. James D. Swan, Jr. Executive Secretary

Dear Mr. Monick:

I acknowledge your letter of December 12, regarding the proposal to change the name of Silver Lake West to Lake Lucile. I am referring the same to Mr. Russell Fridley, Director of the State Historical Society and Secretary of the State Geographic Board.

We shall indeed be glad to review this matter as expeditiously as possible.

Very truly yours,

George A. Selke
Commissioner of Conservation

R
CC/Russell Fridley ✓

BOARD OF RAMSEY
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EUGENE A. MONICK

COUNTY AUDITOR



COMMISSIONERS

JOSEPH E. DILLON
CHAIRMAN

MRS. LUCILE BLANK
WILLIAM E. CARLSON
JOHN E. DAUBNEY
EDWARD K. DELANEY
HAROLD F. GOODRICH
RICHARD JANSEN

RAMSEY COUNTY COURT HOUSE
SAINT PAUL 2
MINNESOTA

December 12, 1958

RECEIVED
Department of Conservation
Administration

DEC 15 1958

Answered _____

Mr. George A. Selke
Commissioner of Conservation and
Chairman, State Geographic Board
State Capitol
St. Paul 1, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Ramsey County Board's action in voting to
change the name of Silver Lake West.

We are grateful to you for your communication of December 10, 1958, and the enclosures relative to the procedure in naming lakes. We should like to allay your apprehension as to the Board's having acted precipitately.

On November 24, 1958, the Board approved a motion, " - that the name of Silver Lake West be changed to 'Lake Lucile' - - the change to be made subject to legal requirements."

The County Attorney was asked to advise the Board of the legal requirements for renaming of lakes. Under date of December 8, 1958, an opinion by Mr. Robert G. Flynn, Assistant County Attorney, was received by the County Board. For your information, we are forwarding herewith a thermo-fax copy of that opinion wherein it is pointed out, as you have in your third paragraph, that no name of any lake which name has existed for 40 years can be changed. You will note that Mr. Flynn refers to information received from the State Historical Society that a Ramsey County map dated 1867 shows a Silver Lake in the west portion of the County.

During the County Board's discussion of Mr. Flynn's opinion, the suggestion was made that the statutes be amended to provide for the renaming of lakes, which, located within a county or adjoining counties, have the same name; provision to be made for the State Geographic Commission or Board to use its discretion in permitting such lake name changes. This suggestion was referred to the County Board's Legislative Committee for study and recommendation.

We also call your attention to the postscript of Mr. Flynn's opinion which points out in effect that the designation of the lake as Silver Lake "West" is descriptive rather than official.

In view of Mr. Flynn's opinion, it was assumed that the County Board's attempt to rename the lake was voided and the same conclusion reached as that which you arrive at in the last paragraph of your letter. In view of this, no attempt was

-2-

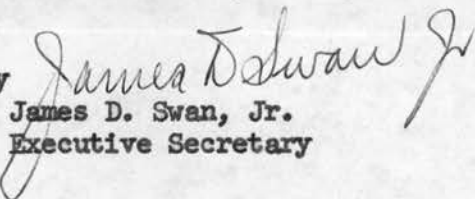
made to initiate a petition nor to seek approval of the Minnesota State Geographic Board. Your communication will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at its next meeting on December 15, 1958.

We assure you that any assistance which will lead to the ultimate correction of this duplication in lake names will be greatly appreciated by the Board of County Commissioners and the residents of the County of Ramsey.

Yours very truly,

EUGENE A. MONICK, County Auditor

By


James D. Swan, Jr.
Executive Secretary

JDS:is
attach.

COUNTY OF RAMSEY

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF

JAMES F. LYNCH

COUNTY ATTORNEY



RAMSEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
SAINT PAUL 2
MINNESOTA

ASSISTANTS

EDWARD G. ANDERSON
EDWARD E. CLARY
EDWARD G. FLYNN
JOHN F. FRANK
LOUIS F. HANSEN
PETER J. MALONEY
HENRY W. MCGINNIS, JR.

December 5, 1906

Mr. Eugene A. Monick
Ramsey County Auditor
132 Court House
St. Paul 2, Minnesota

Attention James D. Swan.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of November 25, 1906, relative to changing the name of Silver Lake West in Ramsey County to "Lake Lucile", subject to legal requirements. You ask that I advise the Board the legal requirements in connection with the naming of lakes, and you called my attention to N.S.A. 378.01 to 378.06.

The sections of the statutes to which you refer set forth in detail the procedure which must be followed in naming lakes. However, the last sentence of Section 378.01 reads:

"No name of any lake, river, stream, or other body of water, which name has existed for 40 years, shall be changed under the provisions of Sections 378.01 to 378.06."

Mr. Walter Bremer of the County Engineer's Staff, Mr. James D. Swan of the County Auditor's Staff and I have investigated and find it to be a fact beyond all possible contradiction that this lake has carried its present name for more than 40 years. The County Board Minutes of March 1, 1897, refers to a communication regarding Silver Lake property owners petitioning Ramsey and Anoka Counties, the inclusion of Anoka County indicating it was Silver Lake West to which they referred.

The County Board Minutes of May 10, 1909, report a request of the North St. Paul Village Council that Silver Lake West be re-named, as having two lakes with the same name in the county was confusing. A month later the County Attorney ruled that the County Board had no jurisdiction and that the matter was properly one for determination by the Legislature.

Mr. Walter Bremer has found a plat dated 1915 showing Silver Lake West.

Mr. Eugene A. Monick

-8-

December 3, 1958

Mr. Swan states that he talked to the State Historical Society and it has a Ramsey County map dated in 1867 which shows Silver Lake West.

By reason of these facts, we certainly can not surmount the prohibitory effect of the quoted sentence. It would seem that the matter again becomes one for the Legislature.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT G. FLYNN
Assistant County Attorney

RGF:gnt

CC: Mrs. Lucile Blank
William E. Carlson
John E. Daubney
Edward K. Delaney
Harold P. Goodrich
Richard Jansen
Joseph E. Dillon

P. S. This letter does not intend to imply or state that the Silver Lake on the boundary of Anoka County has always carried the additional word "West", but all of the references herein showed that the said lake bore the name "Silver Lake".

R. G. F.

December 4, 1956

Mr. Eugene A. Monick
County Auditor
Ramsey County Courthouse
St. Paul 2, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Minnesota Geographic Board on November 28, 1956, the Board found in its files a petition requesting that the name of Beaver Lake in the city of St. Paul be changed to Lincoln Lake. A copy of this petition and the letter accompanying it are enclosed.

The State Board has no record of any action by the Board of County Commissioners of Ramsey County on this matter, and, of course, cannot act without a resolution from the county board. For your convenience I am enclosing a copy of Chapter 35 of the session laws of Minnesota for 1937, which gives the rules for local procedure, and a copy of Chapter 63 of the same laws, which established the State Geographic Board.

In view of the time that has elapsed on this matter, the State Board feels that it should be investigated. Would you be kind enough to look into the request and inform us of the County Board's wishes regarding it.

We will appreciate any help you can give us in this matter.

Sincerely,

Russell W. Fridley
Secretary
Minnesota Geographic Board
Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

RWF:pns

JAN 30 1948

DON W. NORTON

Realtor

849 E. SEVENTH STREET
ST. PAUL 6, MINN.

January 29, 1948

Mrs. Mary W. Berthel
State Geographic Board
State Capitol
St. Paul 1, Minnesota

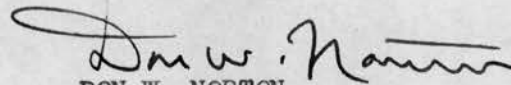
Dear Mrs. Berthel:

Enclosed you will find a Petition which was signed by 15 legal Ramsey County voters in connection with the changing of the name of Beaver Lake to Lincoln Lake.

As I understand it from your letter of January 26, 1948 the Petition will be submitted at the next meeting of the State Geographic Board and we hope at that time it will receive favorable consideration.

Thanking you very much, I remain

Yours truly,


DON W. NORTON

DWN/sm
Encl. 1

A PETITION

To the Board of County Commissioners of Ramsey County:

We, the undersigned legal voters residing within Ramsey County, hereby petition your honorable board that a Lake,
(lake or stream)
 now named Beaver, which is located in Ramsey County ~~in~~ Adjoining Norton's Lincoln Park Addition to the City of St. Paul...
(Give legal description)

shall be officially named Lincoln Lake for the

following reasons: All of the land within the city limits of St. Paul which borders on this lake is owned by the Norton Development Company and we are now in the process of developing the land as an attractive and substantial residential neighborhood. Because of the type of development and the name of the plat Lincoln Park it is much more desirable to have the name of the lake conformed to the name of the plat so that it could be referred to as Lincoln Park on Lincoln Lake rather than Lincoln Park on Beaver Lake. Because of the fact that about 15 or 20 acres of the property immediately adjoining the lake has been dedicated for park purposes we feel that at some time in the future it would be desirable to name it Lincoln Park on Lincoln Lake as in reality it is and will continue to be one of the most important features of our entire development.

Dated Jan. 17, 1947.

Signed

	Name	Address
1	<u>R. W. Bamstead</u>	<u>2036 Case Avenue</u>
2	<u>Mr. John Dege</u>	<u>2042 Case Avenue</u>
3	<u>Mrs. Eunice Sand</u>	<u>2111 Manitou</u>
4	<u>John B. Peterson</u>	<u>2043 Stillwater Avenue</u>
5	<u>Andrew Onsager</u>	<u>2092 Case Avenue</u>
6	<u>W. Onsager</u>	<u>2095 Stillwater Avenue</u>
7	<u>Alex Eklund</u>	<u>2030 Case Avenue</u>
8	<u>John M. Lloyd</u>	<u>2000 Case Avenue</u>
9	<u>Mrs. Elsie Hawkins</u>	<u>2112 Manitou</u>
10	<u>Mrs. M. Soderbeck</u>	<u>2033 Stillwater Avenue</u>
11	<u>Mrs. John F. Law</u>	<u>2037 Stillwater Avenue</u>
12	<u>Robert W. Young</u>	<u>2055 Stillwater Avenue</u>
13	<u>Lawrence P. Ross</u>	<u>2061 Stillwater Avenue</u>
14	<u>Mrs. W. Ruwert</u>	<u>2064 Stillwater Avenue</u>
15	<u>W. W. Ruwert</u>	
	<u>Robert G. Cody</u>	<u>1833 Stillwater Avenue</u>

PETITION

To the Board of County Commissioners of _____ County

To name a _____

Present name _____

Suggested name _____

Filed in Office of County Auditor _____, 19__.

Bond set at \$ _____, 19__.

Presented to County Board _____, 19__.

Hearing set for _____ (AM PM) _____, 19__, at _____, Minnesota.

Notice of Hearing sent to State Geographic Board of Minnesota, _____, 19__.

Notice of Hearing published in _____ for _____, 19__.

Action taken _____

To the Board of County Commissioners of _____ County
County's hereby petition for honorable bond and
the undersigned legal voters residing within _____
County in _____ which is located in _____
(Name of section)

A PETITION

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	

303 1111-101 1011

Ramsey Co.

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

September 15, 1943.

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

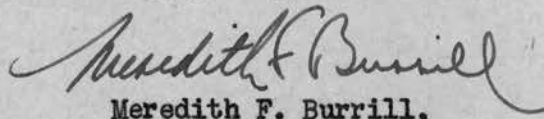
My dear Mr. Larsen:

On August 18, we sent you an inquiry concerning Lake Avoca in Ramsey County, Minnesota, to which we have received no reply. Either our inquiry or your reply may have miscarried, and we wish the information at this time, as a revision in our Sixth Report may be desirable. We, therefore, enclose a copy of our letter of August 18th.

For your information, we have in our files an extract from the Minnesota Special Laws, 1887, Chapter 388 (H.F. No. 425), approved February 19, 1887, changing the name "Snake Lake" to "Lake Avoca".

We shall appreciate any facts which you can give about the above feature.

Sincerely yours,


Meredith F. Burrill,
Director.

Enclosure.



Ramsey Co.

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

COPY

August 18, 1943.

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

T. 30 N., R. 23 W.,
secs. 23, 24

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,

Enclosure.

Edwin J. Foscue,
Acting Director.

House Journal 220.

A bill to change the name of Snail Lake
in Ramsey County, to that of Lake Avoca

September 20, 1943

Mr. Meredith F. Burrill, Director
United States Department of the Interior
Office of the Secretary
Board on Geographical Names
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Burrill:

Your letters of August 18 and September 15 to Mr. Larsen requesting information about Avoca or Snake Lake in Ramsey County have been referred to me by Mr. Lewis Beeson, Acting Superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society and Secretary of the Minnesota Geographic Board during the absence of Mr. Larsen, who is serving with the armed forces.

In chapter 388 of the Special Laws of 1887, which changed the name of "Snake Lake" to "Lake Avoca," the name "Snake" is a misprint for "Snail." The bill as introduced in both the House and the Senate was entitled "A bill to change the name of Snail Lake in Ramsey County to that of Lake Avoca," and was passed under that title.

The name "Avoca" has never been used for Snail Lake, so far as I have been able to determine. The lake, which is in T.30 N., R.23 W., secs.23,24, is known locally as "Snail Lake," and is so named on all the numerous maps that I have consulted.

Since you are revising the Sixth Report, may I call your attention to some errors in it? Perhaps you have already noted them.

On page 287, in the entry under "Elk: lake," "Beltrami County" should read "Clearwater County."

On page 342, under "Grove: township," "Sterns County" should read "Stearns County."

On page 352, under "Lemay: lake," and on page 553, under "Nicol," "Egan" should read "Eagan," to agree with the entry under "Eagan" on page 278.

On page 614, under "Pope's Depot," "Minn." should read "Miss."

Sincerely yours,

Editorial assistant.

JAN 20 1947

DON W. NORTON

Realtor

849 E. SEVENTH STREET
ST. PAUL 6, MINN.

January 16, 1947

Minnesota State Geographic Board
State Capitol
St. Paul, Minnesota

Gentlemen:

On December 4, 1945 we received a letter from your office signed by Mary W. Berthel which gave us certain instructions for the changing of the name of a lake in Ramsey County.

The preliminary work on it has been completed and the petition now has the signature of fifteen legal voters residing in Ramsey County.

When we submitted the petition to the County Auditor, we discovered that the name Beaver lake has been in existence for more than forty years. We are now wondering what we can do to change the name of Beaver Lake to Lincoln Lake in view of this circumstance.

Please inform us what procedure we can take in order to make the change that we desire even in the face of the regulation which states that a lake which has a name for more than forty years can not be changed.

Yours truly,


DON W. NORTON

DWN/sm

January 26, 1948

Mr. Don W. Norton
849 E. Seventh Street
St. Paul 6, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Norton:

Recently a letter from you to the State Geographic Board, dated January 16, 1947, was found in the Minnesota Historical Society correspondence files, where it had been placed by error, and apparently it had not been answered. I am very sorry that this occurred, and I hope it is not too late to give you the information which you desired.

In your letter you state that you submitted a petition to the county auditor to change the name of "Beaver Lake" to "Lincoln Lake," and discovered that the present name has been in existence for more than forty years. Chapter of the Session Laws of 1937 prohibits the changing of a name in existence forty years or more under the provisions of that act.

However, the act establishing the State Geographic Board (chapter 63, Session Laws of 1937) empowers the state board, in co-operation with the county boards and with their approval, to change the names of geographic features in order to eliminate duplication of names within the state. Since there are many Beaver Lakes in the state, it would be permissible under this law to change the name.

The procedure for you to follow, under the circumstances, is to forward your petition, which you state in your letter has already been signed by the required 15 legal voters of your county, to the State Geographic Board. The board will take the matter under consideration at its next meeting.

If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to let me know. And I assure you that your requests will be taken care of more promptly in the future.

Sincerely yours,

Deputy to the Secretary
State Geographic Board

MWB/b