

American Dialect Society
Committee on Place Names
1963

Either place-name work in progress has increased markedly or your committee has succeeded in obtaining more information about what is going on, for this ninth annual report of place-name work in progress (but not in print) is much longer and fuller than any of its predecessors. In recent years our list of place-name workers has more than doubled, and the number of projects reported has increased more than sixty per cent.

This report will eventually appear in PADS but is presented in mimeographed form at the annual meeting (1963) in order to be more timely and to allow for additions and corrections.

✓ Donald B. Sands (Boston College) is working on two projects: (1) Nineteenth century dialect fossilized in Maine coastal names, and (2) Dialect in Maine water area names.

✓ Arthur H. Hughes and Morse Allen (Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.) are still looking for a publisher of their finished manuscript of 23,000 Connecticut place names.

✓ Arthur Berliner (New York City) is still working on street-naming patterns in the Bronx.

✓ John McNamara (Bronx, N.Y.) has 1,100 cards on Bronx street names and 1,500 cards of obsolete names which he hopes to put into book form with the title Bronx Streets in Fact and Fancy.

✓ Frank Wuttge, Jr. (New York City) has an impressive store of lore and some educated guesses on the origin of Bronx street names, which he wishes to publish as a book to be entitled Mocassin Paths in the Bronx.

✓ Margaret Bryant (Brooklyn College) is directing graduate students working on place names in Brooklyn. Five studies (four of which were reported last year) have been completed. The study not previously reported is Tamara K. Rubel's Place Names in Brooklyn Heights. These five studies have been xeroxed, bound separately, and catalogued by the main public library of Brooklyn at Grand Army Plaza.

✓ Mrs. Jeannette G. Blumengarten (Brooklyn, N.Y.) is working on place names in Middle English romances. ★

✓ C. Richard Beam (Millersville State College, Pa.) is collecting information about Pennsylvania place names of German origin.

✓ Donald G. Baker (Collegeville, Pa.) reports that progress has been slow in his 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.

✓ Alfred Percy (Madison Heights, Pa.) hopes that the revised and vastly improved edition of his Old Place Names of the West Central Virginia Piedmont and Blue Ridge, scheduled to appear in 1963, will actually get into print in 1964.

✓ Rabbi Samsen A. Shain (Lancaster, Pa.) is working on Old Testament place names in Pennsylvania, endeavoring to discover the etymological definition of names of this kind, relevant biblical passages, exact location of places, and the reasons for the choice of the names.

✓ P. Burwell Rogers (Bucknell University) is continuing his study of Virginia place names, at present working specifically on Indian names of the waters of Virginia, on place names on the Virginia Peninsula, and on place names honoring Queen Anne.

✓ G. A. Weslager (Hockessin, Del.) has finished his essay on the Delaware place-name Hockessin, but the study is not yet in print.

✓ A. R. Dunlap (University of Delaware) is working on a pronunciation guide to Delaware place names.

✓ Hamill Kenny (Mt. Rainier, Md.) has in mind a concise dictionary of the place names of Maryland, to which end he has begun to make notes.

✓ A. J. Wright (Washington, D.C.) is one of the authors of a book, Geographic Names in Delaware, to be published by Domestic Names Committee of the Board on Geographic Names in March, 1964. The manuscript is all completed.

✓ C. E. Gilliam (Petersburg, Va.) is interested in lore connected with old Virginia place names.

✓ C. H. Neuffer (University of South Carolina), who for the past ten years has been publishing pamphlets on South Carolina place names, is preparing a book-length work on the subject. His most recent issue for Winter, 1963, is 41 pages in length.

✓ Leo Gosser (Auburn University, Alabama) is encouraging graduate students to write place-name theses. The following studies have been completed: Lincoln Parrish, La. by P. G. Garrett; Covington County, Ga. by Fred McDonald; Calhoun County, Ala. by Bertha Lindsey; and southeastern Lee County, Ala. by Jack Smith. John Cournes' study of Tangemahoo Parrish, La. is in progress.

✓ John Q. Anderson (Texas A & M University) has been working on folklore elements in certain Texas place names and intends to extend his study to many other Texas place names. His "Texas Stream Names" is to appear in Publications of the Texas Folklore Society, xxxii, in 1964.

✓ Fred Tarpley (East Texas State College) is working on both Texas and Louisiana place names.

✓ Richard B. Sealock (Kansas City Public Library) and Pauline A. Seely (Denver, Colo.) continue their important bibliographical work, publishing supplements from time to time in Names. Copies of published place-name articles or books or information about such publications should be sent to one of these persons. ★

✓ John Rydjord (Dean Emeritus, University of Wichita, Kansas) has been working on Kansas place names for 25 years. He hopes now to spend full time putting his material into book form.

✓ William E. Koch (Kansas State University, Manhattan) has nearly completed his place-name study of the Kansas Bluestem Hills, a 13 county section with over 200 towns or living communities.

✓ Richard C. Clark (Kansas State University, Manhattan) continues his study of place names of German origin in Kansas.

✓ Joseph C. Evans (Kansas State University, Manhattan) is studying Welsh place names from the Lebo, Kansas, community.

✓ Samuel J. Sackett (Fort Hays Kansas State College) has been collecting material on Kansas place names.

✓ Thomas P. Field (University of Kentucky) is currently working on a project dealing with place names of the territory of the U.S. south of the Ohio River. Mr. Field wonders if Paul M. Fink's That's Why They Call It--The Names and Lore of the Great Smokies, Jonesboro, Tenn., 1956, is known to place-name workers, since this work was published privately. ←

✓ H. G. Raup (Kent State University) is busy compiling an Ohio Gazetteer, with the aid of the Board on Geographic Names, following methods approved by the Board. At present his file is arranged in five main divisions. The first three divisions include names of populated places, streams, and townships about which there is virtually no disagreement. Division four includes obsolete or unused names. The fifth division is made up of names in the first three categories about which there is little information or some question involving location, spelling, or usage.

✓ F. L. Utley, (Ohio State) would urge place-name workers to pool their efforts in order to bring about a systematic study of the place names of the whole U.S.A., state by state, with financial subsidy from some foundation for this big project.

Plans? ★

✓ G. Thomas Fairclough (University of Cincinnati) is hoping to continue his study of the structure of American church names.

✓ Florence L. Lyle (Dept. of Interior, Board of Geographic Names, Wash., D.C.) has in preparation Place Names in Vermillion County, Illinois.

✓ F. G. Cassidy (University of Wisconsin) reports that his own study of the place names of Brown County, Wisc., and R. S. Rudolph's study of Wood County, Wisc., will be published in similar volumes by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1964. This society plans to publish a series of studies county by county.

✓ Virginia O. Foscoe's study of the place names of Grant County, Wisc., (reported last year) is near completion.

✓ Mamie Meredith (University of Nebraska), who collects miscellaneous information about place names, suggests that some agency be set up to assemble information about places all over the world named or renamed for the late President Kennedy.

✓ William E. Ashton (Helena, Montana) is of the opinion that very little, if any, place-name work is being done in that state.

✓ F. G. Farquhar (Berkeley, Cal.) has been working for some time on a series for publication in American Alpine Journal under the general title of "Naming America's Mountains." Three articles have appeared: "Naming Alaska's Mountains," "The Cascades," and "The Colorado Rockies." A fourth is due to appear in the same journal in May, 1964. Several more instalments are contemplated. "At last," writes Mr. Farquhar, "after an interval of many years, California has an Advisory Committee on Geographic Names," of which the state geologist, Dr. Ian Campbell, is in charge. Mr. Farquhar is an "unofficial advisor" to this committee.

✓ Donald H. Clark and Robert Hitchman (Seattle, Wash.) report that their manuscript on Place Names of Washington State and Their Origins is nearing completion and in 1964 will be published in hard covers by Binfords and Mort, Portland, Oregon.

✓ Donald J. Orth, (Dept. of Interior, Board of Geographic Names, Wash., D.C.) is working on the place names of Alaska, a geographic dictionary of Alaska, which will eventually appear in three volumes.

✓ J. B. Rudnyćkyj (University of Manitoba) is working on an etymological dictionary of Ukrainian personal and geographical names.

✓ E. R. Seary (Memorial University of Newfoundland) is continuing his study of place names in Newfoundland. Two checklists and several articles have already appeared; further checklists are in preparation.

✓ E. H. Bryan, Jr. (Honolulu, Hawaii), manager of the Pacific Scientific Information Center of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, reports that this organization has been accumulating and systematically tabulating the place names of the oceanic Pacific--Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia, working toward the eventual publication of an intensive gazetteer. He would be glad to get in touch with persons interested in the place names of the Oceanic Pacific.

✓ Gutiérrez Tibón (Mexico City, Mexico) has completed a book on the name Mexico (more than 300 pages) which is due to appear in print in 1964.

Members of the reconstituted place-name committee are Audrey R. Duckert (Massachusetts), A. R. Dunlap (Delaware), G. Thomas Fairclough (Cincinnati), T. M. Pearce (New Mexico), and E. C. Ehrensperger (South Dakota), Chairman.