

**U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Seven Hundred and Fifteenth Meeting  
Department of the Interior, Room 7000B  
December 10, 2009 – 9:30 a.m.

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Robert Bewley	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Douglas Caldwell	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
Lee Fleming	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Tony Gilbert	Government Printing Office
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress (Chairman) (not voting)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
William Logan	Department of Homeland Security (U.S. Coast Guard)
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Ex-Officio

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

Staff

Jennifer Runyon, U. S. Geological Survey

Guests

Steven Gardner, National Geographic Society

1. Opening

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

2. Minutes of the 714<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The minutes of the 714<sup>th</sup> meeting, held November 12<sup>th</sup>, were presented for consideration. Under Item 3.7, it was noted that the reference to “Roman alphabets” should more accurately read “Latin alphabets,” but it was agreed that both should be noted for clarification, i.e. “Roman” with “Latin” in parentheses. The last sentence of the first paragraph was corrected to read “Dillon, FNC Chairman, noted that there is an extensive family of non-Roman (non-Latin)

alphabets, and therefore many foreign languages need to be transliterated.” The second half of the last sentence of the third paragraph was changed to read “...transcribed (rendered phonetically), translated, or transliterated.” The minutes were approved as amended.

### 3. Communications and Reports

#### 3.1 Chairman’s Report (Logan for Hébert)

Logan reported that on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, he attended an event held at the U.S. Geological Survey in Reston to commemorate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the topographic map. BGN member Mark DeMulder served as co-host of the event, and other BGN members present included John Hébert, Doug Caldwell, Betsy Kanalley, Doug Vandegrift, and Jon Campbell, as well as Lou Yost and Jennifer Runyon of the BGN staff. There were several references during the presentations to Henry Gannett and his early involvement in the BGN.

On Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, the full BGN will hold its quarterly meeting at the Library of Congress. Details regarding time and meeting place will be disseminated shortly.

#### 3.2 BGN Executive Secretary’s Report (Yost)

Yost reported that the BGN has sent a letter of appreciation to Paul Woodman, as the retiring Executive Secretary of the British Permanent Committee on Geographical Names (PCGN). Caroline Burgess has been selected to assume the position of PCGN chair upon Woodman’s retirement at the end of the year. David Munro of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, who has served for many years as PCGN chair, will also be stepping down.

Trent Palmer has been selected to serve as the new NGA Geographer, assuming the position vacated by Randall Flynn; Palmer will also serve as the Executive Secretary of the BGN’s Foreign Names Committee.

The reappointment letters for the 2009-2011 term have been received in the various agencies, so members and deputy members should expect to be notified of their reappointment soon.

Over the past three weeks, the Sunday edition of *The Washington Post* has featured articles on local placenames. Yost was interviewed by columnist John Kelly on the issue of the apostrophe in the name of Prince George’s County, Maryland; other stories covered the question of Viers Mill vs. Veirs Mill for a road in Montgomery County.

### 3.3 Communications Committee Report (Westington)

In Westington's absence, Yost reported that the Special Committee on Communications has not met since the November DNC meeting. However, communication continues among the members regarding the BGN's participation in the forthcoming meeting of the Association of American Geographers (AAG), to be held in Washington DC in April. Richard Randall, BGN Executive Secretary Emeritus, will serve as chair of the BGN session and will also present a paper on toponymy. There has been some discussion regarding holding the regular DNC and FNC meetings during the AAG conference, although in order to allow non-AAG members to attend, the meetings will likely need to be held at a participating hotel rather than at the conference venue. The suggested date is Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.

It was noted that 2010 marks the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the BGN and it might be appropriate to mark the occasion with some sort of commemorative event.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Yost)

Following the DNC's approval in November of the name Salish Sea, the USGS anticipated that a press release would be prepared. However, just prior to the DNC's vote, it was reported that the issue had been elevated to ministerial level within the British Columbia government and so final approval by the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC) has been delayed. A final GNBC decision is expected within the next month.

The Washington State Trails Association (WSTA) has expressed its "dismay" at the DNC's rejection (May 2009) of the proposal to change the name of Spring Mountain to Ira Spring Mountain. The WSTA is asking the DNC to reconsider its decision. After reviewing the request, a motion was made and seconded to revisit the issue.

Vote: 3 in favor  
6 opposed  
0 abstentions

The motion failed and the previous decision will not be revisited.

Dwight Hughes, systems administrator for GNIS, has confirmed that he will be retiring from his position at USGS at the end of December.

### 3.5 Staff Report (Runyon)

A proposal has been submitted to change the name of Mount Rainier in Washington to Mount Tacoma. Runyon reminded the members that the same proponent submitted a similar request in 2007, at which time the DNC declined to revisit the issue “without more evidence of local support.” The members reviewed the latest proposal, and citing a lack of compelling new evidence decided once again not to consider the case, noting that the DNC has rejected the change on at least two previous occasions. The proponent should be asked to provide evidence of more widespread local, State, Tribal, and/or other support. Subsequent to the meeting, it was suggested to send him a copy of the 1924 report of the BGN to Congress to demonstrate the research and sentiment of the BGN which is still held today.

As has been reported at several recent DNC meetings, there is an ongoing concern that numerous hydrographic (water) features and hypsographic (valley) features are misrepresented in GNIS and on Federal maps. For example, features named “gulch” are classified as valleys in GNIS and labeled as such on maps; however, there are individuals within the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) community who believe the term refers to the stream and not the valley, or to both features collectively. There is some desire within NHD to either change the GNIS classification, or to apply the valley name to the stream as well. Other examples include features named “draw” and “arroyo.” The DNC members and staff understand the NHD’s concerns, but are reluctant to apply large numbers of “new” names to “unnamed” features without due process. A representative of the NHD community has offered to attend a future DNC meeting to discuss the issue.

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

The recent integration of GNIS with the USGS Vectors layer is proving to be reasonably successful, with some internal bugs still being worked out.

A Web Feature Services-Gazetteer protocol delivery system is being developed with NGA, but the issue of funding still needs to be resolved.

USGS has received from ESRI a geodatabase comprising polygons of physical features. The data will be evaluated.

### 3.7 Tribal Issues

At the October and November meetings, the DNC discussed the development of policies to address indigenous names and other issues of importance to the American Indian community. At the last meeting, the attendees voted to

establish a committee of interested members and advisors. Kanalley offered to serve as chair, and during the past month she distributed an email soliciting interest. It was agreed that the new committee needs a charter and a timeframe within which it should accomplish its mission. In response to the recent Presidential directive concerning tribal consultation, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has asked all Federal agencies to provide a report on what efforts they have and will undertake to address Executive Order 13175 (“Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments”).

It has been suggested that the BGN should move quickly and incorporate a report on its activities into the broader Department of the Interior response to OMB. The Department has already established an aggressive schedule of hearings and meetings to review the situation. Fleming reported that he has met with Tracie Stevens, Counsel to the Assistant Secretary on Indian Affairs, to brief her on the BGN’s approach to consultation and to share with her a copy of the BGN’s *Principles, Policies, and Procedures* (PPP) document. He recommends also sharing with her a copy of the “informational letter” that the BGN intends to send to each of the 564 Federally-recognized Tribes, along with the latest version of PPP Policy X on Native American Names. It was agreed that the new committee should meet soon, possibly just prior to or following the January DNC meeting.

#### 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 - none**

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

**Johnston Mountain**, Missouri (Review List 400) (FID 2574378)

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

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

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

**Sergeant Hart Creek, Kentucky (Review List 402) (FID 2574379)**

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

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

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

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

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

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Evans Brook, Scarlett Run, Pennsylvania (Review Lists 402, 401) (FIDs 2574380, 2574381)**

A motion was made and seconded to approve these two names.

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**IV. Revised Decisions - none**

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

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

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Whiskey Bay (bay) and Whiskey Bay (populated place), Kentucky (Review List 402) (FIDs 2574384, 2574385)

A motion was made and seconded to approve these two names.

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Mushroom Run, Pennsylvania, and Tannery Run, Pennsylvania and Delaware (Review List 401) (FIDs 2574382, 2574383)

A motion was made and seconded to approve these two names.

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Pleasant Creek, Washington (Review List 400) (FID 2574386)

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

Vote: 10 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

##### 5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will take place January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., at 9:30 a.m., Room 7000B.

(signed) *Louis A. Yost*

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Louis A. Yost, Executive Secretary

APPROVED  
(signed) *Robert Hiatt*

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Robert Hiatt, Chairman  
Domestic Names Committee

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
December 2009

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

II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

Johnston Mountain, Missouri  
(Review List 400)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=37.4906053813&p\\_longitude=-90.8124423543](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.4906053813&p_longitude=-90.8124423543)

The new commemorative name Johnston Mountain is proposed for a 426 m (1,397 ft) unnamed summit in Reynolds County. The name would honor Marion Johnston (1836-1900), John Johnston (1827-1900), and Albert Johnston, members of a prominent family that settled in the area in the mid nineteenth century, acquiring large tracts of land and helping to develop Reynolds County. John Johnston also helped rebuild the Reynolds County Courthouse after it was destroyed by fire in 1863.

This proposal originated as an inquiry to the Missouri Board on Geographic Names (MOBGN) regarding the possibility of having the spelling of the name of nearby Johnson's Shut-ins State Park corrected to "Johnston" to recognize the family for whom it was reportedly named. However, after learning that State legislation prohibits the renaming of State parks, the proponent indicated he wished to select another feature to be named for the family, using the correct spelling. The unnamed summit in question was chosen because Albert Johnston was granted a deed to property in that section in 1886. The summit is located 4 km (2.5 mi) southeast of park's boundary.

The MOBGN asked the government of Reynolds County and the Reynolds County Historical Society to comment on the proposal, but no response was received from either, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. The current landowners are "enthusiastically in favor" of the name, and six friends and relatives of the Johnson family submitted letters of support. However, one other individual, a local resident stated that he opposed the proposal because he had always known the peak to be named Edge Branch High Top. The MOBGN asked for additional evidence, either published or local support, but the individual did not respond. The MOBGN also asked the County government to comment on the second name, and a brief article appeared in the *Reynolds*

*County Courier*, but again no response or further comments were received. There is no evidence of a stream in the area named Edge Branch. There is another summit named High Top Mountain 9 km (6 mi) to the north of the feature in question, so the MOBGN suggests perhaps the individual is confusing the two locations.

Citing the support for Johnston Mountain, the MOBGN voted to recommend approval of that name. A copy of the proposal was forwarded to the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Osage Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, all of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion. There are six features in Reynolds County containing the name “Johnson,” including the aforementioned park, but none are named “Johnston.” Elsewhere in the State, there are nine features named “Johnston,” but none are summits.

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

#### **Sergeant Hart Creek, Kentucky**

(Review List 402)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=37.6291667&p\\_longi=-84.9683333](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.6291667&p_longi=-84.9683333)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=37.5961111&p\\_longi=-84.9744444](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.5961111&p_longi=-84.9744444)

This 4.7 km (2.9 mi) long stream flows north to enter Hopes Creek 2.7 km (1.7 mi) southwest of Perryville in Boyle County. According to the proponent, the stream flows through her property, and the name would honor Sergeant Peter Hart, a member of the 13<sup>th</sup> Tennessee U.S. Cavalry, who fought in the Civil War Battle of Perryville in October of 1862; he was also at nearby Camp Nelson. The proponent is the great-granddaughter of the intended honoree. She notes, “The fact that Sgt. Hart was at Camp Nelson means everything to all the black citizens in this [Perryville] area...”.

This proposal has the support of the Boyle County Fiscal Court, the Mayor of Perryville, the president of the Boyle County Historical Society, the editor of *Kentucky Ancestors*, a former Executive Board member of the Kentucky Historical Society, and one other local historian. The Kentucky Committee on Geographic Names also recommends approval. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes with a current or historical interest in this area. There are several other streams containing the name “Hart” in Kentucky, but none named “Peter Hart” and none in Boyle County.

**Evans Brook**, Pennsylvania

(Review List 402)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=39.846415&p\\_longi=-75.784722](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=39.846415&p_longi=-75.784722)

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This proposal is one of 16 new names submitted by the New Garden Historical Commission, to name unnamed streams in New Garden Township. The DNC approved eleven of the names at its November meeting; the remaining ones were deferred pending a need for additional consultation with neighboring jurisdictions. Four of the names are on this docket; the final one needs further review. A website outlining the locations of the proposed names has been prepared by the proponent: <http://geohistory.us/NGStreams/NGStreams.htm>. According to the application, “The names represent an historical significance pertaining to that particular feature. The commission considered cultural, economic, natural and ancestral histories pertaining to that stream’s local [sic]. The process took several months of research culminating with a review and approval of the sixteen stream names by the New Garden Township Board of Supervisors in 2008.”

The name Evans Brook is proposed for a 1.8 km (1.1 mi) long tributary of East Branch White Clay Creek. It is intended to honor the first landowner, Evan Evans, who received a Penn Patent for 500 acres; the stream flows along the northern boundary of his property. According to GNIS, there are 45 features in Pennsylvania named “Evans,” including Evans Run, a stream in Chester County 31 km (19 mi) to the northeast of the stream in question. The latter stream was named for five generations of the William Evans family.

In addition to the New Garden Township Supervisors, the Chester County Commissioners also are in support of this new name. The County also sought input from two local watershed organizations, both of which endorse the naming effort. The government of London Grove Township was asked to indicate any objections prior to this meeting, but no response was received (barely 300 feet of the stream falls in London Grove Township). The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Board has no objection to the new name. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes with current or historical interests in the area.

**Scarlett Run**, Pennsylvania

(Review List 401)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=39.83305555555556&p\\_longi=-75.72416666666667](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gazpublic/getgooglecoor?p_lat=39.83305555555556&p_longi=-75.72416666666667)

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This proposal was also submitted by the New Garden Historical Commission. The 3.1 km (1.9 mi) long unnamed stream proposed to be named Scarlett Run heads in New Garden Township just south of the community of Toughkenamon and flows northeast, then southeast into Kennett Township, to enter West Branch Red Clay Creek. The name would honor John Scarlett (1737-1814) and his wife Mary Dixon Scarlett (ca.1738-1803), who in 1765 acquired 160 acres of land through which the stream flows. The New Garden Township Supervisors and the Chester County Commissioners are in support of the name, while the Pennsylvania Geographic Names Board has no objection. The government of Kennett Township, in which barely 300 feet of the stream is located, was asked to indicate any objections prior to this meeting, but no response was received. According to GNIS, there are no other streams in Pennsylvania named Scarlett Run.

**IV. Revised Decisions – none.**

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

Whiskey Bay (bay), Kentucky  
(Review List 402)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=37.0502777777778&p\\_longi=-87.0383333333333](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.0502777777778&p_longi=-87.0383333333333)

This is the first of two proposals to make official the name Whiskey Bay for a bay and an unincorporated community located along the east shore of Lake Malone, 3.5 km (2.2 mi) south of the lake's dam and 1.6 km (1 mi) north-northwest of Agnes in Logan County. According to the proponent the name has been in local use for many years. Although there do not appear to be any official maps that show the name, there is at least one real estate website advertising "lakefront property on Whiskey Bay." The Logan County Fiscal Court recommends approval of the proposal, as does the Kentucky Geographic Names Committee. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes with a current or historical interest in this area. There are two other features in Kentucky with the word Whiskey in their names: a stream in Muhlenberg County and a valley in Johnson County.

Whiskey Bay (populated place), Kentucky  
(Review List 402)

[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=37.0497222222222&p\\_longi=-87.0383333333333](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=37.0497222222222&p_longi=-87.0383333333333)

This proposal is to make official the name Whiskey Bay for an unincorporated community on the shore of Lake Malone in Logan County, 10 km (6.3 mi) northwest of Lewisburg. According to the proponent, the name has been in local use for more than 40 years. The Logan County Fiscal Court recommends approval of the proposal, citing the need for emergency services to be able to locate this place. The Kentucky Committee on Geographic Names also supports the proposal. There are no Federally-recognized Tribes with a current or historical interest in this area.

**Mushroom Run**, Pennsylvania

(Review List 401)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=39.807777777777778&p\\_longi=-75.76888888888889](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=39.807777777777778&p_longi=-75.76888888888889)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=39.806111111111111&p\\_longi=-75.7750000](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=39.806111111111111&p_longi=-75.7750000)

This is another of the names proposed by the New Garden Historical Commission, for unnamed streams in New Garden Township. This 1.3 km (0.8 mi) long stream flows southwest into East Branch White Clay Creek 7.2 km (4.5 mi) southwest of Five Points. The stream flows through the heart of New Garden Township's mushroom farms, so the name would reflect that local industry. The New Garden Township Supervisors and the Chester County Commissioners are in support of the name. The government of London Grove Township was asked to indicate any objections prior to this meeting, but no response was received. The Pennsylvania Geographic Names Board has no objection to the proposed name. According to GNIS, there are two features in Pennsylvania with "Mushroom" in their names, neither of which is a stream.

**Tannery Run**, Pennsylvania and Delaware

(Review List 401)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=39.779722222222222&p\\_longi=-75.74333333333333](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=39.779722222222222&p_longi=-75.74333333333333)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=39.781388888888889&p\\_longi=-75.724722222222222](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=39.781388888888889&p_longi=-75.724722222222222)

This proposal was also submitted by the New Garden Historical Commission, for an unnamed stream in New Garden Township. This 1.8 km (1.1 mi) long stream heads in New Castle County, Delaware and flows west into Chester County, Pennsylvania, to its confluence with Broad Run 2.6 km (1.6 mi) southwest of Kaolin. The proponent reports that this stream was the source of water for a tannery built in 1765 by Isaac Allen and which operated until 1863. The New Garden Township Supervisors are in support of this new name, while the Pennsylvania Geographic Names Board has no objection. Approximately 1,000 feet of the stream falls within New Castle County; that county's government has

no objection to the name, nor does the Delaware State Names Authority. There is one other stream in Pennsylvania named Tannery Run, in Centre County (BGN 2006), and another named Tannery Hollow Run in Cameron County.

**Pleasant Creek**, Washington

(Review List 400)

Mouth:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=45.7020420912  
&p\\_longi=-122.6272322701](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=45.7020420912&p_longi=-122.6272322701)

Source:[http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p\\_lat=45.7005250979  
&p\\_longi=-122.6161363532](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnis538/getgooglecoor?p_lat=45.7005250979&p_longi=-122.6161363532)

The new descriptive name Pleasant Creek is proposed for a 1.2 km (0.8 mi) long unnamed stream in Clark County, in the vicinity of the community of Barberton. It flows into LaLonde Creek, a tributary of Salmon Creek. The proponent reports that he chose the name because “it is a peaceful, pleasant creek.” There is some evidence also that the area through which the stream flows is known unofficially as Pleasant Valley, although that name is not listed in GNIS. The Clark County Commissioners have no objection to the proposed name, and the Washington Board on Geographic Names recommends approval. There are 55 geographic features in Washington with names containing the word “Pleasant,” but there are no streams named Pleasant Creek.