

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

Seven Hundred and Fifty-third Meeting
Department of the Interior, Room 7000B
June 13, 2013 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Eric Berman	Department of Homeland Security (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office (Chairman) (not voting)
Bruce Johnson	Library of Congress
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Curt Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Patrick Mahoney	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Michael Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Meredith Westington	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey) (by teleconference)

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)
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Kara Mahoney Federal Emergency Management Agency (intern)
Deborah Nordeen Department of the Interior (National Park Service)

1. Opening

The meeting opened at 9:30 a.m. The Chair announced he would not be voting, except in the case of a tie.

Shelton introduced Ms. Nordeen, who will attend DNC meetings and cast the National Park Service vote whenever Shelton cannot attend. Berman introduced his guest; Ms. Mahoney attends George Mason University and is an intern at FEMA this summer.

2. Minutes of the 752nd Meeting

The Minutes of the 752nd meeting of the Domestic Names Committee, held May 9, 2013, were approved as submitted.

3. Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman (Caldwell for Logan)

In Logan's absence, Caldwell reported that during the previous month Logan had signed three letters in his role as BGN Chair: one transmitting the revised bylaws to the Secretary of the Interior; one inviting the

Permanent Committee on Geographical Names to attend the annual BGN-PCGN meeting in Washington, DC in October; and a third to Mrs. Caroline Burgess, expressing the BGN's best wishes on her retirement from the PCGN.

The aforementioned BGN-PCGN meeting is scheduled to take place at the State Department October 21-25.

The next meeting of the full BGN is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, at 1:30 p.m., at the Census Bureau in Suitland. Fournier requested that those who plan to attend should let him know so he can provide their names to the security office.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

The 2014 annual meeting of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA) is scheduled for April 29-May 3 in Austin, Texas.

The 2013 meeting of the Geographical Names Board of Canada will take place October 3-5 in Winnipeg.

The next meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names will take place May 5-9 in Bangkok, Thailand.

A new banner and more prominent BGN logo have been placed on the BGN web page.

As noted previously, the BGN's revised bylaws are enroute to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of the Interior.

The reappointment letters for the next two-year term (Oct. 1, 2013 to Sept. 30, 2015) are being reviewed by USGS and are expected to be transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior shortly.

3.3 Communications Committee (Westington)

There is still time for members to provide feedback on the newest BGN factsheet, entitled "Getting the Facts Straight." As soon as all comments are received, Westington will prepare the document for posting to the BGN web page. She thanked Caldwell for his efforts in putting the factsheet together.

Fournier reported that he was recently asked to offer guidance to the National Weather Service/Tsunami Warning Service on the use of GNIS to determine official names and locations to be used in its bulletins.

This morning, the Director of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey and U.S. National Hydrographer, is representing NOAA at a legislative hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans and Insular Affairs. The hearing will include Representative Darrell Issa's ongoing effort to designate the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone in honor of former President Ronald Wilson Reagan. Subsequent to the DNC meeting, the webcast was posted to <http://naturalresources.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=336563>.

Following last month's discussions regarding the efforts by a class of geography students at the College of DuPage to propose a number of new names for features in and around DuPage County, Berman reported that he had forwarded the information to a colleague at the Geography Educators Network. There is some interest in incorporating the topic of geographic names into future K-12 curricula. It was agreed that this should be a topic of discussion at the Communications Committee's next meeting.

The next meeting of the Communications Committee is scheduled to take place on the morning of the next full BGN quarterly meeting, at the Census Bureau on July 16th.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

As was reported last month, Logan provided the DNC's written response to USGS National Geospatial Program (NGP) Director Mark DeMulder regarding the NGP Data Lifecycle Management Plan (DLCMP). Yost reported that DeMulder is drafting a response to the DNC.

In 2001, the South Dakota State Legislature passed a bill that was intended to eliminate the words "Squaw" and "Negro" from the State's geographic names. Some changes were submitted to and approved by the DNC, but several were rejected citing a lack of evidence that the proposed replacement names satisfied the BGN's policies, or were not appropriate to the feature. The issue languished for several years. In 2009, a new South Dakota Geographic Names Board was established, with the primary goal of completing the name change effort. The State Board has conducted public meetings to solicit replacement names. Just prior to the State Board's most recent meeting, the South Dakota African History Museum expressed concerns that the word "Negro" was not necessarily offensive, which led the State Board to suspend its review of the new proposals. The State Board is now asking the citizens of the State to submit comments on the matter. Kanalley noted that the Forest Service is particularly interested in this issue, noting that it also does not wish to erase history yet at the same time it wants to be supportive of changing names that are determined to be offensive.

In the next one to three months, the BGN staff will be relocating to new office space at the U.S. Geological Survey. Because of the volume of toponymic material to be moved, this is expected to cause some disruption to the normal workflow and may impact a future DNC meeting.

The BGN staff are looking into finding a replacement for Greg Winters, following his departure from the Names Office last month.

3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

Runyon reminded the members that the Monthly Action List is posted on the BGN web page along with the Quarterly Review Lists. The Action List provides a summary of all pending proposals and their status, along with those names that were voted on by the DNC during the previous twelve months. In addition, the BGN staff will prepare for the members who represent land management agencies a listing of the cases pending in their areas of interest. The members agreed this would be useful.

After learning that the Washington Committee on Geographic Names and the Forest Service had recommended disapproval of his proposal for Friday Lake (Review List 410), the proponent withdrew his proposal.

Suzi Pengilly, chair of the Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council, and Jim Anderson, Florida Geographic Names Authority, have both retired from State government service. Efforts by both States are underway to find replacements for their positions.

The BGN staff regretted to report that Bob Wilkinson, chair of the Indiana Geographic Names Board, recently passed away. In addition, the staff was sorry to announce that Don Kelly, USGS Communications Officer and longtime USGS deputy member on the BGN, passed away.

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (McCormick)

The updates to New Jersey stream data are complete. Coordinates are being adjusted for landform features in the State of Washington. GNIS data revision for Hawaii was recently completed; however, the USTopo program continues to experience difficulties displaying writing marks on the new maps. Data contracts are pending for Missouri and North Dakota.

The issue of vector data derivation problems with Census data has been mostly resolved, although some issues still remain.

On June 12, the BGN and GNIS staff and Fournier participated in a conference call with representatives of the Maine GIS Office regarding the representation of township (civil) data in GNIS. They also addressed the ingestion of Structures data into GNIS. It was a worthwhile dialogue but some ongoing issues need to be addressed.

Following this meeting, McCormick will be conducting online training on the maintenance of Oregon GNIS data for National Hydrography Dataset and Forest Service data stewards.

Bob Malcolm, former Forest Service Region 2 Geographic Names Coordinator and now the representative from the Bureau of Land Management to the Colorado Geographic Names Board, will be retiring from Federal service in early August.

3.7 Special Committee on Native Names and Tribal Consultation (Kanalley)

Kanalley reported that she has coordinated with Fordham on the briefing paper for the Interim Draft Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names. The paper has been reviewed within the U.S. Forest Service, which led to significant sections being removed. Kanalley will share the results with the DNC and discuss the next steps.

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 - none

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change Corpus Christi Beach (FID 1333383) to North Beach, Texas

A motion was made and seconded to approve this name.

Vote:	10 in favor
	0 against
	0 abstentions

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

Hahn Creek, Iowa (Review List 413) (FID 2747976)

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

Vote: 10 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

Change **Kipple Creek** (FID 1620440) to **Klippel Creek**, Michigan (Review List 410)

A motion was made and seconded to approve this change.

Vote: 10 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

LeMays Lake, Michigan (Review List 403) (FID 2747978)

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

Vote: 10 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

George Shaw Spring, Montana (Review List 411) (FID 2747979)

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

Vote: 10 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

IV. Revised Decisions

A motion was made and seconded to consider the following names together.

Vote: 8 in favor
 0 against
 2 abstentions

Change **Jimmys Peak** (BGN 2010) (FID 2635495) (Review List 410) to **Willard Mountain**, and new name **Jimmys Peak**, New York (FID 2747996)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name change and new name.

Vote: 9 in favor
 0 against
 1 abstention

Change **Ball Mountain Reservoir** (BGN 1973) (FID 1460355) to **Ball Mountain Lake**, Vermont (Review List 410)

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

Vote: 10 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Patriots Peak, Maine (Review List 411) (FID 2747977)

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

Vote: 10 in favor
 0 against
 0 abstentions

5. Other Business

There was a brief discussion regarding the DNC's longstanding inclement weather policy, which states now that if Fairfax County (Virginia) schools are closed or delayed on the morning of a DNC meeting, the meeting will be canceled. The DNC has never addressed the issue of closures during the summer months, but it was agreed that since it so rarely happens, the current policy is sufficient.

6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting will be held July 11, 2013, at 9:30 a.m. at the Department of the Interior, Room 7000B.

(signed) Louis A. Yost

Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED
(signed) Tony Gilbert

Tony Gilbert, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET
June 2013**

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties - none

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Change Corpus Christi Beach (FID 1333383) to North Beach, Texas
http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=27.8222484&p_longi=-97.3869366&fid=1333383

This proposal is to change officially the name of the beach at the north end of the City of Corpus Christi from Corpus Christi Beach to North Beach. It was initiated in relation to the decision by the BGN in May 2013 not to approve a change from North Beach to Corpus Christi Beach for the community (the community name refers to a large portion of the landmass north of the harbor bridge, while the beach name refers to the sandy shoreline). At the time of the May 2013 vote, the BGN staff misunderstood the intent of the resolution that was passed in 2012 by the City Council and which had restored the community's name to North Beach, believing that it was limited only to the community, with the name of the beach remaining Corpus Christi Beach. However, subsequent correspondence with the Texas State Names Committee determined that the name North Beach should in fact apply to the community and the beach.

The proposal that was considered by the BGN in May 2013 was submitted by a local business owner, who reported that the name on Federal maps (North Beach) conflicted with the name that the City had approved in a resolution in 1959 (Corpus Christi Beach). She noted that numerous tourism web sites refer to "Corpus Christi Beach hotels" and "The old locals that like to call it North Beach are not the ones we are marketing to." She submitted a proposal to make the change official for Federal use.

However, after reviewing the proposal, the Corpus Christi City Council passed a resolution on July 17, 2012, that reversed its 1959 decision and restored the historic name (North Beach). As such, the City recommended denial of the proposed change. The Texas State Names Committee concurred with the City, and the change was rejected by the BGN. All interested parties were notified of the decision. The Texas State Names Committee questioned why the BGN had not considered the beach name at the same meeting. They pointed out that the City Resolution comprised several sections, one that addressed the community name, and another for the beach name: "Section 4, That the beach area formerly referred to as Corpus Christi Beach, as described in metes and bounds in the State of Texas Lease No. CL 84-004, is renamed as North Beach."

In recommending that the community name not be changed, the Texas State Names Committee stated, "Today, Corpus Christi has over 15 miles of beach front property located on the Nueces (Corpus Christi) Bay side of the city. Several areas along the beach front have also been historically referred to as Corpus Christi Beach. It is believed that a name change would only cause confusion to other areas that have claim to the name Corpus Christi Beach. Several independent groups and business including the Visitor's Bureau, the Corpus Christi Beach Association, the city's Water Shore and Beach Advisory Committee, the Lexington Museum on the Bay and the Texas State Aquarium have recommended leaving the name as North Beach." State highway signs pointing to the area refer to it as Corpus Christi Beach; it is not known if and when these will be updated.

When asked to comment on the proposal to change the community name, the U.S. Coast Guard responded it had no objection. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA had no opinion. According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Nueces County.

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

Hahn Creek, Iowa (Review List 413)

Mouth: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=41.8952222&p_longi=-91.4062258
Source: http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=41.9268946&p_longi=-91.4046109

This 3.3-mile-long stream heads just inside the corporate boundary of the City of Lisbon, then through the City of Mount Vernon, and into Spring Creek. The proposed name Hahn Creek would honor Daniel Seward Hahn (1808-1898), one of the first two settlers in Linn County, who moved into the area in the spring of 1837 (*History of Linn County, Iowa*; Brewer, Luther A and Wick, Barthinius L., 2013). According to the proponent, Daniel Hahn built the first house in Linn County close to the unnamed stream, where he lived and farmed for more than 60 years. *The Biographical Record of Linn County* (1901) mentions that Mr. Hahn “devoted his energies for many years to the improvement and cultivation of the 280 acres he purchased.” The book continues, “He was a devout member of the First Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, and was a man highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him on account of his sterling worth and strict integrity.” Mr. Hahn and his wife Parmelia (d. 1881) were the parents of eleven children. Mr. Hahn was also a member of the Old Settler’s Association; he “befriended all in need and was friendly with college presidents and American Indians.” A stream to the west of Mount Vernon bears the name of the Abbe family, the other of Linn County’s first two settlers. As such, the proponent believes it is fitting that both families be honored.

Letters of support for this proposal were received from the Mayor of Mount Vernon, the City of Lisbon, and the Linn County Board of Supervisors. The Iowa State Names Authority also recommends approval. A copy of the proposal was sent to the following federally recognized tribes: the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, the Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, and the Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Change Kipple Creek (FID 1620440) to Klippel Creek, Michigan (Review List 410)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=46.5318794&p_longi=-87.9362454&fid=1620440

This proposal is to change the name of Kipple Creek, a 3.7-mile-long stream that flows through the Escanaba River State Forest in Marquette County, to Klippel Creek to reflect the correct spelling of the name of the family that homesteaded in the area. The stream has been labeled Kipple Creek on USGS topographic maps since 1955, and appeared as Kipples Creek on the 1967 Marquette County highway map. The proponent reports that early plat and natural resources maps spelled the name Klippel Creek. However, he claims the stream was named for his great-grandparents Herman and Bertha Klippel, who in 1896 homesteaded on property adjacent to the stream. A 1907 survey plat for their son’s property confirms the spelling Klippel. The 1920 and 1930 Federal Censuses of Marquette County also list several family members named Klippel, while a World War I draft registration card and a 1916 City directory of Marquette spelled the name Klipple.

The governments of Humboldt Township and Marquette County were each asked to comment on the proposed change. Neither responded, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The

Champion/Beacon/Humboldt Historical Society and the Marquette Regional History Center recommend approval of the change, as does the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which manages the Escanaba River State Forest. The Michigan State Names Authority expressed support for the proposal provided there was no local objection. A copy of the proposal was sent to the following federally recognized tribes: the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians, the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Leech Lake Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Michigan, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, and the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

LeMays Lake, Michigan
(Review List 403)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=46.58199&p_longi=-88.251629

This proposal is to make official the commemorative name LeMays Lake for an unnamed 10-acre lake in Covington Township in Baraga County. The proposed name would honor Emil LeMay (d. 1957) and Dona LeMay (d. 1983). The proponent, whose last name is LeMay, states, “For a number of years, we have been using the name LeMay Lake [sic]. The history associated with that name [LeMays Lake] begins with my father Dona LeMay and grandfather Emil LeMay. It began back in the 1950s and 1960s when genealogy was being traced. There were many discussions and fishing trips that followed with General Curtis LeMay. He seemed to adopt the lake as his own.”

The Covington Township Supervisor and the Baraga County Commissioners support the proposal, as does the Michigan State Names Authority. A decision on this proposal was deferred by the BGN at its April 2012 meeting, pending a request to determine the opinion of the present-day landowner. The proponent responded that he owns the property.

A copy of the proposal was sent to the following federally recognized tribes: the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa, the Bois Forte Band (Nett Lake) of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Fond du Lac Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Leech Lake Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, the St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, and the White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

George Shaw Spring, Montana
(Kootenai National Forest)
(Review List 411)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=48.07422&p_longi=-115.54125

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name George Shaw Spring to an unnamed spring, located in Kootenai National Forest in Lincoln County. The proposed name would honor George Edwin Shaw (1927-1997), a local mine operator who maintained a claim near the spring.

The spring is described by the proponent as located “at the end of a primitive road in a forested area at an elevation of approximately 4800 feet. It apparently provided enough water to support long-term camping by a family and watering of livestock used in mining operations. From its location, its waters appear to drain towards the next gulch south of the one occupied by Standard Creek on the slope of Great Northern Mountain and into Standard Creek about half a mile above the mouth of Standard Creek at West Fisher Creek.”

According to the proponent, George Shaw first visited the spring as a child. While his family gathered huckleberries, he explored the area and found an interest in geology. The proponent states, “He found where others had been mining an area above the spring and would return to it again and again. Enamored by the shiny rocks he’d find – galena ore – he’d fill his pockets with his finds. This instilled an interest in rocks, minerals and mining that led him to graduate from the Montana School of Mines in Butte, Montana (now Montana Tech) where he studied metallurgy and chemical extraction. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Over the years, George would continue to explore the Cabinet Mountains and regularly camped at the spring his family frequented when he was a boy. He filed multiple claims throughout the area, always in search of the motherlode. He mined the area up until his death in November 1997.” Another biography stated, “The Shaws would clean the spring of the accumulated debris so it would flow freely and provide water for the campers as well as their horses. Since George had devoted so much of his life to the area around the spring, it seems fitting that it be named after him.”

According to GNIS, there are 49 features in Montana with “Shaw” in their names; however, none of these are springs. Most features are related to Fort Shaw, a populated place located in Cascade County. Of note, a summit named Shaw Mountain is located in Lincoln County, also on the USGS Howard Lake topographic map, three miles northwest of the spring in question. The origin of the name of this summit has not been determined. The proposal to name the spring was submitted initially as Shaw Spring but the honoree’s first name was later added to avoid any suggestion of an association with Shaw Mountain.

The Lincoln County Commissioners were asked by the Montana State Names Authority (MT SNA) to comment on the proposal but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. Six letters of support for the name were received from members and friends of the Shaw family. The MT SNA recommends approval of the name George Shaw Spring, while the U.S. Forest Service has no objection. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the following federally recognized tribes: the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation, the Kalispel Indian Community of the Kalispel Reservation, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation, the Santee Sioux Nation, the Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation of Idaho, and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change application of **Jimmys Peak** (BGN 2010) (FID 2935495), and change **Jimmys Peak** (BGN 2010) (FID 2635495) to **Willard Mountain**, New York

Jimmys Peak (proposed):

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=43.4578464&p_longi=-73.8331776

Willard Mountain (proposed):

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=43.4669444&p_longi=-73.8263889

In 2010, the BGN approved a proposal to make official the name Jimmys Peak for the middle summit of three summits that collectively comprise The Three Sisters. That proposal was submitted by a local resident and descendant of James (“Jimmy”) Cameron who reported that the name had been used informally since the early twentieth century. Cameron was a Tory who lived across the Hudson River in the Town of Thurman and who had lit signal fires on one of the summits of The Three Sisters during the American Revolution.

The name Jimmys (or Jimmies or James’s) Peak was published in early twentieth century hand-drawn hiking guides; however, the descriptions were vague, and it was unclear to which summit the name applied. Although evidence suggested it was likely present-day Bald Mountain (the more southerly of the three summits), the proponent did not wish to change a longstanding name and so she suggested the name Jimmys Peak should be applied to the middle, unnamed, summit. The governments of the Town of Warrensburg and Warren County expressed support for the proposal, while the New York Committee on Geographic Names had no objection. Although the Warrensburg Town Historian did not submit a formal recommendation, when consulted by the Warrensburg Town Clerk, he noted that the spelling should be “Jimmys” rather than “Jimmies” as had been proposed initially. In August 2010, the BGN approved the proposal.

Following the BGN’s approval of Jimmys Peak, the Thurman Town Supervisor contacted the BGN to report that she had just been informed by another member of the Cameron family that the new name was applied to the wrong summit (the three summits are in the Town of Warrensburg so the Town of Thurman was not consulted prior to the BGN’s vote. The Town of Thurman is across the Hudson River). She claimed the more southerly peak (Bald Mountain) is in fact the correct location of Jimmys Peak, while the one that the BGN named Jimmys Peak in 2010 should be Willard Mountain. Furthermore, “The name Jimmys Peak was put into place without the knowledge of James Cameron’s direct descendants or the town whose history is impacted by the name. There is opposition to the name Jimmys Peak by the family [and] members of the community in the Town of Thurman. The summit in question was part of the Town of Thurman when James Cameron was alive, and is important to the Town’s history. The Town of Warrensburg was later [1813] formed from part of the Town of Thurman however the name has no significance to the Town of Warrensburg while retaining most significance to the history of the Town of Thurman.” She added, “An annual trek is made from Thurman to the real Jimmy’s Peak [sic] and has been going on since 1906. The current name of Jimmys Peak creates historical confusion and also interferes with and confuses hikers seeking to join the Jimmy’s Peak Mountain Club. The family is seeking to change the name of the current Jimmys Peak to Willard Mountain because that is what the summit has been known as since the 1900s. A book kept by the Jimmy’s Peak Mountain Club since 1906 shows that the summit is clearly not Jimmys Peak and is referred to as Bennet Mountain.” It appears that the name Bennet Mountain has fallen out of use.

Additional evidence to support the family’s claims includes the handwritten notes of the Roster of the James’ Peak Mountain Club [sic], which state in part, “The U.S. Geological Survey map on page 147 [of the Roster] shows what is here called ‘Bald Mt.’ It is really ‘Jimmies Peak,’ and was probably called Bald

Mountain by the surveyors because the redoubtable Jimmie after who our Club, and the Mountain was named, was himself bald.... The mountain north of Jimmies Peak is called Bennetts Mountain...” (Neither “Bennet” nor “Bennetts” are under consideration for any of the peaks, nor has the origin of those names been determined. The third and more northeasterly peak, Pine Mountain, is also not at issue.)

The proponent of the original Jimmys Peak proposal indicated at the time of her submission that she had the support of another member of the Cameron family, but it appears that individual did not communicate his opinion to the branch of the family that is now objecting to the BGN’s 2010 decision.

Jimmys Peak (BGN 2010) is not labeled on any USGS maps and has not yet been published on the new USTopo, but it is labeled at *The National Map*.

At the March 2013 meeting, the BGN was asked to consider two amended proposals, to change the name of Bald Mountain to Jimmys Peak, and to apply the name Willard Mountain to the summit that was named Jimmys Peak by the BGN in 2010. The first proposal was denied, citing long-term published usage of the existing name (Bald Mountain has appeared on USGS topographic maps since 1903). The second proposal was deferred, citing a request for further input from the original proponent. Specifically, if the proposal to change Jimmys Peak (BGN 2010) to Willard Mountain would be approved, all references to James Cameron would be eliminated (other than as a variant name). The BGN asked the staff to ask the proponent to comment on the new developments. She responded that she was not pleased with the possible outcome, especially as she had initiated the effort to honor Jimmy. The Thurman Town Supervisor also expressed her disappointment that the name Jimmys Peak might be lost.

Subsequent to the BGN’s March meeting, the possibility was raised that perhaps the highest point atop Bald Mountain might be named Jimmys Peak, which would allow the existing name to be retained for the larger feature, and which would also leave open the possibility that the middle summit could be properly named Willard Mountain. Although there is no distinct “pointy” knob at the top of Bald Mountain, all parties, including both sides of the Cameron family, agree this would most accurately reflect the various names that have been and continue to be in local and published use. As the Thurman Town Supervisor noted, “Mr. Cameron climbed the peak frequently during the Revolution and at some point drove 4 large bolts into the ledge there. These bolts remain in the ledge today. An annual climb has been made since the 30’s involving the Cameron family and their guests.”

The governments of the Town of Warrensburg and Warren County, as well as the New York State Committee on Geographic Names, were apprised of the amended proposals and support the amended proposal. The Seneca Nation of New York and the Tonawanda Band of Seneca Indians of New York, both of which are federally recognized, were asked to comment on the various issues. No response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion.

Change **Ball Mountain Reservoir** (BGN 1973) (FID 1460355) to **Ball Mountain Lake**, Vermont
(Review List 410)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglemap?p_lat=43.126435&p_longi=-72.7824068&fid=1460355

This proposal was submitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to change the name of Ball Mountain Reservoir to Ball Mountain Lake, to reflect widespread local and published usage. In 1971, the BGN approved the name Ball Mountain Lake, at the request of USACE, but in 1973 the name was changed to Ball Mountain Reservoir. The latter decision was made upon the recommendation of the Vermont Geographic Names Board and with the support of USACE. USGS topographic maps published since 1987 have labeled the feature Ball Mountain Reservoir.

The 94-acre reservoir was created by the construction of Ball Mountain Dam in 1961. The dam is located two miles north of the community of Jamaica at a point where the West River flows through a narrow steep-sided valley on the north flank of Ball Mountain. The north shore of the reservoir forms the boundary of the Green Mountain National Forest. According to USACE, despite the 1973 decision for Ball Mountain Reservoir, local usage has continued to be for Ball Mountain Lake. Numerous local, State, and Federal websites and publications confirm this. It is also the name used by USACE in managing the reservoir. NOAA, EPA, the Library of Congress, and USGS have all used Ball Mountain Lake in referring to the reservoir. Meanwhile, other publications from USGS and the State of Vermont refer to the feature as Ball Mountain Reservoir.

The Town of Jamaica Selectboard has no objections to the change from Ball Mountain Reservoir to Ball Mountain Lake. The Vermont Board on Geographic Names initially declined to take action on the issue “in the absence of a petition from a Vermont State agency or 25 interested persons as is required by law to initiate the formal naming process.” Nonetheless, the Vermont Board of Libraries, which is responsible for names standardization within the State, authorized the State Librarian to comment on the matter. Her research determined that in 1971, when the name was first considered by the BGN, U.S. Department of the Army regulations stated, “In general [this] policy is established to designate bodies of water impounded by dams as *lakes*, in lieu of *reservoirs*, as has been prior frequent practice. This policy is consistent with action taken by Congress in renaming projects and using ‘lake’ in lieu of the designated reservoir or dam and reservoir.” However, in considering the new proposal, she concluded that the feature “is most accurately identified as a reservoir (it is an artificial impoundment)” and therefore, “...the proper terminology is ‘Ball Mountain Reservoir.’”

In responding to the State’s comments, USACE provided additional materials documenting the long-standing use of the name Ball Mountain Lake, as well as current signage. A search of the Internet for Ball Mountain Lake yielded over 8,000 hits on .gov and .mil web sites, as opposed to 150 using Ball Mountain Reservoir. The former group includes such agencies and sites as the National Weather Service, the National Climate Data Center (NOAA), the National Resources Conservation Service (USDA), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Bureau of Land Management, the National Atlas (DOI), Recreation.gov, Recovery.gov, and Science.gov. An additional 61 links to U.S. Senate web pages refer to Ball Mountain Lake. The Vermont Department of Transportation Official Vermont Road Map and Guide to Vermont Attractions shows the body of water as Ball Mountain Lake. Federal agencies that use Ball Mountain Reservoir include the U.S. Geological Survey and EPA. State usage includes the Vermont Windham Regional Plan (2006), *Vermont Lakes and Ponds* (Vermont Department of Water Resources, 1971), and in DeLorme’s *Vermont Atlas & Gazetteer* (2007).

Furthermore, according to USACE, “[We] understand the logic in using the generic ‘reservoir’ for features that are technically reservoirs, but this doesn’t appear to be common practice in Vermont. Only around 25% of the reservoirs in Vermont, as listed in the Geographic Names Information System, use the generic ‘reservoir.’ ‘Pond’ appears to be the most frequent generic term and ‘lake’ is used just slightly less than ‘reservoir.’”

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Patriots Peak, Maine
(Review List 411)

http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=44.736505&p_longi=-70.239882

This proposal is to apply the new name Patriots Peak to an unnamed 1,289-foot summit located in the Town of Temple in Franklin County. According to the proponent, a firefighter in Cumberland, Rhode Island,

“The name was chosen in respect to all patriots of our country who have fought to keep us free.” He states, “This summit is located on land that I own.”

The Town of Temple Board of Selectmen responded that they are in support of the name. The Franklin County Board of Commissioners did not respond to a request for comment which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The Maine State Names Authority reports, “We have checked and can find no name already associated with this peak,” and as such, “The State has no problem with this name proposal.” According to the NAGPRA Native American Consultation Database, there are no federally recognized tribes with an interest in Franklin County. GNIS lists no other natural features in Maine with “Patriot” in their name.