

Thirteenth Annual Report, Liaison Committee on Place-Names
1967
American Dialect Society
American Name Society

For several years in November we have compiled a list of persons who either are working on place names or have done such work. At our annual meetings new names have been added to the list, which has grown from a very modest number to a total of 210 names in 1967. Every year those people are asked to report on the progress of their research or on the progress of any other projects they know anything about. The replies are at times encouraging, but occasionally they are almost depressing. Time after time reports come back to the effect that other and more pressing duties have caused place-name projects to be delayed or even abandoned. Few people have place-name projects as their principal form of research. It seems a pity that in the language or linguistic divisions of our academic institutions there is so little emphasis on place names. In fact, some schools even seem a bit skeptical about the value of such work. Here is an opportunity for some of us to do some educating.

Another thing we have tried to do is to draw up a list of "key" persons who would attempt to discover and encourage place-name work in their respective states, who would try to coordinate such work as far as possible to prevent needless overlapping and duplication, and who would report all activities to the national committee. So far we have named "key" people in 42 states, 4 Canadian provinces, and Mexico. We very much need persons to act in this capacity in Arkansas, Iowa, Michigan, Nevada, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Wyoming. Can you help us find such individuals?

One of the most important place-name publications of the past years (previously noted in our reports as in preparation) has been Donald J. Orth's Dictionary of Alaska Place Names. On July 30, 1967, Secretary of Interior Stewart L. Udall formally announced the publication of U. S. Geological Survey Professional Paper No. 567, a 1084-page, hard-bound dictionary of Alaska place names, containing nearly 44,000 entries. Each entry identifies and locates the feature named, lists variant spellings, and names previously applied to the feature. The history and origin of the name is presented, and, when possible, the reported meaning of the Eskimo, Indian, Aleut, or foreign names is given. Variant, obsolete, and doubtful names are also alphabetically listed and are cross-referenced to the principal entries. This monumental volume may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402 at the modest price of \$8.50.

During the past year Mr. Orth also wrote and presented at meetings two papers: (1) Geographic Names and the Public Interest; (2) Geographic Names: Servant of Language, History, and Geography. In 1967 the Geological Survey of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names published his Guidelines for Preparing and Submitting Proposals Regarding Domestic Geographic Names, a booklet of 19 pages. At present he is working on a dictionary of place names of several Wisconsin counties including Fond du Lac,

Calumet, and Winnebago, and also on a dictionary of Puerto Rico and Virgin Island names. Finally, he is writing a short piece titled Geographic Names, which will probably be published by the Geographical Survey in 1968 as one of its popular leaflet series.

Claude H. Neuffer, South Carolina, a veteran place-name researcher, has edited the fourteenth volume of his annual series called Names in South Carolina. Volumes 1-12 are available in complete reprint with preface and detailed index (May, 1967) at \$15.25. This big work is to be reviewed in a forthcoming issue of Names. Volume 13 costs \$2.50. Volume 14, at the same price, appeared just recently.

Julian J. Petty, South Carolina, hopes that sometime during 1968 the University of South Carolina Press will publish his Dictionary of South Carolina Place Names. He is listing all the known place names which appear or have appeared on maps covering the state. The listing will include, where appropriate, the known origin of the names and their alternates, and it will also indicate which names have been approved by the Board of Geographic Names. He intends to follow somewhat the plan used in Delaware Place Names, U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1245 (1966), but will probably not use the latitude and longitude method employed in this bulletin.

William S. Powell, North Carolina, reports that copy for his North Carolina Gazetteer is now at the printer and will be published in the late fall or winter of 1968. It contains approximately 20,000 entries and will be a work of about 680 pages. The publisher, The University of North Carolina Press, expects it to sell for \$12.50.

Sterling A. Stoudemire, North Carolina, is collecting items about many place names in his state.

George R. Stewart, California, who may be called the dean of American place-name workers, reports that his concise dictionary of the place names of the United States (except Hawaii) for the Oxford University Press has reached about 6,500 entries. He expects it to be completed at about 10,000 entries. He feels that the work is pretty well along.

G. Thomas Fairclough, Midwestern University, Wichita Falls, Texas, a former member of the Dialect Society place-name committee, has for more than five years been working on the names of city streets. He is trying to construct a detailed and hopefully formulaic system for the classification of American city street name patterns. He is using as his model the chapter entitled "Of Patterns for Street Names" in George R. Stewart's Names on the Land, attempting to expand and refine this model. His city map collection has grown to fill eight metal file boxes, and he still has seven states to cover with real thoroughness. He hopes to have his collection completed by the end of February, 1968, and then to get to work on the classification model, setting forth the major and minor groupings for street patterns, with an explanation of how these are arrived at, and a sample description of several American cities of various sizes and geographical locations. Anyone interested in names of city streets should get in touch with Mr. Fairclough.

Taylor Starck, Harvard, keeps his interest in place names, pointing out interesting peculiarities in many places.

Audrey Duckert, University of Massachusetts, reports that a graduate student of hers, Ruth Schell Porter, has nearly finished a thesis on the place names of Dukes County, Massachusetts, including Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, and the Elizabeth Islands. It is hoped that this thesis may be published.

John Thomas Casteen III, president of the Virginia Place-Name Society, reports the following publication during the first week of December, 1967: Mary Catherine Murphy, John Thomas Casteen III, and Anne Freudenberg, Index to Green Payton's A Map of Albemarle County, Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Library, Virginia Place-Name Society Occasional Papers, New Series, No. 3, 1967. This paperback of 22 pages with introduction by Bernard Peyton Chamberlain and illustrative grid is available by application to the Society, care of the University of Virginia library. Mr. Casteen also reports that Kendon Stubbs and he are currently engaged in research relative to publication early in 1968 of an index to all place-name decisions having to do with Virginia rendered by the various geographic names agencies of the Department of the Interior.

P. Burwell Rogers, Bucknell, reports that he is still plugging along gathering information about Virginia place names. His excellent article, "The First Names of Virginia," reported in progress last year, appeared in Virginia Place-Name Society Occasional Papers, New Series, No. 2, Feb. 10, 1967.

C. Richard Beam, Millersville State College, Pennsylvania, who is serving this year as resident director of the Junior-Year in Marburg, Germany, has found a new major source for his study of Pennsylvania place names of German origin. He is using the Rev. Thomas Royce Brendle Collection of Pennsylvania German Folklore, in which the author made note of place names as he recorded the lore of Pennsylvania Germans ca. 1925-1960. All Mr. Beam's materials will eventually be published in his Pennsylvania German dictionary.

Wilbur Zelinsky, Pennsylvania State University, has published in The Geographical Review, LVII, No. 4, 1967, pp. 463-495, an article on "Classical Town Names in the United States." The text, maps, and tables in this compact work would be of interest to place-name workers in nearly every state of the country.

Fred A. MacFadden, Jr., Coppin State College, Maryland, is trying to interest students in his history of the English language course to study place names. This is a practice which more teachers of language should follow.

Hamill Kenny, Rainier, Maryland, has completed work on the special issue of Names dealing with American Indian names. The issue is overdue and may appear any day.

Jan H. Brunvand, Utah, is working on a special folklore issue of Names which will appear sometime in 1968. After finishing several literary and folklore projects not directly related to Utah, he hopes to begin serious work on Utah place names.

There have been suggestions for future special issues of Names dealing with oriental names, literary names, and personal names. There may also be a place-name survey issue.

Don L. F. Nilsen, Michigan, who is with the Teacher's College, Columbia University Team, USAID, in Afghanistan, nevertheless continues his interest in American place names. In 1968 he hopes to publish an article on the name "Deseret," which at one time was used to designate a rather large area in the West with Utah at its center. He is also currently involved in a study of the naming of mountain peaks. An article on "Topless Topography," which is both informative and amusing, will be ready for publication soon.

V. J. Vogel, Chicago City College, has written two articles which have not yet been published: "American Indian Influence on Floral Nomenclature" and "Amerind Toponymy: Some Procedural Suggestions." He is especially interested in the difficult field of Indian names. He has called our attention to a new journal, The Indian Historian, a quarterly of American Indian history, literature, art, culture, and current affairs, which just began publication in Nov., 1967. Mr. Vogel's lament about the paucity of places where place-name material can be published has been echoed in our reports several times.

If reports reaching us have been correct, the Illinois place-names project, begun with enthusiasm some two years ago, seems to be languishing. Can something be done to revitalize this important piece of research?

Eugene Vest, University of Illinois, Chicago, is interested in place names on the moon. This world traveler may have just about exhausted the number of places to visit on this earth and may now have his eye on outer space.

Mrs. Louise W. Hanley, Wisconsin, has decided that she will never be able to use the body of material about Kentucky place names that she has collected, and she is therefore planning to send it during the early part of 1968 to the liaison committee for preservation and for future use by some Kentucky researcher. Anyone interested should write the chairman of this committee.

J. B. Rudnycky, Manitoba, a former president of the American Name Society, and president during 1967 of the Canadian Institute of Onomastic Sciences, presided at the annual meeting of the Canadian Institute at Carleton University at Ottawa, June 16, 17, 1967. Kelsie Harder represented the American Name Society at this meeting.

Demetrius J. Georgacas, North Dakota, a former president of the American Name Society, reports that his book (with W. A. McDonald) on Place Names of Southwest Peloponnesus (Greece), a publication of the University of Minnesota Press, will appear sometime in the spring of 1968. Approximately 300 pages have already been printed, but since the work is being done in Athens, Greece, there have been delays. The American Name Society is one of the sponsors of this work, which should be of special interest to students of American place names with a classical background. In addition, in a forthcoming issue of Names, Mr. Georgacas will review Mrs. Mary Ann Barnes Williams' Origin of North Dakota Place Names.

Lalia Boone, Idaho, reports that she has one NSF Fellow working on the place names of Nez Perce and Owyhee Counties, and two other graduate students on Ada and Bonners Ferry Counties respectively. These three theses will all become part of her state project.

Margaret M. Bryant, Brooklyn College, is another scholar directing place-name theses of graduate students.

John Rydjord, University of Wichita, Kansas, reports that his Indian Place Names in Kansas is scheduled to appear in March, 1968, according to the University of Oklahoma Press. He is continuing his study of place names in Kansas, now primarily a problem of adding, correcting and re-writing. He says his work has become a study of universal history.

Roland Dickison, Sacramento State College, California, who, on a leave of absence, is serving as acting president of the College of the Virgin Islands, is working on two projects: (1) Place Names in the Virgin Islands, (2) Onomastic Amelioration in California Place Names.

Edwin H. Bryan, Jr., Curator, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, is a veteran place-name researcher. Recently he has written three articles on Hawaiian place names which have been printed in the Hawaii Monarchy and Territorial News. At the recent National Council of Teachers of English convention held in Honolulu in November (1967), he, along with Kelsey Harder, appeared on a section meeting program entitled "Place Names and the English Curriculum." The fact that the National Council recognized place-name study as a possible part of the English curriculum is most encouraging. Mr. Harder spoke on "Place Names in the Classroom"; Mr. Bryan on "Gathering and Correlating Place Names." For some time Mr. Bryan has been working on an extensive gazetteer of Hawaii place names. As our "key" person for Hawaiian place names, Mr. Bryan has a vast fund of information on the subject extending back many years.

Clarence L. Barnhart, President of the American Name Society (1967), has compiled an index for the first fifteen volumes of Names (through 1967). It will be published as the December, 1967, issue of Names, but of necessity will not appear until early 1968. The Name Society is fortunate in having the services of an expert such as Mr. Barnhart. Some of us have been astounded at the number of items in these volumes which he has found to index. Last summer Mr. Barnhart began another project. At the request of Henry J. Sustakoski, chairman of the Linguistics Committee of the New York State English Council, Mr. Barnhart (with the aid of Professors Auser and Harder and Dr. Blumengarten) prepared a statement on the value of the study of place names as a first and non-controversial step in the study of linguistics in high school English courses. He proposed writing a syllabus for the study of place names which teachers could use to expand the topics in the English composition course and also to tie English courses in with history and geography courses. Such a project seems worthy of vigorous support not only because of what it might do for students but also because of the interest it might arouse in our field. If students developed such an interest in high school, they might continue it throughout life and materially aid in a field very much in need of workers.

Francis Lee Utley, Ohio State, another past president of the Name Society, has been putting forth almost superhuman efforts to bring about a national place-name survey together with the establishment of national archives where the results of the survey (along with much other data) might be preserved and made available. He has arranged for a group to get together at Christmas time in Chicago to go over plans and to try to stimulate action.

Kelsie B. Harder, the State University College, Potsdam, New York, is perhaps doing more to encourage the study of place names than any other individual. He not only edits Names admirably and plays a leading role in planning and administering our annual meetings, but he also is spearheading place-name study in the state of New York. He reports that Thomas Perrin has completed a survey of St. Lawrence County, New York, having collected approximately 2000 names which have been programmed for computer storage. Mr. Perrin did not use any printed sources other than maps dating from 1792-to the latest geological survey maps. Another project of Mr. Harder, started in January, 1966, deserves more attention than it has received. At that time he sent to all American Name Society members bulletin No. 1 of what he called the ANS Onomastics Bulletin. To date eight such bulletins have appeared. With issue No. 3 the name was changed simply to ANS Bulletin. The omission of the word Onomastics seemed wise, for many people might think onomastics to be a medical term. The first issue consisted of four wide-margined pages with double-spaced lines. The seventh issue (August, 1967) contained over ten closely packed pages. This little bulletin has included serious matters such as notices of meetings, announcement of new books in our field, pleas to members to pay dues and also to secure new members, even death notices, but most of its contents have been made up of all kinds of short notes about names taken from many and varied sources. The August number, for example, was made up of seven main pieces of news (numbered with Roman numerals), followed by 66 short items (numbered with Arabic numerals), many of the latter sent in by Name Society members. Some of the items have been of a humorous nature, but more entertaining than the items themselves have been the witty comments of the editor. This bulletin should continue to appear, for it alone is worth the price of membership in the American Name Society.

This report should not be concluded without a plea for more workers and more activity in the field of place-names research--a plea which Mr. Utley and Mr. Harder would certainly applaud.

As always, corrections of and additions to this report are solicited.

E. C. Ehrensperger, Chairman
Liaison Place-Name Committee