

Eleventh Annual Report (1965) of Place-Name Projects in Progress
Committee on Place Names
American Name Society
American Dialect Society

Every year when the time comes to collect material for our annual report it seems that there will be little to record, but when letters of inquiry are sent to about 160 persons known to be interested in place-name research, the amount of information which comes to hand is surprising. Several important steps forward are indicated in this report. In too many cases, however, place-name research is languishing because our workers are too busy with other projects which must be completed before place names can be considered. Other workers who have labored long in this field are discouraged because of lack of support or difficulties of publication.

As information comes in, one can see a great variety of approaches in place-name research. Some workers are interested in writing fanciful stories about places, the more unusual the better, with little or no attention to linguistics. Others are primarily interested in the location of places. In works already in print names are listed in many different ways. Some works list all names in a state according to origin; others list all the names by counties; others list all the names in a state in strict alphabetical order; a few list names in historical sequence; and still others seem to follow no definite order at all. Out of all this confusion some definite plan should emerge. Should our national organizations suggest a pattern to be followed?

From a consideration of the many problems which our workers face, one tentative conclusion may be drawn. Place-name work, like dictionary making and other huge projects, should be carried on by collaborating groups rather than by individuals alone. In the past an individual may have labored for years to complete a huge volume, only to find that some of his material was out of date by the time his work appeared in print. One exciting new group project is mentioned in this report; others like it should be started in many other states. A few states have place-name societies, but these have not had very definite goals and have not been very effective. It would seem that our national organizations with place-name interests are the groups which should exert every possible influence to bring about the proper kind of place-name research in our country.

The following list is by no means complete or exhaustive. Omissions and mistakes should be reported. After the Chicago meetings the material will be revised.

Richard B. Sealock and Pauline A. Seely wish to announce that the manuscript for their Place Name Bibliography of Canada and the United States, Second Edition, has been approved through the last stages by the editorial process of the American Library Association. Type composition should start immediately. This volume contains 3600 items and represents almost a doubling of the material in the 1948 first edition. What is more important is the very greatly increased amount of significant scholarly work that is listed for the years from 1946 to date. The volume should be ready early in 1966 and will indicate those areas, either individual states or specific subject matter, that need further attention. The importance of this great work to all of us cannot be overemphasized.

Eric P. Hamp (University of Chicago) and Elsdon C. Smith (Evanston, Ill.) report that a state-wide place-name project is being launched in Illinois. Last spring (1965) the Department of Linguistics of the University of Chicago, realizing that there has long been a need for a systematic collection of the place names of

Illinois, took the initiative by setting up an Illinois Place-Name Survey and soliciting the assistance of other institutions and individuals of the state. The initial group at the University of Chicago—Ignace J. Gelb, Eric P. Hamp, and Raven I. McDavid—has already been joined by J.J. Bauxar (Northern Illinois University), W.F. Leopold (Northwestern University), A.R. Davis (Illinois Institute of Technology), Henry R. Kahane (University of Illinois), Gordon R. Wood (Southern Illinois University), Clyde C. Walton (Illinois State Historical Library),

✓Virgil J. Vogel (Chicago), and ✓Elsdon C. Smith (Evanston). This exciting group project should serve as a model for other states to follow.

✓Claude H. Neuffer (South Carolina) is justifiably jubilant over the fact that volume XII of Names in South Carolina is out in real print (for the first time) with a list of over 750 paid subscribers including 50 patron subscribers at \$5 each. Within the next year or two, at the most, he intends to reprint in book form the first twelve issues of Names in South Carolina, with an introduction and index. He plans to continue yearly publication as in the past and then every ten years to re-issue the volumes in book form. The cost of volume XII is \$2.00.

✓E.R. Seary (Memorial University of Newfoundland at St. John's) expects his Place Names of the Avalon Peninsula of Newfoundland to be ready for the publishers sometime in 1966.

✓Morse Allen and ✓Arthur H. Hughes (Trinity College, Conn.) have completed a manuscript of some 30,000 Connecticut Place Names. A prospective publisher advises charging \$25.00 for the bulky volume. The project is sponsored by Trinity College and the Connecticut Historical Society but must find money elsewhere. Mr. Allen writes that "Connecticut is a small but old state, with 80 historical societies listed in the State Manual; most of the towns have town histories."

✓Arthur H. Hughes (mentioned in the preceding note) has also collected a complete list of the place names of Volusia County, Florida, which he hopes to convert into an article. It is his intention to expand the scope of his investigation first to central Florida and then to all of the state.

✓Taylor Starck (Harvard) hopes to find time to do some investigating of Cape Cod place names.

✓Frank Wuttge, Jr. (The Bronx, New York), in an effort to find a publisher for his thick volume on the street names of the Bronx, has changed the name of his work from Moccasin Paths in the Bronx to Portal of History. Anyone interested in the Bronx or in street names in general should get in touch with Mr. Wuttge.

✓Kelsie B. Harder (State University College, Potsdam, New York) hopes during the coming year to begin in New York a publication somewhat like that of C.H. Neuffer in South Carolina, such publication to be the forerunner of a book on New York place names. Mr. Harder has as a co-worker a student of Margaret ✓Bryant, Richard Haber, who at Brooklyn College worked on Gravesend place names.

✓Donald G. Baker (Collegeville, Pa.) reports he is progressing slowly on two projects: (1) a gazetteer of New Hampshire place names, and (2) a study of the place names of the U.S. derived from Greek and Roman sources. As far as we know Mr. Baker is the only person in the country working on New Hampshire place names.

✓C. Richard Beam (Millersville State College, Pa.) is continuing his collection of Pennsylvania German place names in connection with the Pennsylvania German dictionary project. He is also chairman of a group of local community historians who are embarking on a place-name project for Lancaster County, Pa. He writes that ✓Rabbi Samson A. Shain (Lancaster, Pa.) is continuing to collect information about Pennsylvania place names.

✓Wilbur Zelinsky (Pennsylvania State University) hopes to complete early in 1966 his study to be entitled "Classical Town Names in the United States; the Historical Geography of an American Idea" which will analyze the significance of the location and dates of all the place names he can identify as derivative from the classical world of the Greeks and Romans.

✓Charles Edgar Gilliam (Petersburg, Va.) continues his interest in various phases of place name research. He frequently supplies information about individual names to persons who are searching. His main interest in names has always been the use of culture as an aid to etymologies.

✓Atcheson L. Hench (Charlottesville, Va.) says he is doing no organized place-name work but likes to investigate names that intrigue him. He is now working on the origin of the name of the Hardware River and has just finished a little note on a Richmond street name, "Kissing Lane, lost, found, and gone forever."

G. G. Holland (University of Virginia) is working on the language of extinct Powhatan and may be able to furnish information about place names coming from that source.

Hamill Kenny (Maryland), one of the most active place-names workers in the country, is busy compiling a concise dictionary of Maryland place names on the order of Ekwall's Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place Names. Last summer he wrote a general essay on Maryland's place names, giving it the title of Behold Those Names. It is scheduled for publication in the Maryland English Journal. His large volume on West Virginia Place Names (1945) is unfortunately out of print.

Larena E. Kemp (West Virginia State College at Institute) is working on West Virginia place names. Kenny's work on the place names of this state, admirable though it may be, is now twenty years old and, according to Miss Kemp, needs considerable revising. Miss Kemp is encouraging her students to collect place-name information to be used in papers on the subject.

William S. Powell (North Carolina) has been working for more than a dozen years on a North Carolina gazetteer, now in its final typing. The manuscript is due at the University of North Carolina Press in January, 1966, and publication is tentatively set for the fall of 1966. There are over 20,000 entries and the editors estimate that it will make a volume of around 800 pages. There are entries for all known geographical features: rivers, towns, counties, sites of battles, Indian villages, etc. It is historical as well as current, with many cross references. Whenever he has been able to determine the origin or meaning of a name, he has included that information.

H.F. Raup (Kent State University, Ohio) thinks we need to find some way of impressing upon authors and publishers the fact that volumes about the place names of different states need to have professional handling if the published work is to be satisfactory. To these sentiments we would say a hearty amen.

John P. Pauls (University of Cincinnati) has published several articles on Slavic names. At present he is working on hotel names in Miami Beach, Florida.

Mrs. Louise W. Hanley (DeLand, Florida) is still interested in Kentucky place names. She says she is having difficulty obtaining information about tiny places of less than a hundred inhabitants. She hopes to have something definite to report in 1966.

Douglas P. Hinkle (Eastern Kentucky State College at Richmond), is working on place names in medieval documents (especially Spanish) appearing not later than the 14th century.

Miss Mamie J. Meredith (Nebraska) reports that the Lincoln Evening Journal is publishing a Nebraska place-name feature article every Wednesday under the direction of Rose Sife, state editor. There are no plans to publish this material in any other form, but Miss Meredith is clipping the items each week to give to the Nebraska Historical Society files. Miss Meredith also reports that Mike Parks' Nebraska in the Making (1939), which contains considerable information about place names, is being reprinted serially in the Omaha Sunday World Herald (1965) Magazine of the Midlands.

Wayne C. Lee (Lamar, Nebr.) spoke before the annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society at Lincoln on September 25 on "Nebraska Place Names and Legend". He has been collecting material for some years and will continue to do so.

John Rydjord (University of Wichita, Kansas), William E. Koch, and Richard C. Clark (Kansas State University, Manhattan), and Samuel J. Sackett (Fort Hays Kansas State College) are all working on some phase of Kansas place names but apparently without any collaboration. Dean Rydjord writes that his study of Kansas place names is continuing as his full-time job since he has retired, and he generally manages to put in a seven-day week. He is writing his work in essay form with chapters on such types as Indian names, foreign names, classical names, national and local political names, Civil War names, etc. He says he is constantly finding and collecting new material and now has so much that his study could run into volumes.

William E. Koch has collected a large amount of material about the place names of the Kansas Bluestem Hills; Richard C. Clark has been studying Kansas place names of German origin; and Samuel Sackett has been interested in Kansas place names in general.

✓ Clare D'Artois Leeper is now in her sixth year of writing a weekly column on place names for the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate. She is planning to do a comprehensive book on Louisiana place names for the Louisiana State University Press, but because of the immensity of the project, will not have it finished any time soon.

✓ Jan H. Brunvand (Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville), who was formerly at the University of Idaho, tells us that he is thinking of collecting place-name information in his new location.

✓ Jack Smith (Auburn University, Ala.) is working on the place names of Etowah County, Alabama.

✓ T.M. Pearce (New Mexico) hopes to have a bound copy of his New Mexico Place Names with him at our December (1965) meetings.

✓ Edwin H. Bryan, Jr. (Pacific Information Center, Honolulu) says that his organization has as one of its long range plans the compilation and publication of a detailed gazetteer of place names in the oceanic area. He thinks that there are at least 100,000 place names in the area he and his associates hope to cover. He plans to make a start on this huge project by compiling a gazetteer of the Hawaiian Islands first as a sample. He plans tabulation of names by areas, keyed to sketch maps with equivalents and alternate names for the same place in parallel columns, and with an alphabetical list (with coordinates) keyed to all this. Names in this area present serious problems. Many places have more than one name, and variations in the spelling of names are very puzzling. Various agencies are trying to standarize the spelling these place names. We all wish Mr. Bryan Godspeed in dealing with the place names of our fiftieth state.

✓ William Randel (University of Maine, Orono), who was formerly at Florida State University, is transferring his interest in place names from the names of Florida to those of Maine. He says he is quite curious about Maine place names.

Two persons whose names were on our list last year have died: Lewis H. Chrisman of West Virginia and Melvin B. Ricks of Juneau, Alaska

E.C. Ehrensperger, Chairman
Place-Name Committee