

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**

Seven Hundred and Seventy Third Meeting  
Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room  
July 9, 2015 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Jon Campbell	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey) (by teleconference)
Laurie Campbell	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Publishing Office
Bruce Johnson	Library of Congress
Jacqueline Nolan	Library of Congress
Victor Pattarozzi	Department of Homeland Security
Ron Salz	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service) (by teleconference)
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) (Chairman)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Lou Yost, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names/Domestic Names Committee

Staff

Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey (by teleconference)  
Jane Messenger, U.S. Geological Survey (by teleconference)  
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey  
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Lola Ajilore, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
Mark DeMulder, U.S. Geological Survey  
Paul Holeva, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1. Opening

Chairman Vandegraft opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. He welcomed all attendees and asked the BGN members, staff, and visitors to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the 772<sup>nd</sup> Meeting

The minutes of the 772<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC), held June 11<sup>th</sup>, were approved with minor typographical corrections.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 BGN Chairman (Caldwell)

The next full BGN meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, at the offices of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Crystal City, Virginia. Caldwell reminded the members that any action requiring a vote by the BGN must be distributed to the members no later than five business days prior to the meeting.

The BGN's revised bylaws have not yet been forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior. However, there are no anticipated issues.

The DNC's revised *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* document is awaiting review by the Secretary of the Interior.

Caldwell welcomed Michael Tischler, Director of the USGS National Geospatial Program, as the new BGN member representing the Department of the Interior. He thanked DeMulder for his years of service to the BGN and for assisting Tischler in his transition to his BGN duties.

#### 3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

With regard to the aforementioned bylaws, Yost reported that they will soon be signed off at the USGS, then entered into a document tracking system to be sent to the Secretary of the Interior for review and approval.

The American Name Society is meeting in Washington, D.C., January 7-10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America. Abstracts are due on July 31<sup>st</sup>; presentations may be on any names topic, not just toponymy.

#### 3.3 Special Committee on Communication (Caldwell for Westington)

The SCC will be meeting at 1 p.m. following this meeting.

The SCC continues to prepare for the BGN's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, which will include a symposium and exhibit at the Library of Congress. On behalf of the SCC and the DNC, Caldwell thanked Nolan, Ralph Ehrenberg, and the Library of Congress for supporting, funding, and hosting the event. He anticipates that the speakers will provide a rich background on the history of and future transitions for the BGN. He reminded the members that the symposium is a team effort. Although the SCC has done a great deal, volunteer help will be needed before, during, and after the event. Lunch will not be provided, but the Library of Congress cafeteria is located close to the meeting room. With Forrest's assistance, the SCC is designing commemorative lapel pins for the event. Contributions toward the cost of the pins are still being accepted.

#### 3.4 Executive Secretary (Yost)

Yost reported that he received a call from a FEMA employee in Colorado whose office is still using the old FIPS55 codes that were later replaced by the GNIS Feature ID. After being made aware of GNIS, the FEMA system will be updated. Pattarozzi offered to follow up with the Colorado office. Yost noted that the Census Bureau still stores FIPS codes for internal use. Runyon mentioned that she had also been on a

conference call recently during which a FEMA employee referred to a “community code”; she questioned how this relates to the GNIS FID.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Wade Hampton Census Area in Alaska was renamed to Kusilvak Census Area. The original name referred to that of a Census recorder’s father-in-law who had no association with Alaska. The GNIS staff is in the process of updating the affected entries in the database.

A recent episode of *The Daily Show* included a segment on the Mount McKinley/Denali naming efforts. It noted that the BGN (pursuant to Policy I) cannot address the issue due to the fact that legislation specifically addressing the name continues to be submitted during each congressional session.

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) voted on June 29<sup>th</sup> to recommend disapproval of a name change for Harney Peak, citing a lack of consensus within the State on a replacement name. The original proposal, and the only proposal pending before the BGN, is to change the name to Black Elk Peak; however, the SDBGN briefly endorsed a Lakota name, Hinhan Kaga (Maker of Owls), after receiving input at a number of public meetings. The BGN staff had informed the SDBGN that the DNC would not approve a name that included parentheses, and after further consideration it was agreed by the SDBGN that it should have limited its discussion to only Black Elk Peak. The great-great-grandson of Black Elk and friend of the proponent will make a presentation on the proposal at the next DNC meeting.

Yost reminded members about his report last month that Senator Lisa Murkowski has questioned the DNC’s Policy I that states that the BGN will not consider an issue that is also pending before Congress. In the recent Senate Appropriations Committee report accompanying the Department of the Interior appropriations bill (Senate Report 114-70), she inserted the following wording:

The Committee disagrees with the U.S. Board of Geographic Names’ continued reliance on Policy I regarding applications for geographic name changes. This policy was originally adopted in 1981 by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names to prevent confusion by possible conflicting actions of Congress and the Board, but instead has been used as a tool to indefinitely delay and prevent consideration by the Board of applications for geographic name changes. Leaving these applications in limbo indefinitely is unfair to the applicants who deserve a decision on their applications. If the Congress disagrees with the decision of the Board it retains the authority to take action on the name change through legislation.

Some discussion followed regarding the relationship between the BGN and Congress. Further discussion was postponed until Campbell could join the meeting by teleconference.

### 3.5 Staff (Runyon)

Runyon elaborated on the South Dakota Board on Geographic Names review process, and noted that audio files of the public hearings on the Harney Peak proposal are available at the SDBGN Web site. Ms. Campbell reported that the U.S. Forest Service supports the effort to change the name, but does not endorse a specific replacement name until local consensus is reached.

At its April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, the DNC approved the name Schustek Pond for a small lake in DuPage County, Illinois. The proponent forwarded a news article that described a recent community event that placed a commemorative plaque at the lake.

Quarterly Review List 421 is close to completion and should be ready for distribution around the end of July.

Efforts to change “Squaw” names in Oregon are ongoing, although none are ready to be brought to the DNC for a decision. At the April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, one of the Grant County commissioners spoke to the DNC and reported that he would invite the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) to meet with county officials to discuss the issue. The county recognizes that there may be a compelling reason to change the names but disagrees with the proposed Umatilla names; the county council wishes to also consult with local Paiute tribes. Thus far, no meetings between the CTUIR and the county have taken place. In 2011, Baker County officials informed the Oregon Geographic Names Board that they were “neutral” on any proposed changes to names of features in that county; however, a new county commissioner is now expressing opposition to the CTUIR changes. He has indicated he will send a letter to the DNC outlining his concerns. The Bureau of Land Management is once again contacting local field offices for their input. Ms. Campbell stated that the Forest Service fully endorses efforts to eliminate offensive names, but does not wish to support one name over another if there are competing proposals. She will solicit new written opinions from the agency’s regional offices.

The proponent of the proposal to change the name of ‘Īao Stream in Hawaii to Wailuku River has asked to attend an upcoming DNC meeting to make a presentation.

The Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation has written to the DNC to express a lack of support for the proposed name Asgard Peak for a summit in Colorado. They have indicated they will likely submit a counter proposal for Eagle Watching Peak.

A new proposal has been received to change the name of Negro Bill Canyon in Utah. A proposal to change the name to Granstaff Canyon was submitted in 2001, but it was not approved by the DNC because of a lack of support from the county, the BLM, and the Utah Names Committee. The proponent has been advised that the DNC will not revisit a decision without new evidence, which in this case would require a change of opinion by one or more of the aforementioned organizations.

### 3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

McCormick reported that the GNIS staff continues to work on the redesign of the web forms and the development of automated conflation tools. The cells and landform tools will continue to be maintained. The existing Oracle Web forms are to be phased out but will continue to be in place until all database updates are complete.

The USGS is migrating its Web pages to a new environment in early 2016. Yost and McCormick are responsible for overseeing GNIS content and Web pages.

J. Campbell joined the meeting by teleconference.

McCormick recently made a presentation on the landforms tool to the USGS Geologic Mapping and Hazards Technical Committee, who were pleased with its functionality.

McCormick updated features in Canyonlands National Park in consultation with a National Park Service employee.

The employee hired in December has resigned. McCormick is working on finding a replacement.

McCormick spoke about the name change of Wade Hampton Census Area to Kusilvak Census Area and compared it to the recent renaming of Shannon County in South Dakota to Oglala Lakota County. Although updating the entries in GNIS is simple, the underlying data tables are more complex. All entries for features that lie within the civil division also need to be updated.

The DNC took up the discussion of Senator Murkowski's comments regarding changing Policy I of the BGN. The DNC discussed ways to address the senator's concerns while also deferring to Congress and recognizing that Congress authorized the BGN to develop policies. In some instances it is clear that policies may conflict with each other (such as local usage, tribal preferences, deferring to Congress, and preserving long-standing names). There is a perception that the BGN is the "roadblock," while in fact it is the inability of Congress to come to agreement that is preventing the BGN from voting on the proposed name change.

The Secretary of the Interior has been invited to attend an event in Alaska in August that will focus on the ongoing efforts by USGS to prepare updated maps for Alaska, but during which the issue of the name of the summit may also be raised. The DNC agreed it would be appropriate to prepare some background information for the Secretary on the matter. There was some discussion as to whether the 1975 proposal from the then-Governor of Alaska to change Mount McKinley to Denali is still an active case. Yost reported that it was never formally withdrawn but was put on hold by the staff because of the repeated activity in Congress.

#### 4. Docket

Please refer to the attached Docket for a description of each proposal. For new names approved at this meeting, the newly assigned GNIS Feature ID (FID) has been noted following the name.

### **I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties**

Change Greenville Branch (FID 2770821) to Butterfly Creek, South Carolina (Review List 419)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:	12 in favor
	0 against
	0 abstentions

### **II. Disagreement on Docketed Names**

Change Saint John (FID 473574) to St. John, Kansas (populated place and associated administrative features) (Review List 418)

A motion was made and seconded to change the name of the populated place and thirteen associated administrative features. After some discussion of the BGN's policies and its purview over administrative names, the motion and second were withdrawn. It is not clear whether three of the features (churches) were named for the community or for St. John the Apostle, and so a second motion was made and seconded to

change the names of the populated place and ten associated administrative features (buildings, civil divisions, locales, post office, and schools).

Further discussion took place as to whether the changes were warranted. It was noted that other communities with names that include the word “Saint” are free to use the abbreviated form if they wish, but the BGN’s policy is to always spell out abbreviations. However, in this case, the community was named for an individual named St. John and there is no evidence that his name was ever spelled “Saint.”

Vote:                   8 in favor  
                              4 against  
                              0 abstentions

The negative votes were cast in the opinion that the BGN’s longstanding policy should continue to be applied.

### **III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties**

**Meier Ridge**, Colorado (Bureau of Land Management) (Review List 413) (FID 2772063)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:                   12 in favor  
                              0 against  
                              0 abstentions

**Arthur Brook**, Massachusetts (Review List 420) (FID 2772064)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:                   12 in favor  
                              0 against  
                              0 abstentions

### **Clinton County, Michigan lakes**

A motion was made and seconded to group the proposals for **Searles Lake** and **Little Clinton Lake** (listed under category V in the docket)

Vote:                   12 in favor  
                              0 against  
                              0 abstentions

**Searles Lake** and **Little Clinton Lake**, Michigan (Review List 418) (FIDs 2772065, 2772069)

A motion was made and seconded to approve these names.

Vote:                   12 in favor  
                              0 against

0 abstentions

**Roberts Pond**, New Hampshire (Review List 415) (FID 2772066)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name. There was a brief discussion regarding the plural form of feature names, contrasting this one with Arthur Brook (q.v.). Staff replied that it is up to each proponent whether or not to include the “s” in a commemorative name and either form is acceptable as long as no apostrophe is included.

Vote:                   12 in favor  
                              0 against  
                              0 abstentions

**Lambert Run**, Pennsylvania (Valley Forge National Historical Park) (Review List 420) (FID 2772067)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:                   11 in favor  
                              0 against  
                              1 abstention

One member left the meeting.

**Rieboldt Creek**, Wisconsin (Review List 420) (FID 2772068)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:                   11 in favor  
                              0 against  
                              0 abstentions

**IV. Revised Decisions**

Change **Piel Creek** (BGN 1979) (FID 1571344) to **Peil Creek**, Wisconsin (Review List 420)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:                   11 in favor  
                              0 against  
                              0 abstentions

**V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties**

**Gordon Lake**, Texas (Review List 419) (FID 2772070)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:                   11 in favor

0 against  
0 abstentions

5. Other Business

Caldwell reminded the DNC that Marcus Allsup of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency is collecting orders for new BGN polo shirts that will feature the new 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary logo.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Kiowa Room.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

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Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED  
(signed) Douglas Vandegraft

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Douglas Vandegraft, Chairman  
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
July 2015**

**I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties**

Change Greenville Branch (FID 2770821) to Butterfly Creek, South Carolina  
(Review List 419)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=34.93086&p\\_longi=-81.93698&fid=2770821](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=34.93086&p_longi=-81.93698&fid=2770821)

This 2.2-mile-long tributary of Fairforest Creek in the City of Spartanburg is proposed to be renamed from Greenville Branch to Butterfly Creek. The stream heads at a spring that was historically used as a source of fresh water for local textile mills. For many years the stream was piped underground, but efforts are now underway to redevelop the blighted area, which will include “daylighting” the stream and developing a linear park. A system of trails within the new artificial riparian zone will connect Cleveland Academy, a local elementary school, to a nearby farmers’ market. The name Butterfly Creek was proposed by students at Cleveland Academy.

Prior to receipt of this proposal, no name was recorded for the stream in GNIS. However, numerous sources have been uncovered that refer to the stream as Greenville Branch, including an 1849 deed of conveyance; a 1912 Sanborn fire insurance map; Census enumeration records from 1930; a 1940s U.S. Bureau of Soils map; and a 1944 *Spartanburg Herald* article. More recently, the name Greenville Branch has appeared in news articles and blogs from the late 1980s through 2008, as well as in a 2014 environmental report published by Wofford College, and another, also from 2014, published jointly by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. As a result of this evidence, the name Greenville Branch was added to GNIS and the proposal for Butterfly Creek was subsequently processed as a name change. The origin of the name Greenville Branch has not been determined, although the adjoining county is Greenville County.

The proponent notes that the stream is also occasionally referred to as Nasty Branch or Nasty Creek, because it was believed to have been used as a disposal area for human waste and other trash. The former name appeared in a 2006 *Kudzu Telegraph* news update and is mentioned on a Trees Coalition page on Facebook. In 2013-14, the proponent, a professor of biology at University of South Carolina Upstate received a grant from the college for his project entitled “Renaming Nasty Creek.” The City of Spartanburg’s Northside Initiative Master Plan (2014) refers to “the creek, known locally as the ‘Nasty Branch’ but soon to be renamed as Butterfly Creek” as “a significant new environmental asset for the entire City.”

The Manager of the City of Spartanburg Streets and Stormwater Department, the Spartanburg County Council, and the South Carolina Geographic Names Authority all recommend approval of the change. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Spartanburg County.

A query of GNIS found no geographic features in South Carolina with the word “Butterfly” in their names.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change Saint John to St. John, Kansas  
(Populated place and 13 administrative names)  
(Review List 418)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=38.0022371&p\\_longi=-98.7600887&fid=473574](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=38.0022371&p_longi=-98.7600887&fid=473574)

This group of proposed changes was submitted by a resident of Colorado Springs, Colorado, who reports that he grew up in the community of St. John [sic] and that the name St. John is in predominant local and historical use. He is proposing that the entry in GNIS for Saint John (populated place), as well as the entries for all related administrative features, be changed to reflect that spelling.

GNIS lists 14 features in Stafford County with the spelling Saint John. In addition to the populated place, there are two civil entities (City of Saint John and Township of Saint John), three buildings, three churches, two locales (power plant and sewer treatment plant), a post office, and two schools. One of the churches includes the name “Saint John the Apostle,” which is presumed to refer to the saint rather than the community.

Feature Name	ID	Class ▲	County	State	Latitude	Longitude	Elev(ft)	Map	BGN Date	Entry Date
<a href="#">Saint John City Hall</a>	2693223	Building	Stafford	KS	380010N	0984538W	1903	Saint John North	-	27-OCT-2011
<a href="#">Saint John Police Department</a>	2504060	Building	Stafford	KS	380010N	0984538W	1903	Saint John North	-	15-DEC-2008
<a href="#">Saint John Volunteer Fire Department</a>	2111817	Building	Stafford	KS	380011N	0984541W	1903	Saint John North	-	19-APR-2007
<a href="#">Saint John Church of Christ</a>	2690859	Church	Stafford	KS	380020N	0984527W	1903	Saint John North	-	09-SEP-2011
<a href="#">Saint John United Methodist Church</a>	2690903	Church	Stafford	KS	380000N	0984457W	1906	Hudson	-	09-SEP-2011
<a href="#">Saint John the Apostle Catholic Church</a>	2690860	Church	Stafford	KS	380010N	0984511W	1903	Saint John North	-	09-SEP-2011
<a href="#">City of Saint John</a>	2396496	Civil	Stafford	KS	375959N	0984538W	1906	Saint John South	-	27-FEB-2008
<a href="#">Township of Saint John</a>	473576	Civil	Stafford	KS	380235N	0984451W	1877	Hudson	-	13-OCT-1978
<a href="#">Saint John Municipal Power Plant</a>	2692453	Locale	Stafford	KS	375939N	0984540W	1909	Saint John South	-	27-OCT-2011
<a href="#">Saint John Sewer Treatment Plant</a>	2692110	Locale	Stafford	KS	380148N	0984550W	1883	Saint John North	-	30-SEP-2011
<a href="#">Saint John</a>	473574	Populated Place	Stafford	KS	380008N	0984536W	1903	Saint John North	-	13-OCT-1978
<a href="#">Saint John Post Office</a>	2693958	Post Office	Stafford	KS	380008N	0984542W	1903	Saint John North	-	28-OCT-2011
<a href="#">Saint John Elementary School</a>	2497429	School	Stafford	KS	380015N	0984536W	1906	Saint John North	-	24-OCT-2008
<a href="#">Saint John High School</a>	481232	School	Stafford	KS	380015N	0984533W	1906	Saint John North	-	01-JUL-1984

The community was established in 1875 as a religious colony named Zion Valley. According to *Zion Valley: The Mormon Origins of St. John, Kansas* (Entz, 2002), “By 1879, Zion Valley had grown into a small town, and the residents renamed it St. John, after then governor John P. St. John, in order to gain favor in winning the county seat of Stafford County.” The members of the Zion Valley Town Company, which had been established in an effort to attract settlers to the new community, voted to change the name to the St. John Town Company. In 1882, St. John [sic] became the permanent seat of Stafford County. The Kansas State Historical Society was unable to locate the articles of incorporation for the city but did provide a copy of the articles for the St. John Town Company, which uses the abbreviation and the period.

The State government stated that “because incorporation happened so long ago [we] don’t have any record of it.” The Census Bureau was advised to contact the county, which in turn suggested they contact officials at the city hall. The Census Bureau was able to obtain an 1879 warranted deed and land grant documents that show the name spelled St John (no period).

John Pierce St. John (1833-1916) was a native of Indiana who served as a lieutenant colonel in the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1873 he was elected to the Kansas Senate and from 1879 to 1883 served as the State’s eighth governor. He was involved in the Temperance movement, successfully promoting an

amendment to the Kansas State Constitution. He also helped create the Kansas Freedmen's Relief Association, and was a candidate for President of the United States in 1884. Research indicates that Governor St. John spelled his name "St." or occasionally "St"; there are no known instances of him using the spelled out form. The proponent provided copies of several documents signed by the Governor using the abbreviated form. A 1905 land ownership map of Butler County, Kansas shows property owned by John P. St John. The 1910 Federal Census records his name as John P St (or St.) John. His gravestone reads John Pierce ST. JOHN.

The majority of maps and documents published shortly after the community was established labeled it St. John. These include Gillmore's *Map of Stafford County* (1888); entries for both the city and the township in *A Gazetteer of Kansas* (Gannett, 1898); a map published in *History of Kansas* (Greer, 1899), and the *Standard Atlas of Stafford County* (1904). The name continued to appear on the majority of maps published throughout the twentieth century, including the Farm and Home Publishers atlases of Stafford County published between 1962 and 2007.

The name Saint John did appear on a small number of early maps, including a map of Kansas in H.H. Hardesty's *Historical and Geographical Encyclopedia* (1883) and the Century Atlas of 1899.

St. John is also the predominant form found today on buildings throughout the community, as well as local signs and Web sites. These include the high school, the county courthouse, the city offices, and *The St. John News*.

The community was first shown on USGS topographic maps in 1891, where it was labeled St. John. The next map, published in 1955 at a scale of 1:250,000, showed St John (no period). In 1972, the first 1:24,000-scale map was produced; it labeled the community Saint John. The latter name was entered into GNIS in 1978 during Phase I compilation in accordance with the BGN's long-standing guideline of spelling out abbreviations for the official gazetteer form of the name. The U.S. Postal Service also consistently spells out the name as Saint John, citing its policy against abbreviated community names. However, citing recent requests from the community, the USPS permits the use of St John (no period) as an acceptable alternate mailing address. That form is also displayed on the sign on the post office building (ST JOHN). Robert Baughman's 1961 volume *Kansas Post Offices* listed the name as Saint John.

According to an article published by the Associated Press in June 2014, a petition was begun on Facebook by St. John High School alumni, addressed to the U.S. Postal Service. The petition stated, "The name of the town is on everything as St. John - the local post office, the water tower, the newspaper and signs leading into the community."

A *Wichita Eagle* report, also from June 2014, announced that "The 1,200 residents of the Stafford County town can now officially spell their hometown St John. Without the period. And that's because there are no periods in the United States Postal Service database."

The proponent was advised that the mission of the BGN is to standardize geographic names for use throughout the Federal Government, and that one of its policies is to spell out all the words of a geographic name (no abbreviations) when establishing the official form of the name. The BGN's editorial guidelines allow the names of States to be abbreviated according to Government Publishing Office (GPO) standards, adding, "Other geographic names are not abbreviated in sentence context except that 'Mount' and 'Saint(e)' may be abbreviated as 'Mt.' and 'St(e)'. On maps and other illustrations, the generic part of a name and

also a few modifiers may be abbreviated ('Middle,' 'North,' 'South,' 'East,' 'West,' 'Left,' 'Right,' 'Saint,' or 'Sainte'), but if space is available, it is preferable to spell them completely."

The proponent responded that he believes the policy and guidelines contradict several of the BGN's other principles and policies. He cited examples of established usage, historic usage, legal, local, and written evidence, noting, "To consider the St. of St. John as an abbreviation is to commit an etymological fallacy and be undisciplined about orthography." He suggests the name St. John is "one, indivisible linguistic and orthographic unit based upon the person after whom the town was named." Finally, "It does not seem clear from anything that I've read that the no-abbreviation policy overrides all other policies. In fact, it would seem to go against the spirit of the other policies and perhaps bend decisions to computational limitations of the Internet era's first decade or so over *the ethos of the human values upon which your policies have been made.*"

In addition to the 13 administrative features listed in GNIS that use the spelled out form, there are numerous businesses in the community that are named St. John.

The proponent was advised that the proposal to establish "St. John" as the official form of the name for the populated place and all associated administrative features would be presented to the BGN for a decision. Although the BGN does not typically render decisions on administrative names, the PPP states that it will do so if specifically asked.

The Kansas State Names Authority recommends approval of the proposed change. He reports that he spoke with the County Clerk for Stafford County (located in Saint John), who "stress[ed] that they ALL use St not Saint. . . She concluded that it is very important to them to be St John, both the town and the township. [The] official county clerk's position is to use St John in all their transactions and records." He added that he has no opposition to this change, but also, "[I] personally prefer the St to be without the period."

The U.S. Postal Service confirmed that the official form for mailing purposes is Saint John (the USPS Web site query allows for query using "St" or "St."), but that the address management software could be amended to accommodate any change approved by the BGN.

According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Stafford County.

### **III. New Commemorative Names and Changes agreed to by all interested parties**

**Meier Ridge**, Colorado  
(Bureau of Land Management)  
(Review List 413)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=39.188362&p\\_longi=-105.98785](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=39.188362&p_longi=-105.98785)

This five-mile-long ridge is located on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, just west of Red Hill and five miles northeast of Black Mountain. The proposed name Meier Ridge is intended to honor Robert Meier, who homesteaded in the vicinity of the ridge between 1882 and 1888.

According to the proponent, who is president of the Meier Ridge [Property] Owners Group, "...Arthur C. Meier [sic] homesteaded different parcels in the area for stone quarrying in the 1800's when cattlemen enjoyed large high country pastures." (There was initially some confusion regarding the identity of the

intended honoree. Subsequent research has confirmed that it was actually Robert and not Arthur. General Land Office records confirm that Robert A. Meier acquired land patents for 400 acres at the southern end of the ridge in 1882. A land patent atlas, undated but presumably from the late 1800s, shows several sections labeled R.A. Meier or Robert A Meier.) The proponent is compiling a history of the area's ancient artifacts (arrowheads and tools), and states that it is his goal "to establish a continuous land holder use and settlement history." He adds, "A few years ago our group of owners named this access road from Hwy 285 as 'Meier Ridge Trail' in honor of this history and small geographic feature.... This Ridge Naming Project will greatly help define this last keystone parcel of land totally bounded by or including BLM and Nature Conservancies at the East and West and continuing South."

The Park County Commissioners, the Colorado Board on Geographic Names, and the Bureau of Land Management all recommend approval of this name.

A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, the Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation of Idaho. The Arapaho Tribe responded that they had no opinion on the matter. The other tribes did not respond, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

**Arthur Brook**, Massachusetts  
(Review List 420)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.53279&p\\_longi=-72.16363](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.53279&p_longi=-72.16363)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=42.54217&p\\_longi=-72.1764](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=42.54217&p_longi=-72.1764)

This 1.1-mile-long stream heads on the southwest slope of Prospect Hill in Harvard Forest, a National Science Foundation funded Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Site. The name Arthur Brook is intended to honor Arthur John Sreptis (1950-2009), a 37-year employee of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and a champion of the natural environment.

A native of Lowell, Massachusetts, Mr. Sreptis began his career with the Commonwealth working for the Division of Water Pollution Control. In 1974 he was one of the primary authors of operational protocols for water quality monitoring in lakes. He participated in the research and development of and the funding for numerous cooperative projects with State and Federal agencies, including the Massachusetts Stream Classification Project. He received a number of recognitions for his "outstanding service by a State employee, mainly due to his work on the Watershed Initiative." According to the proponent, "Mr. Sreptis excelled at evaluating rivers, streams, and wetlands. The work he completed on the development of the State stream and lake inventories is still in use today as the foundation of the State's water quality management programs and GIS. Just as important as Art's devotion to his work for the Commonwealth was his interests as a naturalist and wildlife biologist."

Mr. Sreptis belonged to many associations and organizations, including the Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists, The Wildlife Society, the American Society of Mammalogists, the Association of Field Ornithologists, the Eastern Bird Banding Association, the American Ornithologists Union, the New England Botanical Club, the Society of Wetland Scientists, and the Northeastern Naturalist-Humboldt Field Research Institute.

Letters of support for the name Arthur Brook have been received from the Director of Harvard University/Harvard Forest, Massachusetts State Senator Anne Gobi, the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Executive Director of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, and four long-time colleagues of Mr. Sreplitis. The Town of Petersham Selectmen and the Massachusetts State Names Authority also recommend approval of the name. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Worcester County.

**Searles Lake**, Michigan  
(Review List 418)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.0549962&p\\_longi=-84.5812496](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.0549962&p_longi=-84.5812496)

The new name Searles Lake is one of three names that are proposed for bodies of water in Clinton County. The names were proposed by the Clinton County Parks and Green Space Commission. This name would apply to an approximately 15-acre reservoir in the newly established Francis Motz County Park. Water from this body of water percolates north through a sand/gravel substrata until it reaches Hayworth Creek County Drain. The proposed name would honor William Searles (d. 1978), founder of the Searles Construction Company, which created the three quarries that later evolved into the present-day reservoirs. The proponent reports that Mr. Searles contributed to the county's physical development and economic well-being.

Two additional names were proposed: Big Clinton Lake was approved by the BGN at its February 2015 meeting, while Searles Lake and Little Clinton Lake (q.v.) were deferred pending a need to clarify local opinion. The three names have the support of the Clinton County Board of Commissioners. However, when contacted by the proponent, the Greenbush Township Trustees responded that they would prefer the name "Campbell Lake" rather than Searles Lake, and Searles Lake in place of Little Clinton Lake. No counter-proposals were submitted, nor did the township provide the derivation of the name "Campbell." The County Commissioners noted that the township's comment did not alter its recommendation to endorse the name Searles Lake. However, the BGN asked that the township government be asked whether it was aware that there is a process whereby counter-proposals could be submitted.

Following the BGN meeting, the staff informed the County Parks and Green Space Commission of the decision to defer. The proponent once again contacted the township and was told they did not wish to pursue the matter. He also learned that "Jim Campbell was the previous owner to Fran Motz. Jim was also the extension agent in Clinton County for years. A very nice man and one who did for the community as well." The township trustees may pursue efforts to apply the name "Campbell" to another, unnamed, feature.

The Michigan State Names Authority supports the name Searles Lake. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, which is federally recognized. The lack of response is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

A query of GNIS for Michigan found no other geographic features using the name "Searles."

**Roberts Pond**, New Hampshire  
(Review List 415)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.502262&p\\_longi=-71.358519](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.502262&p_longi=-71.358519)

This proposal is to apply the new name Roberts Pond to an approximately 0.6-acre lake located within the Robert Tilton Town Forest in the Town of Gilford in Belknap County. The name was submitted by the Gilford Conservation Commission in response to a previous proposal to name the body of water Moulton Pond (Review List 414). According to the original proponent, a student from New Jersey who has hiked the area surrounding the pond for many years, the name Moulton Pond was intended to be associative, as he claimed the stream that flows from the pond is already named Moulton Brook. (That name is not listed in GNIS, but efforts are underway to determine if it should be made official. There is at least one online reference to the name Moulton Brook but the locative description is vague. The director of planning for the Town of Gilford claims the stream is unnamed so the name might apply to a different stream in the area).

When asked to comment on the proposal for Moulton Pond, the Town of Gilford responded that the name Roberts Pond would be more appropriate, as the lake lies within Robert Tilton Town Forest. The Gilford Conservation Commission reports that in the 1980s, Robert Tilton (1917-2003) donated land to the town for the establishment of the forest. A lifetime resident of the area, Mr. Tilton was an attorney, World War II veteran, city councilor in Laconia, Belknap County Superior Court Clerk for 30 years, state legislator, and City Solicitor and Probation Officer for the Laconia Municipal Court. When advised of the Town's recommendation, the proponent for Moulton Pond withdrew his proposal, adding "Roberts Pond is a great name and I support it wholeheartedly. My main goal was the give the pond a name and that satisfies it."

The Belknap County Board of Commissioners responded that it did not have an opinion and would defer to the local authorities. The New Hampshire State Names Authority has no objection to the name Roberts Pond. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Belknap County.

**Lambert Run**, Pennsylvania  
(Valley Forge National Historical Park)  
(Review List 420)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=40.0958333&p\\_longi=-75.4602777](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=40.0958333&p_longi=-75.4602777)  
Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=40.0941666&p\\_longi=-75.4630555](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=40.0941666&p_longi=-75.4630555)

This 0.2-mile-long tributary of Valley Creek in Valley Forge National Historical Park is proposed to be named officially Lambert Run. The name would honor Brian B. Lambert (1931-2003), who was the first natural resources manager for the park. According to the proponent, an archeologist and GIS specialist at the park, Mr. Lambert "worked tirelessly to protect the park's natural and cultural resources." Valley Creek, the stream into which this run flows, was one of his particular concerns and he became the spokesperson for a coalition devoted to its preservation and restoration.

A proposal to apply the name Lambert Run was submitted in 2004, but it was not accepted because it did not satisfy the requirements of the Commemorative Names Policy. However, since then, the name has appeared on several Valley Forge National Historical Park documents, including trail maps and at least one environmental report.

Letters of support for the proposal have been received from the Township of Schuylkill, the Chester County Commissioners, the Chester County Conservation District, the Chester County Water Resources Authority,

and the Valley Forge Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The Pennsylvania Board on Geographic Names and the National Park Service also recommend approval. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Chester County.

**Rieboldt Creek**, Wisconsin

(Review List 420)

Mouth: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=45.095236&p\\_longi=-87.0816131](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.095236&p_longi=-87.0816131)

Source: [http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=45.10534&p\\_longi=-87.08779](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=45.10534&p_longi=-87.08779)

This proposal is to make official the name Rieboldt Creek for a 0.9-mile-long tributary of Moonlight Bay in Door County and within the Mud Lake State Wildlife Area. The proponent reports that the name is spelled locally as Rieboldt Creek, although the misspelling of Reiboldt has also been used on road signs, Door County plat maps, and in historical accounts. The Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department has also placed a sign along the stream that reads “Reiboldt Creek.” The proponent is asking that the name Rieboldt Creek be made official and that it be spelled as such to recognize the fact that it was named for August Rieboldt (1849-1912), who owned most of the land through which the stream flows. A land plat labeling A. Rieboldt as the owner of the property, along with newspaper accounts referring to the Rieboldt family were included with the application.

According to *The History of Door County* (Holand, 1917), August Rieboldt was prominent in the industrial development of the Sturgeon Bay area 20 miles southeast of the stream. In 1885, he and a partner established a shipbuilding company (Rieboldt, Wolter & Co.) on the south bank of the Sheboygan River. Mr. Rieboldt was also one of the stockholders of the Wisconsin Dredge and Dock Company and of the Bank of Sturgeon Bay. He was a Mason, a member of the Knights of Pythias, and a member of the Twenty Club, an organization comprised of Sturgeon Bay’s most prominent citizens.

This proposal has the support of the Town of Baileys Harbor, Door County, and the Wisconsin Geographic Names Committee. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, and the Prairie Band of the Potawatomi Nation, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

#### **IV. Revised Decisions**

Change **Piel Creek** (BGN 1979) (FID 1571344) to **Peil Creek**, Wisconsin

(Review List 420)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p\\_lat=45.055271&p\\_longi=-87.1651066&fid=1571344](http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/gazvector.getesrimap?p_lat=45.055271&p_longi=-87.1651066&fid=1571344)

This proposal is to change the name of Piel Creek, a 2.4-mile-long tributary of Kangaroo Lake in Door County, to Peil Creek. In 1979, at the request of the Wisconsin Geographic Names Committee (WGNC), the BGN made official the name Piel Creek after the WGNC determined it was the name in local use. In 2014, a local resident contacted the WGNC to point out that the family name should be spelled Peil. Census records from 1900 through 1940, as well as land ownership inventories, list numerous individuals named Peil in Door County. The name Peil Creek appears on at least two Door County Web sites, including that of the Door County Land Trust. It also appears in publications by The Nature Conservancy, Egg Harbor Visitor Center Hiking Trails, and the Kangaroo Lake Association.

This proposed change has the support of the Town of Baileys Harbor, Door County, and the Wisconsin Geographic Names Committee. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the Forest County Potawatomi Community, the Hannahville Indian Community, and the Prairie Band of the Potawatomi Nation, all of which are federally recognized. No responses were received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

#### **V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties**

##### **Little Clinton Lake**, Michigan (Review List 418)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=43.0558333&p\\_longi=-84.5863888](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=43.0558333&p_longi=-84.5863888)

This is the third of three proposals submitted by the Clinton County Parks and Green Space Commission, in an effort to apply new names to three manmade bodies of water in newly established county parks.

The reservoir proposed to be named Little Clinton Lake is approximately 12 acres in size and lies within Clinton Lakes County Park. It is fed by water from a larger reservoir to the south which was named Big Clinton Lake by the BGN at its February 2015 meeting.

A decision on this name was deferred by the BGN at its February meeting, citing a need to clarify local opinion. The Clinton County Board of Commissioners expressed support for the name; however, the Greenbush Township Trustees stated that they would prefer that the lake be named Searles Lake. No counter-proposal was submitted, and the County Commissioners noted that the township's comment did not alter its recommendation to endorse the name Little Clinton Lake. However, the BGN asked that the township government be asked whether it was aware that there is a process whereby counter-proposals could be submitted.

Following the BGN meeting, the staff informed the County Parks and Green Space Commission of the decision to defer. The proponent once again contacted the township and was told they did not wish to pursue the matter.

The Michigan State Names Authority supports the name Little Clinton Lake. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, which is federally recognized. The lack of response is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

In addition to Big Clinton Lake, GNIS lists Clinton Lake and Clinton Creek, both located in Presque Isle County, 150 miles from the feature in question.

##### **Gordon Lake**, Texas (Review List 419)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p\\_lat=32.513377&p\\_longi=-98.391808](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getesricoor?p_lat=32.513377&p_longi=-98.391808)

The new associative name Gordon Lake is proposed for an unnamed 2.5-acre reservoir located in Palo Pinto County and Erath County, 2.7 miles south-southwest of the community of Gordon. This reservoir was first shown on USGS topographic maps in 1984. It is located on a private ranch. According to real estate Web sites, the ranch is known under various names including "Thurber Ranch," "Gordon Lake Ranch," and "Palo Pinto Ranch."

GNIS includes entries for Gordon City Reservoir and Gordon City Reservoir Dam, located approximately 1.8 miles to the north-northeast of the feature in question. In addition, there are a number of administrative features associated with the community of Gordon. The populated place Gordon Junction is 4.6 miles to the east-northeast. Several other lakes or reservoirs in Texas are named Gordon Lake: one 100 miles north, one 180 miles northeast, and two others approximately 270 miles to the southeast.

The Palo Pinto County Judge was asked to review the proposal and to consider whether the name would cause any confusion. He responded that “the name Gordon Lake is quite appropriate for this reservoir.” The Erath County Judge was also asked to comment, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion (less than five percent of the lake lies within Erath County). The Texas State Names Committee recommends approval of the name. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Palo Pinto County or Erath County.