

American Dialect Society—Committee on Place Names
American Name Society—"Liaison" Committee

1964

Because last year the response to our inquiry about place-name projects in progress was so much greater than ever before, we thought we would wait until 1965 to make another survey. When, however, unsolicited information began to come in, we decided that perhaps another survey this year would be justified. After reading the following report, readers may decide whether or not our judgment was correct.

Many of those who replied emphasized the need of some unified plan of place-name research and of some central source of information and direction. If there were place-name societies in the various states (like the Virginia Place-Name Society) or if some university or college in each state were recognized as headquarters for place-name research (like the work of C.H. Neuffer at the University of South Carolina), progress might be surprising. During the next year it might be advisable to have certain persons (or a person) in each state responsible for finding out what place-name work has been done in that state and what should be done in the immediate future, if possible. In some states almost nothing has been done. Eventually each state should have an authentic volume on the place names of the state.

One point (among many) which our respondents seem to stress is that it is difficult for researchers to find publishers for bulky place-name volumes. Were place-name workers better organized, it might be a bit easier to get our materials into print.

The following report is in no sense complete or exhaustive. The Committee would very much appreciate being told of omissions or mistakes. After the New York meetings the material will be revised.

✓Morse Allen and ✓Arthur H. Hughes (Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.) have completed their Place Names in Connecticut and are looking for a publisher.

✓Frank Wuttge, Jr. (New York City) has not yet found a publisher for his scholarly collection of Bronx street names strongly interlarded with genealogy of the old families with which he accounts for the origin of many of the names.

✓Margaret Bryant (Brooklyn College) continues to direct graduate students working on place names in Brooklyn. The following theses have been completed since last year: Richard Faber, Place Names in Gravesend; John D. Williams, Place Names in Sea Gate, Coney Island, Brighton Beach and Manhattan Beach; and Elaine A. Liberman, Place Names in Williamsburg.

✓John McNamara (Bronx, N.Y.), after twenty-five years of research, has a completed manuscript of Bronx street names for which he hopes to find a publisher. He says that ✓Arthur Berliner (New York City) also has a sizeable collection of such names.

✓Mario Pei (Columbia University) reports that one of his graduate students, ✓Henri Diamant (Asst. Professor of French at Stanford) is doing a study of the reflexes of Latin castellum and castrum in the place names of Europe, particularly in the Romance countries.

✓Kelsie Harder (Potsdam, N.Y.) is thinking of starting a Names in New York on the model of Names in South Carolina. Wouldn't it be fine if every state had some such means of collecting information about place names? How about starting an information center and publishing a mimeographed pamphlet now and then containing the latest information about names in your state?

✓Lee L. Snyder (Philadelphia, Pa.) is making a restudy of Old English dialects on the basis of place-name evidence.

✓Wilbur Zelinsky (Penn. State) has just launched a study of the classical (i.e. Greek and Roman) elements in the place names of the United States and Canada. He is interested in knowing whether anyone else is currently working on anything related to this topic.

✓ Rabbi Samson A. Shain (Lancaster, Pa.), having just published one chapter of his book, "Old Testament Place Names in Lancaster County," in the Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, is now trying to complete his work county by county on the other more than 300 Old Testament place names on the map of Pennsylvania.

✓ C. Richard Deam (Millersville State College, Pa.) has as a major project a Pennsylvania German dictionary in which Pennsylvania German place names will be included. He writes that the local Community Historians have decided to sponsor a study of the place names in Lancaster County, Pa., to include Indian, Welsh, German, and English place names.

✓ A.J. Wraight (Washington, D.C.), together with Donald Orth and Lewis Heck, is completing Geographic Names in Delaware, which, although scheduled to appear in 1964, will probably be in print early in 1965. It will be a complete geographic names dictionary which its authors hope will serve as a prototype for names books on other states.

✓ N. Harvey Deal (Virginia) informs us that the Virginia Place Name Society has two occasional papers in progress. One is a list of Virginia place names designated by the U.S. Board of Geographical names since 1895. The other is an Index to the 1875 Map of Albemarle County. This is actually an historical map. The map itself will very probably be reprinted in the near future.

✓ Hamill Kenny (Maryland) is at work on all the place names of Maryland. He plans a very concise treatment, on the model of Ekwall's Concise Oxford Dictionary. He says that although Maryland is a small state, it is an old one, and the places are legion.

✓ Elias Bull (South Carolina), under the direction of Claude H. Neuffer, is planning an intensive study of names of communities and sections in the coastal counties of South Carolina. He will concentrate particularly on names that may be lost when urban rehabilitation or such other standardizing improvements take over.

✓ Claude H. Neuffer (South Carolina), whose Names in South Carolina has appeared sporadically in mimeographed form since 1954, has announced that, beginning with 1965, this important collection of information will be issued annually at regular subscription rates.

✓ Clare D'Artois Leeper (Baton Rouge, La.) is working on a book of current Louisiana place names which upon completion will be published by the Louisiana State University Press. She is also continuing her Sunday column in the Baton Rouge newspaper.

✓ Richard B. Sealock (Kansas City, Mo.) and Pauline Seely (Denver, Colo.) report that the second edition of the Sealock-Seely Bibliography of Place Name Literature, U.S. and Canada has definitely been scheduled by the American Library Association for publication in 1965. This is a change from the report of last year since the American Library Association had originally planned to publish a supplement to the first edition. The decision to make a second edition was reached by the Association because the additional material equalled about 50% of the original book and the original volume has been out of print for several years. Perhaps the amount of additional material between 1946 and 1964 is an indication of the greatly increased work in this field.

✓ John Rydjord (University of Wichita, Kansas) is making good progress on The Origin and History of Kansas Place Names, but says he is overwhelmed with the amount of the material.

✓ William E. Koch (Kansas State University, Manhattan) has completed his study of the names of some 200 towns in the Kansas Flinthills area as well as the names of some 200 other towns outside this area.

✓ Wayne E. Corley (Westminster, Colo.) has completed a mimeographed 83-page work on County and Community Names in Kansas.

✓ Mamie J. Meredith (Nebraska), in her work with the Nebraska Folklore Society, frequently comes across important place-name information. She writes that she will soon turn over to the Nebraska Historical Society several hundred questionnaires

that were returned to the Omaha World Herald ten years ago for a series of articles celebrating the state's centennial of territorial birth. The archives of the Historical Society, she says, have a splendid collection of place-name data given it by the late Dr. Link. His data, carefully assembled in separate boxes for the state's 93 counties, will, she hopes, be worked up by competent scholars. Anyone interested in Nebraska place names should consult Miss Meredith.

✓ Connie Gaymon (Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Nebraska) is another researcher collecting Nebraska place-name information from various sources.

✓ Paul D. Riley (Trenton, Nebraska) has been collecting place-name material from historical records.

✓ Wayne C. Lee (Lamar, Nebraska) has an extensive collection of legends connected with Nebraska place names.

✓ Rev. I. C. G. Campbell (Weeping Water, Nebraska) has published an attractive 36-page booklet dealing with the various versions and writings about the name of Weeping Water, a small town (population 1,048) in southeastern Nebraska.

✓ Thomas F. Field (Kentucky) has nearly completed a map and place-name index for the states of Tennessee and Kentucky of the period up to 1794.

✓ David Webb (Ohio), before his untimely death, had collected a great amount of information about Ohio place names. The material is in the Museum at Chillicothe, Chic. It seems a pity that this material cannot be made available to someone who could publish it in book form.

✓ Mrs. Frances Seamster (Ohio State), under the direction of Francis L. Utley, is making a study of the place names of Muskingum County, Ohio.

✓ F. G. Cassidy (Wisconsin) reports that two works--his own Place Names of Brown County, Wisconsin and Robert Rudolph's Place Names of Wood County, Wisconsin, both scheduled to appear in 1964, have been delayed and are still "in progress," but should be in print before long.

✓ Anne Aanden (Minn.), under the direction of Harold B. Allen, has completed a thesis on The Place Names of Polk County, Minnesota. It is hoped that the work may be published.

✓ Demetrius J. Georgacas (No. Dak.) is engaged in several place-name projects:

1. Place Names of the Southwest Peloponnesus (together with W. A. McDonald), to be published by the University of Minnesota Press in 1965.
2. "Place and Other Names in Greece of Various Balkan Origins," two parts, to be published in Zeitschrift für Balkanologie, vols. 2 and 3.
3. "Greek Place Names," four parts, to be published in Beiträge zur Namenforschung.
4. "The Names of the Longest River in Anatolia, Halys," to be published in Names.
5. "The Mythological Hero Pelops and Names Therefrom," to be published in Names.

✓ T. M. Pearce (New Mexico) assures us that his long-expected New Mexico Place Names will come off the press within the next couple months. He writes: "This investigation was begun by the WPA Writers' Project from 1936 to 1940, re-activated by the New Mexico Folklore Society in 1948, and really completed (in so far as any such investigation is ever completed) a few months ago (although my contract with the University of New Mexico Press was signed in April, 1959)."

✓ Roland Dickison (Sacramento State College, Cal.) has completed a study of amelioration in names in the gold mining country and is continuing his research in the whole area of amelioration in place names in California.

✓ E. R. Seary (Memorial University of Newfoundland) says that his work on Newfoundland place names in general is proceeding and that he hopes to have a volume on the names of the Avalon Peninsula in particular ready for the press in 1965.

✓ C. E. Gilliam (Petersburg, Va.) and C. M. Goethe (Sacramento, Cal.), two of our senior enthusiasts, express their deep interest in place-name research and wish our workers godspeed.

Members of the place-name committee of the Dialect Society are Audrey R. Duckert (Mass.), A. R. Dunlap (Del.), G. Thomas Fairclough (Texas), T. M. Pearce (New Mexico) and E. C. Ehrensperger (So. Dak.).

Members of the so-called "liaison" committee of the Name Society are F. G. Cassidy (Wis.), F. R. Utley (Ohio), and E. C. Ehrensperger, Chairman.