

**U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Seven Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Meeting  
Department of the Interior, Room 7000B  
March 10, 2011 – 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)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Monique Fordham	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard) (Chairman) (not voting)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Thompson Yee	Library of Congress

Ex-Officio

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

Staff

Jennifer Runyon, U. S. Geological Survey  
Gregory Winters, U. S. Geological Survey

Guests

William McNulty, National Geographic Maps

1. Opening

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

2. Minutes of the 726<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The minutes of the 726<sup>th</sup> meeting, held February 17<sup>th</sup>, were approved with several typographic corrections.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Hébert)

In Chairman Hébert's absence, Logan reported that the full BGN met March 1<sup>st</sup> at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston. The report of the 26<sup>th</sup> Board on Geographic Names/Permanent Committee on Geographical Names for British Official Use (BGN/PCGN) conference was approved.

The next BGN meeting is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Department of Interior. However, Yost reported that this may change as he has just been made aware

that the planned visit by a delegation from the Board on Geographic Names-Afghanistan might be postponed. Further details will be provided as they become available. The postponement could also affect the DNC meeting scheduled to take place on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

### 3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Yost)

The BGN's Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (ACAN) met March 8<sup>th</sup> at the USGS in Reston. A representative from Google attended the meeting and made a presentation on some of the issues that Google Maps and Google Earth face in mapping Antarctica. Also discussed at the meeting was a project proposal by the Antarctic Geospatial Information Center (at the University of Minnesota) to the National Science Foundation to enhance coordinates for Antarctic features. ACAN approved the project and agreed to provide coordinate collection instructions to the contractor.

Palmer and Caldwell will participate in a teleconference on March 12<sup>th</sup> with a representative of National Geographic Maps, who will be attending the upcoming American Copy Editors Society conference and who has offered to share information on the BGN with the conference attendees. This request originated from a discussion at the full BGN meeting at which it was noted that copy editors often do not have ready access to sources for official geographic names.

The next meeting between the BGN and PCGN is expected to take place in early July. The annual meeting of the Geographical Names Board of Canada is scheduled for August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 3<sup>rd</sup> in Dawson, Yukon Territory.

### 3.3 Special Committee on Communications (Westington)

In Westington's absence, Caldwell reported that Campbell and Fournier will be attending the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Seattle in April. Campbell will give a presentation entitled "Introduction to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names," while Fournier will present on "US Federal Government Gazetteers and Their Potential Utility in Constructing a Temporal GIS."

Fournier announced that his presentation, entitled "Using the Geographic Names Information System for Interagency Consistency: How the US Census Bureau Has Integrated the USGS Federal Identification Codes into Its Database," has been accepted for inclusion on the program for the USGS National Map Users Conference, scheduled for May 12-13 in Denver.

As noted previously, discussions at the recent full BGN meeting pointed out the need to educate copy editors about the BGN, with a particular emphasis on foreign names used in the field. The DNC discussed the feasibility of providing news releases to media outlets, although this would result in an increased workload for the Foreign Names Committee staff. It might also be feasible to prepare news releases, which would be good promotion for the BGN. It was also noted that media outlets would not be required, only encouraged, to use official BGN names. The Communications Committee will attempt to meet soon to discuss the matter.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary (Yost)

In anticipation of a possible postponement of the BGN-Afghanistan visit, the DNC discussed whether it would keep the DNC meeting date of April 21<sup>st</sup> or move it back to the regularly scheduled date of April 14<sup>th</sup>. A decision will be made shortly.

As was reported last month, the DNC has been invited to hold its May meeting at The National Map Users Conference in Denver. The scheduled time is 1:30 p.m. on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Although the conference program has not yet been finalized, it appears there will be concurrent sessions, and so other presentations could conflict with the scheduled DNC meeting. Logan indicated he would likely not be able to attend the conference, and rather than attempt to chair the meeting remotely, he suggested an alternate chair be nominated for the May meeting. Arrangements will be made for those members unable to travel to call in to the meeting.

The next meeting of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities is scheduled for October 25-29 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Kanalley reported that the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Consultation met in February and is reviewing the draft policy for names of features located wholly on tribal lands. The proposed revisions will be discussed at the next meeting, scheduled to take place immediately following this meeting. The committee also hopes to begin to address a Q&A document.

### 3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

Runyon reported that a document entitled “A History of the BGN 1890-1990” has been posted as a PDF file to the BGN website, under the Domestic Names link. This document, prepared by Don Orth, DNC Executive Secretary Emeritus, summarizes the major decisions and policies of the U.S. BGN from its beginning until 1947; after 1947 the publication focuses mainly on domestic names.

Fournier reported that he recently acquired a copy of the BGN’s First Report on Foreign Names, published in 1932. The DNC discussed the feasibility of posting the introductory sections of some of the BGN’s early reports online.

The newly created Action List has been posted to the BGN website, on the Quarterly Review List page. The link provides access to a spreadsheet that includes the proposed name, feature type, State, Federal land management agency, and case status. It also includes those cases decided on or withdrawn during the previous twelve months.

Runyon reported that a new proposal, for Shame Flat in Oregon, has been withdrawn by the proponent. The name was proposed in reaction to efforts to begin quarrying on a hillside that the proponent felt was “shameful.” Related to this, the members inquired about mountaintop removal mining efforts in West Virginia and eastern Kentucky and how this impacts the naming of features. It was noted that one source reported 500 such features were permanently altered in West Virginia. The Committee was informed that when notified, the staff would classify the named features as historical. Also noted

was the possibility that this mining process could render some named valleys or even named streams as historical.

The proposal for Hermit Lake, Washington, has been withdrawn by the proponent. Also reported was a new proposal for Captain Nathan Lammes Creek for an unnamed stream in Ohio. The DNC was asked whether the proposed name might be too long. It was agreed that BGN staff would inform the proponent of the long names policy and the possibility that the proposal could be denied on those grounds and let the proponent decide if the proposal should be amended.

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

Yost reported that the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) contracted Oak Ridge National Laboratories to provide more precise coordinates for all the schools in the Department of Education national schools file. Staff received a copy of the data and is investigating how to update existing GNIS coordinates and the names where they do not conform to the official BGN gazetteer format. As a further example of the challenges involved, Yost noted 2,000 schools closed last year while 1,000 new ones opened.

Next week, Yost will meet in Denver with representatives of the USGS, the Bureau of the Census, the Bureau of Land Management, and others to discuss the compilation and dissemination of boundaries data for use by the Federal government.

Caldwell reported that, at the request of the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is compiling a database of reservoirs. It will be necessary to compare this information with existing records in GNIS, many of which were provided to USGS by the USACE in the 1980s.

### 3.7 Principles, Policies and Procedures (PPP) Review (Logan)

Logan reported that he and Runyon met at USGS earlier in the week to review the status of the PPP revision. Corrections to Chapter 1 from the September 2010 discussion, along with a request for comments and edits, will be e-mailed to Committee members in the next few days. Logan is requesting tentative approval of Chapter 1 at the April DNC meeting, with the understanding that parts of the PPP yet to be edited may impact changes made to Chapter 1.

It was agreed that if the Afghan delegation trip is not canceled, the PPP discussion should take place at the April meeting, as it would be worthwhile for the visitors to hear the debate. At the June DNC meeting, the Committee would tentatively accept Chapter 2, then discuss Chapter 3, and so on. Final approval of the PPP will occur at the conclusion of the review period. It was further discussed that some policies, particularly Policy X on Native American Names and Tribal Consultation cannot be finalized until the Department of the Interior has issued its policy on tribal consultation.

Logan noted that the draft revision to the PPP includes attachments A through E, the last of which is a list of terms and definitions. He asked the Committee to provide definitions for some of the items that are currently blank.

The final version of the PPP will be electronic and posted on the website. As a result, there could be Section 508 accessibility issues. The final document will need the Secretary of the Interior's approval before its release.

4. Docket Review (Runyon)

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 application of **Sawmill Brook** (FID 608538), Massachusetts (Review List 404)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote:      8 in favor  
              0 against  
              0 abstentions

**II. Disagreement on Docketed Names**

**Seamus Creek**, California (Stanislaus National Forest) (Review List 404)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve this new name, citing a lack of support from the State Names Authority and the land management agency.

Vote:      8 in favor  
              0 against  
              0 abstentions

**Ebenezar Weekes Island** vs. **Walkers Island**, Massachusetts (Review Lists 404, 402)

A motion was made and seconded to approval the proposal for **Ebenezar Weekes Island** (FID 2676138) and reject the name **Walkers Island**.

Vote:      8 in favor  
              0 against  
              0 abstentions

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

Change **Granger Spring** (FID 242905) to **Grainger Spring**, California (Review List 403)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name change.

Vote: 8 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Bryan Creek**, Iowa (Review List 405) (FID 2676198)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 8 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Nardeton Creek** (FID 723117) to **Harrelson Creek**, Missouri (Review List 405)

A motion was made and seconded to defer this proposal to the May meeting.

Vote: 8 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Rachel Carson Run**, Pennsylvania (Review List 404) (FID 2676200)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 8 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Barnes Brook**, Vermont (Review List 402) (FID 2676201)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote: 8 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**IV. Revised Decisions** – none

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

**Oak Island**, Massachusetts (Review List 404) (FID 2676139)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote: 8 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Fern Creek, Oregon (Review List 404) (FID 2676199)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this new name.

Vote:      8 in favor  
              0 against  
              0 abstentions

6. Closing

Location and Time of Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee is scheduled to take place Thursday, April 21, 2011, at the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., at 9:30 a.m., Interior Operations Center (IOC), subject to change.

(signed) *Louis A. Yost*

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Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) *William G. Logan*

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William G. Logan, Chairman  
Domestic Names Committee

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
March 2011

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

Change application of **Sawmill Brook**, Massachusetts  
(Review List 404)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=42.36194444444444&p\\_longi=-73.24361111111111](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=42.36194444444444&p_longi=-73.24361111111111)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=42.37222222222222&p\\_longi=-73.27833333333333](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=42.37222222222222&p_longi=-73.27833333333333)

This proposal was initiated by the BGN staff in response to an inquiry regarding the correct name of a 2.9 mile long stream in the Town of Lenox. In an apparent violation of the BGN's rule of "one feature, one name," two names, Sawmill Brook and Willow Creek, are applied to portions of the same stream. The 1954 edition of the USGS 1:24,000-scale topographic map labels the section from the source to East Street as Sawmill Brook, and from East Street downstream to its confluence with the swamp surrounding Woods Pond as Willow Creek. This was verified by the USGS field crew in 1954. The descriptions of the two features in GNIS support the two names, noting that the stream's name changes at East Street.

In 1987, when the USGS map was reprinted, the upstream name (Sawmill Brook) was not shown and only Willow Creek was labeled on the downstream portion. As a result, the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) is applying the name Willow Creek to the entire length of the stream, hence the inquiry.

An EPA Waterbody Assessment map, published online in 2010, labels both names, as does a Town of Lenox Precinct Boundary map dated 2002. The road that runs north-south across the mouth of the stream is named Willow Creek Road.

The BGN staff contacted a representative of the Town of Lenox, who responded that in his early years he lived along the stream, close to East Street. He confirmed that both names were in local use and that the names do indeed change at East Street. However, he also suggested that the staff contact another longtime area resident, who served for many years as the Conservation Commissioner for the Town of Lenox, as well as chairman of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council/Board of Fisheries & Wildlife. This individual stated that current local use is for Sawmill Brook for its entire length; that is, from its source to its confluence with Woods Pond. He stated that there was once a sawmill on the west side of East Street, and a farm on the east side that was named Willow Creek Farm.

As evidence that the name Sawmill Brook is in local use, the Community Development Corporation of South Berkshire is developing the Sawmill Brook Housing Project along the upper portion of the stream. A Berkshires Vacations website lists Sawmill Brook as one its trout-stocked streams. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and

Wildlife/Coldwater Fishery Resources also lists Sawmill Brook in its stream inventory. Neither of these sources list Willow Creek.

If the proposal to apply Sawmill Brook to the entire stream is approved, the GNIS entry for Willow Creek would become historical and that name would be recorded as a variant-in part of Sawmill Brook.

The Town of Lenox Board of Selectmen was asked on two occasions to provide an official recommendation but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. As noted previously, the Town Conservation Commission supports the change. Berkshire County does not have an active county government. The Massachusetts State Names Authority has no objection to the proposed change. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no Federally-recognized tribes with an interest in Berkshire County.

## I. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Seamus Creek, California  
(Stanislaus National Forest)  
(Review List 404)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=38.325094&p\\_longi=-119.836636](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.325094&p_longi=-119.836636)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=38.304049&p\\_longi=-119.7996](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=38.304049&p_longi=-119.7996)

This three-mile long stream, proposed to be named Seamus Creek, is located within Stanislaus National Forest and Tuolumne County. It heads 0.4 miles southwest of the Bennett Juniper tree and flows northwest into Eagle Creek 1.1 miles south of Dardanelle. According to the proponent, Ken Brunges has since 1988 been the caretaker and guardian of the champion Bennett Juniper, the largest living juniper in North America. The tree overlooks the unnamed stream. Seamus, Mr. Brunges' dog, lives with him during the four months of each year that he spends studying and guarding the juniper. Although Seamus is still living, Mr. Brunges lost his other long-time companion dog in 2009 and so the proponent suggests the proposed name would, in effect, honor both owner and dog.

When asked to comment on the proposal, the Tuolumne County Administrator responded, "The proposed name of Seamus Creek after a caretaker's former [sic] dog did not gain any momentum when we asked several people familiar with the area. Several members of the County's Fish and Game Preservation Commission who are also members of the Tuolumne County Sportsmen Club do remember seeing the dog's owner over the years, but do not recall seeing the dog. The caretaker seems to keep to himself. Therefore, Tuolumne County does not see a compelling reason to support or not support the proposed creek naming."

The U.S. Forest Service does not support the proposal, stating, "One- the animal doesn't have local stature. Two- The name is not locally used. Three- it is not needed for emergency or administrative purposes."

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names also recommends disapproval of the proposal, because, “The name is not supported by the USFS; no administrative nor emergency purpose; no topographical nor historical evidence; does not rise to the level of local landmark or character name in locale; [the] name is not locally used. There is no other evidence of local usage. In addition, the committee did not wish to set a precedent for naming a feature after a pet.”

A copy of this proposal was forwarded to the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California and the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria of California, both of which are Federally-recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

**Ebenezar Weekes Island vs. Walkers Island**, Massachusetts  
(Review Lists 404, 402)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=41.668680&p\\_longi=-70.038614](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=41.668680&p_longi=-70.038614)

These names are both proposed for a 0.6-acre saltwater marsh island in the Town of Harwich, along the southern shore of Cape Cod, and in the vicinity of Red River Beach.

The first proposal submitted to the BGN was for the name Walkers Island. This name would commemorate the reformer and abolitionist Jonathan Walker (1799-1878). After spending his early years in Harwich, Walker became a fisherman along the east coast of the U.S. and later a railroad contractor in Florida, where he became sympathetic to the cause of the southern slaves. In 1844, during an effort to aide several slaves who were attempting to flee from Florida to the safety of the British West Indies, he was captured and imprisoned in Pensacola. He was convicted as a “slave stealer” and the palm of his hand was branded “S S.” Following his release from jail eleven months later, Walker continued to lecture against slavery, eventually settling in Michigan, where a monument was erected in his memory in 1878. He was the subject of John Whittier’s poem, “The Man with the Branded Hand.”

A copy of the proposal for Walkers Island was sent to the Town of Harwich Selectmen for comment. After an account of the naming effort appeared in the local newspaper, the BGN was contacted by a local landowner, claiming that the island is already known locally as Ebenezar Weekes Island. He noted that the name was already in use in 1901 when his great-grandfather purchased property abutting the island for cranberry production. He submitted a copy of a 1932 survey that showed the island labeled with the latter name, albeit with the spelling “Ebeneesa Weeks” (the same document also shows nearby Oak Island, so a second proposal has been initiated for that name; see Category V below). Although it is not known when the name Ebenezar Weekes Island was first used, nor even the exact identity of the honoree because Weekes is a common family in the area, the proponent suggests it was likely named for Captain Ebenezar Weekes who lived from 1755 to 1815. An editorial in *The Cape Cod Times* stated that Capt. Weekes was a member of the Harwich militia who also built river-going vessels, salt works, a small cloth-weaving factory, and a schoolhouse. He also represented the town in the State legislature for five years and was town treasurer.

The Harwich Board of Selectmen, citing the 1932 survey, recommends approval of the name Ebenazar Weekes Island. The Harwich Historical Society does not support the original proposal for Walkers Island, noting, “Walker is already honored in town [there is a monument to him in front of the historical society building]; [there is] no convincing evidence this is the Walker homestead, and [the] feature is too insignificant to warrant such a prominent name.” The Barnstable County government was also asked to comment, but did not respond. The Massachusetts State Names Authority recommends approval of the name Ebenazar Weekes Island. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no Federally-recognized tribes with an interest in Barnstable County.

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

Change Granger Spring (FID 242905) to Grainger Spring, California  
(Review List 403)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p\\_lat=35.7071896&p\\_longi=-120.3343184&fid=242905](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=35.7071896&p_longi=-120.3343184&fid=242905)

This spring is located 4.3 miles northeast of the community of Shandon, and is one of many named springs in this area of San Luis Obispo County. The name Granger Spring has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1961, and is listed in *A Gazetteer of Historic and Modern Names* (2000), but the proponent, a member of the Grainger family, is asking that it be changed to Grainger Spring. He notes that “Granger” is a common misspelling of his family’s name, and according to his extensive research of county land records, all references to families in the area are to “Grainger.” The proponent’s grandfather, William P. Grainger, was granted an 1898 patent for land adjacent to the spring; he later purchased additional land that included the site of the spring. Although the spring was not shown or named on the 1943 USGS topographic map, the map does show a building in the same location labeled “W. Granger.”

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors has no objection to the proposed name change. The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names recommends approval. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no Federally-recognized tribes with an interest in San Luis Obispo County.

Bryan Creek, Iowa  
(Review List 405)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=41.97311500000&p\\_longi=-90.9564540000](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=41.97311500000&p_longi=-90.9564540000)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=42.01456300000&p\\_longi=-90.9115760000](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=42.01456300000&p_longi=-90.9115760000)

This 5.2-mile long stream is located in Oxford Township in Jones County, 6.5 miles southeast of the community of Wyoming. It flows southwest then turns south and southeast to enter the Wapsipinicon River 0.8 mi south of Oxford Junction. The proposed name Bryan Creek would commemorate John Bryan (1820-1880), who owned all the land on which the city of Oxford Junction is now located. Bryan arrived in the area by covered wagon in 1849, built a cabin on the knoll just north of what would become Broadway Street, and proceeded to farm and buy and sell cattle. When the

railroad planned to come into the area in 1872, he platted the original town, sold land to the railroad, and was involved in the organization of Oxford Township. According to the proponent he was well respected in the community and is considered “the Father of Oxford Junction.”

The Mayor of the City of Oxford Junction and the Jones County Board of Supervisors both responded with letters of support for the proposal. The Iowa Geographic Names Authority recommends approval of the name. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, the Sac & Fox Nation, the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa, and the Santee Sioux Nation, all of which are Federally-recognized. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

A search of GNIS revealed one feature in the State named “Bryan”, a summit named Bryan Hill in Lee County, approximately 100 miles south of the stream in question.

Change Nardeton Creek to Harrelson Creek, Missouri  
(Review List 405)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p\\_lat=38.3947432&p\\_longi=-93.6435443&fid=723117](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=38.3947432&p_longi=-93.6435443&fid=723117)

This proposal is to change the name of Nardeton Creek in Henry County to Harrelson Creek. The 3.5-mile long tributary of Nelson Creek is located 7 miles northeast of Clinton; a small section of the stream lies within the Upper Tebo State Wildlife Management Area. During the State of Missouri’s ongoing maintenance of the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), a name discrepancy between a GNIS record and the current USGS topographic map was noted. The map, published in 1981, shows the name Nardenton Creek. However, GNIS lists the name as Nardeton Creek, which was collected from the 1953 USGS map. Subsequent investigation yielded numerous other variations on the stream’s name, some undoubtedly a result of cartographic error. The proposal is to return the name to that of the original landowner.

The 1995 Missouri Department of Transportation general highway map of Henry County labels the feature Nordston Creek. The 1996 Plat Book of Henry County applied the name “Nardston Cr.” The 1930 county plat book appears to support the name Nardston Creek, but upon closer inspection, it is apparent that a property line was drawn through the name, and that the “d” in the name is actually “ol,” making it Narolston Creek. The 1914 Standard Plat Book of Henry County verifies that spelling with the label NAROLSTON CREEK shown in uppercase. The 1895 Plat Book of Henry County would appear to support the Narolston name, but again, upon closer inspection, a property line intersects the first letter of the name, and what appears to be an “N” is in fact an “H”, resulting in Harolston Creek. In support of the name starting with an “H”, Campbell’s 1873 *New Atlas of Missouri* showed “Heraldson Cr.” Based on these findings, it can be concluded that through a series of mistaken cartographic transfers from one document to the next, the name has evolved from Heraldson to Nardeton.

General Land Office land patents for the 1840s and 1850s show that a Bennett Harrelson patented land at the mouth of the stream, and that various patents were

recorded throughout the 1840s by him, as well as by Emsley M. Harrelson and Emsley M. Harelson (presumably the same individual). A review of the 1845 Henry County Assessor records shows Emsley Harrelson and Bennett Harrelson, but also records for the same tracts of land, Emsley Hearlson and Bennett Hearlson.

An investigation into current local usage has determined that area residents are not aware of any name for the stream. Although the name Harrelson Creek has never been applied specifically to the stream, it is proposed based on the most common spelling of the name of the original landowners in the area. The proposed change has the approval of the Henry County government and the Missouri Board on Geographic Names. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, the Osage Tribe, the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, the Sac & Fox Nation, and the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa, all of which are Federally-recognized. Of these, only the Peoria Tribe responded, indicating no objection to the name change. The lack of response from the remaining tribes is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

According to GNIS, there is a small unincorporated populated place named Harrelson 53 miles to the northwest in Cass County. It is not known whether there is a family connection between the community and the stream in Henry County.

**Rachel Carson Run**, Pennsylvania  
(Review List 404)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=40.648899&p\\_longi=-79.691176](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.648899&p_longi=-79.691176)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=40.658992&p\\_longi=-79.70418](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=40.658992&p_longi=-79.70418)

This 1.4 mile long unnamed stream flows through Harrison Township and Harrison Hills County Park before joining the Allegheny River. The proposed name Rachel Carson Run is intended to commemorate environmentalist and nature writer Rachel Carson (1907-1964), who was born in Springdale, just 8.9 miles southwest of the mouth of the stream. Ms. Carson's published works include *The Sea Around Us*, *The Edge of the Sea*, *Under the Sea Wind*, and *Silent Spring*. The latter book led to a nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides. She was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter. The 35-mile long Rachel Carson Trail, managed by the Rachel Carson Trails Conservancy, crosses the stream within the county park, and according to the proponent provides public access to the stream.

The Harrison Township Board of Supervisors and the Allegheny County Commissioners were asked on two occasions to comment on the proposal but no response was received. The second letter indicated that no response would be presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The Allegheny County Parks Department was also consulted; they responded with support for the name. The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Board has confirmed that the stream is not named on any available maps and has no objection to this proposal.

GNIS lists 25 geographic features in Pennsylvania with “Carson” in their name, including three streams named Carson Run. None of these are in Allegheny County, nor is it known if any of the 25 features, other than the trail, are named for Rachel Carson.

**Barnes Brook**, Vermont  
(Review List 402)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=44.241971&p\\_longi=-72.536802](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=44.241971&p_longi=-72.536802)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=44.286196&p\\_longi=-72.544699](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=44.286196&p_longi=-72.544699)

The new commemorative name Barnes Brook is proposed for a 3.5-mile long tributary of the Winooski River in Washington County. The stream heads in the Town of East Montpelier and flows south into the City of Montpelier. The new name, which was submitted by the Vermont State Names Authority on behalf of a resident of Montpelier, is intended to commemorate Frederick Barnes (1910-2001), who lived along the stream for many years. Mr. Barnes’ widow still lives in the family home near the mouth of the stream.

After holding a public hearing to review the case, and after receiving no objections from the Town of East Montpelier or the City of Montpelier, the State Names Authority voted to recommend approval of the name.

There are two other streams in Vermont named Barnes Brook, one in each of the adjoining jurisdictions of Lamoille County and Caledonia County. They are 13 miles and 34 miles, respectively, from the stream in question. The stream in Lamoille County is a tributary of the North Branch Winooski River. Also in Washington County, 11 miles northwest of the unnamed stream is a summit named Barnes Hill; the origin of this name has not been determined.

**IV. Revised Decisions** - none

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

**Oak Island**, Massachusetts  
(Review List 404)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=41.669273&p\\_longi=-70.040385](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=41.669273&p_longi=-70.040385)

This proposal is to make official the name Oak Island for a six-acre island in the Town of Harwich. It was submitted in association with another proposal, to name a nearby island Ebenazar Weekes Island (q.v.). While researching the issue, a local resident discovered the latter name on a 1932 survey map. The map also labeled an adjacent island Oak Island and since that name is not yet listed in GNIS, the proponent has asked that it be considered as well. The Harwich Board of Selectmen recommends approval of the name Oak Island, as does the Massachusetts State Names Authority. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no Federally-recognized tribes with an interest in Barnstable County.

There are three other features, a community and two islands, in Massachusetts named Oak Island, but none are in Barnstable County. There are six features in the county with the word “Oak” in their names, but none are islands.

**Fern Creek**, Oregon

(Review List 404)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=45.437831&p\\_longi=-122.821070](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=45.437831&p_longi=-122.821070)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=45.420414&p\\_longi=-122.82376](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=45.420414&p_longi=-122.82376)

This 0.7-mile long stream, proposed to be named Fern Creek, heads 0.2 miles northwest of Bull Mountain and flows through a steep ravine toward the northeast, then turns north under Fern Street before being piped under an area of houses and finally into an unnamed tributary of Fanno Creek. According to the proponent, the stream is spring-fed and the ravine is “full of ferns, wildlife, and Douglas fir.” She notes that despite being surrounded by new homes, Fern Street is one of the last forested areas of the city.

The Washington County Commissioners recommend approval of this name, as does the Oregon Geographic Names Board (OGNB). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which administers the nearby Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, does not have an opinion on the issue. The OGNB, as part of its research, forwarded the proposal to the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services, which in turn shared it with all Tribes with an interest in the State. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

A search of GNIS yielded seven streams in Oregon named Fern Creek, none of which are in Washington County.