

**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES**  
**DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE**  
Eight Hundred and Thirty-eighth Meeting  
October 14, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.  
(Virtual Meeting)

Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Marcus Allsup	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)
David DeHosson	Department of Defense (National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency) (not voting)
Thad Ellerbe	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Andrew Flora	Department of Commerce (Census Bureau)
Brenda-Anne C. Forrest	Government Publishing Office
Chris Hammond	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Elizabeth Kanalley	Department of Agriculture (U.S. Forest Service)
Susan Lyon	Department of Defense (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) (Vice Chair) (Voting)
Alesha Perdomo	U.S. Postal Service
Ron Salz	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
Mike Shelton	Department of the Interior (National Park Service)
Jeremy Smith	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management)
Timothy St. Onge	Library of Congress
Michael Tischler	Department of the Interior (U.S. Geological Survey)
Tara Wallace	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)

Ex-Officio

Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary, U.S. Board on Geographic Names / Domestic Names Committee

Staff

Julie-Ann Danfora, U.S. Geological Survey  
Maria McCormick, U.S. Geological Survey  
Matthew O'Donnell, U.S. Geological Survey  
Sergio Rodriguez, U.S. Geological Survey  
Jennifer Runyon, U.S. Geological Survey

Guests

Theophilus Alexander, Legislative Analyst for New York State Senator Brouk  
Robert Francis, U.S. Forest Service  
Deb Nordeen, National Park Service  
Joe Stahlman, Seneca Nation of Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Monique VanLandingham, National Park Service  
David E. Witt, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Indian Nations Affairs Coordinator

Foreign Names Committee staff  
National Geographic Society staff  
Permanent Committee on Geographical Names representative

### 1. Opening

The vice chair opened Meeting 838 of the Domestic Names Committee (DNC) at 9:35 a.m. and requested a roll call of the members.

The meeting was held virtually, due to ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The vice chair invited the members to review the reports that were distributed previously and to email any questions or comments to the staff. (Please note the reports appended hereto may have been edited for length and/or clarity.)

### 2. Minutes of Meeting 837

The minutes of Meeting 837, held September 9, 2021, were approved as submitted.

The chair and vice chair of the DNC for the 2021-2023 term will be Susan Lyon (Department of Defense/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) and Timothy St. Onge (Library of Congress), respectively.

### 3. Reports

#### 3.1 BGN Chairman (Wallace)

See attached report.

Wallace noted that this would be her last meeting serving as Full Board chair and thanked everyone for their support and assistance over the past two years. She expressed her appreciation to Allsup as BGN Vice Chair; Palmer as Executive Secretary for Foreign Names; and staff for help with the Domestic Names Committee.

#### 3.2 BGN Executive Secretary (Palmer and Guempel)

There was no written report.

#### 3.3 Special Committee on Communications (Lyon)

There was no written report. Lyon noted that work continues on existing projects and requested that the chairs of the various committees submit their reports for the FY21 Annual Report.

### 3.4 Executive Secretary (Guempel)

There was no written report. Guempel expressed his thanks to Barrett for taking on the role of DNC chair following the retirement of the former Department of Homeland Security member. He also thanked Lyon for acting as chair when Barrett was unable to attend.

### 3.5 Staff (Runyon)

See attached report.

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

There was no written report. The public Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) search form is expected to be ready to be made public in the coming weeks and will be announced on the BGN website. McCormick offered to provide a demonstration of the new form at the December 9 DNC meeting.

Flora inquired about the status of the Census Bureau's requests for new GNIS Features IDs for several new features, and Wallace asked about decisions from this and the previous DNC meeting. McCormick expects these to be processed about a month after the release of the public search form, but it will be dependent on the availability of the GNIS maintenance tool.

### 3.7 Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication (Kanalley)

Kanalley thanked Barrett and Lyon for their leadership on the DNC and Wallace for her leadership on the BGN. The Special Committee will meet following this meeting.

Wallace presented information about the BGN, with a focus on Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, at the September meeting of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. She also presented information about the BGN to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Indigenous Communities Engagement Team. She noted that a member of the team expressed a particular interest in Hawaiian names, diacritical marks, and the naming of geographic features located within and outside of the 12-nautical-mile limit. Further discussion regarding Hawaiian names is expected.

Runyon and Kanalley were scheduled to present information about the BGN at the International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums, to be held in Washington, D.C. in late November; this conference has been postponed until October 2022.

#### 4. Docket

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

Change **Negro Creek** (FID 414340) to **Adams Creek**, Illinois (Review List 444)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

##### II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

**Smallpox Creek**, Georgia (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing the recommendation of the State Names Authority and a lack of any local support. Members discussed the distinction between responses of “support” and “no objection.”

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Squaw Island** (FID 966169) to **Skenoh Island**, New York (Review List 442)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

One member left the meeting.

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

**Pulaski Lake**, Connecticut (Review List 438) (FID 2830199)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 13 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

One member rejoined the meeting.

**Emmons Creek**, Illinois (Review List 443) (FID 2830200)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Wieseman Creek**, Illinois (Review List 444) (FID 2830201)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Spiegelberg Lake**, New York (Review List 443) (FID 2830204)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

**Brown Run**, Pennsylvania (Review List 443) (FID 2830206)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 14 in favor  
0 against  
0 abstentions

Change **Dunning Point** (FID 866663) to **Tilson Point**, New Hampshire (Review List 444)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 10 in favor  
4 against  
0 abstentions

The votes against the motion cited a reluctance to change a longstanding commemorative name.

One member left the meeting.

IV. Revised Decisions - none

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

**Crow Branch**, Georgia (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing a lack of local support.

Vote: 6 in favor  
4 against  
3 abstentions

**Little Dog Pond**, New York (Review List 442) (FID 2830203)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 12 in favor  
1 against  
0 abstentions

The vote against the motion cited the vague nature of the name, with a frivolous meaning only meaningful to the proponent.

Two members left the meeting.

**Courage**, South Carolina (Review List 443)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 5 in favor  
5 against  
2 abstentions

Following the tie vote, the two members who had abstained changed their votes, with both in opposition to the motion.

Vote: 5 in favor  
7 against  
0 abstentions

The votes against the motion were cast citing the Commercial Names Policy.

#### 5. Other Business

Shelton reported that the National Park Service was asked to provide testimony to the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands hearing on H.R.4454: The Reconciliation in Place Names Act. USGS, the Department of Agriculture, and the Census Bureau were also asked to provide input in advance of the hearing.

Salz announced that he will retire from Federal service at the end of December 2021. Members and staff thanked him for his dedication and service to the BGN for many years.

#### 6. Closing

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

The next Domestic Names Committee meeting is scheduled to be held virtually on December 9, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

(signed)

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Glenn Guempel, Executive Secretary  
Domestic Names Committee

APPROVED  
(signed)

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Susan Lyon, Chair  
Domestic Names Committee

**U.S. Board on Geographic Names  
Domestic Names Committee  
BGN Chair Report – October 14, 2021  
Tara Wallace**

1. The BGN Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report to the Secretary of the Interior is underway. Ms. B.C. Forrest will once again compile the Annual Report and kindly reminds all Committee Chairs and USGS and NGA leadership to begin compiling the committee report noting significant highlights, decisions, activities, events, and membership for FY21.
2. Our Appointment letters continue to be a work in progress.
3. The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2021, which will begin with an election of new officers.
4. The 34<sup>th</sup> BGN/PCGN was held virtually from the United States on September 21 - 22, 2021. Thanks to Ms. Catherine Cheetham and Mr. Marcus Allsup for chairing the two days, along with Mr. Trent Palmer for his guidance. The agenda was compact and the meeting successful with excellent participation.
5. Thanks to the Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication for their continuing activities. I presented a PowerPoint over BGN information to NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Indigenous Communities Engagement Team on September 28<sup>th</sup>. This was their inaugural meeting.
6. As this is my last meeting as BGN Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as your BGN Chair. I will continue as the DOC Member.

Thanks everyone for their continued effort and support of the Domestic Names Committee meetings. Stay safe and healthy.

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**BGN/Domestic Names Committee Meeting 838  
October 14, 2021  
Staff Report**

**Meetings and Presentations**

Staff attended a meeting of the BGN's Special Committee on Native American Names and Tribal Communication on September 9. Topics included a review of the August 18 presentation to the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservations Officers (NATHPO) on the BGN and the DNC's Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names. The committee continues to discuss the ongoing need for improved communication with Tribal governments.

Staff participated in a briefing on September 28 by BGN Chair Tara Wallace to the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Indigenous Communities Engagement Team, also on the BGN and the DNC's Policy X. There was discussion during the meeting of the DNC's interactions with the



Hawaii Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, as well as the role of the BGN's Advisory Committee on Undersea Features.

### **Items of Current Interest**

Staff continues to receive inquiries from the general public and the media regarding the process and procedures for naming and renaming features, including changes to offensive names. A number of new proposals have been received. Quarterly Review List 445, comprising 37 new names and name changes, was completed and posted online, and notices regarding the list's availability were sent to the 574 federally recognized Tribes and 200 THPOs.

The issue of offensive geographic names and the BGN's role in changing names was included in a recent USGS Town Hall. It was noted that the USGS Fundamental Science Practices Advisory Council is developing guidance on how to address offensive and derogatory names in USGS series publications. The Department of the Interior's Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility is also establishing a Derogatory Names Working Group.

The Wilderness Society is developing a "how-to guide" for geographic renaming.

A representative of the National Bat Monitoring Program inquired regarding "[the] scrubbing of offensive place names from maps." He expressed an interest on learning of "decisions and protocols [of the BGN] so that we may implement them with [our] data releases."

The BGN and USGS were asked to provide a brief written statement in advance of a legislative hearing to take place on October 14 with the National Parks Subcommittee (House Natural Resources Committee), and during which one of the bills on the docket is HR 4454: *Reconciliation in Place Names Act*.

On September 13, the owners of Squaw Valley Ski Resort (Placer County, California) announced that the name of the resort would be changed to Palisades Tahoe. The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California was involved in the effort to change the name. The Tribe subsequently submitted a proposal to rename nearby Squaw Peak to Washeshu Peak. BGN staff also spoke with a representative of the Placer County Parks Department regarding efforts to address the remaining "Squaw" names in the county, including the natural feature named Squaw Valley. The Washoe Tribe and the county government expressed a desire to coordinate the effort with the Maidu Tribes in the area.

The Beaverhead County (Montana) government responded to the proposals to change two features in their county named "Jeff Davis" (Choos-ween Creek and Three Eagles Peak; Review List 444). The county is opposed to the changes, noting "There has [*sic*] been many proud Davis families living in Beaverhead County for generations." The proponent of the changes has been advised of the opposition.

A staffer for South Carolina Governor McMaster and an attorney for E.J. Gallo's South Carolina operations contacted the staff to inquire about the DNC's processes, with a focus on the proposal to apply the new name Courage to an unincorporated area in Chester County.

The Summit County (Utah) government responded that they do not support the proposal to make official the name Skyridge Peak, citing concerns that the name has commercial implications and that there is already a local name for the feature.

Research staff at the World Factbook contacted the DNC staff regarding recent changes to community names in Guam and inquired as to the BGN's interaction with the territory's naming authorities. It was noted there has been very little communication since the name of the capital was changed in 1998. The USGS geospatial liaison for the Pacific Islands offered to seek out a contact in the island's GIS office. Meanwhile, Runyon was invited to participate in the October 5 monthly meeting of the HBGN, which was also attended by the Guam Naming Commission (I Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'ná'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Tãotao Tãno'); the Kumisión wished to learn from the HBGN how they interact with the BGN. The HBGN shared a copy of the GNIS download file for Guam with the attendees and suggested they submit any proposed changes and updates to the BGN.

The proposal for the new name Lamanna Lake, in Idaho and British Columbia (Review List 416), has been withdrawn by the proponent.

Staff received a FOIA request for any information on efforts to rename features named "Negro" in West Virginia. The inquirer was advised that no inquiries or proposals have been received.

### **State Names Authority and State Partner Activities**

The California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names is developing a "how-to guide" for geographic naming.

Staff attended the September 18 virtual meeting of the Colorado Geographic Names Advisory Board. The CGNAB continues to review the backlog of 20+ proposals. It heard a presentation from a Delta County Commissioner regarding the proposal to change the name of Negro Creek to Hops Creek (Review List 437). The CGNAB approved the proposal to rename Squaw Mountain in Clear Creek County to Mestaa'èhehe Mountain. The recommendation has been forward to Governor Polis's office for final review, after which the State's position will be shared with the BGN.

Staff attended the September 15 virtual meeting of the Nevada Board on Geographic Names; this was its first meeting since prior to the pandemic. The attendees were briefed by Assemblyman Watts on the introduction of Assembly Bill 88 that addresses offensive names in Nevada, as well as an overview of the NBGN's protocols and procedures. Several new and pending proposals were discussed.

There has been little activity regarding the status of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (CoGNA), other than some discussion of the need to appoint a new Executive Secretary. CoGNA members and BGN staff are exploring the possibility of virtual sessions in late 2021/early 2022. The status of an in-person conference in 2022 is unknown.

### **News and Media Coverage**

The *San Francisco Chronicle* inquired regarding the implications of the Squaw Valley Ski Resort name change on the BGN's activities. The author also asked about efforts to rename the community of Squaw Valley (Fresno County). No proposals have been received but there is considerable local interest in the matter. Another article addressed next steps regarding the Placer County names: <https://www.hcn.org/articles/indigenous-affairs-interview-after-the-palisades-tahoe-name-change-where-is-the-washoe-tribe-looking-next>

There was considerable coverage of the CGNAB's decision to approve the name Mestaa'èhehe Mountain, e.g., <https://coloradosun.com/2021/09/17/mestaaehehe-mountain-squaw-clear-creek-geographic-naming-advisory/>

The *Grand Junction Sentinel* published an article, "Stories, and sometimes slurs, behind place names: 'Negro' references among ones coming under review": [https://www.gjsentinel.com/news/western\\_colorado/stories-and-sometimes-slurs-behind-place-names-negro-references-among-ones-coming-under-review/article\\_7a0667ca-1707-11ec-a3d8-d7a0e07a0a4c.html](https://www.gjsentinel.com/news/western_colorado/stories-and-sometimes-slurs-behind-place-names-negro-references-among-ones-coming-under-review/article_7a0667ca-1707-11ec-a3d8-d7a0e07a0a4c.html). An editorial response was entitled "Renaming places amounts to whitewashing history":

Printed Letters: Sept. 21, 2021 | Letters | [gjsentinel.com](https://www.gjsentinel.com)

The Klamath Falls (Oregon) *Herald and News* discussed the issues surrounding name changes for places named for Kit Carson: [https://www.heraldandnews.com/news/local\\_news/rethinking-kit-carsons-complicated-history/article\\_0aceca45-01dd-542e-b3fe-15af37d0665e.html](https://www.heraldandnews.com/news/local_news/rethinking-kit-carsons-complicated-history/article_0aceca45-01dd-542e-b3fe-15af37d0665e.html)

*E&E News* inquired about the availability of the DNC's meeting minutes, and published an article: [Could Interior replace offensive place names faster? - E&E News \(eenews.net\)](https://www.eenews.net).

The *Peoria Journal-Star* inquired about the proposal to rename Negro Creek to Adams Creek.

The BGN chair and staff were interviewed by *The Atlantic* in anticipation of an article on the BGN and its policies and procedures.

### **Misc. Staff Activities**

The USGS staff continues to meet regularly with Esri developers to redesign the BGN's online proposal form and to develop a more robust proposal tracking system.

The staff has been clearing out and organizing the BGN archives at the USGS building in preparation for the collection to be relocated to the second floor.

The recent disconnect of GNIS from Oracle impacted all URLs that used the APEX platform, including map links in the case briefs and review lists; the application to upload minutes, review lists, etc.; the online proposal forms (Domestic and Antarctica); and other related applications. A statement regarding the situation has been posted at the BGN website and hardcopy versions (PDF) of the name proposal forms are being made available until the online version is ready. A new page with links to the minutes, review lists, and Action List has been made available.

An Interim Names Search tool, based on the USGS National Map platform, is available at the Domestic Names page; there is also a Help document on the same page. A number of local, State, and Federal stakeholders have contacted the staff to express concerns that the delay in delivering the new tools is inconvenient.

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**U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES  
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE  
DOCKET  
October 2021**

Unless otherwise specified, in accordance with the BGN’s Policy X: Tribal Geographic Names, a link to the Quarterly Review List containing each proposal was sent to all federally recognized Tribes, and to Tribal Historic Preservation Officers for whom an email address was available. The Tribal authorities were given 60 days to comment on any proposal. The Otoe-Missouria Tribal Historic Preservation Office responded to the notice of Review List 433, stating it has “no objection to the proposed name changes on [the list].” If no response(s) were received regarding a proposal, it is presumed to indicate a lack of opinion.

**I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested Parties**

Change Negro Creek (FID 414340) to Adams Creek, Illinois  
(Review List 444)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/414340>

|                       |                                              |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Bureau County Board                          | Support     |
|                       | Ladd Village Board                           | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Illinois                                     | Support     |
|                       |                                              |             |
| Tribes                |                                              | No response |
| Other                 | Peoria Chapter of the NAACP                  | Support     |
|                       | State Representative Lance Yednock (Illinois | Support     |

|  |                                         |         |
|--|-----------------------------------------|---------|
|  | 76th District)                          |         |
|  | 6 Bureau County individuals or families | Support |

This proposal is to change the name of Negro Creek, a 15.5-mile-long tributary of the Illinois River in Bureau County, to Adams Creek. The stream flows through Hall Township, the Village of DePue, Selby Township, the Village of Seatonville, Westfield Township, and the Village of Cherry. The proponent requests that “the name of Negro Creek be changed to Adams Creek due to the continued use of the hateful slur n----- [sic] to refer to the Creek.”

The name Adams Creek would commemorate the first recorded Black person to settle in the area, as reported in the 1885 *History of Bureau County, Illinois*: “In the fall of 1829, a negro named Adams built a cabin at the mouth of Negro Creek, and from this circumstance the stream gets its name.” The proponent reports that she and a group of local historians chose the replacement name and that “[we] feel it is the most suitable name for the Creek.” She also states that “Names of streets, towns, cities, villages, etc. are historically and respectfully named after people, not the color of their skin or race. Changing the name to Adams Creek will pay overdue respect and dignity to the earliest African Americans to settle in Bureau County.”

The aforementioned county history also reported that “The negro that settled on Negro Creek was said to be Enoch Love.” A change to “Love Creek” was suggested by a local group in 2012 to honor the family who had reportedly arrived in the area as enslaved people in the 1830s and later acquired land near the stream. The change was not submitted to the BGN and news reports at the time suggested there was significant local opposition to renaming the stream.

USGS maps have labeled the stream as Negro Creek since 1893; BGN staff could find no evidence of any Federal map or publication using the more pejorative form of the word. In addition to the county history, the name Negro Creek was found in the 1867 *Maps and Sketches of Bureau County, Illinois*; in county atlases from 1875 and 1892; and in a State report on stream flow data from 1937. Use of the more pejorative form of “Negro” was found in the 1873 Geological Survey of Illinois, Volume 5; the 1884 Third Biennial Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of Illinois; and in a 1916 Bureau County Tribune article.

The Village of Ladd did not provide a written statement on the proposal, but news coverage reports that the Village Board voted to support the change. The board president commented that he did not endorse it; see <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation/push-to-change-racist-name-of-illinois-creek-gains-traction>. The stream does not flow through Ladd.

The Illinois Board on Geographic Names (ILBGN) responded to the Emmons Creek proposal (q.v.) with the statement, “We have decided to have the policy of: No reply, thus no comment or issue(s) with any particular proposal. Most of the proposals are routine and with the Illinois Board proceeding hence forth in this manner, it should be beneficial to both the U.S. Board and you [BGN staff].” The ILBGN was asked twice if this applied to all pending and future proposals, but no response has been received.

## II. Disagreement on Docketed Names

### Smallpox Creek, Georgia (Review List 443)

Mouth: 34.103106, -84.857341 / Source: 34.101845, -84.851096

|                       |                             |              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Bartow County Commissioners | No objection |
| State Names Authority | Georgia                     | Opposed      |
| Tribes                |                             | No response  |

This proposal is to make official the name Smallpox Creek for an unnamed tributary of an unnamed stream proposed to be named Crow Branch (q.v.), in Bartow County. The proponent reports that the name is in local use and refers to a nearby spring where soldiers with smallpox camped during the Battle of Allatoona during the Civil War. The battle site is located 8 miles to the east-northeast. The proponent acknowledges that “it’s not a very attractive name.”

There are four streams in the U.S. named Smallpox Creek, but none in Georgia.

The Bartow County Commissioners asked a local historian to research the name; they could find no evidence to support the name, but no evidence to contradict it either. The historian noted that the position of the troops in the Battle of Allatoona Pass was miles from the stream and it does not seem likely that any troops involved in the battle would have set up a smallpox camp there. The County Commissioners found no other names for the stream and do not object to the name. The County Administrator stated that [i]t’s a good story, anyway.”

The Georgia State Names Authority reported that: “Staff have searched our county map collection and additional records and, while they can find references to smallpox outbreaks in Bartow County before and immediately following the Civil War, we find no references to a smallpox outbreak in 1864 associated with the Battle of Allatoona. We cannot support the application on this basis.”

### Change Squaw Island (FID 966169) to Skenoh Island, New York (Review List 442)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/966169>

|                       |                                     |             |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Canandaigua Town Board              | No opinion  |
|                       | Ontario County Board of Supervisors | No opinion  |
|                       | Canandaigua City Council            | Support     |
| State Names Authority | New York                            | Support     |
| Tribes                |                                     | No response |
| Other                 | Town of Canandaigua History Team    | No response |
|                       | New York State Museum               | Support     |

|  |                                                         |         |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|  | New York State Department of Environmental Conservation | Support |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|

This proposal is to change the name of Squaw Island, a 0.2-acre island at the north end of Canandaigua Lake in the Town of Canandaigua in Ontario County, to Skenoh Island. The island is outside the jurisdiction of the City of Canandaigua and is one of only two islands in the Finger Lakes.

The name change is proposed by the Manager of the Ganondagan State Historic Site, a member of the Seneca Nation of Indians, and was submitted to the BGN by a resident of the neighboring Town of Hopewell. The proposal refers to the derogatory connotations of the word “squaw” and reports that the proposed name is the Onöndowa’ga:’ (Seneca) word for “peace.”

The island is officially protected by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) as “Squaw Island Unique Area,” but the land is commonly referred to as a Wildlife Management Area.

The name Squaw Island first appeared on large-scale USGS maps in 1951, while a 1942 Army Map Service map appears to be the first use of the name on a Federal product. The island is shown but not named on several 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century maps and atlases of Ontario County. The current name first appeared in print as early as 1900 in a geological report in *A Bulletin of the New York State Museum*. In 1918, the island was acquired as a New York State Museum reservation and the name was used in several publications reporting on this. In 1975, the island became part of the State Nature and Historic Preservation Trust.

In 1919, a Canandaigua resident interested in preserving the island had a large granite boulder moved to the island. Attached to the boulder is a plaque that reads: “According to tradition it was on this island that the women from the Seneca village at Kanandarque, a mile to the northeast, took refuge at the time of General Sullivan’s raid [in] 1779.” The 2011 *Postcard History Series: Canandaigua and Canandaigua Lake* stated that “Stories of native women and children taking refuge on the island during the Sullivan Expedition in 1779 have been known since at least the 1850s.” (In 1779, under Washington’s orders, Major General John Sullivan and Brigadier General James Clinton led a campaign known as the “Sullivan Expedition” against the Tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy that were allied with the British. Most of the Tribes evacuated to avoid being attacked, but Sullivan’s troops burned crops and destroyed Iroquois villages throughout the Finger Lakes region.)

A 2014 document formerly posted on the Town of Canandaigua’s website reported that: “For more than a century, local legend has said that Squaw Island takes its name from its use by Indian women as a refuge during the 1779 Sullivan Expedition. Considering that it is still possible to wade to the Island, and that a dry path usually extended out from shore in the autumn, it is unlikely that the island was a refuge from 5000 experienced wilderness soldiers in September 1779. More likely, the first residents of Canandaigua used the island as a favorite hunting and fishing site; much as it is used today.”

Further, a 2015 article in the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* stated that the legend “is backed more by poems than by historical evidence, but there were Native American villages in the area at the time of the raid, so there could be some truth to it, said Ganondagan State Historic Site manager Peter Jemison [the proponent of the current proposal].”

The same 2014 document also reported that “In recent years, there has been a proposal to change the name of the island since the word, ‘squaw,’ may have an offensive translation.” In 2015, the author of an opinion piece in the *Democrat and Chronicle* [*ibid.*] suggested that the island’s name should be changed after Buffalo’s Common Council approved changing the name of Squaw Island in the Niagara River to Unity Island (approved by the BGN in May 2017).

The current name change began in June 2020 with a proposal for “Treaty Island,” but after discussing the matter with the city’s Environmental Committee & Ordinance Committee and Planning & Finance Committee, he amended the name to Skenoh Island.

In August 2020, the Canandaigua City Council passed a resolution supporting a name change but did not endorse any specific name. Although the island is not within the city’s incorporated boundary, it is most easily viewed and visited from a pier in the city. As such, the City Council felt that they were stakeholders, adding, “despite not having the ability to change the name, City Council firmly believes that the offensive name ‘Squaw Island’ should be changed to something more appropriate.” A follow-up article in *Rochester First News* quoted the Director of the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum: “For us, it’s really a simple answer . . . . It’s derogatory, right, it’s almost like a cuss word. It’s almost like a slur towards women. And so, with that removed, that helps us be at ease.” The Ontario County Commissioners stated, “The County wishes to defer to the Town of Canandaigua on this and not take a position on the name change. With that being said we have not heard any opposition to it.”

In September 2020, the Canandaigua Town Board passed a resolution asking the USGS [*sic*] to consider all points of view and to hold public hearings and solicit input from a wide range of local and State organizations regarding a possible name change. The resolution summarized the issue, noting that such changes are “often emotional” and “many wish to see the current name remain.”

An online petition opposed to the proposal includes several hundred signatures (709, as of October 2021). It states, “There are concerns by a few people that the name Squaw is offensive. The dictionary states it is the name of a North American Native woman. Two native women stated they weren’t offended on the Canandaigua Cronichles [*sic*] Facebook site. . . We all know that Squaw Island is where the Canandaigua Braves hid their women and children in times of battle against other native tribes. Please honor this oral tradition which has been retold to every generation since then. It shows the respect and honor of the Braves who protected their most precious loved ones. Please sign this petition to stop this action and preserve the name Squaw Island and honor what the Braves did in our community for now and always.”



The President of the Seneca Nation of Indians supports the proposal, as does the Commissioner of NYSDEC, who reports that after consulting with city, town, and Tribal authorities, the department will “begin the process of renaming the [Squaw Island] Wildlife Management Area” while the BGN reviews the proposal to rename the island. The Indian Nations Affairs Coordinator in the NYSDEC Office of Environmental Justice recently contacted the BGN staff to inquire about the status and to reaffirm his agency’s support for the proposal.

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

**Pulaski Lake, Connecticut**  
(Review List 438)

41.323229, -73.236681

|                       |                     |             |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Monroe Town Council | No response |
| State Names Authority | Connecticut         | Support     |
| Tribes                |                     | No response |

This proposal is to apply the new commemorative name Pulaski Lake to an approximately six-acre reservoir in the Town of Monroe, just east of the Pequonnock River. The name would commemorate the Pulaski family, specifically Stephen M. Pulaski (1863-1947), Stephen Pulaski (1895-1974), and Frederick Pulaski (1930-2013). The older Mr. Pulaski emigrated from Czechoslovakia to Connecticut and purchased the farm in 1894. Frederick Pulaski converted the property to dairy production, and in 1986, he constructed the reservoir for the irrigation of blueberries. The proponent, who is the current owner of the property (his surname is Pulaski), reports that the small family farm is the only one that still exists in the town. It is licensed as a commercial dairy operation, selling raw milk and cheese.

**Emmons Creek, Illinois**  
(Review List 443)

Mouth: 40.21177, -90.19995 / Source: 40.205876, -90.221727

|                       |                     |             |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Fulton County Board | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Illinois            | No opinion  |
| Tribes                |                     | No response |

The new name Emmons Creek is proposed for an unnamed 1.5-mile-long stream that flows into a marshy area west of Anderson Lake in Fulton County. The stream heads in Woodland Township and flows into Kerton Township.

The name would commemorate the proponent’s ancestors Merrill Emmons (1926-1963) and Rosalie Emmons (1925-1993). According to the proponent, “Land adjacent [to the stream] was owned by Merrill Emmons who found Native American archaeological sites on the property. Those sites were excavated, documented, and researched by professionals in the 1950-60s.” Following Merrill’s death, his wife Rosalie continued to farm the land, and after her death, her descendants donated the

recovered artifacts to the Illinois State Museum. The well-known Middle Mississippian culture archeological site called Emmons Cemetery Site is located north of the stream.

GNIS lists one other stream in Illinois named Emmons Creek, located in Wayne County, 160 miles to the southeast; the origin of this name has not been determined although online genealogical records show a number of individuals with that surname in the county in the early 20th century.

**Wieseman Creek**, Illinois  
(Review List 444)

Mouth: 38.85292, -89.94796 / Source: 38.83871, -89.88596

|                       |                      |             |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Madison County Board | Support     |
| State Names Authority | Illinois             | No opinion  |
| Tribes                |                      | No response |

The new name Wieseman Creek is proposed for a 4.4-mile-long tributary of Cahokia Creek in Fort Russell Township and Hamel Township in Madison County. The name would commemorate Henry W. Wieseman (1897-1974), who farmed two properties on the north side of the stream starting in 1949. One member of the family still resides in the area; the proponent’s surname is not Wieseman.

**Spiegelberg Lake**, New York  
(Review List 443)

42.459261, -73.47415

|                       |                                      |              |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | New Lebanon Town Board               | Support      |
|                       | Columbia County Board of Supervisors | No objection |
| State Names Authority | New York                             | Support      |
| Tribes                |                                      | No response  |

This proposal is to make official the name Spiegelberg Lake for an unnamed 10-acre lake in the Town of New Lebanon in Columbia County and within Hand Hollow State Forest. The feature also shares part of its shore with the Hand Hollow Conservation Area, managed by the Columbia Land Conservancy.

The name would honor Mathias Lloyd Spiegel (1926-2004), the proponent’s father, who purchased the property in 1956 and constructed the lake in 1967. The property was sold to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), subject to a contractual provision to name the lake Spiegelberg Lake.

A NYSDEC map of Hand Hollow State Forest labels the feature Spiegelberg Lake and also displays the Spiegelberg Lake Trail leading from a nearby road to the north end of the lake.

**Brown Run**, Pennsylvania  
(Review List 443)

Mouth: 40.820862, -77.587789 / Source: 40.826886, -77.601436

|                       |                                      |             |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Local government      | Gregg Township Board of Supervisors  | No response |
|                       | Potter Township Board of Supervisors | Support     |
|                       | Centre County Board of Commissioners | No response |
| State Names Authority | Illinois                             | Support     |
| Tribes                |                                      | No response |
| Other                 | Ironwood Forestry                    | Support     |

The new name Brown Run is proposed for an unnamed 0.9-mile-long tributary of Muddy Creek in Centre County. The stream heads in Potter Township and flows into Gregg Township.

The name would commemorate Harold Brown (1927-1991), who in 1972 purchased and farmed the property to the east of the stream. Mr. Brown's son and grandsons continue to live on the original farm. The proponent is working on "ecologically restoring the 1500 feet of waterway situated in the agricultural land".

Before 2020, the USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) mistakenly labeled this stream as part of Muddy Creek. The current version of NHD does not label the stream.

Change **Dunning Point** (FID 866663) to **Tilson Point**, New Hampshire  
(Review List 444)

<https://edits.nationalmap.gov/apps/gaz-domestic/public/summary/866663>

|                       |                                                                 |              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Sunapee Town Selectboard                                        | Support      |
|                       | Sullivan County Commissioners                                   | No opinion   |
| State Names Authority | New Hampshire                                                   | No objection |
| Tribes                |                                                                 | No response  |
| Other                 | Lake Sunapee Protective Association Director and another member | Support      |
|                       | Sunapee Historical Society President                            | Support      |
|                       | Lake Sunapee History Project researcher                         | Support      |
|                       | 2 Sunapee Town residents                                        | Support      |
|                       | State Representative Linda L. Tanner                            | Support      |

This proposal is to change the name of Dunning Point, in the Town of Sunapee in Sullivan County, to Tilson Point. The point is on the west shore of Sunapee Lake.

The point has been labeled on USGS maps as Dunning Point since 1902, while a 1913 Department of Commerce, Bureau of Fisheries document referred it as Dunnings Point. A 2016 Lake Sunapee Protective Association newsletter used the name Dunning's Point, and a 2017 New Hampshire

Department of Safety press release and a 2017 article in *The Messenger* [Hillsborough County/Merrimack County] also referred to the point as Dunning Point.

Columbia University professor William A. Dunning owned the land prior to the Tilson family. He is known as a historian of the Reconstruction era after the Civil War and as the founder of the so-called “Dunning School” of Reconstruction historical interpretation. Based on his writings, historians attributed the failure of Reconstruction to corruption and poor management by Republicans and the Army, as well as views that recently freed enslaved persons were unable to govern or co-exist in Southern society. Dunning’s work has been criticized since at least 1935 when W. E. B. DuBois wrote *Black Reconstruction in America*.

The proposed change was submitted by the Tilson family, which owns the land that includes the point through a company named Timberlost, LLC. The name would commemorate John Quillin Tilson (1866-1958), U.S. Representative for Connecticut and parliamentary procedure expert, who purchased the land in 1921. The land has remained in the Tilson family for 100 years. The proponent detailed the “exceptional life and career” of Representative Tilson:

- Born in Tennessee, educated in Tennessee, North Carolina, and at Yale University;
- Enlisted as a volunteer during the Spanish-American War and served as second lieutenant in the Sixth Regiment, United States Volunteer Infantry;
- Served in the Connecticut Legislature from 1904-1908 and was Speaker of the Connecticut House in 1907;
- U.S. Representative for Connecticut from 1909-1913 and 1915-1932, was House Majority Leader from 1925-1931, and was delegated the role of Speaker of the House many times;
- Practiced law in Washington, DC and in New Haven, CT, and taught law;
- Wrote *A Manual of Parliamentary Procedure* (1948) and *How to Conduct a Meeting* (1950); and
- Director and Chairman of the Save the Children Foundation and recipient of the George Medal for distinguished service to British children during the London Blitz

The text of *A Manual of Parliamentary Procedure* could not be located, but Wikipedia reports the following statement, referencing the text: “Tilson explores the history of seconding motions in the English Parliament and in early American Legislatures [*sic*]. He then details the reasons why the practice of seconding motions should be dropped.”

Some Tilson family members still live in the area and the entire family often visits the property. In the 1990s, the Town of Sunapee named roads for emergency response and the road to the point was named Tilson Point Road.

#### **IV. Revised Decisions - none**

#### IV. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

##### Crow Branch, Georgia

(Review List 443)

Mouth: 34.10457, -84.86902 / Source: 34.08484, -84.84509

|                       |                             |              |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Bartow County Commissioners | No objection |
| State Names Authority | Georgia                     | No objection |
| Tribes                |                             | No response  |

This proposal is to make official the name Crow Branch for an unnamed 2.5-mile-long tributary of Richland Creek in Bartow County. The proponent reports that the name was known to his grandmother and “could refer to crows or named after a native.” Online genealogy records list a number of individuals with the surname Crow throughout the county as early as the 1860s; several owned property within a few miles of the stream in question, but it is unknown if they are the origin of the proposed name. Crow Spring, also in Bartow County, is located 15 miles north of the stream.

The name Smallpox Branch (q.v.) is proposed for a tributary of this stream.

##### Little Dog Pond, New York

(Review List 442)

44.618946, -73.942847

|                       |                            |              |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Local government      | Saranac Town Board         | No objection |
|                       | Clinton County Legislature | No response  |
| State Names Authority | New York                   | Support      |
| Tribes                |                            | No response  |

This proposal is to apply the new name Little Dog Pond to a 2.9-acre unnamed pond along Wemette Brook in the Town of Saranac in Clinton County. According to the county GIS map viewer, a majority of the pond is within the proponent’s property; the remainder is owned by her neighbor or is undeveloped. The proponent chose the name because she has four little dogs “who like to run around in this area and along the trails that surround it.” She notes that she imagines big dogs would enjoy it too, and was first going to propose Dog Pond but did not want the name to be confused with the nearby Dell Pond or with another Dog Pond in the Adirondacks, 50 miles from the feature in question.

##### Courage, South Carolina

(Review List 443)

34.695121, -80.886027

|                       |                        |         |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------|
| Local government      | Chester County Council | Support |
|                       | Fort Lawn Town Council | Support |
| State Names Authority | South Carolina         | Support |

|        |                                  |             |
|--------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Tribes |                                  | No response |
| Other  | South Carolina Governor McMaster | Support     |
|        | Senator Mike Fanning             | Support     |
|        | Rep. Ralph Norman                | Support     |
|        | Rep. T Randolph Ligon            | Support     |

The new name Courage is proposed for an unincorporated area located southeast of the Town of Fort Lawn in Chester County. The proposal was submitted by the Chester County Economic Development Director, who reported, “The developer [of the property] is the grandson of the original founder of the company, which was started in 1933. After almost 90 years of only being located in [California], they have made the courageous decision to have a second development. The developer is a privately-held, family-owned company and this new development is a legacy to his children and took Courage.”

The name would apply to “a new unincorporated locale as designated by Chester County government via a resolution in support of a new development. It consists of 10 parcels totaling 594.6 acres” [later amended to 610 acres]. The proponent confirmed that the feature will not include any residences and will be strictly a commercial facility.

In March 2021, the BGN received an inquiry from the office of Senator Lindsey Graham about the Federal naming process. The inquirer had asked the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) about the process to allow the use of “Courage, SC” as an alternate city and State address line for ZIP Code 29714, rather than the existing “Fort Lawn, SC.” The USPS responded that in order for a unique last line to be considered, “it must be an established municipality that is recognized by the [BGN] . . . . The requested last line of Courage, SC is not currently a US-BGN or SC-BGN recognized or established municipality and therefore cannot be added as a last line at this time. Honoring requests of this nature opens a dangerous precedent that could harm the needs and interests of the USPS for processing mail.”

A February 25, 2021 *The News & Reporter* [Chester County] online article reported that “A large West Coast wine manufacturer and bottler will be constructing a facility near Fort Lawn in Chester County . . . .” At the time, the name of the company constructing this facility had not yet been released.

In late June, Senator Graham’s staffer inquired about the status of the proposal, noting that “The company is planning to officially announce on Wednesday of this week (June 30). This company will be a great addition to SC”; see also [State Leaders Announce E. & J. Gallo Winery is Officially Coming to Chester Co. - CN2 News](#).

The USPS member on the BGN has confirmed that in order to be considered as an Acceptable Mailing name, the name must first be recognized by the BGN as “a municipality, civil, populated place, or city and not just as a Census Designated Place or geographic feature such as a Locale.” She noted that there are other factors that the agency will also consider when reviewing such a request.

Two articles published on September 14, 2021 in the *Chester News & Reporter* reported the following:

Gallo executives are asking local governments to support their request to have the 610 acres where their ‘production, containerization and distribution facility’ near the Town of Fort Lawn will be located, declared an unincorporated area of Chester County.

On Tuesday night, the Fort Lawn Town Council approved a resolution supporting this move.

Town attorney Brian Grier explained to council that Gallo wants to make the Gallo site an unincorporated area of Chester County. They have enlisted the help of Chester County Council, Senator Lindsey Graham, and Governor Henry McMaster to assist them with this effort, Grier said.

They asked council to pass a resolution in support of this to recognize the area as “Courage, South Carolina,” an unincorporated area of Chester County.

An unincorporated area is defined in the resolution as “a geographic area which has a common social identity without a municipal organization or political designation.”

Chester County has several unincorporated areas within its boundaries, such as Blackstock, Baton Rouge, Leeds and Bascomville. [Note: these are all communities and places of permanent residence, thus classified in GNIS as “populated place.”]

When asked by councilmembers for more of an explanation, Grier said that the request has to do with “bottling” but Gallo wants to reveal at a later date why they wanted that name for the Gallo site (from Call it "Courage").

County Attorney Joanie Winters explained that the resolution describes the unincorporated area as an area within the county that is administered as part of the county. The area will fall under the jurisdiction of the county as opposed to an incorporated area.

Winters said there are many unincorporated areas in the county . . . and the “community” of Courage will have its own zip code.

Council Vice-Chair Joe Branham expressed thanks to Fort Lawn Mayor Carlton Martin and the town council for approving their own resolution and recognizing the importance of the industry that is E&J Gallo and letting them have the benefits of being unincorporated.

“The Gallo plant will be a large asset to the Fort Lawn community and to Chester County,” Branham said.

Councilmember Mike Vaughn said he was delighted to have a new unincorporated area in his district, “and a new name (of a community) to be one of my favorite names.”

Following the meeting Winters explained that unincorporated areas are under the purview of the county, when it comes to such things as law enforcement protection or fire protection, just as the already established unincorporated areas.

“Nothing changes, other than we’ll just refer to that area differently,” Winters said.

Asked about the desire to have the unincorporated area named “Courage” a spokesperson for Gallo said:

*“E. & J. Gallo Winery appreciates the enthusiastic support we have received from the community to name the currently unincorporated area for our new manufacturing and distribution facility ‘Courage’ with the passage of this resolution. This decision is a historic next chapter in our shared endeavor as we expand our roots into Chester County, South Carolina.*

*Why Courage? Courage has been at the heart of our company since 1933 when our founders first set out to transform the wine-drinking culture and broaden the audience for wine and spirits. We recognize it takes profound courage to champion great change. That same mindset rings true in the South Carolina state motto, ‘While I breathe, I hope.’ Gallo embraces that spirit of optimism and enduring strength and will carry it into the promise and potential of our future.” (from Chester County recognizes Gallo site as unincorporated area known as "Courage")*

At the July 8, 2021 DNC meeting, a motion was made and seconded not to approve the name, citing concerns that the name was in violation of the BGN’s Commercial Names Policy. Following a 9-9 tie vote, the proposal was deferred to the following meeting. Since then, Chester County affirmed its support for naming the “unincorporated area” with a signed resolution, and letters of support were received from Governor McMaster, State Senator Mike Fanning, and State Representatives T. Randolph Ligon and Ralph Norman.