Description of document:	U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Presentation Slides from the Board of Geographic Names (BGN) 125th Anniversary 2015
Requested date:	30-November-2025
Release date:	15-December-2025
Posted date:	30-December-2025
Source of document:	USGS FOIA P.O. Box 66783 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87193 DOI Public Access Link (PAL) FOIA.gov

United States Department of the Interior

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, Virginia 20192-0002

In Reply Refer To:
U.S. Geological Survey
Attention: Judy Cearley
Post Office Box 66783
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87193

December 15, 2025

Re: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Tracking # DOI-2026-002105 – Response

This letter is our response to your FOIA request dated November 30, 2025, for the following:

> Copy of the Slides from the presentations at the Board of Geographic Names (BGN) 125th Anniversary on September 18, 2015. I am particularly/specifically interested in the slides from the keynote by Mark Monmonier, and the slides from the presentation by Sandra Shaw, and the slides by David Stage, and to a lesser extent the Slides of the presentation by Juan Jose Valdes. These records are at the BGN, part of USGS.

We are releasing nine Portable Document Format (PDF) electronic files, consisting of 364 pages, in response to your request. These records are being released in their entirety.

We classified you as an "other-use" requester category and there is no billable fee for the processing of this request.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

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Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer. Contact information for the Department's FOIA Public Liaison, who you may also seek dispute resolution services from, is available at https://www.doi.gov/foia/foiacenters.

This completes our response to your request. If you have any questions about our response to your request, please contact me by email at jcearley@usgs.gov.

Sincerely,

JUDY CEARLEY

Digitally signed by JUDY CEARLEY
Date: 2025.12.15 12:50:00 -08'00'

Judy Cearley
U.S. Geological Survey
Government Information Specialist

Enclosures:
AM00 Slideshow.pdf (99 pages)
AM01 Welcome.pdf (6 pages)
AM02 Mark Monmonier.pdf (47 pages)
AM03 Helen Kerfoot.pdf (26 pages)
AM04 Skip Theberge.pdf (61 pages)
AM05 Sandra Shaw.pdf (26 pages)
PM01 Luis Bermudez.pdf (47 pages)
PM02 David Stage.pdf (24 pages)
PM03 Juan Valdez.pdf (28 pages)

Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Traditions and Transitions

Names are an important key to what a society values.

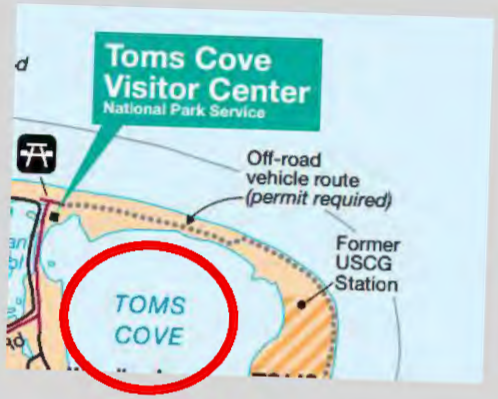
David S. Slawson

U.S. Board on Geographic Names

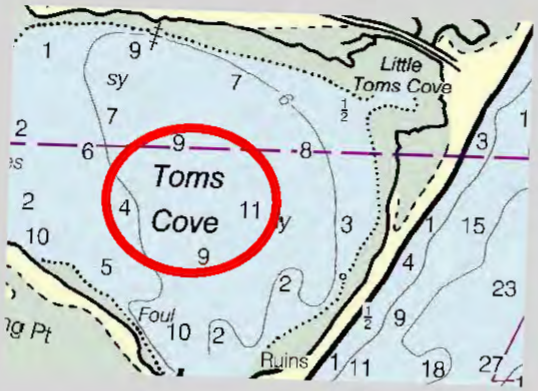
Many variations of nomenclature for the same place are encountered, and the board's action settles the uniform usage.

The Caldwell Tribune, November 6, 1897

Uniform Application of Geographic Names in the Federal Government

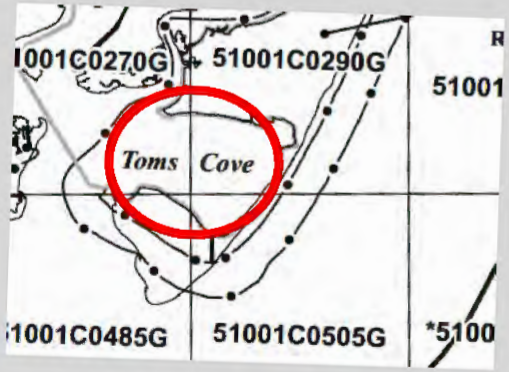


National Park Service



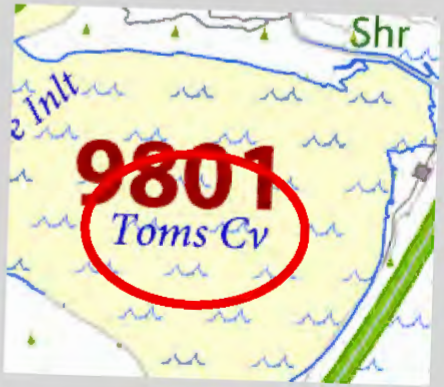
National Ocean Survey

Fish & Wildlife Service



FEMA

U.S. Geological Survey



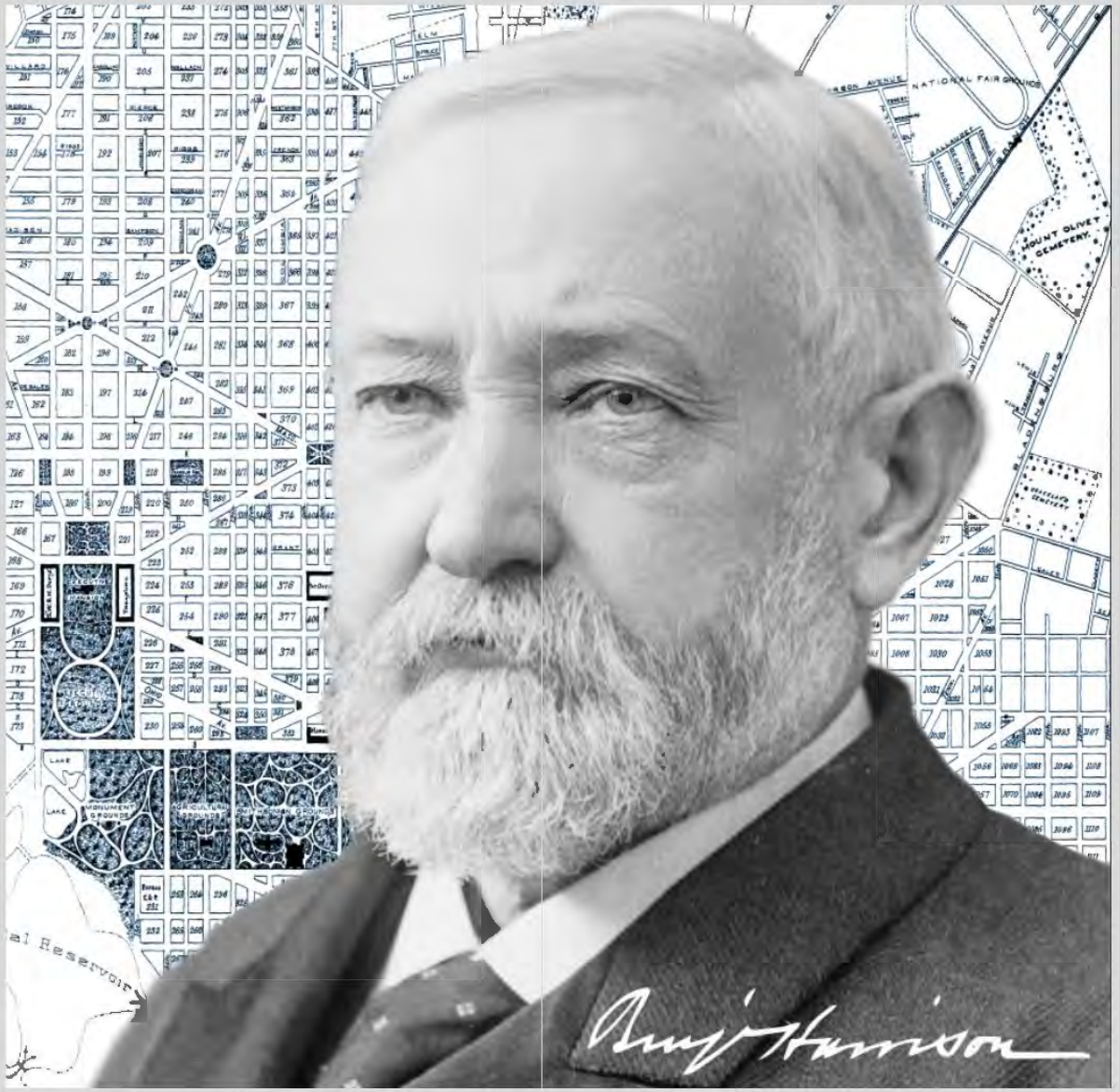
U.S. Census Bureau

Presidents and the U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Benjamin Harrison

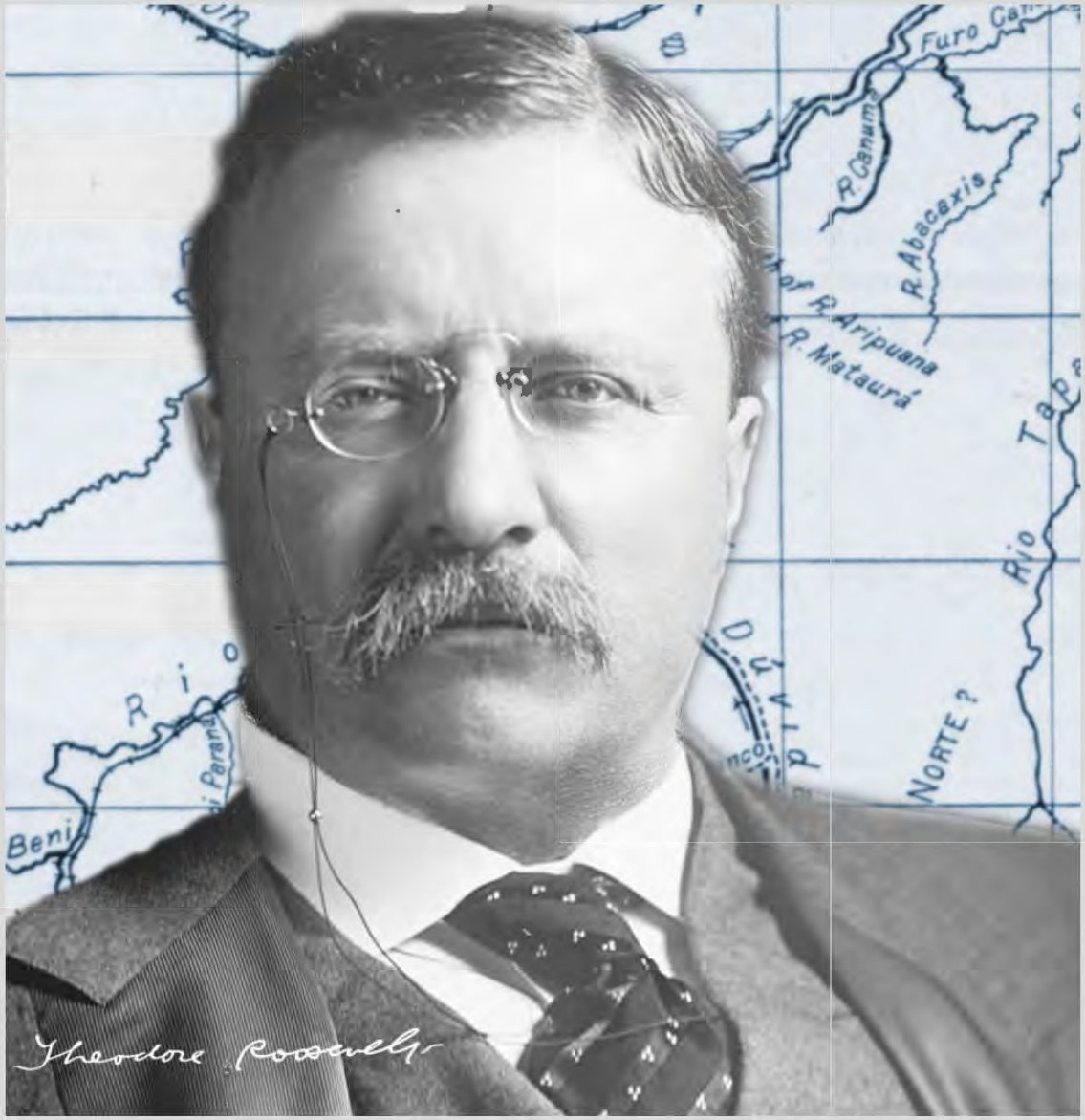
Established U.S. Board on Geographic Names

Executive Order 28, September 4, 1890


NATIONAL FAIR GROUNDS
MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY
Ben Harrison

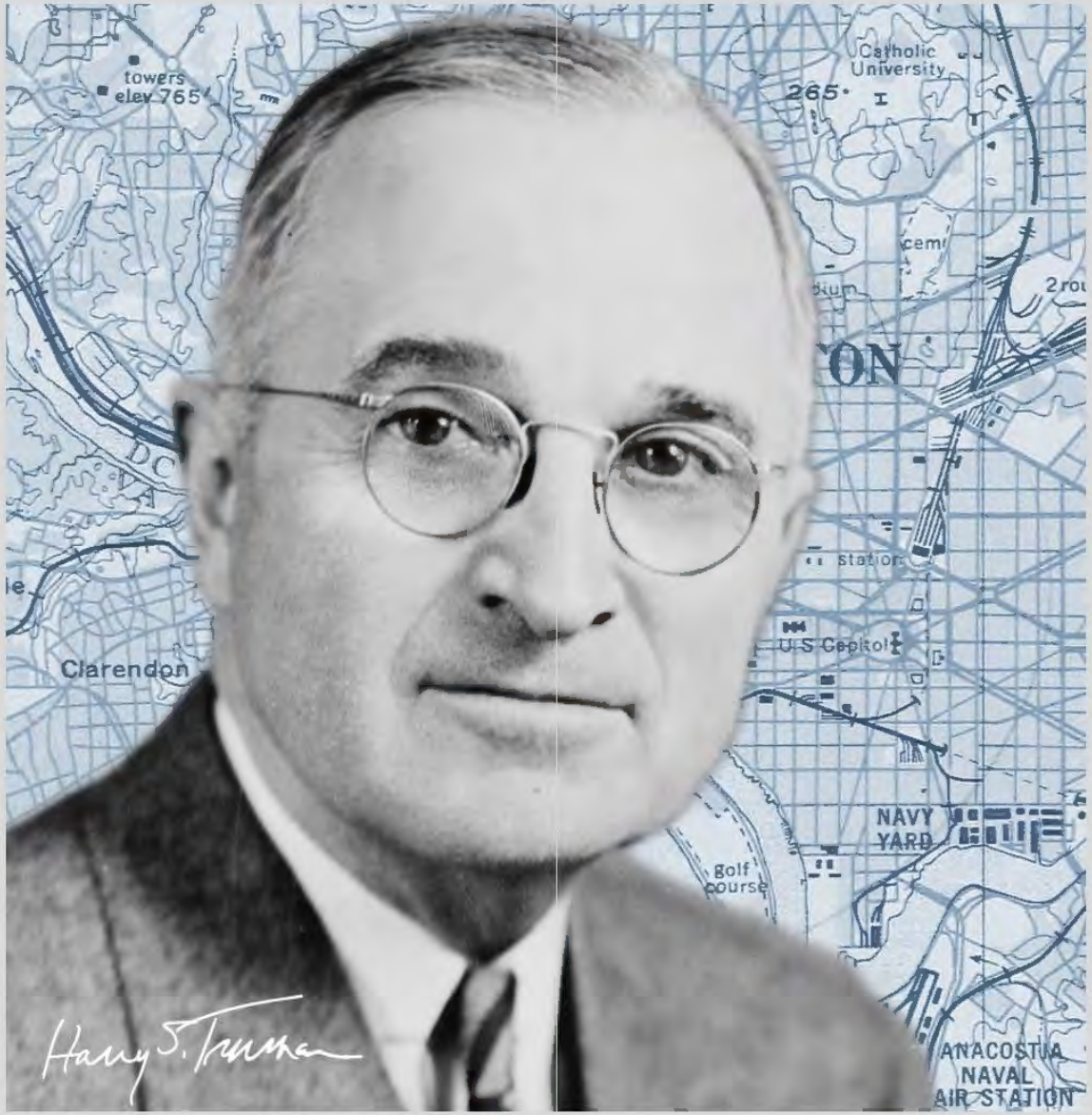
Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.

Expanded Authority of
U.S. Board on Geographic Names
Executive Order 399, January 23, 1906


Furo Ca
R. Canuma
R. Abacaxis
R. Aripuana
R. Mataurá
Rio Tap
Rio
NORTE ?
Beni
Theodore Roosevelt

Harry Truman

Reestablished U.S. Board on Geographic Names
in Current Form
Signed Public Law 80-242, July 25, 1947


towers
elev 765'
Catholic
University
265
Clarendon
U S Capitol
NAVY
YARD
Golf
course
ANACOSTIA
NAVAL
AIR STATION
Harry S. Truman

Place-names carry many meanings and implications, and in their curious histories, we can trace our own.

Derek Nelson

Short Geographic Names

Village of Å in Andøy, Norway

Photo Author Unknown, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%85,_And%C3%B8y#/media/File:%C3%85_i_And%C3%B8y_del.jpg

Commune of Y, France

Photo picardhiv68, http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/ac/Comunne_Y_picardhiv68.jpg

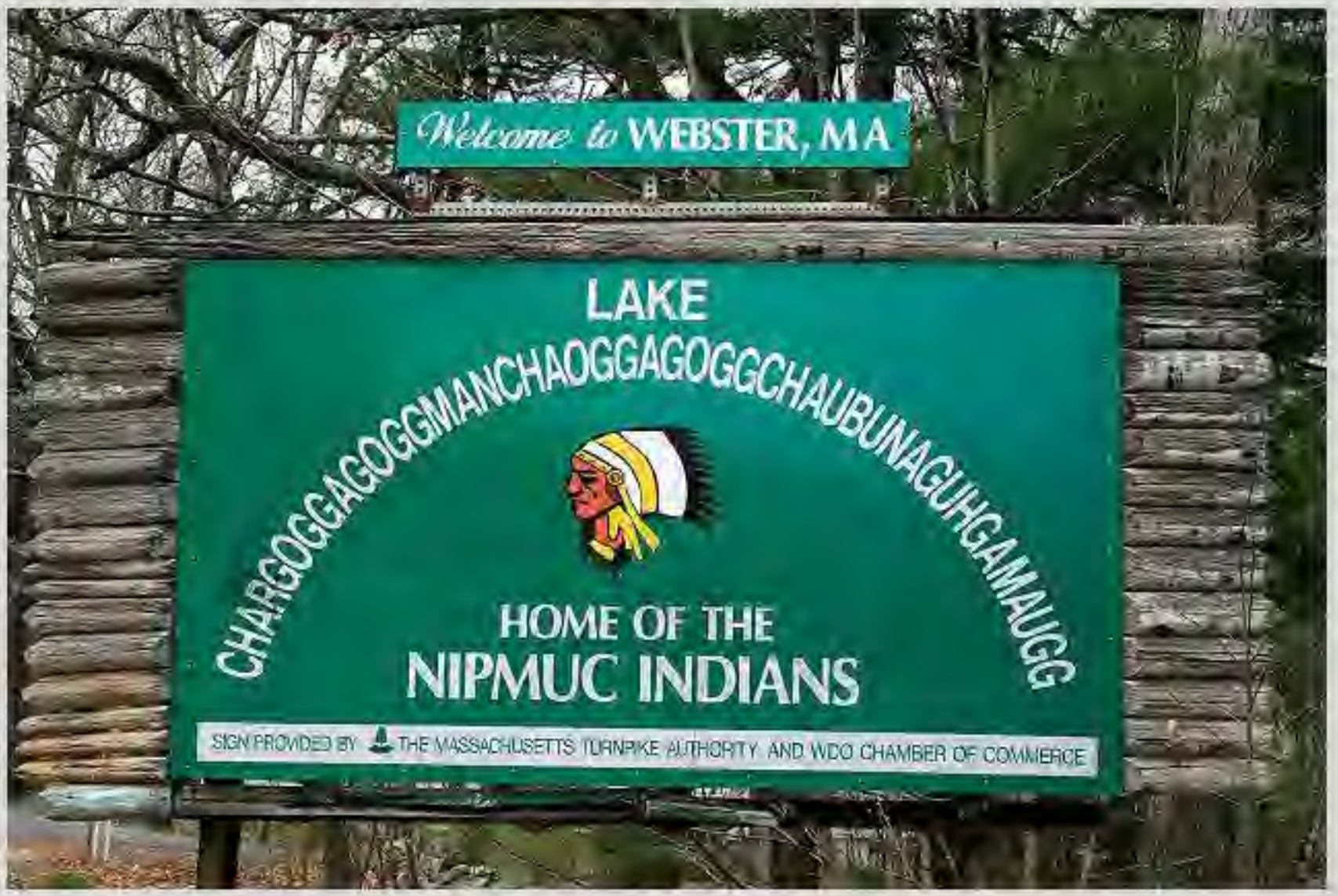
Municipality of Ii, Finland

Photo by M.P., http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ii,_Finland#/media/File:Roadsign_of_Ii_municipality_Finland.jpg

Long Geographic Names

Railway Station Sign in Wales

Photo by G1MFG, http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/bc/Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch



Lake Chargoggagoggmanchaoggagoggchaubunaguhgamaugg

Photo by Bree, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Chaubunagungamaug_lake_sign.jpg

Longest BGN-Approved Name
Long Form for Bangkok or Krung Thep, Thailand
(193 characters including spaces)

Krung Thep Maha Nakhon
Amon Rattanakosin
Mahintarayutthaya
Maha Dilok Phop
Noppharat Ratchathani Buri Rom
Udom Ratchaniwet Maha Sathan
Amon Phiman Awatan Sathit
Sakka Thattiya Witsanukam Prasit

Thai Script for Longest BGN-Approved Name (Bangkok or Krung Thep, Thailand)

กรุงเทพมหานคร
อมรรัตนโกสินทร์
มหินทรายุธยา
มหาดิลกภพ
นพรัตนราชธานีบูรีรมย์
อุดมราชนิเวศน์มหาสถาน
อมรพิมานอวตารสถิต
สักกะทัตติยวิษณุกรรมประสิทธิ์

Translation of Longest BGN-Approved Name (Bangkok or Krung Thep, Thailand)

City of angels,
great city of immortals,
magnificent city of the nine gems,
seat of the king,
city of royal palaces,
home of gods incarnate,
erected by Vishvakarma at Indra's behest

Longest BGN-Approved Name

Single Word with No Spaces

(57 characters)

Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateapokaiwhenuakitanatahu

New Zealand

Map courtesy of National Geographic Maps

Longest BGN-Approved Name

Single Word with All Consonants

(8 characters)

Cwmffrwd

Wales, United Kingdom

… place names can tell us a great deal about the physical geography, the culture and the history of a place, and about the people connected with it.

Naftali Kadmon

Colorful Geographic Names

Blue Lagoon in Iceland

Photo by Sarah 1990, http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/58/Iceland_Blue_Lagoon.jpg

Red Rocks, Colorado

Photo by Bradley Gordon, https://www.flickr.com/photos/icanchangethisright/8763525316

Little Green Island, Hong Kong

Photo by Jashhk, http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/82/Little_Green_Island_in_Hong_Kong.jpg

Yellow River, China

Photo by Leruswing, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow_River#/media/File:Hukou_Waterfall.jpg

White Cliffs of Dover, United Kingdom

Photo by Piotr Kuczyński,
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e7/White_Cliffs_of_Dover_3_(Piotr_Kuczynski).jpg

Shapely
Geographic Names

Round Lake, Wisconsin

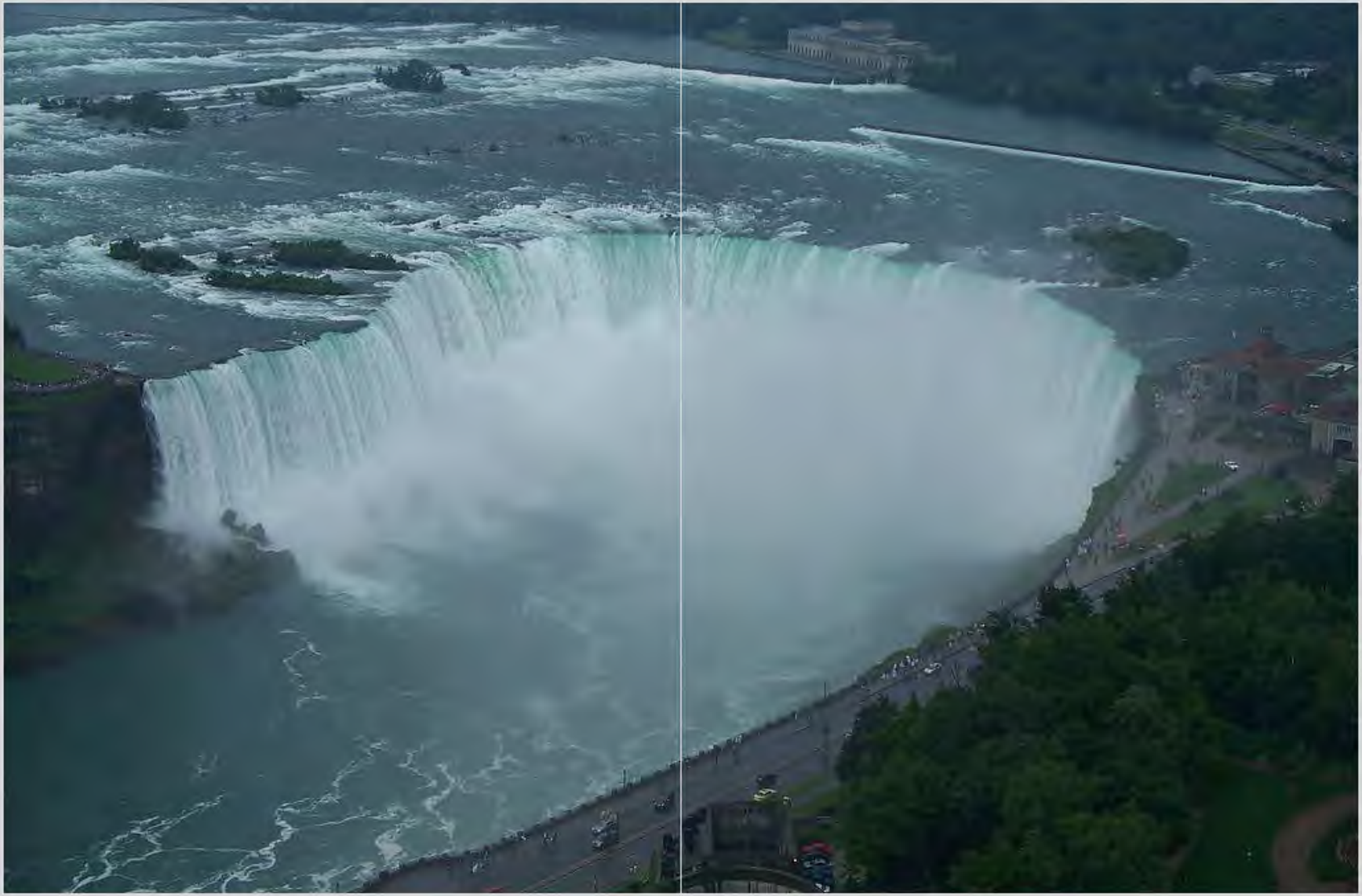
Image by Esri Map Service (Digital Globe, Microsoft)

Triangle Lake, Minnesota

Image by Esri Map Service

Heart Lake, Olympic National Park, Washington

Photo by brewbooks,
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e5/Heart_Lake,_Olympic_National_Park_(Washington)_(456501128).jpg



Horseshoe Falls, Canada

Photo by Sakas,
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c9/Horseshoe_Falls_Skylon.JPG/1024px-Horseshoe_Falls_Skylon.JPG

Descriptive Geographic Names

Chimney Rock, Nebraska

Photo by Mike Tigas, http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/b6/Chimney_Rock_NE.jpg

Mirror Lake, California

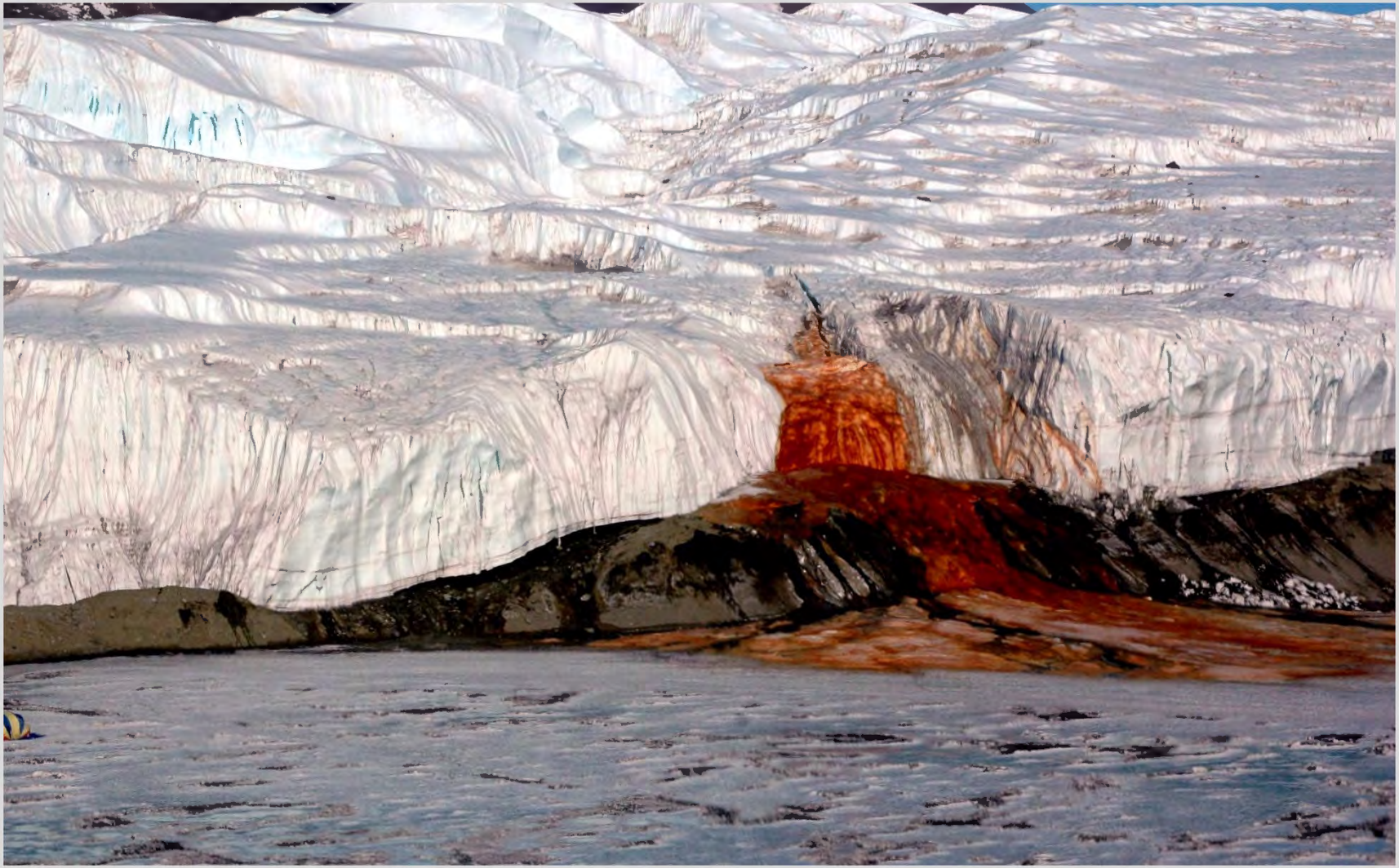
Photo by Chensiyuan,
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/7/70/Yosemite_national_park_mirror_lake_2010u.JPG/1280px-Yosemite_national_park_mirror_lake_2010u.JPG

Split Apple Rock, New Zealand

Photo by Benjamin Ho.sg ,
https://c2.staticflickr.com/4/3266/3227935047_f99e310a65_b.jpg

Great Blue Hole, Belize

Photo by U.S. Geological Survey,
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/61/Great_Blue_Hole.jpg



Blood Falls, Antarctica

Photo by Peter Rejcek, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Blood_Falls_by_Peter_Rejcek.jpg

While we may have plans, diagrams and visual images, our maps will remain "inhuman," bearing no relation to man, until they are enriched with geographic names.

O Maolfabhail

Geographic Names and Cultural Diversity

Troth Yeddhaʻ

Athabascan - Alaska

Wild Potato Ridge

Sault Sainte-Marie

French - Michigan

The Rapids of Saint Mary

Alcatraz Island

Spanish - California

The Island of the Pelicans

Oxford

English – Mississippi

Named for Oxford, England

Where the Oxen Ford

Imnáha Gulch

Umatilla - Washington

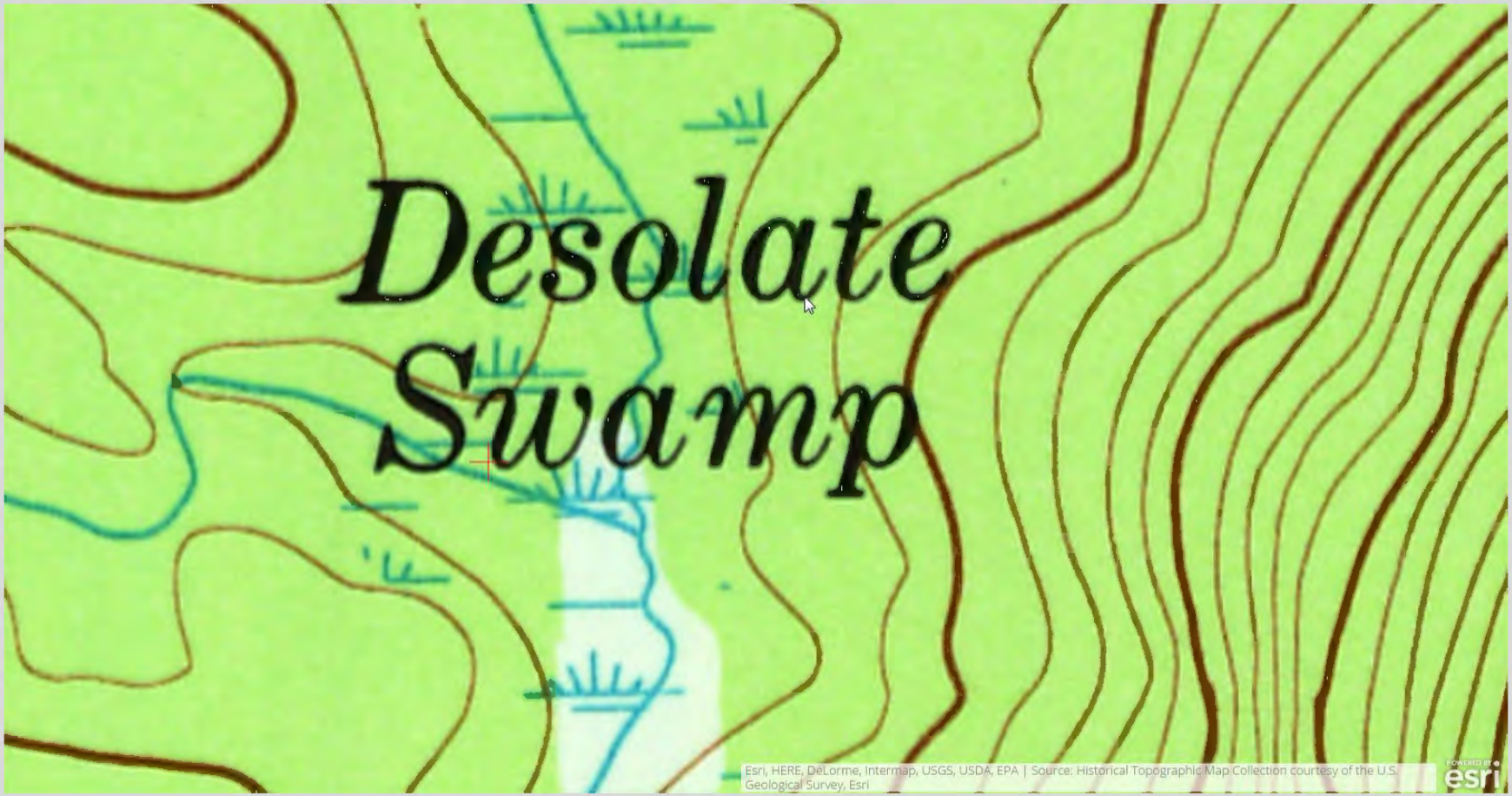
Land Ruled by a Chief Named Imna

Point Pogibshi

Russian - Alaska

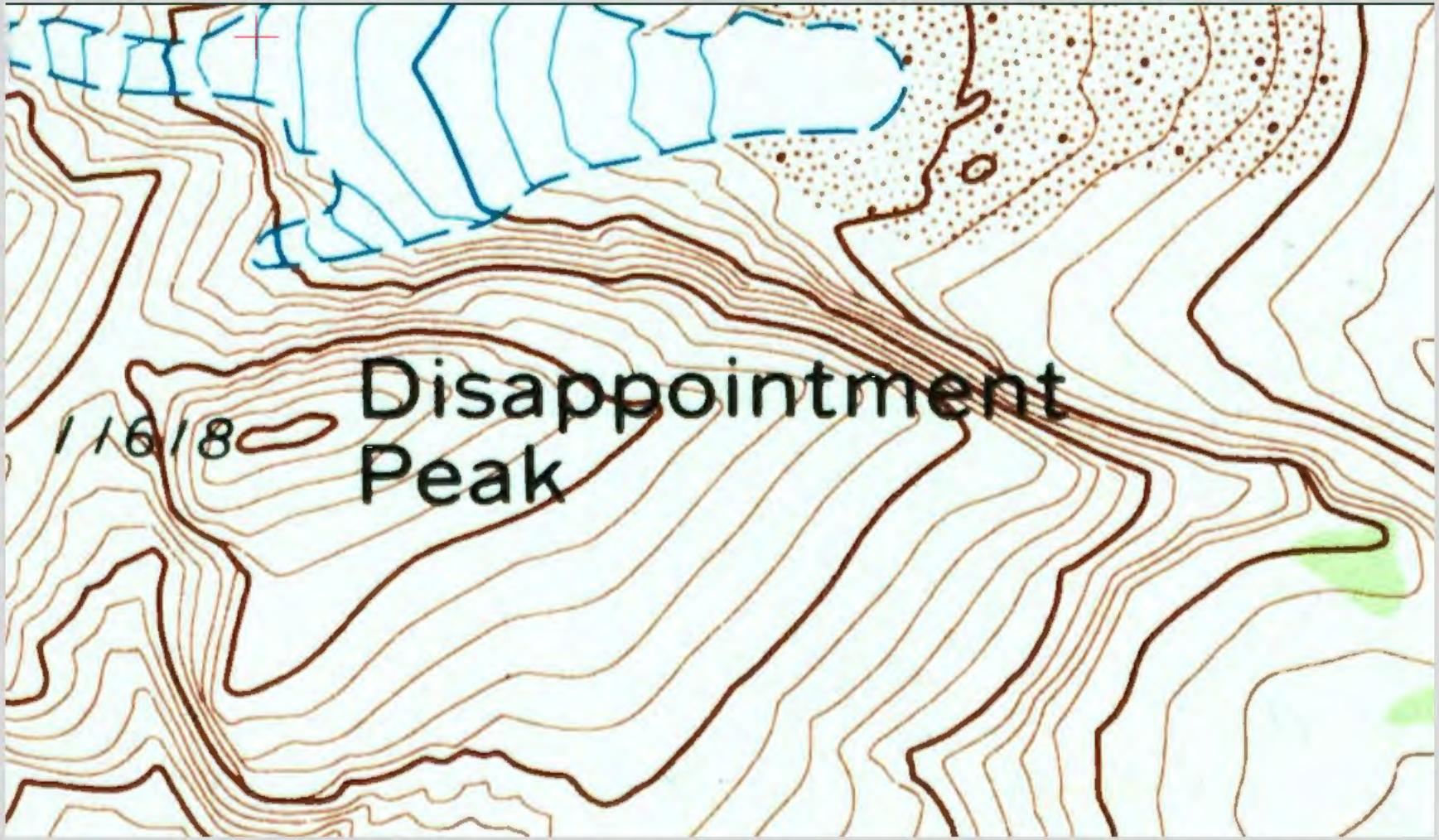
Perilous Point

The Geography of Pessimism and Optimisim



Desolate Swamp, New York

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



Disappointment Peak, Wyoming

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

Despair Lake, Louisiana

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

Failure Canyon, Utah

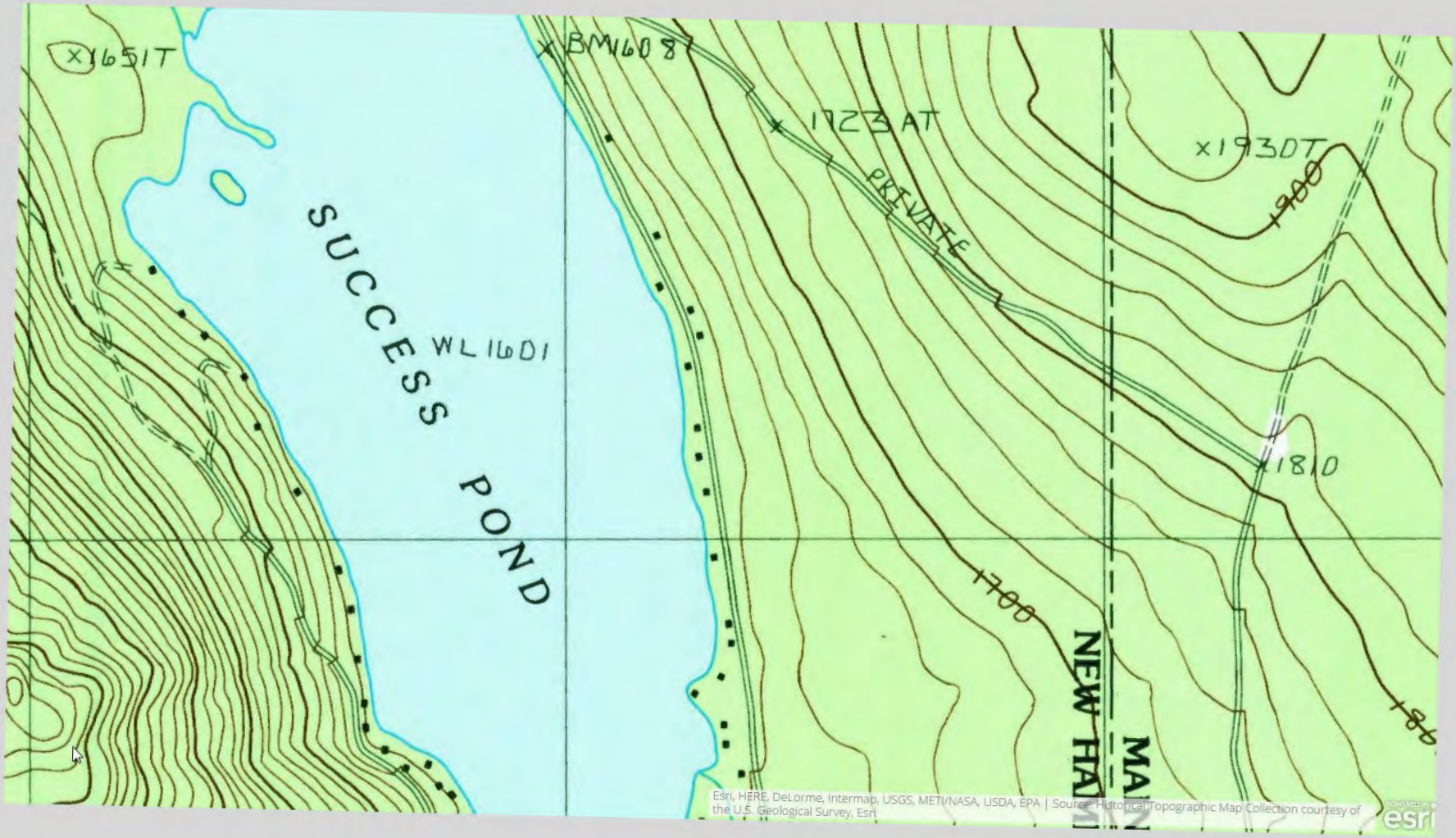
Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

Hope Lake, Utah

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

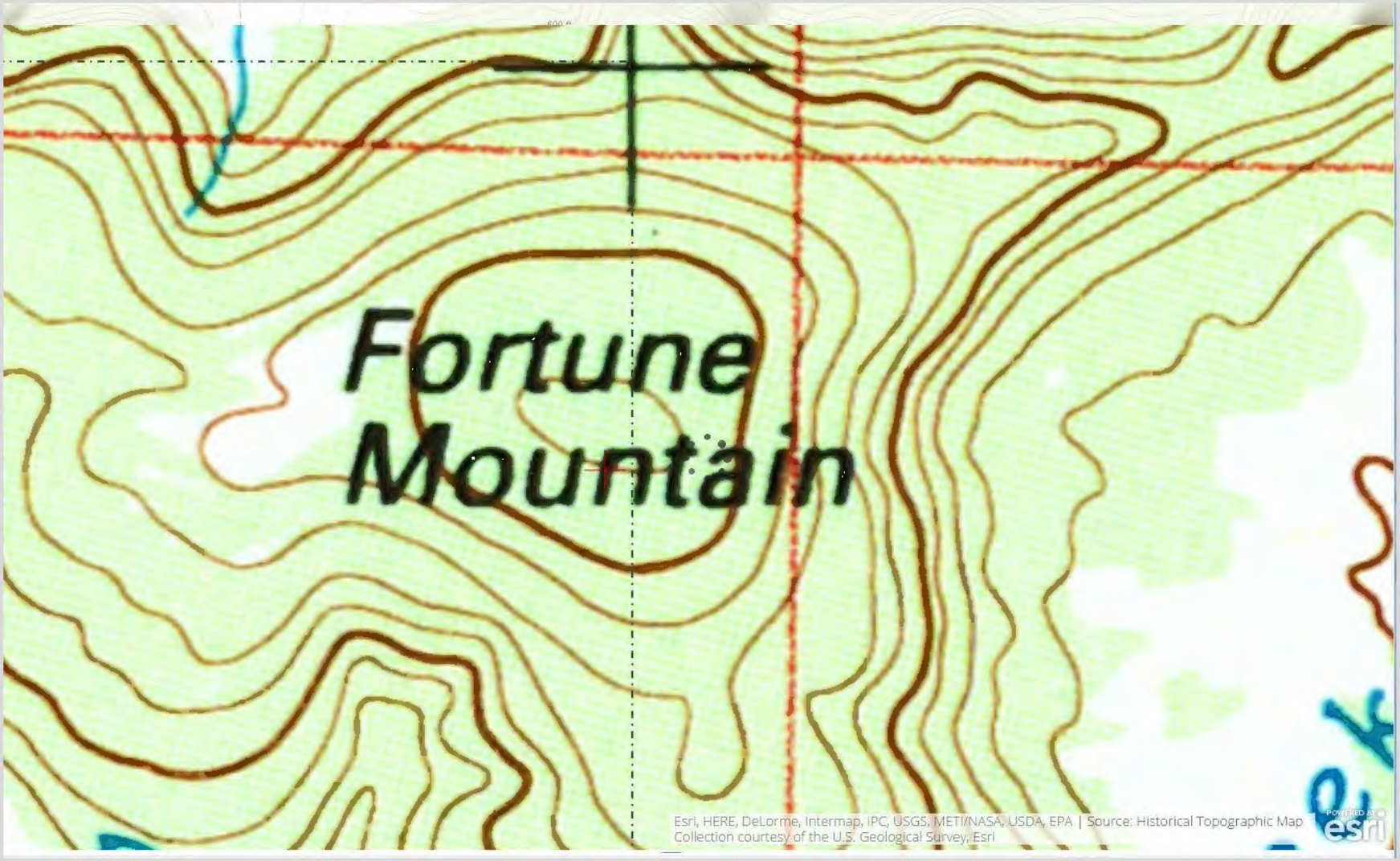
Opportunity, Montana

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



Success Pond, New Hampshire

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



Fortune Mountain, Arkansas

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

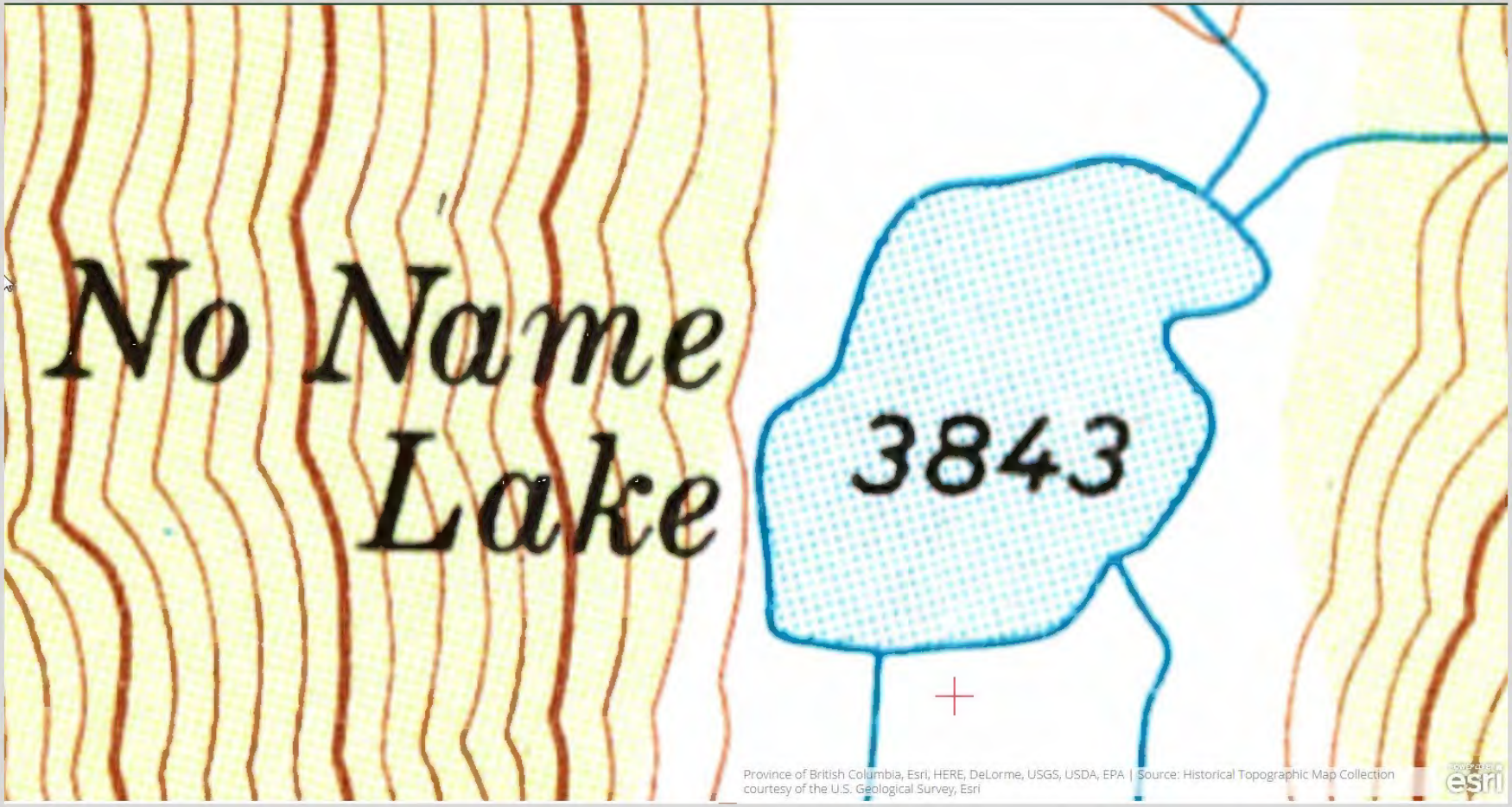
Geographic names are compact poetry …

Terrence Cole

Humorous Geographic Names

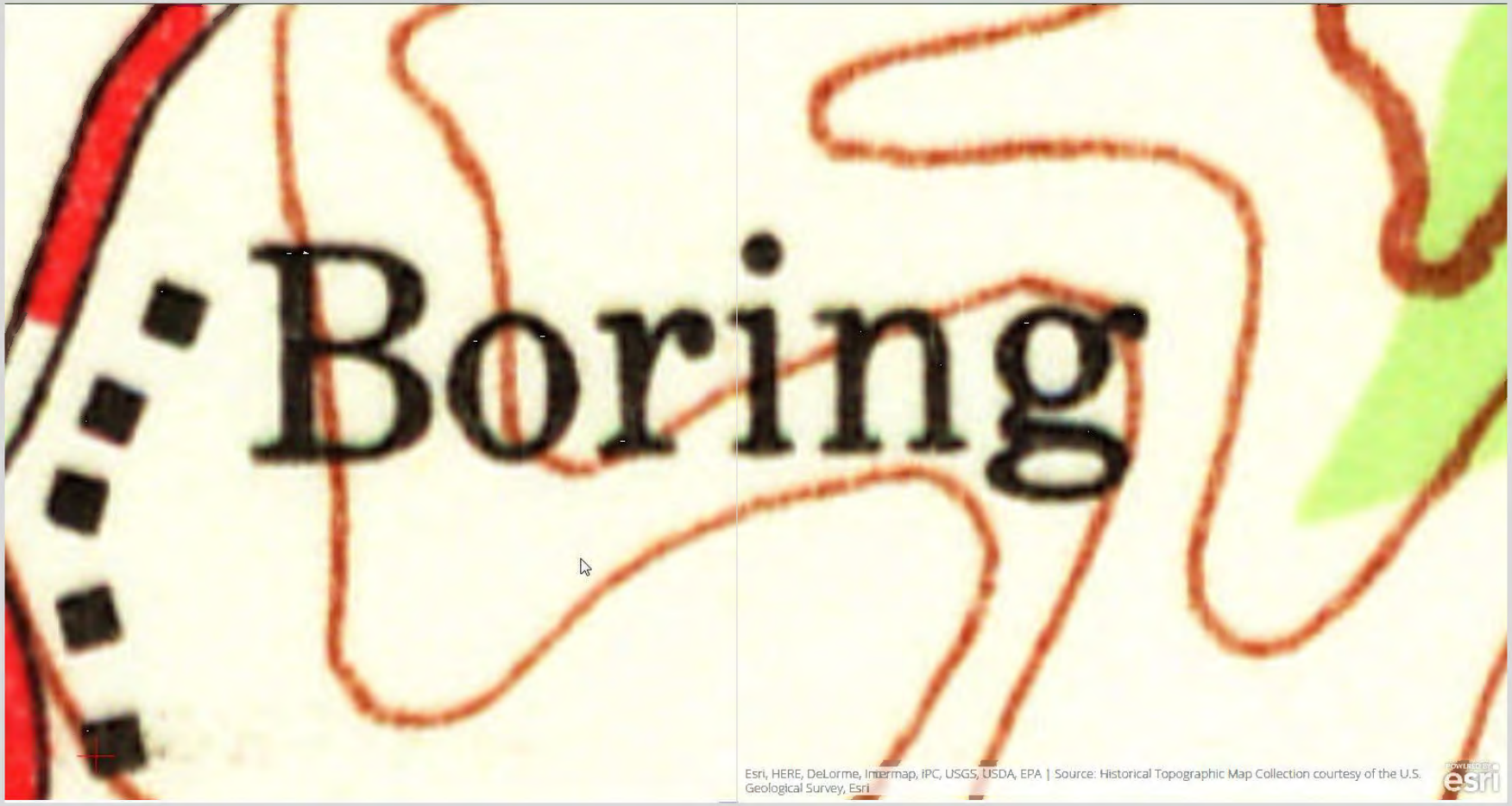
Smile, Kentucky

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



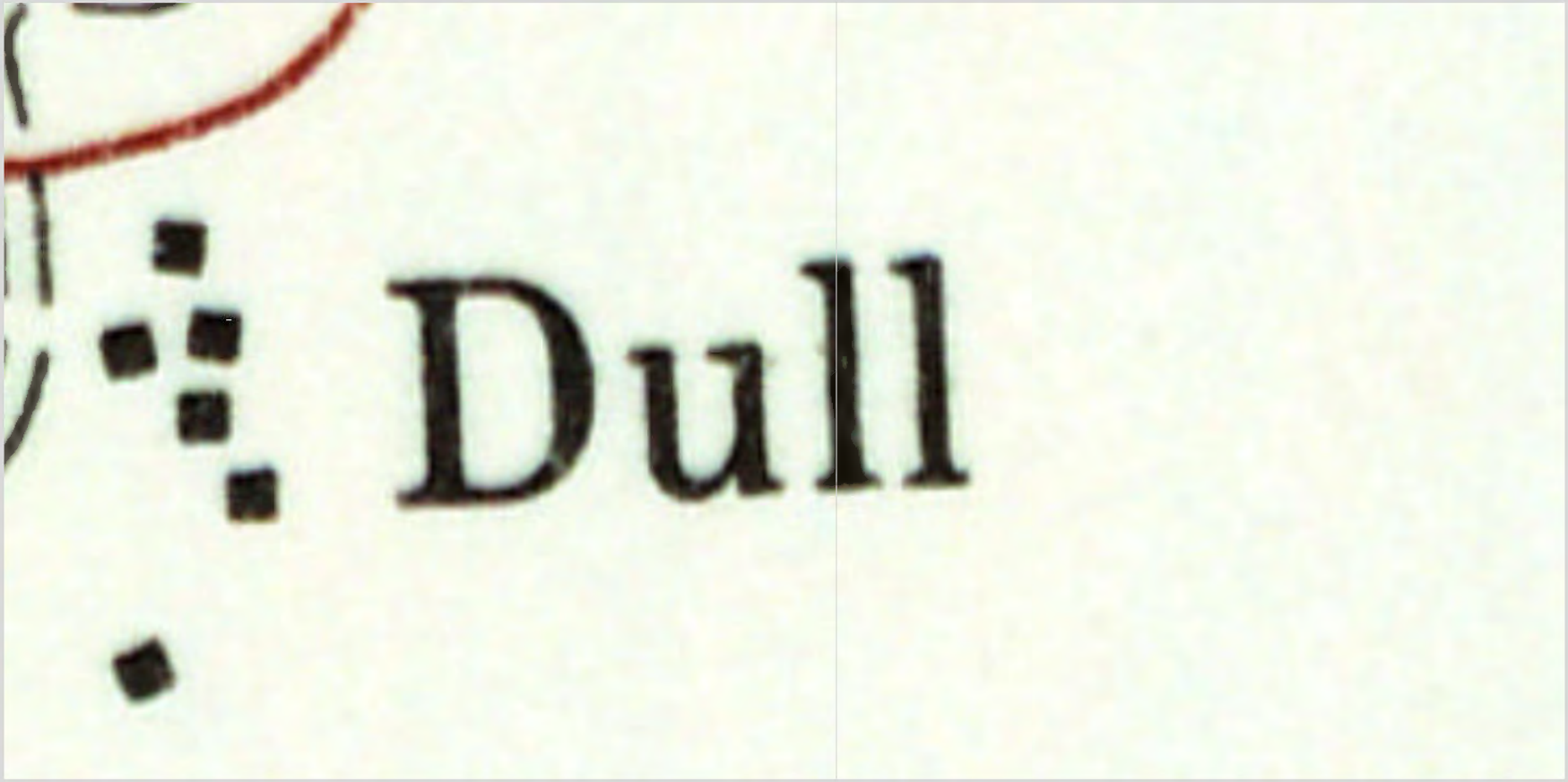
No Name Lake, Washington

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



Boring, Maryland

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



Dull, Texas

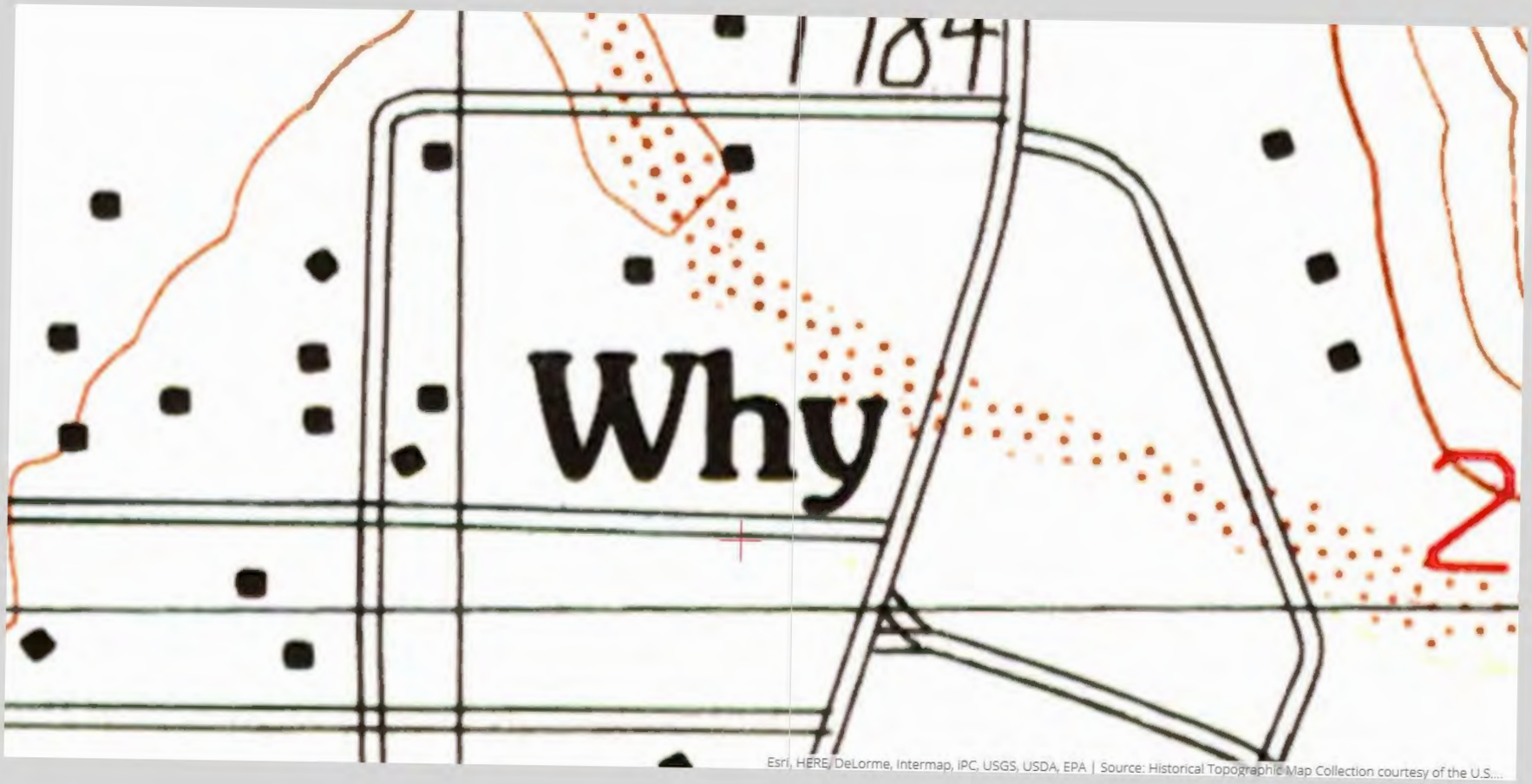
Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

Surprise, New York

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

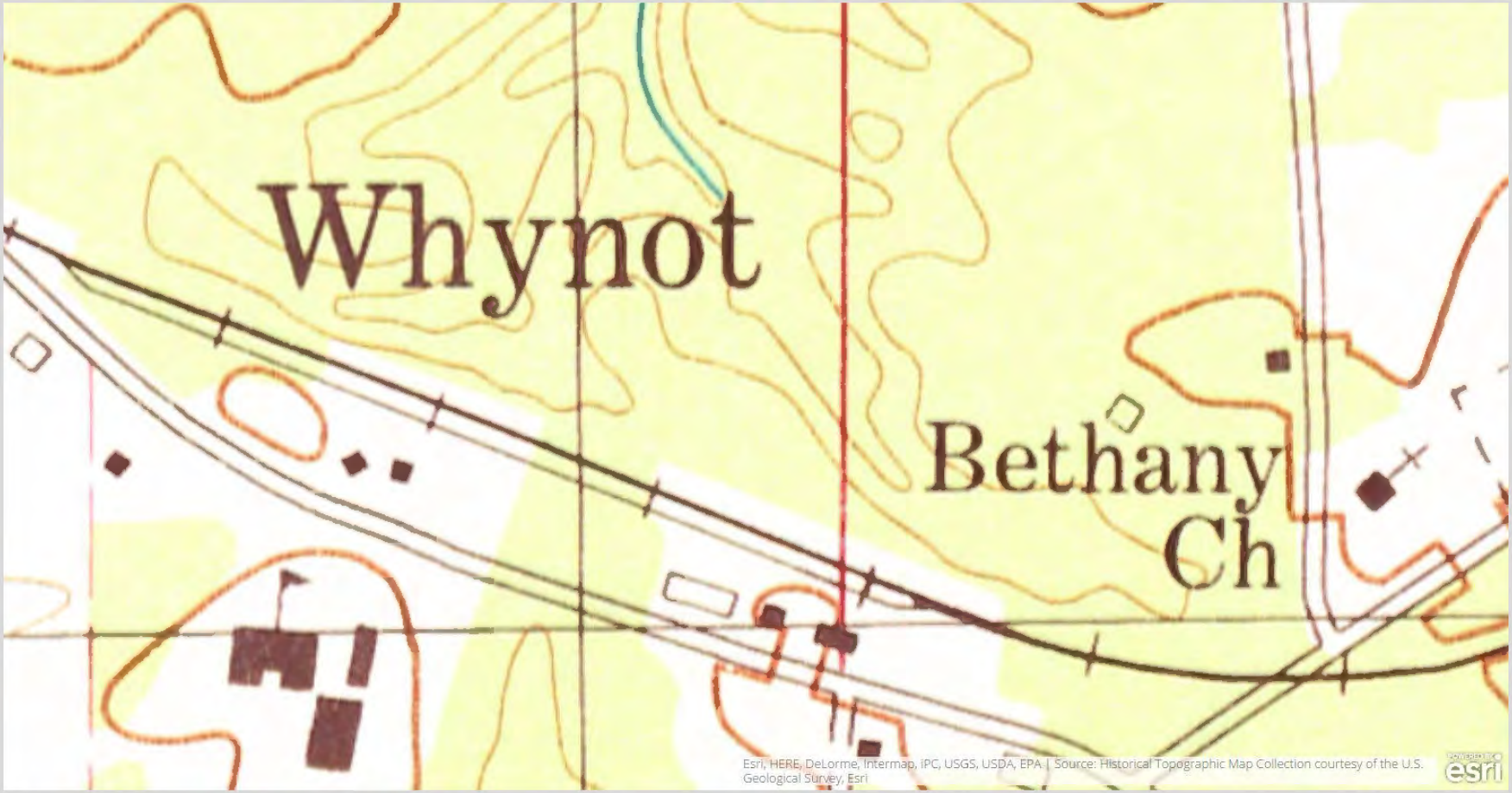
Scratch Ankle, Alabama

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



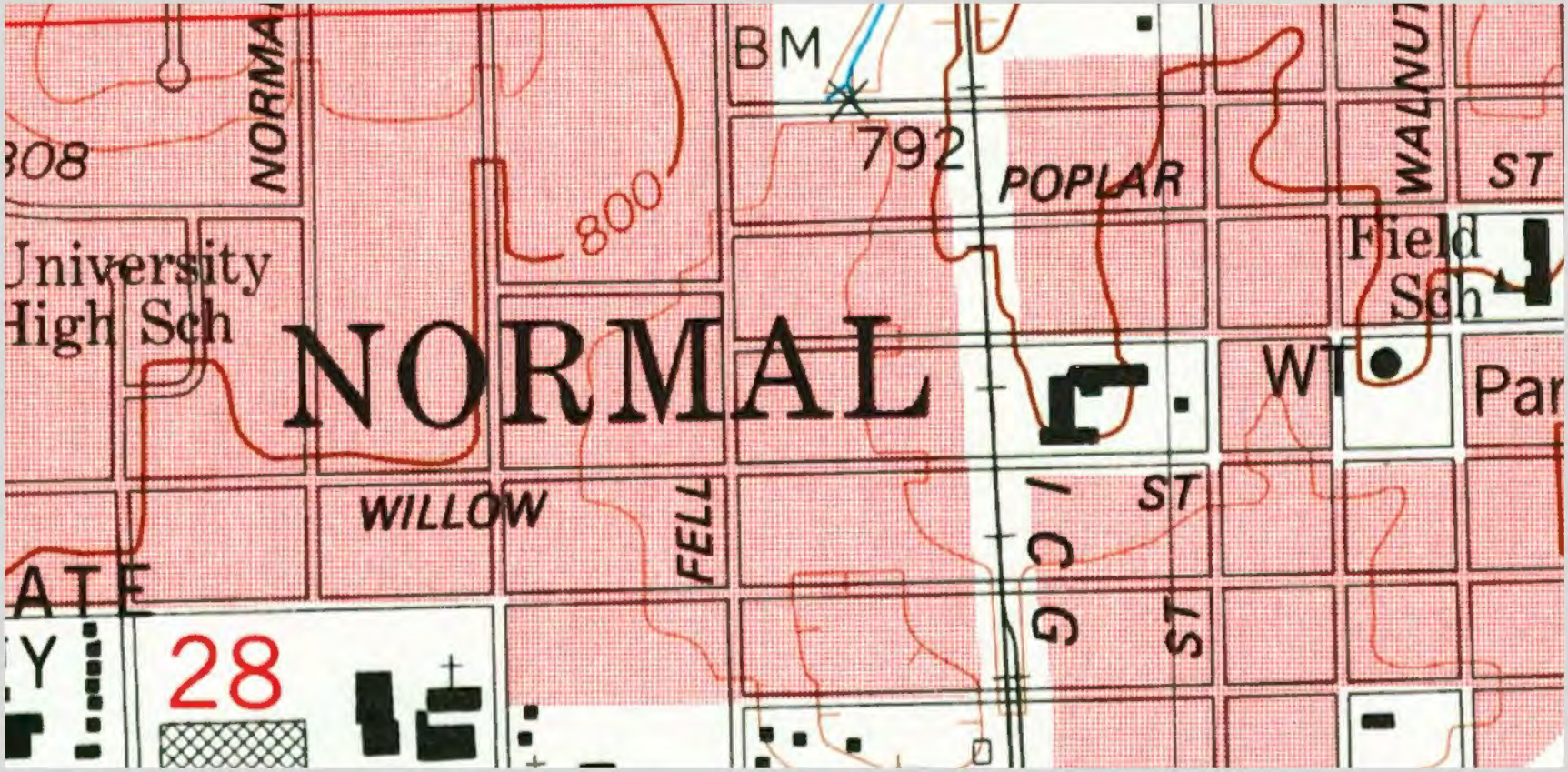
Why, Arizona

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



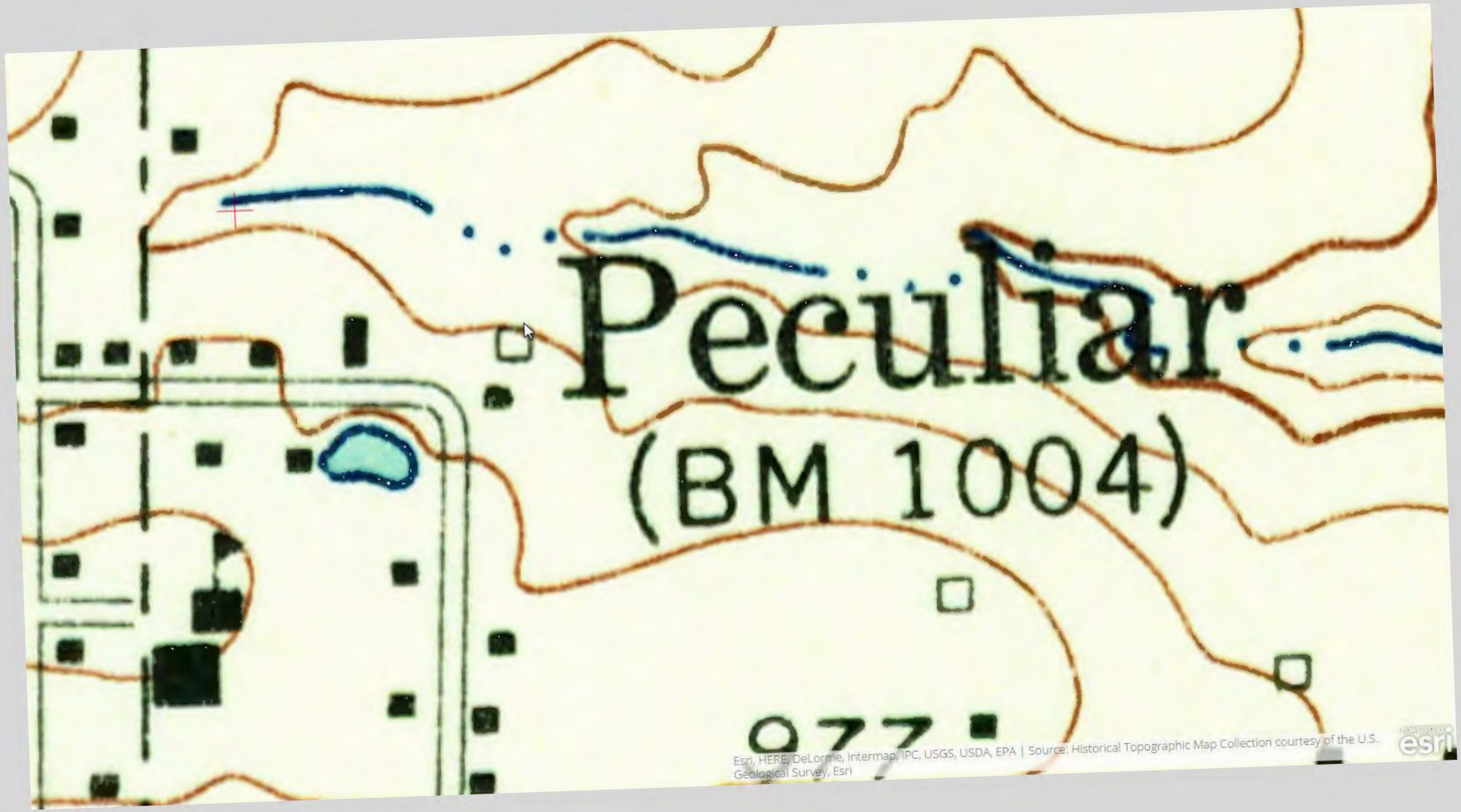
Whynot, Mississippi

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



Normal, Illinois

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



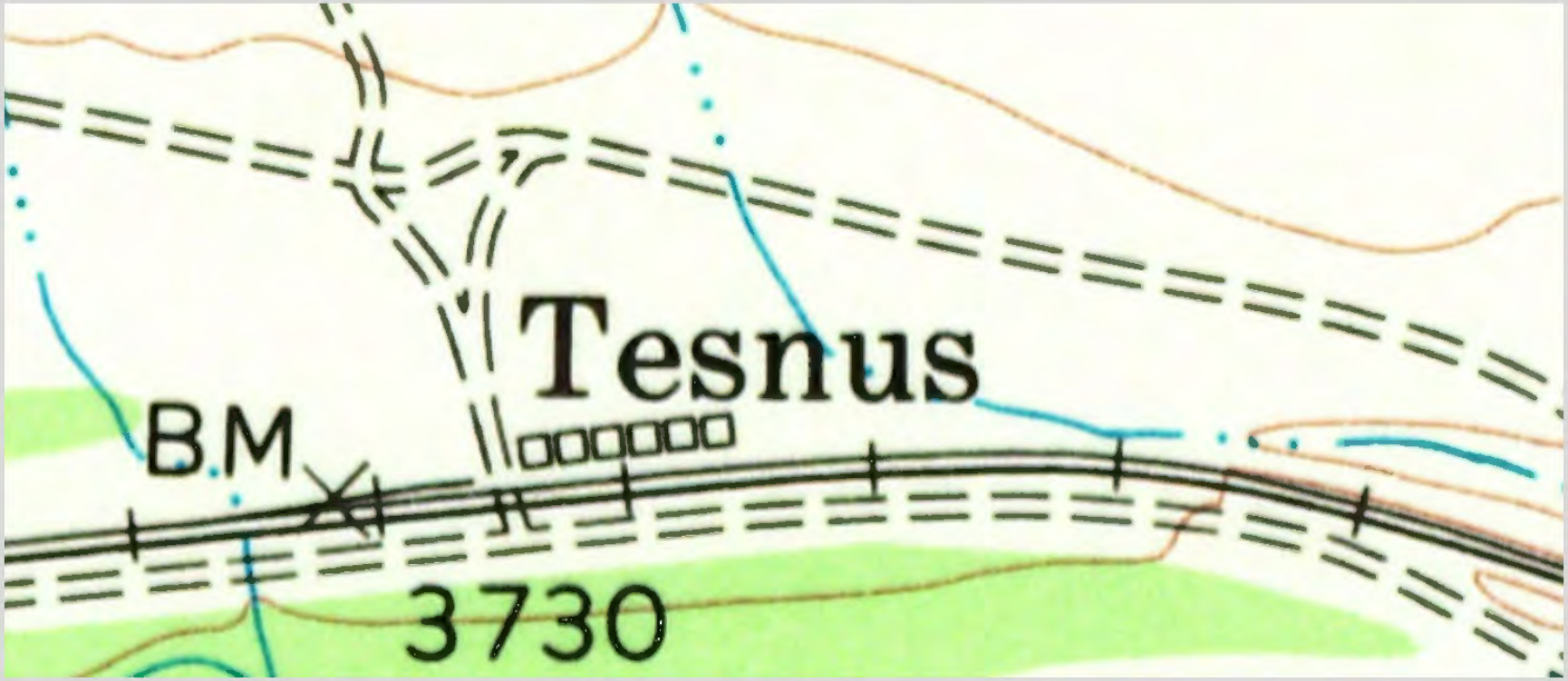
Peculiar, Missouri

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

Odd, West Virginia

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

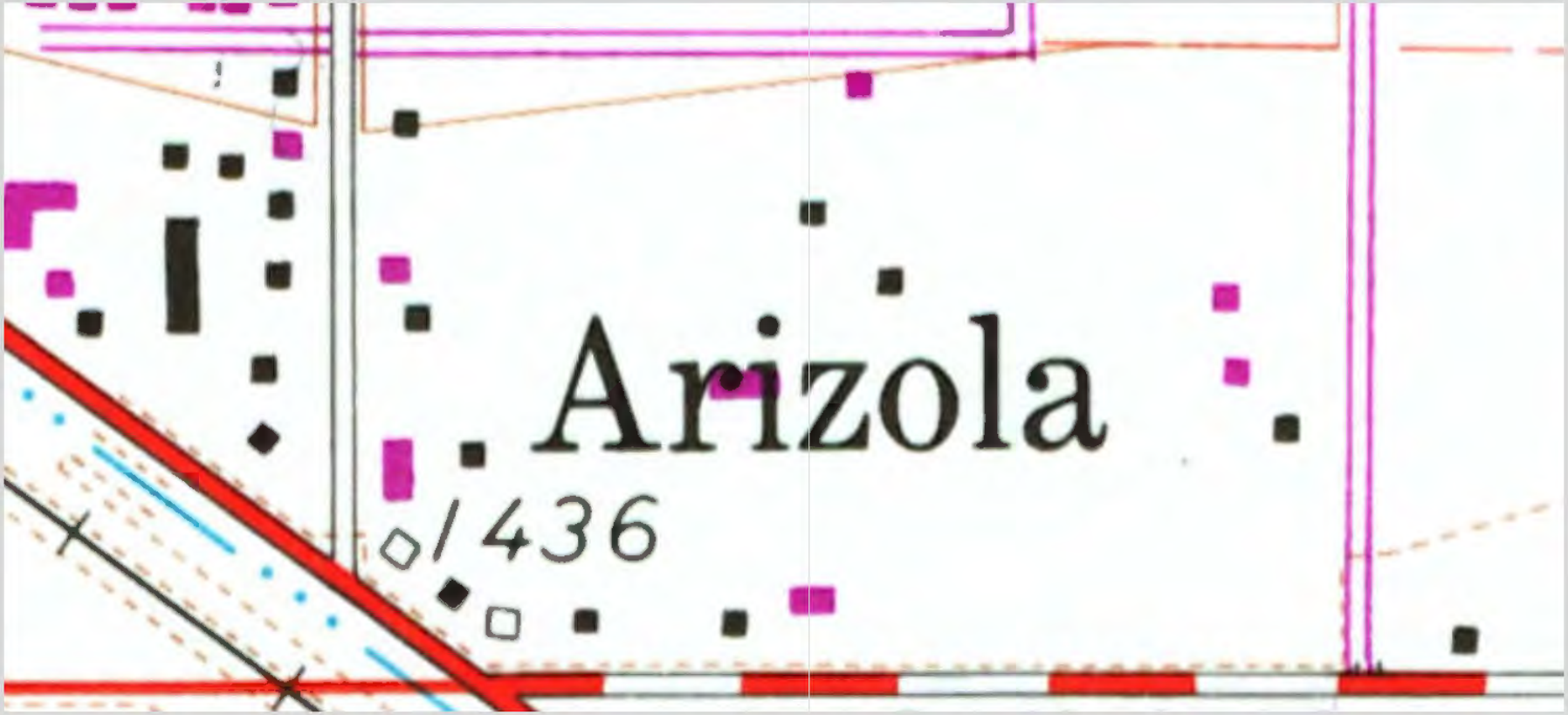
Unusual Geographic Names



Tesnus, Texas

Sunset spelled backwards

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/



Arizola, AZ
Combination of Arizona and Name of Founder's Daughter, Ola

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

Plaska, TX

Submitted to Post Office as Pulaski, Approved and Accepted as Plaska

Image courtesy of Esri and U.S. Geological Survey, http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/

The spelling of foreign geographic names presents several problems which are only vaguely understood by the general public.

First Report on Foreign Geographic Names (1932)

Non-Roman Scripts

Москва

(Russian)

Moscow, Russia

北京

(Chinese)

Beijing, China

الرياض

(Arabic)

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

서울

(Korean)

Seoul, South Korea

ᐃᓅᓯᕿᓐᓄᑦ

(Inuktitut)

Arctic Bay, Canada

काठमाडौं

(Nepali)

Kathmandu, Nepal

A Multilingual World

Traffic Sign Near Koper, Slovenia (Slovenian/Croatian/Italian)

Photo by Romanm, http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/97/Trilingual_traffic_sign_on_A1_near_Koper.jpg

Welcome Sign in Newry City, Northern Ireland (Irish/English)

Photo by Man vyi, http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/3b/Bilingual_welcome_sign_Newry.jpg

Multilingual Railway Station Board in India (Hindi/English/Urdu)

Photo by MikeLynch, http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/60/New_Delhi_railway_station_board.jpg

As long as a nation remains vigorous, the process of naming and renaming never ceases entirely.

George Stewart

Our Changing Landscape

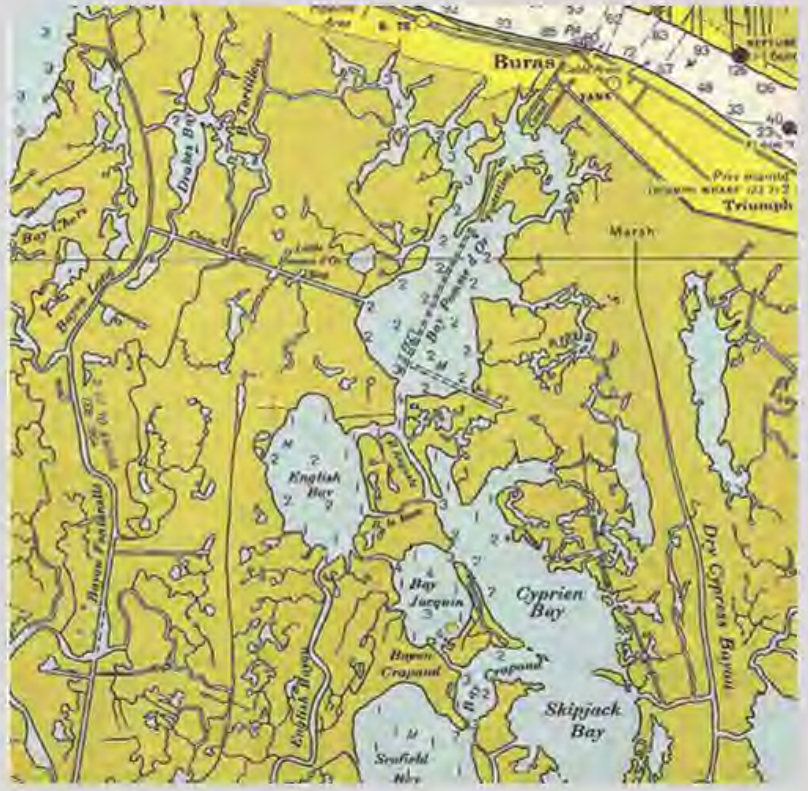
Quabbin Reservoir, Massachusetts Created 1931-1939

1908, USGS Topo Map

1980, USGS Topo Map

Features Disappearing

Louisiana Gulf Coast



1965 NOAA Chart 1271

2012 NOAA Chart 11364

Features Disappearing

Mississippi River, Minnesota

1980 USGS Topo Map

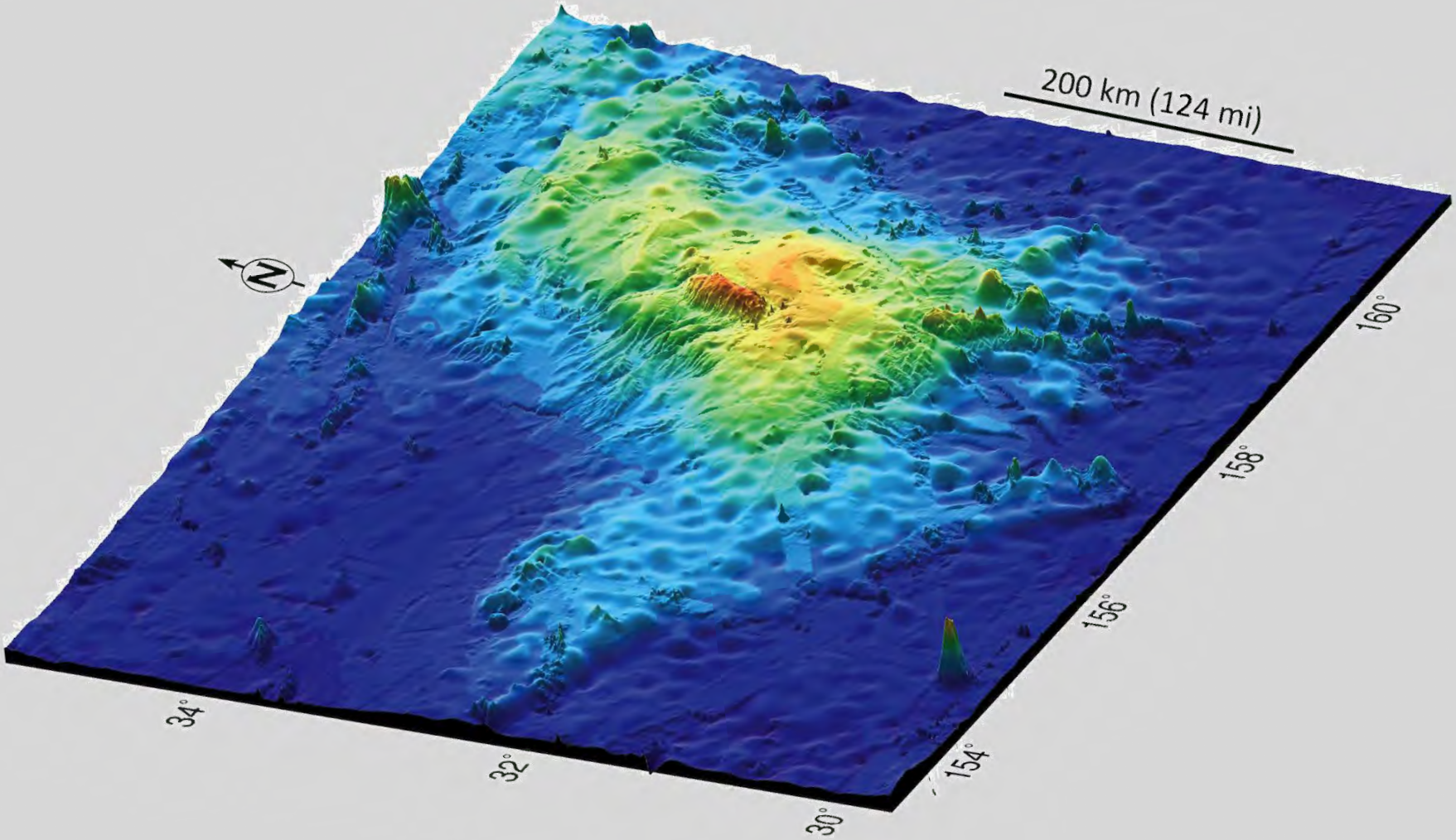
Upper Mississippi River
Navigation Charts, #40, 2011

Features Appearing

Changing Pusan to Busan, Korea

Adopting a New Romanization System (2000)

TAMU Massif (Pacific Ocean)



Discovering Features

In 1891 President Harrison established a board on geographic names … This board is still in existence and doing excellent work …

Omaha Daily Bee, May 31, 1899

Royalty Free Music

A New Beginning

www.bensound.com


125
years
UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
1890
2015


UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
1890

PART 1

OF THE MAP OF THE ROUTE OF

THE ALASKA MILITARY RECONNAISSANCE OF 1883

LIEUT. FRED'K SCHWATKA, COMMANDER

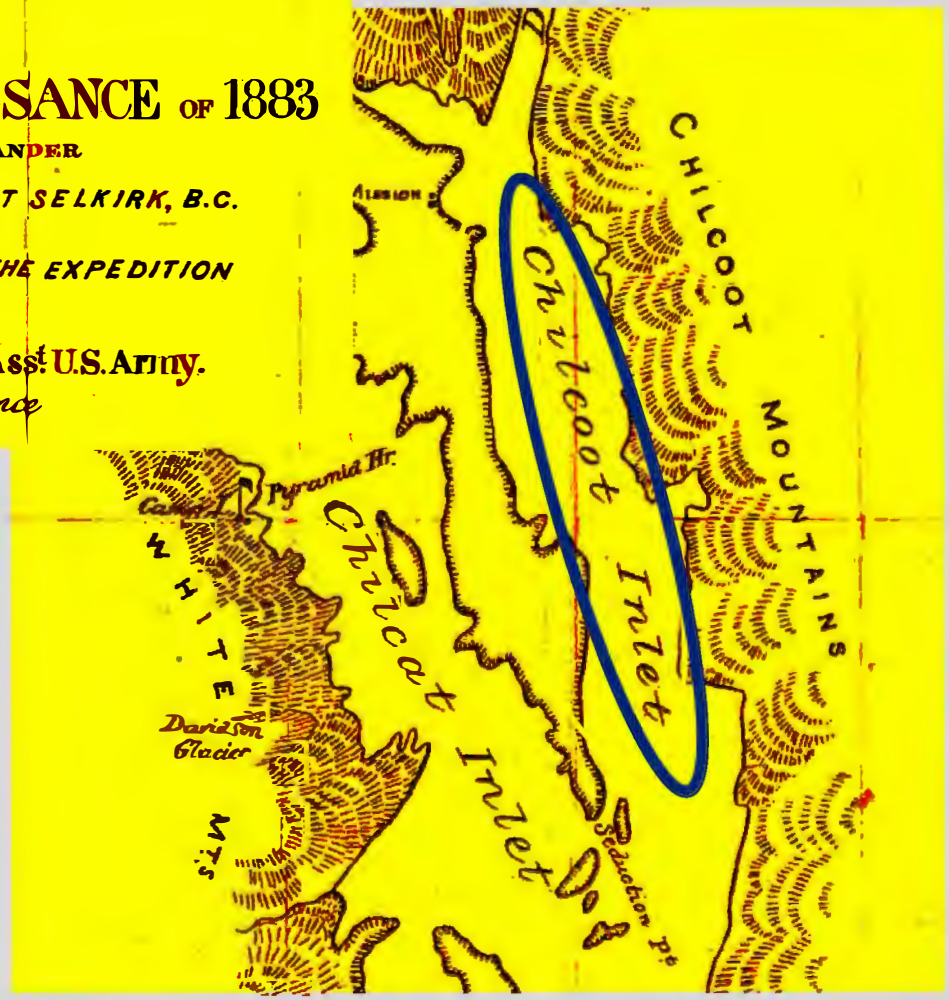
EXTENDING FROM CHILKOOT INLET ALASKA TO FORT SELKIRK, B.C.

[illegible] MILES

BEING THE PART EXPLORED AND SURVEYED BY THE EXPEDITION

Drawn & compiled by CHAS. A. HOMAN, Top! Ass! U.S. Army.

Topographer of the Reconnaissance




UNITED STATES
BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
1890


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Geographic Names: Roles, Rhetoric, and Resistance

Mark Monmonier

Professor of Geography

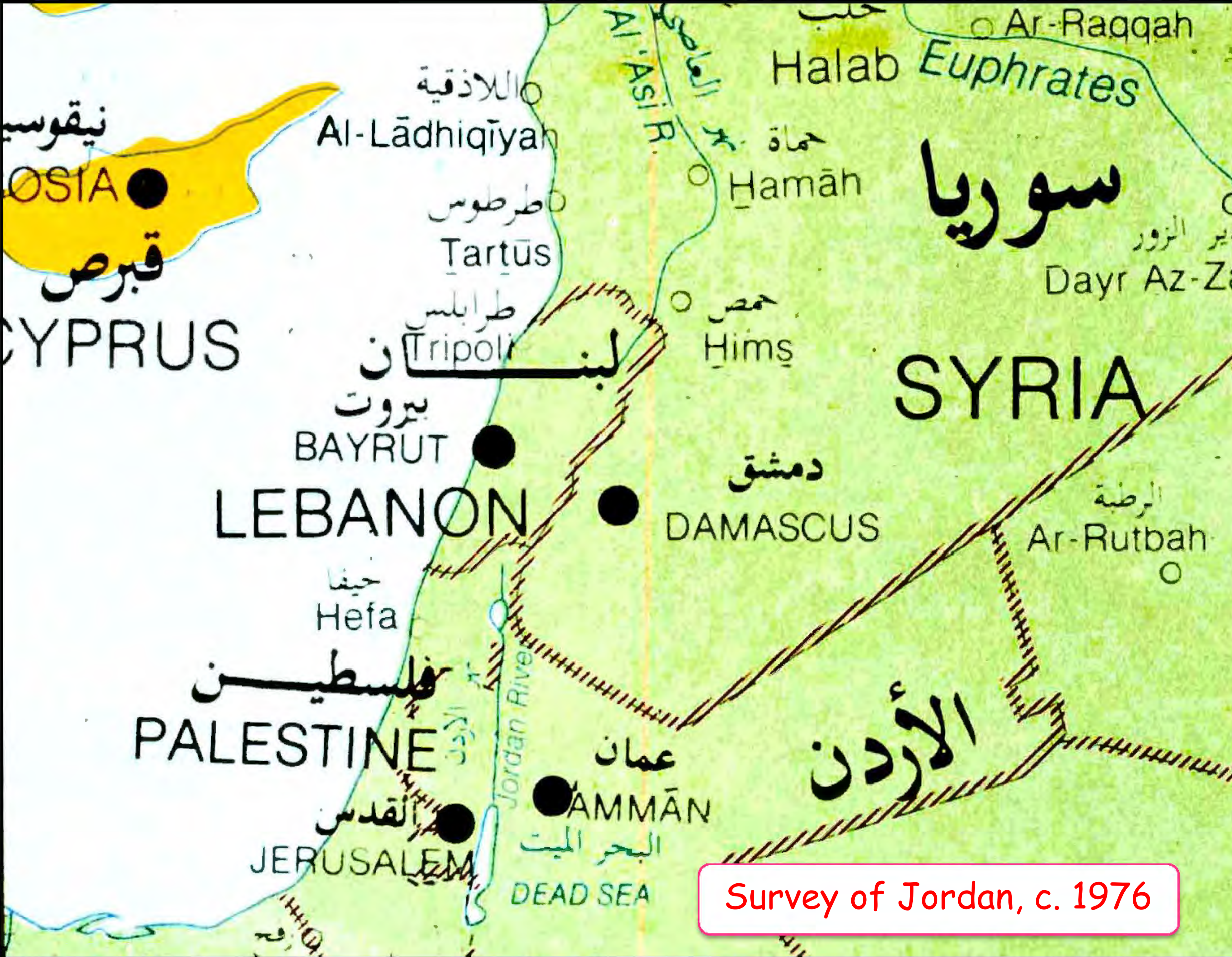
Syracuse University

Roles of Geographic Names

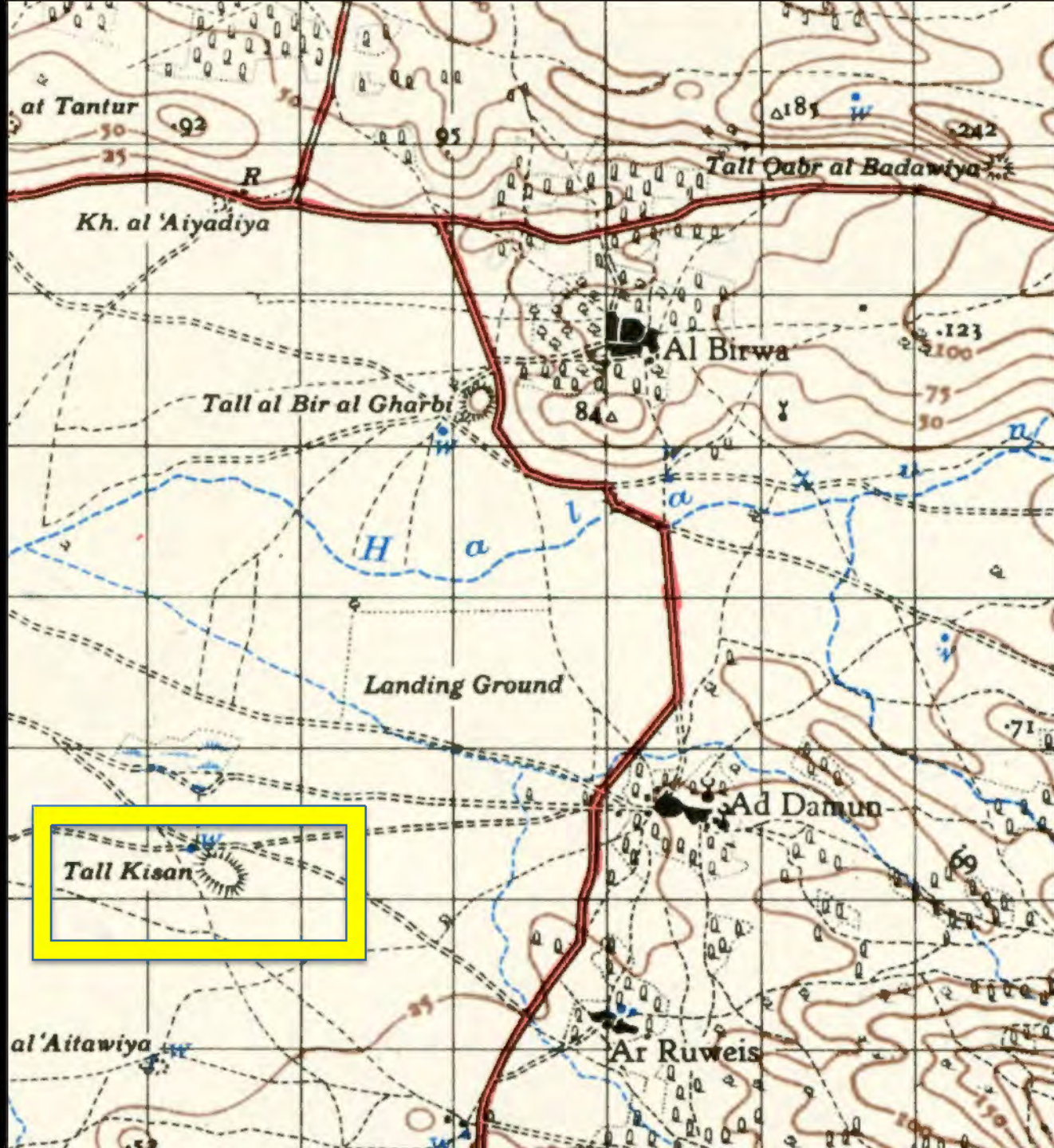
- Unique identifier of places and geographic features
- Link between map symbols and everyday language
- Commemorate people, events, other places, . . .

Rhetoric of Geographic Names

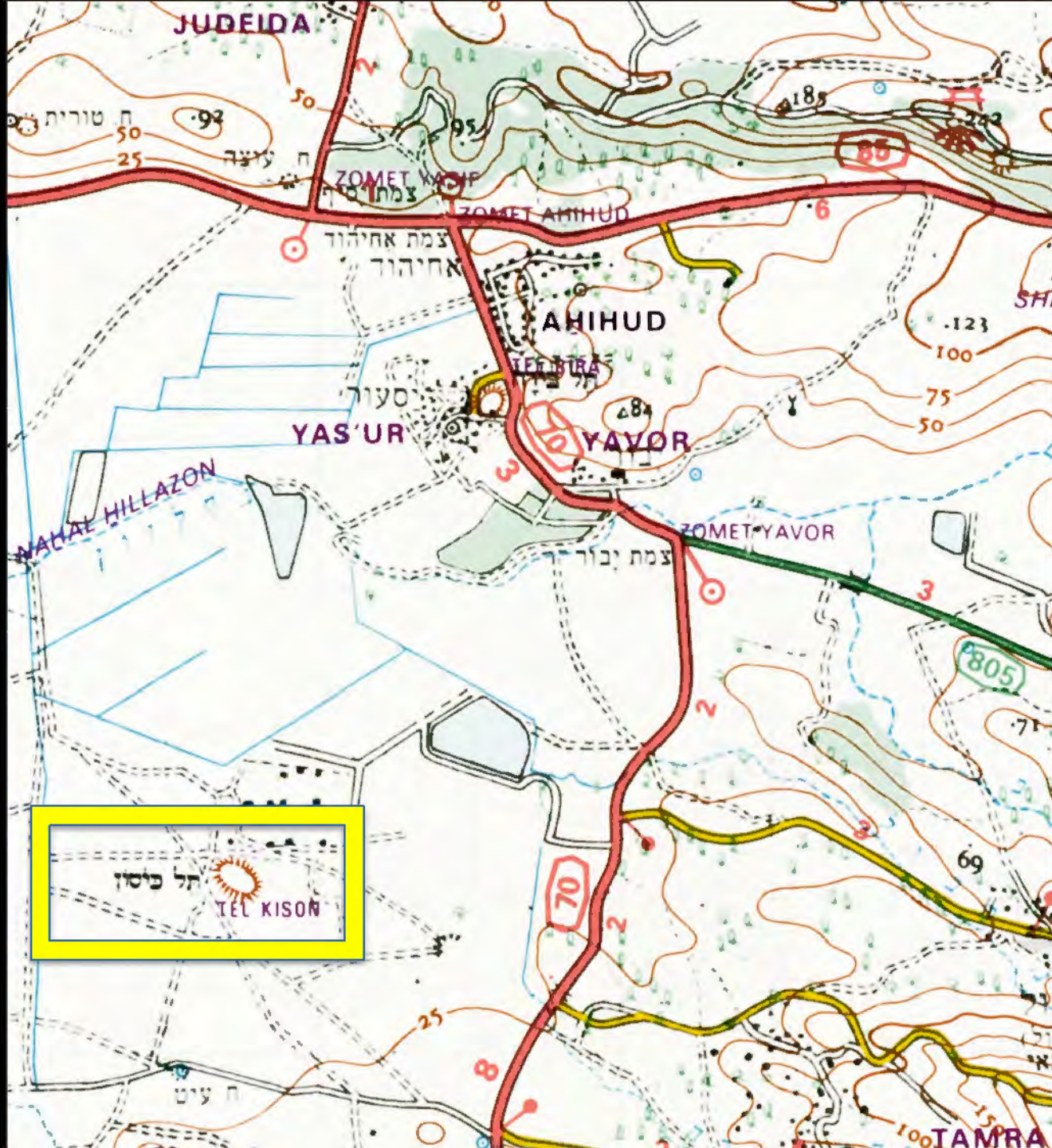
- Conservative = resistant to impulsive change
- A public good, appropriate for bureaucratic oversight
- The romance of geographic names and the defense of historical authenticity



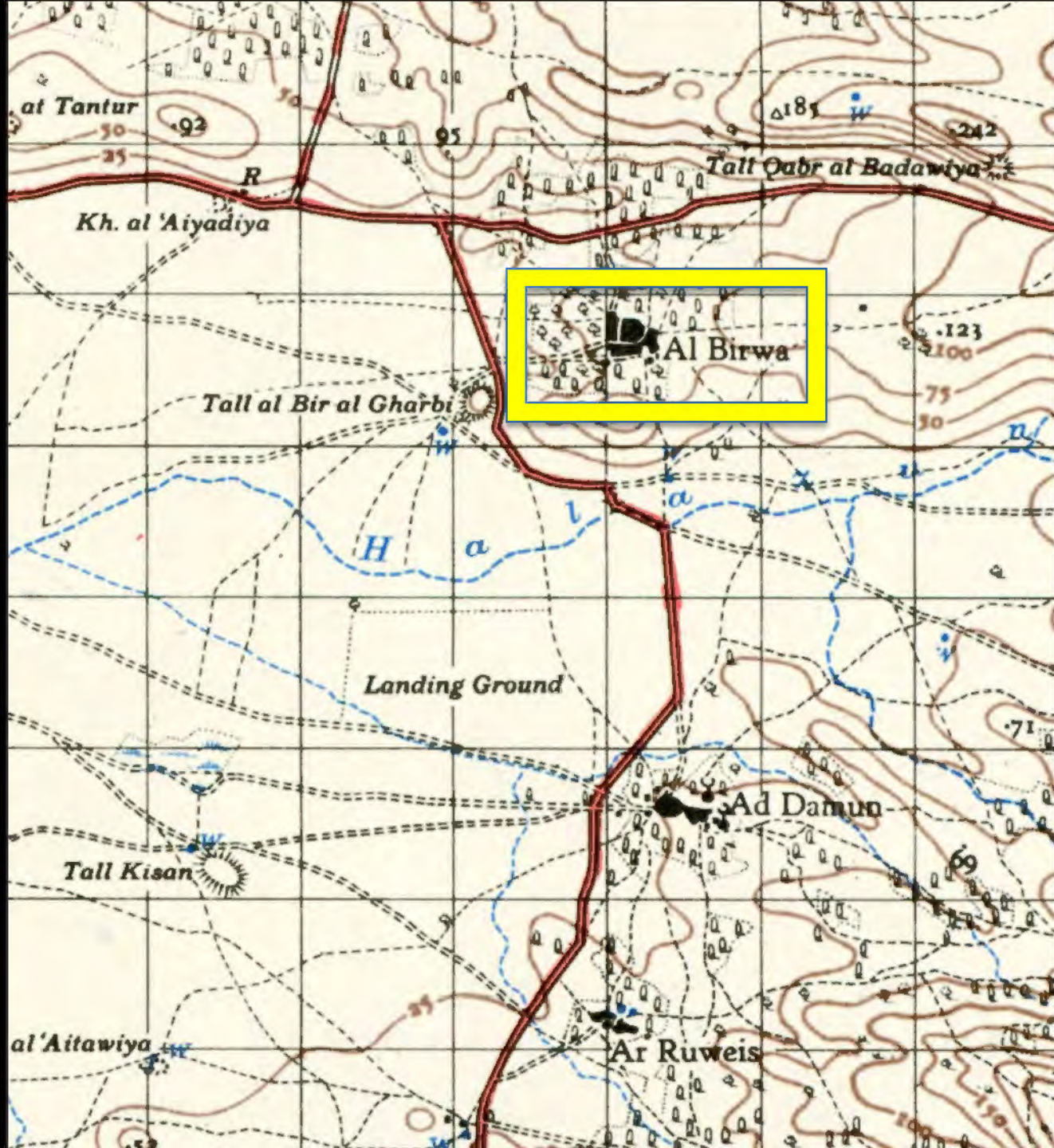
Survey of Jordan, c. 1976



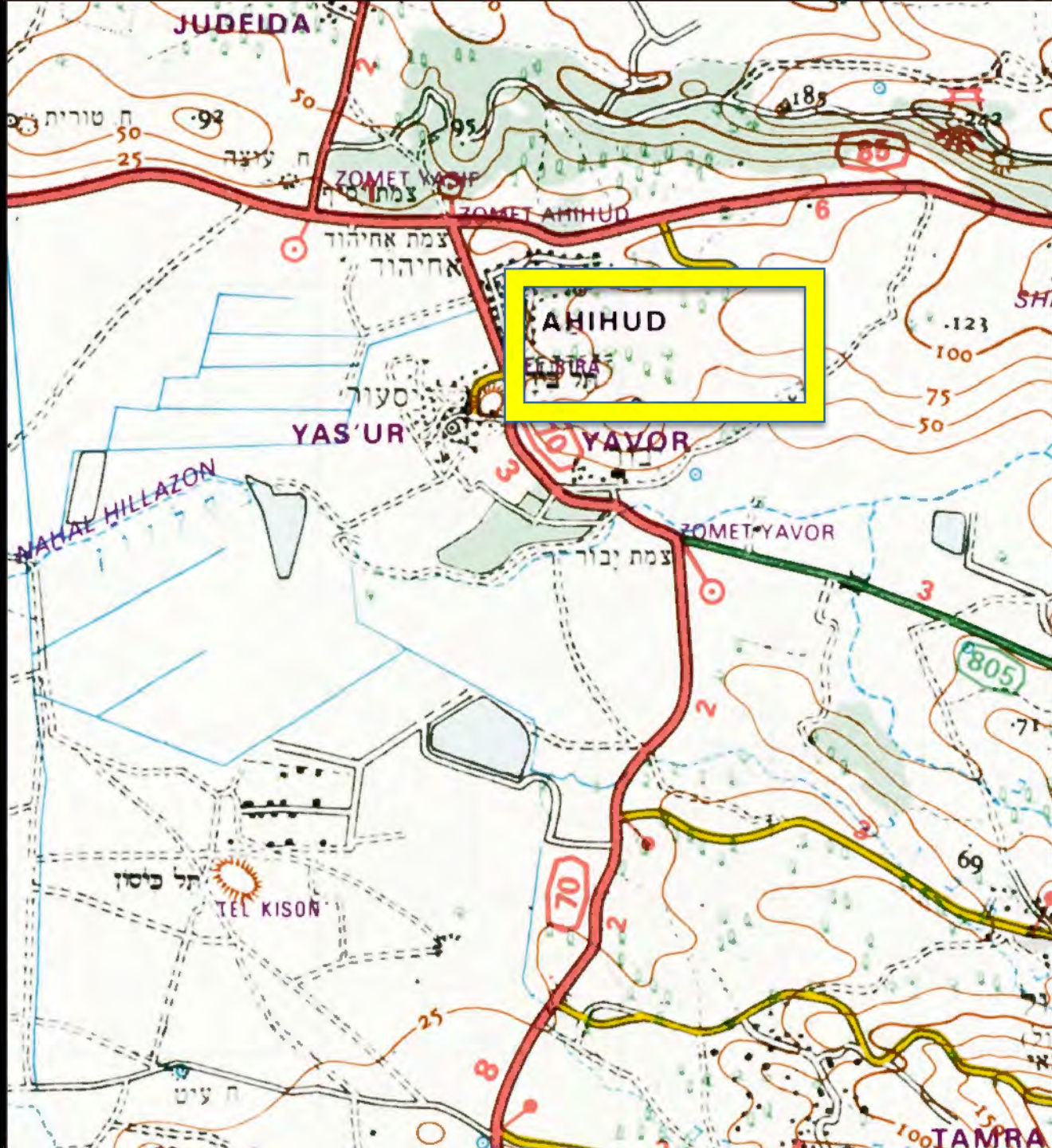
Survey of Palestine, 1943



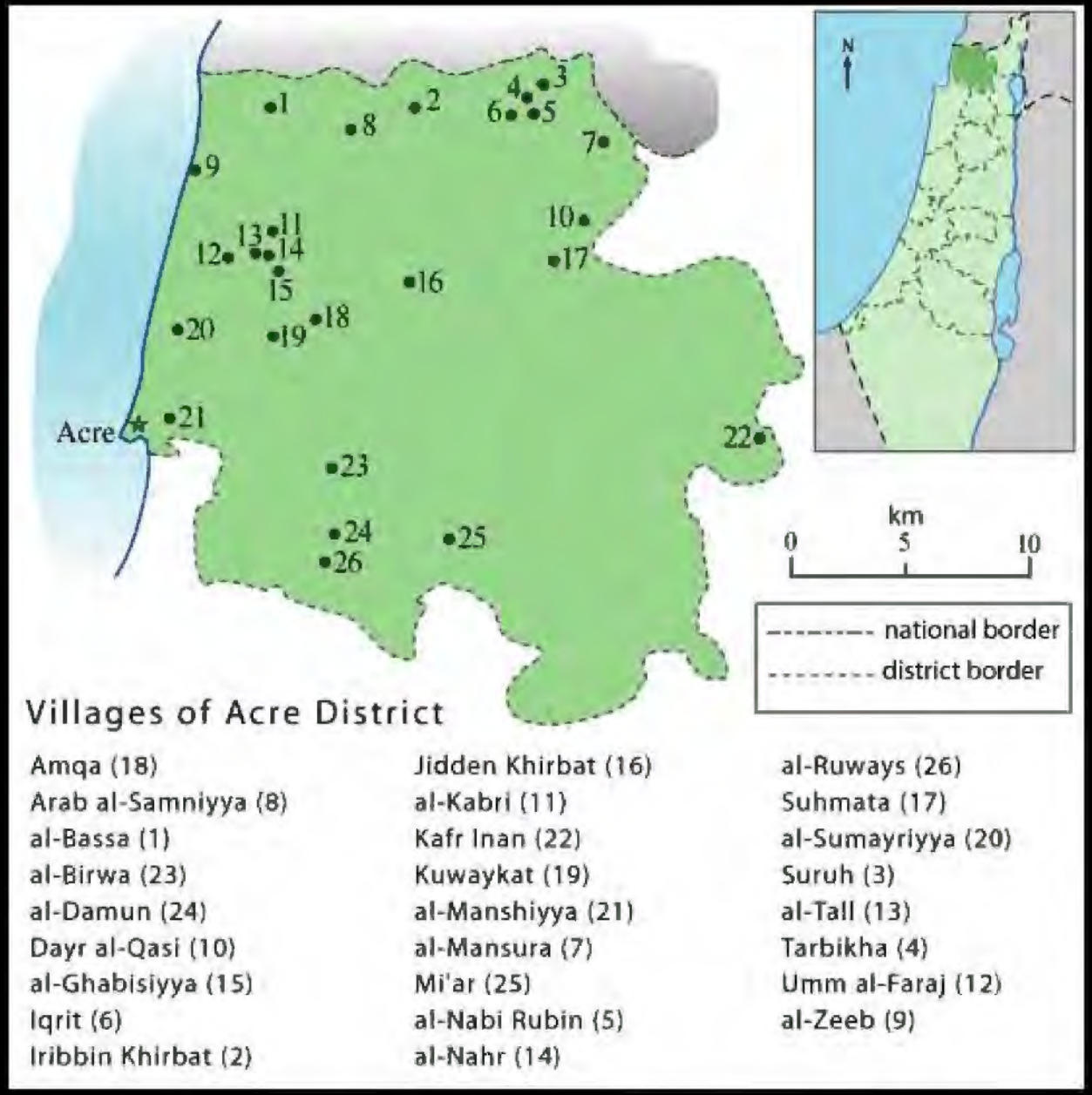
Survey of Israel, 1988



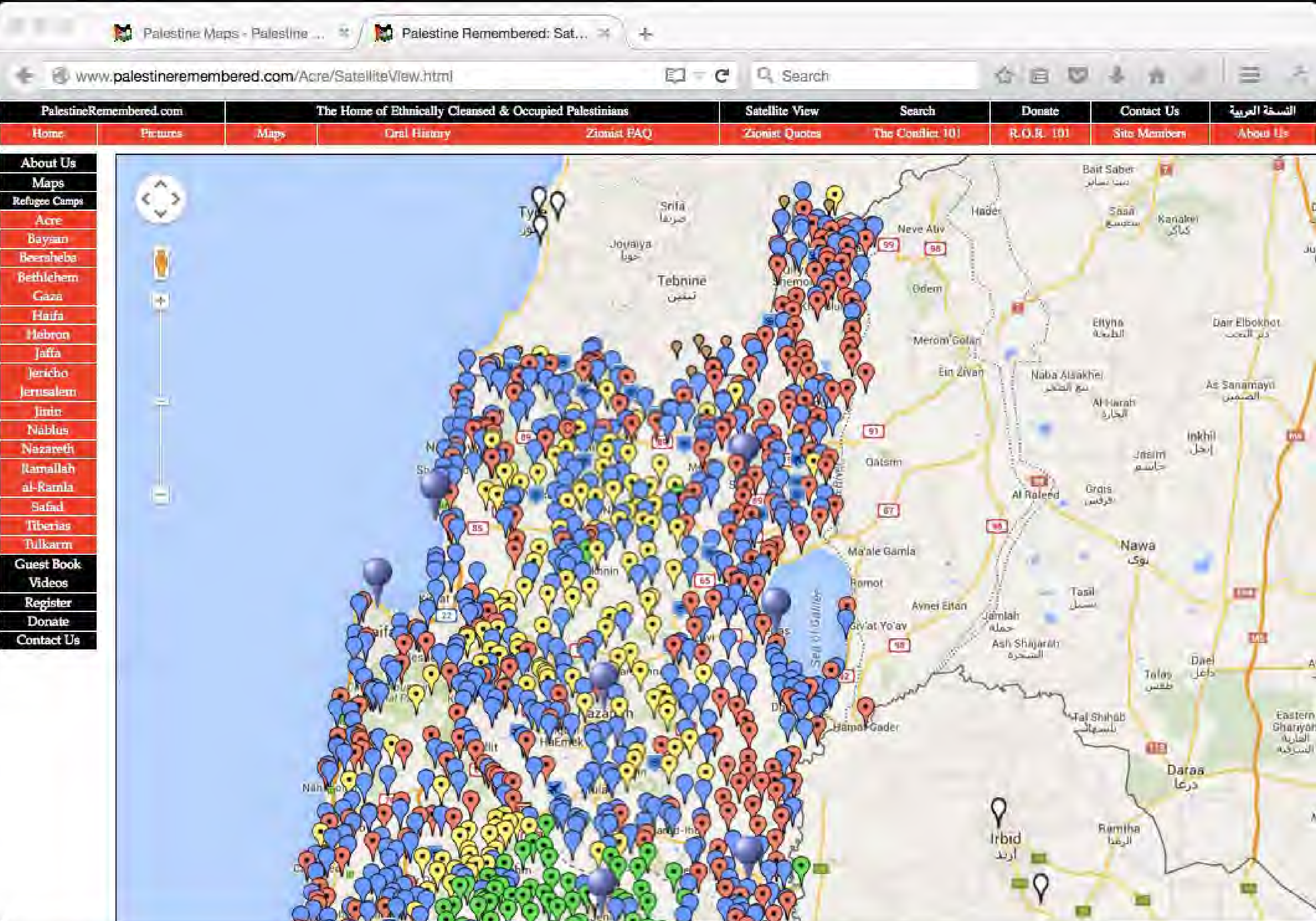
Survey of Palestine, 1943



Survey of Israel, 1988



PalestineRemembered.com, c. 2004



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Nazareth
Ramallah
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Joyaiya
Tebnine
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Odem
Merom Golan
Ein Zivan
Qatsrin
Ma'ale Gamla
Ramot
Avnei Eitan
Giv'at Yo'av
Hamat Gader
Bait Saber
Kanaker
Elthya
Dair Elbokhot
Naba Alsakhel
Al Harah
As Sanamayn
Inkhil
Jasim
Al Rafeed
Qrois
Nawa
Tasil
Jamlah
Ash Shajarah
Tal Shihab
Talas
Dael
Daraa
Irbid
Ramtha
Sea of Galilee

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www.palestineremembered.com/Acre/SatelliteView.html

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S E A O F
National Geographic Society (www.ngs.org), 2000
333
243
2158
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YAMATO RISE
3038
294
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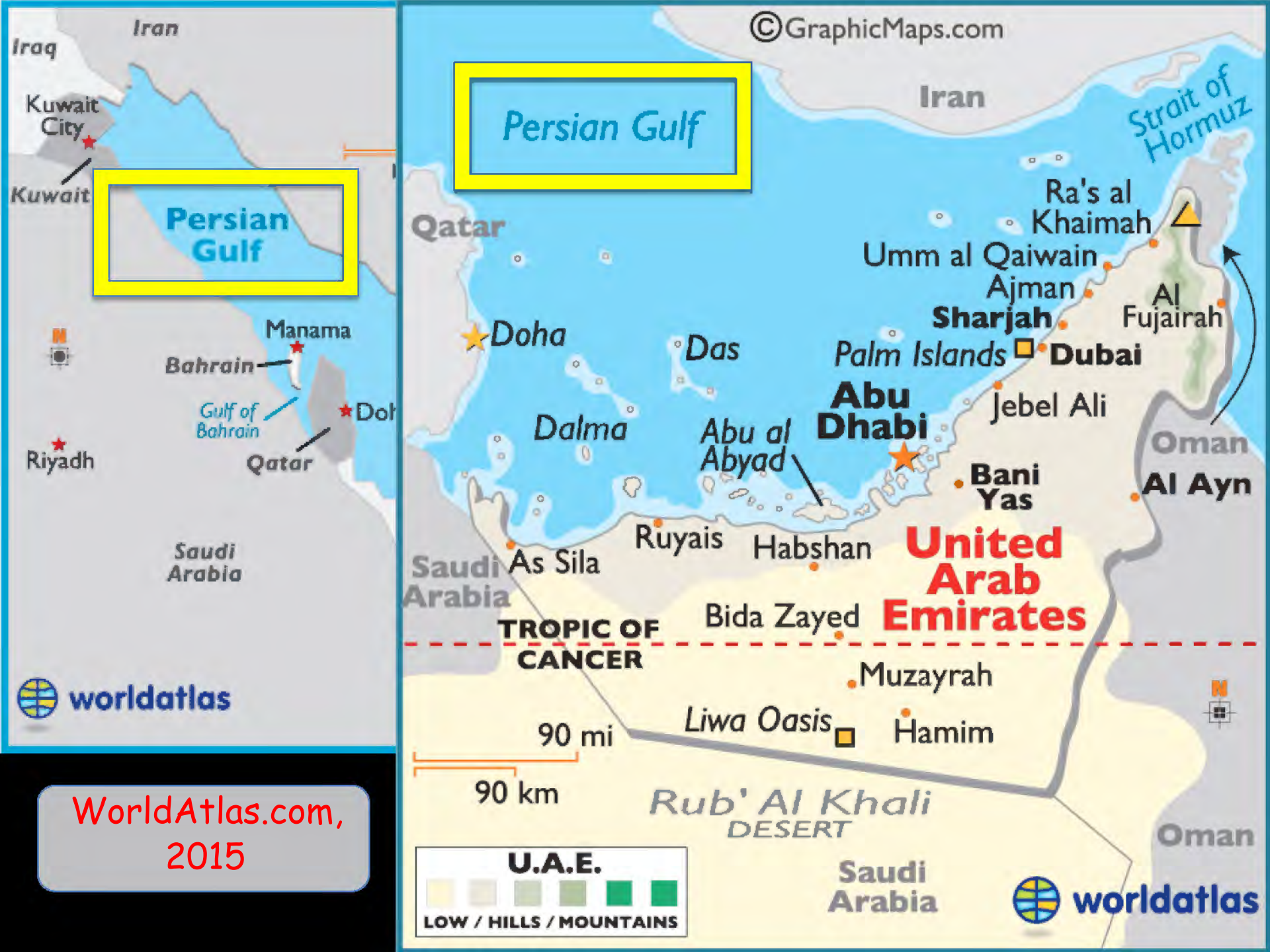
1071
2500
(E A S T S E A)
Hegura Jima
Nanatsu Shima
Wajima
NOTO HANTŌ
Tok Do
(Liancourt Rocks)
2315

WorldAtlas.com, 2015



WorldAtlas.com, 2015

Google Maps, 2015

Enlargement of frame

Zoomed in further

Google Maps, IP address in Iran, 2015

Enlargement of frame

Screen shot from GulfNews.com, "How Google Is Showing Arabian Gulf on Maps," 13 August 2015

NGA Quick GeoNames Search

geonames.nga.mil/namesgaz/gnsquicksearch.asp http://geonames.nga.mil/namesgaz/gnsquicksearch.asp

geonames.nga.mil

GeoNames Search Results

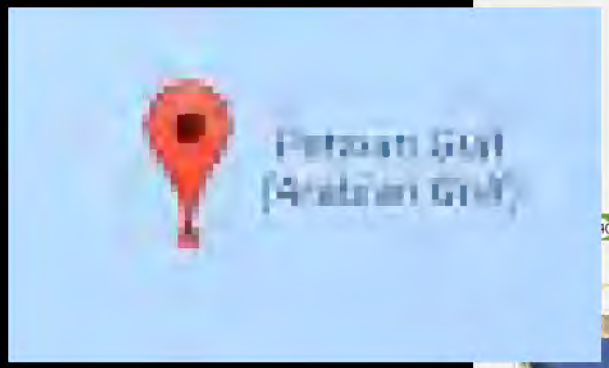
Total Number of Names in query: 26
Total Number of Features in query: 2
Records 1 through 26

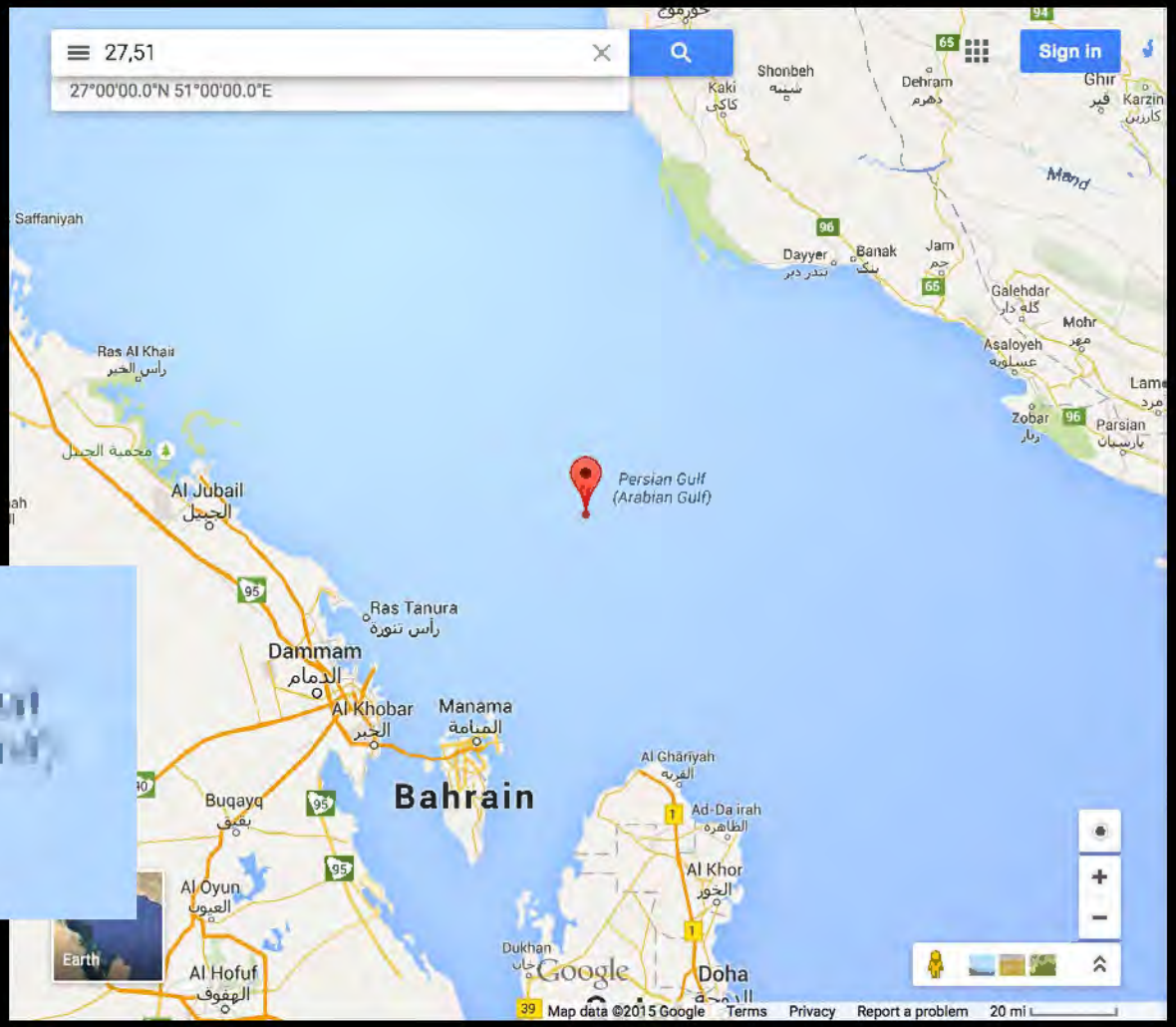
The geographic names in this database are provided for the guidance of and use by the Federal Government and for the information of the general public.
The names, variants, and associated data may not reflect the views of the United States Government on the sovereignty over geographic features.

Name (Type)	Geopolitical Entity Name (Code)	First-Order Administrative Division Name (Code)	Latitude, Longitude DMS (DD)	MGRS	Feature Designation (Code)	Display Location Using
Persian Gulf (Conventional - C) Khalīj al 'Ajam (Variant - V) Arab Gulf (Variant - V) Al-Khalij al-Arabi (Variant - V) Arabian Gulf (Variant - V) Basra Körfezi (Variant - V) Daryā yi Bandar Abū Shehr (Variant - V) Khalīj Fāris (Variant - V) Al Khalīj al Fārisī (Variant - V) Khalīj-e Fārs (Variant - V) Khalīj-i Fārs (Variant - V) The Gulf (Variant - V) Gulf of Iran (Variant - V) Persian-Arabian Gulf (Variant - V) Persidski Zaliv (Variant - V)	Oceans (OS)	Oceans (general) (OS00)	27° 00' 00" N, 051° 00' 00" E (27, 51)	39RWK0000086435	gulf (GULF)	Google Maps MapQuest
United Arab Emirates (Conventional - C) Al Imārāt al 'Arabīyah al Muttahidah (Approved - N)						

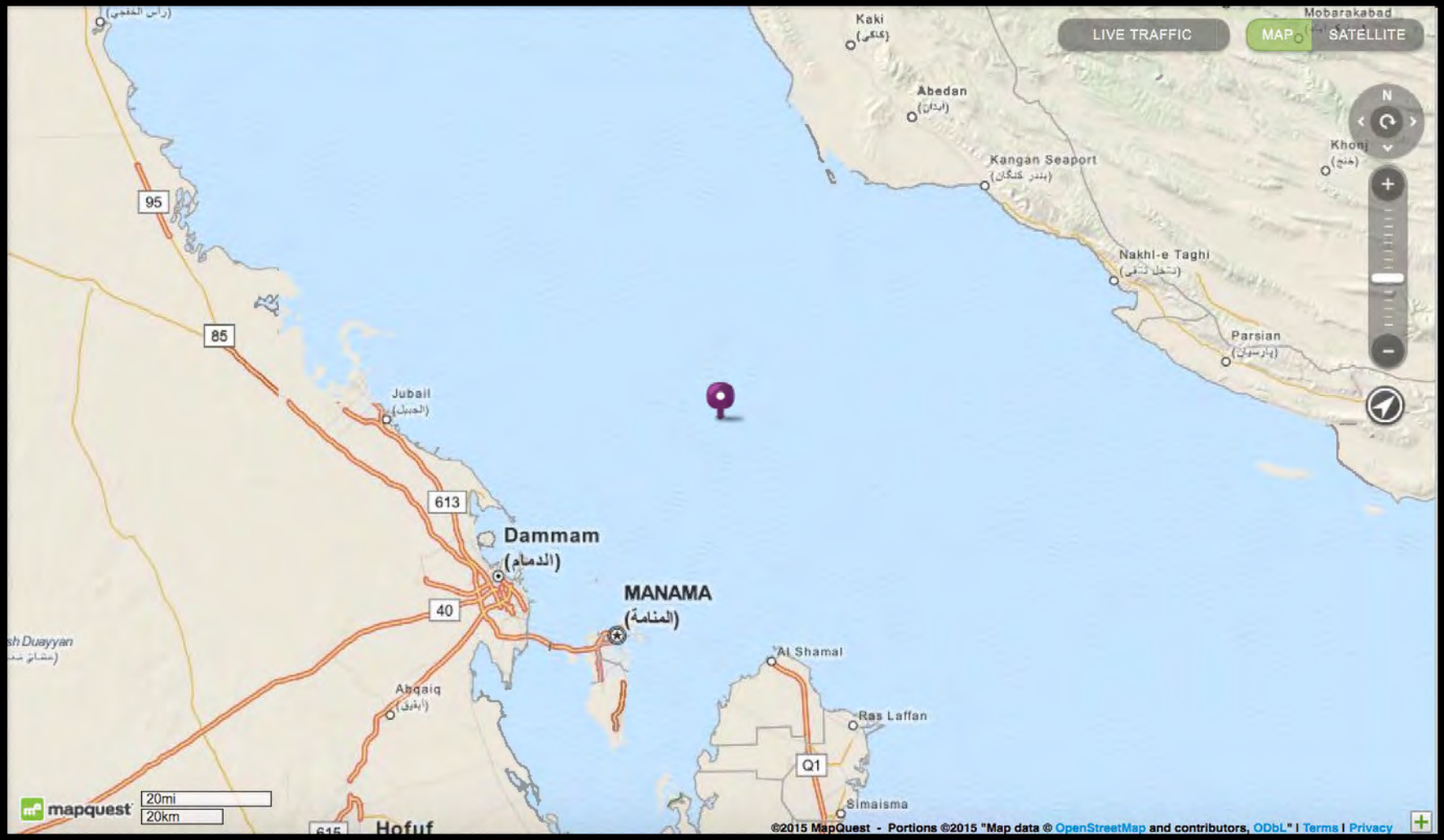
Google Maps, from the NGA Website

Enlargement of area around pin



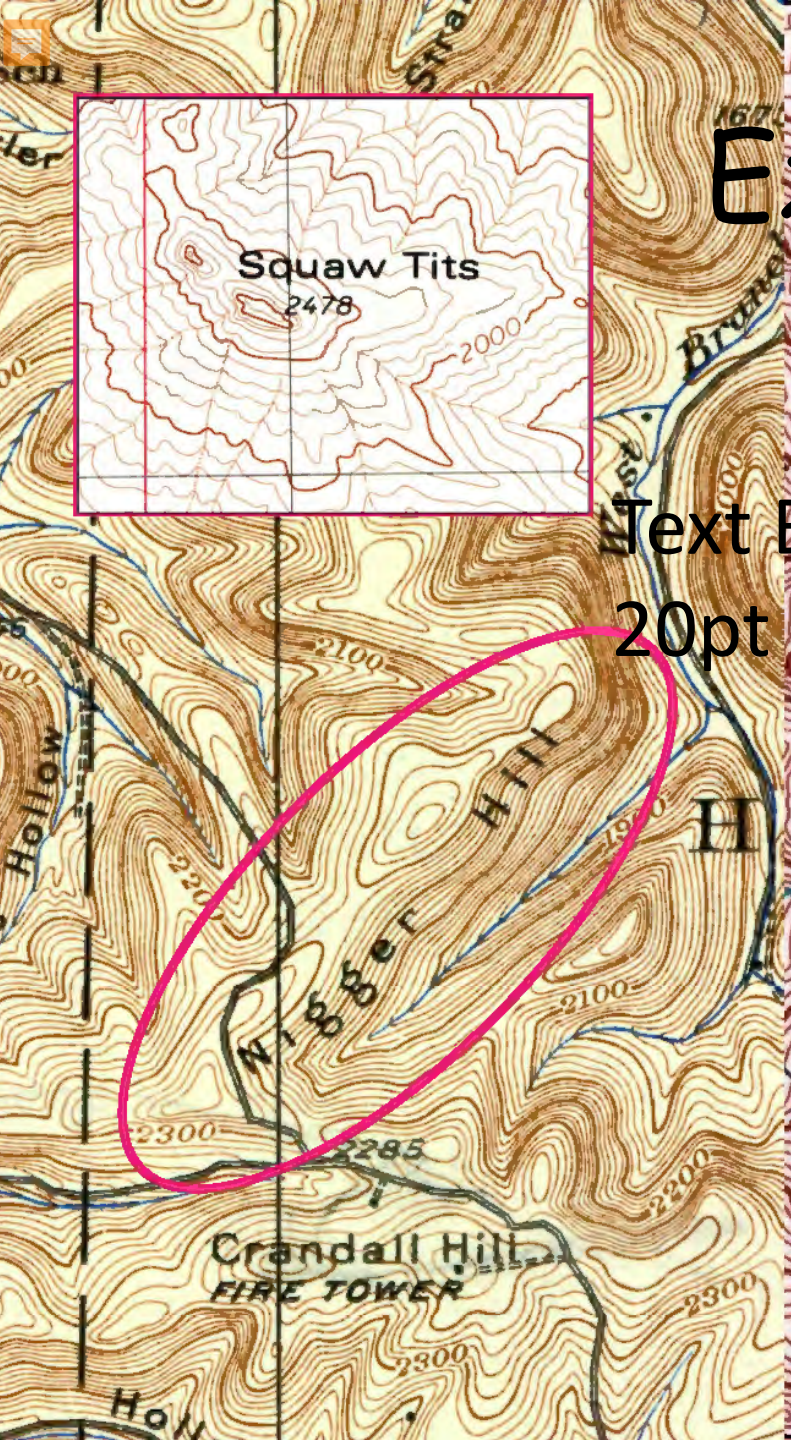


MapQuest, from the NGA Website

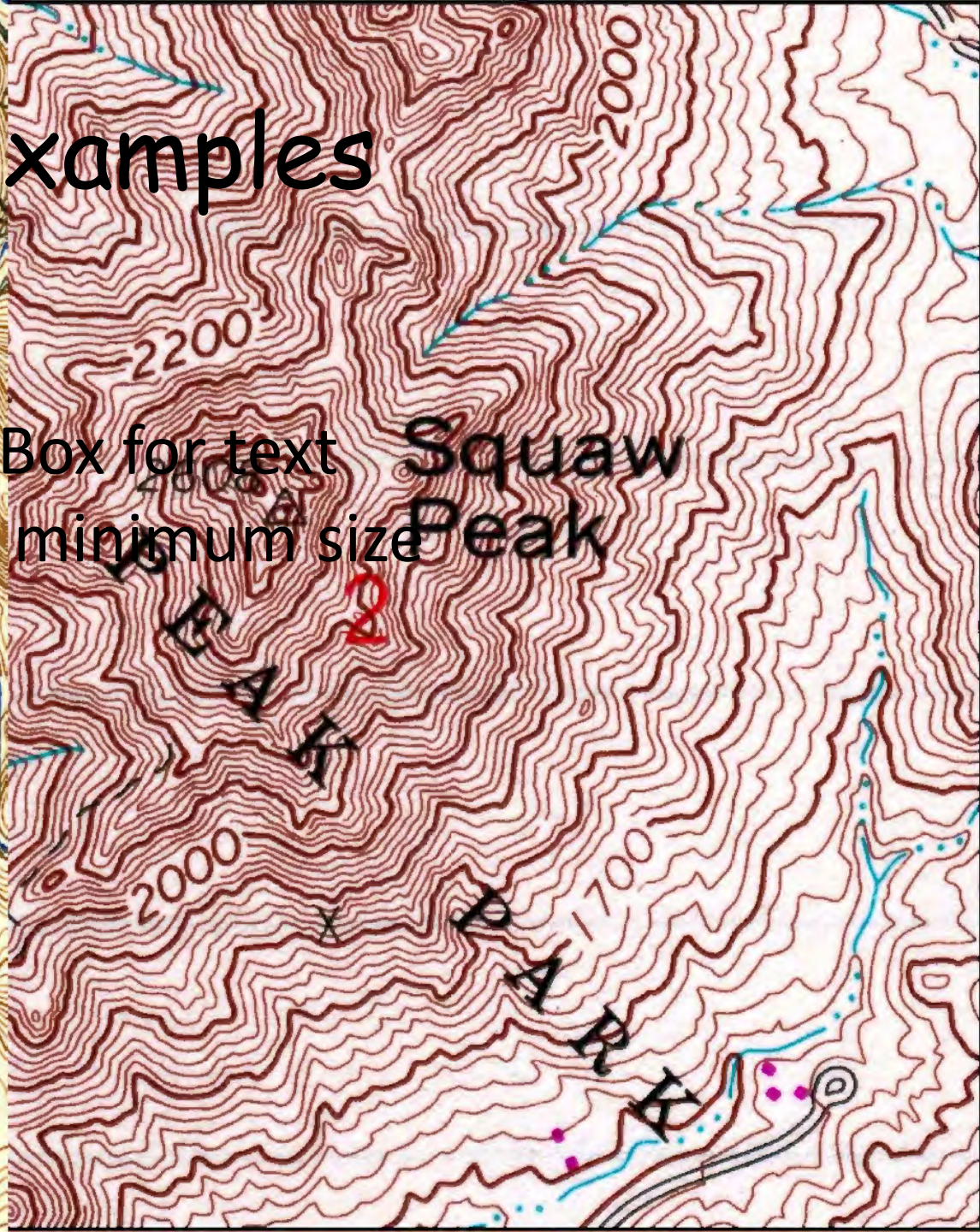


MapQuest, direct access

Examples

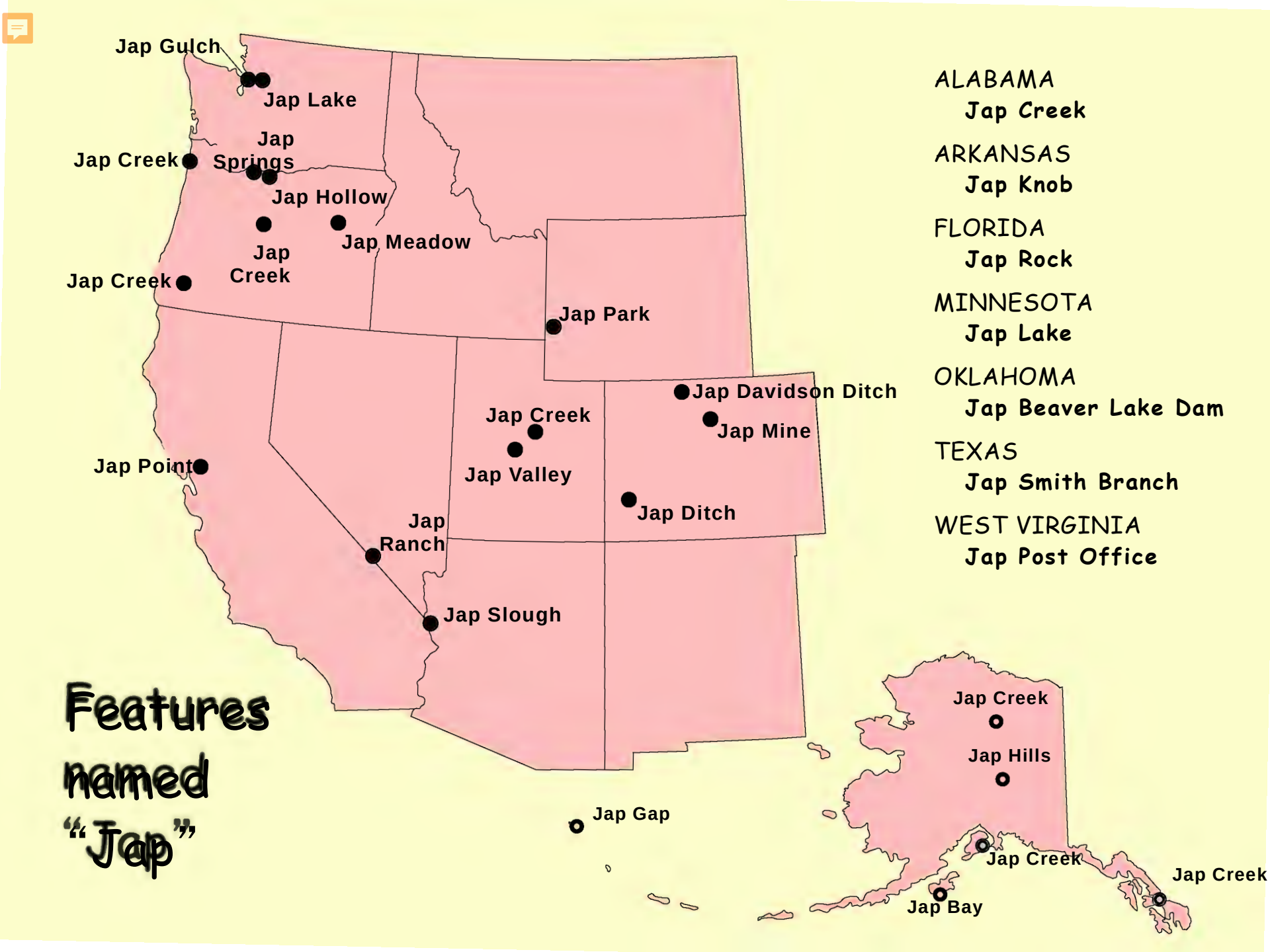


Text Box for text
20pt minimum size



USGS instructions

- Pre 1928: no specific written guidance
- 1928: codified name-checking
  - "The importance of a complete and authentic record of feature names is so great that nothing should be left for memory."
  - Confirm local usage by consulting "at least two independent authorities for each name and spelling."
  - Map editors were to consult published maps, gazetteers, and reports of expeditions.


Jap Gulch
Jap Lake
Jap Creek
Jap Springs
Jap Hollow
Jap Meadow
Jap Creek
Jap Creek
Jap Park
Jap Davidson Ditch
Jap Creek
Jap Mine
Jap Point
Jap Valley
Jap Ditch
Jap Ranch
Jap Slough
Jap Gap
Jap Creek
Jap Hills
Jap Creek
Jap Creek
Jap Bay
ALABAMA
Jap Creek
ARKANSAS
Jap Knob
FLORIDA
Jap Rock
MINNESOTA
Jap Lake
OKLAHOMA
Jap Beaver Lake Dam
TEXAS
Jap Smith Branch
WEST VIRGINIA
Jap Post Office
Features named "Jap"

Blanket Renaming

- 1963 – "Nigger" changed to "Negro"
  - Stuart Udall (1962): "Whatever the overtones of the word were in the past, unquestionably a great many people now consider it derogatory or worse. It is like an obscenity in that avoidance of its use is common courtesy and in that its use may incur some sort of social penalty. I do not see how the Federal Government can in conscience require the use of the word in any connection."

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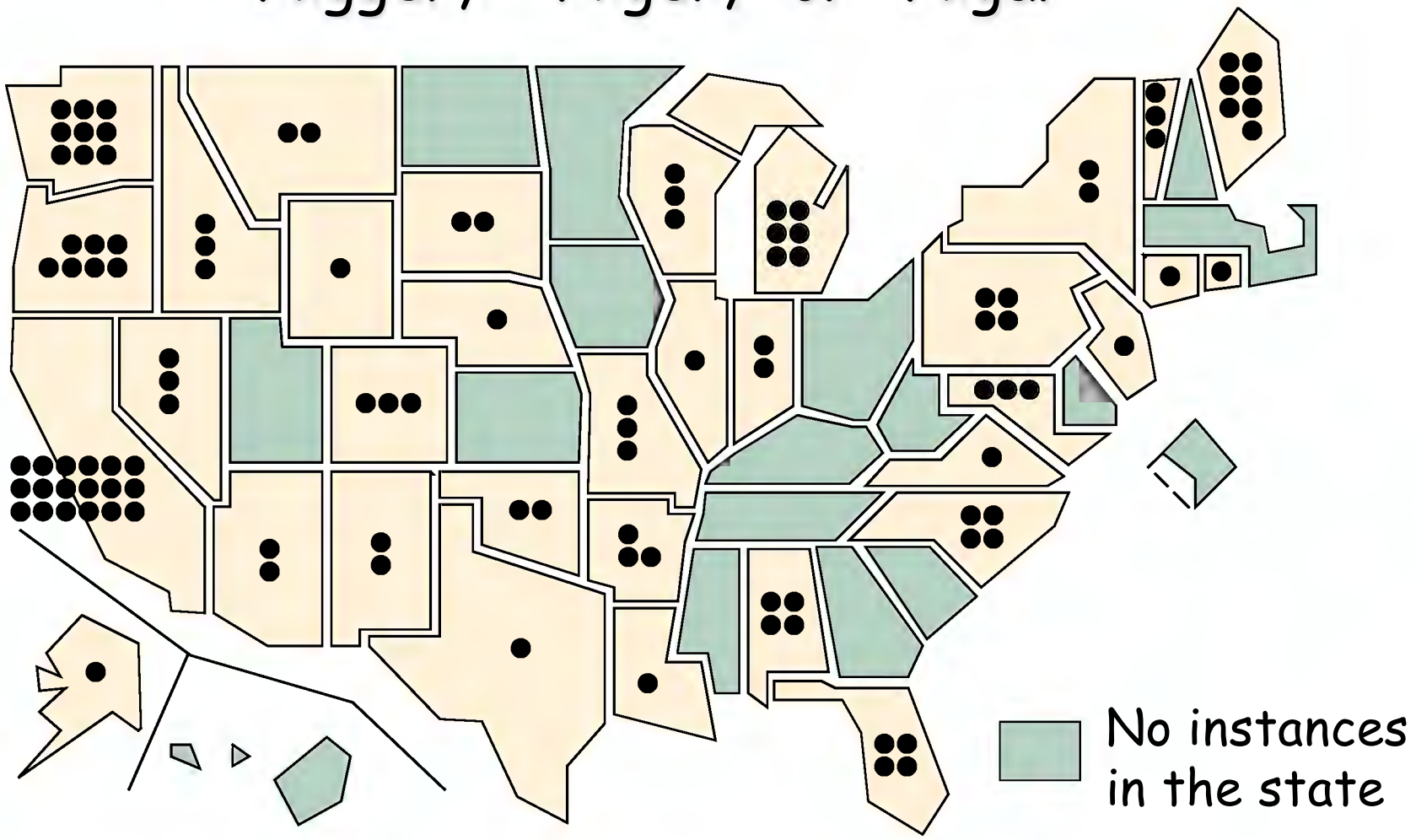
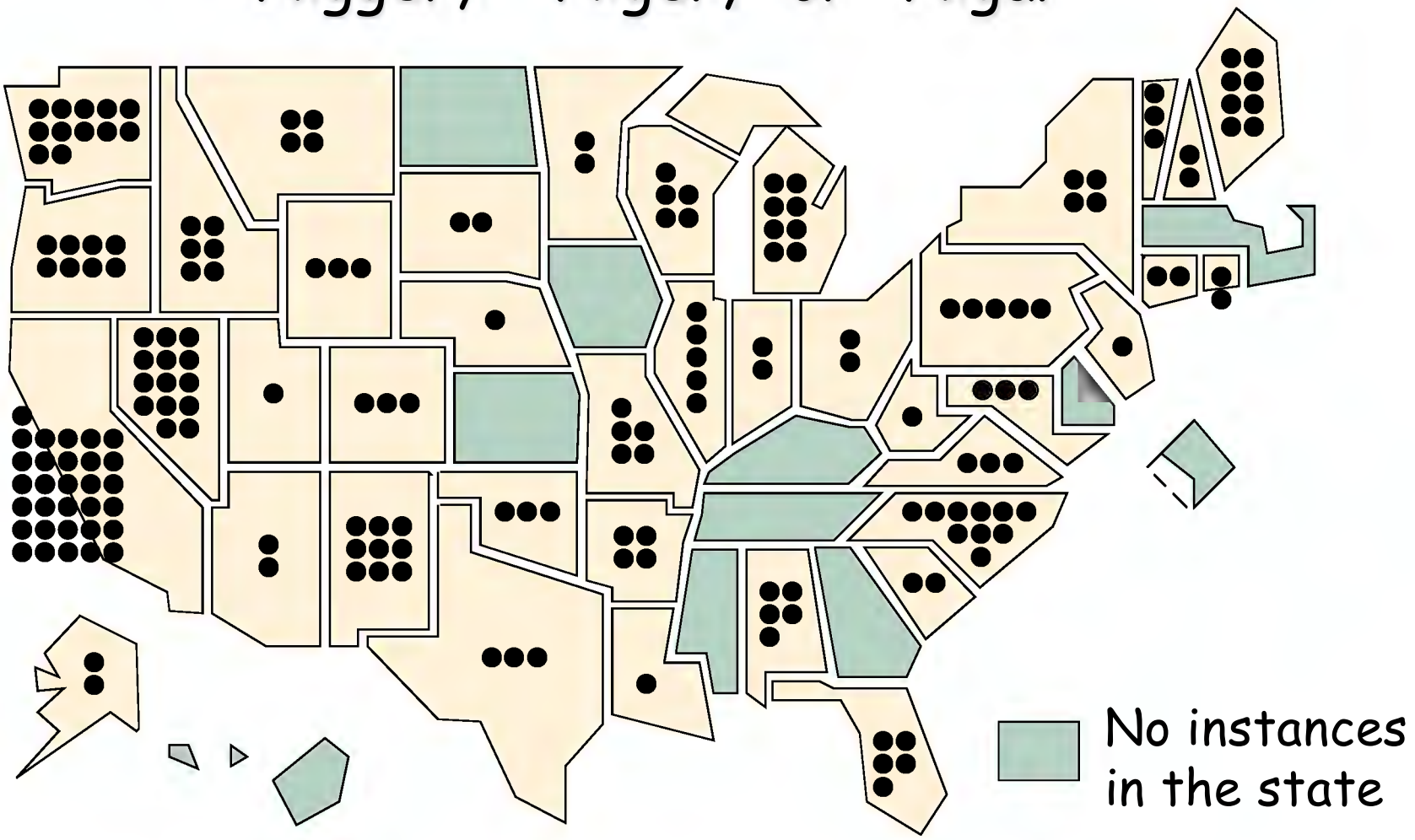
- 1974 – "Jap" replaced with "Japanese"

Toponyms (mostly variants) containing "Nigger," "Niger," or "Nigar"



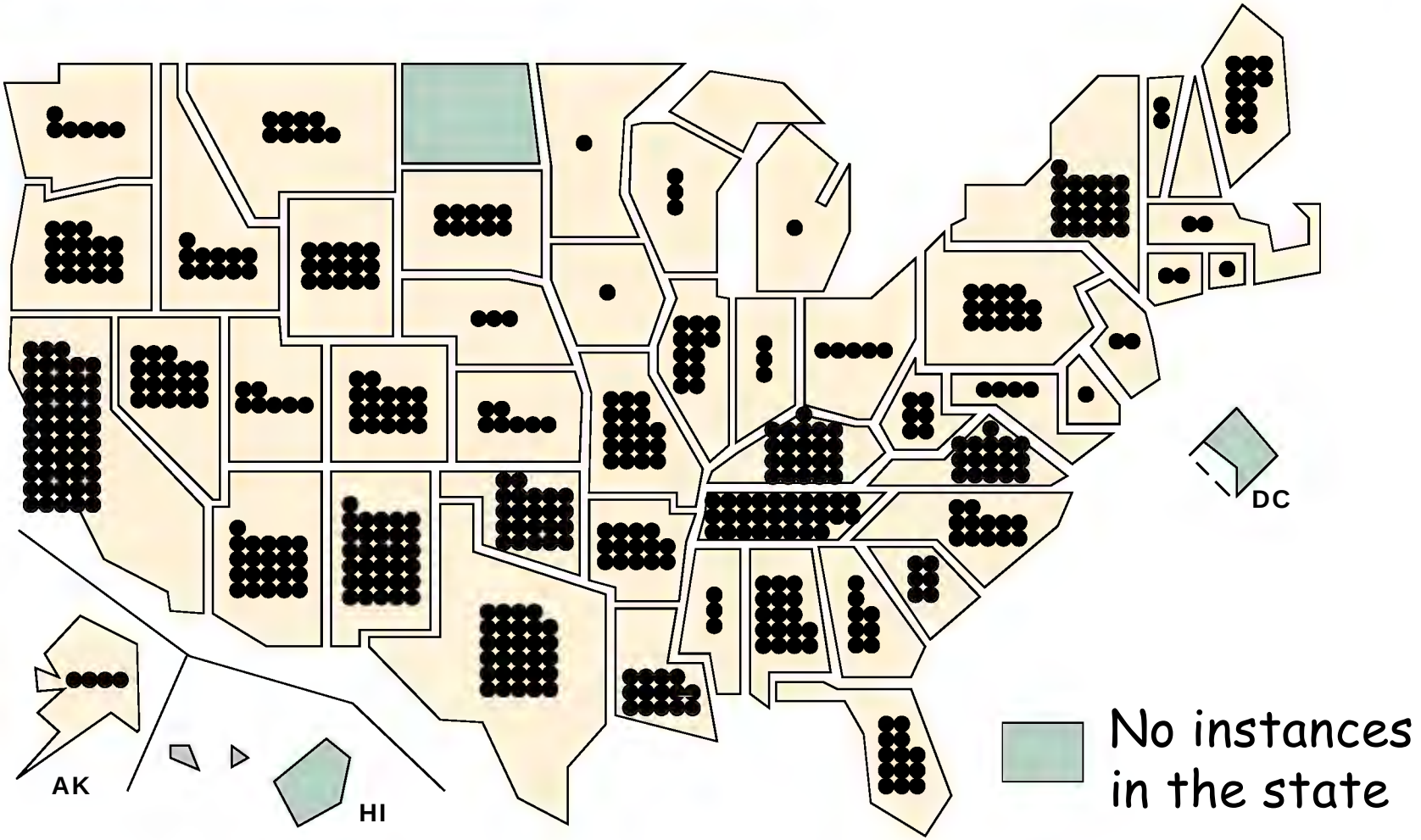
Omni Gazetteer, ca. 1990

Toponyms (mostly variants) containing "Nigger," "Niger," or "Nigar"



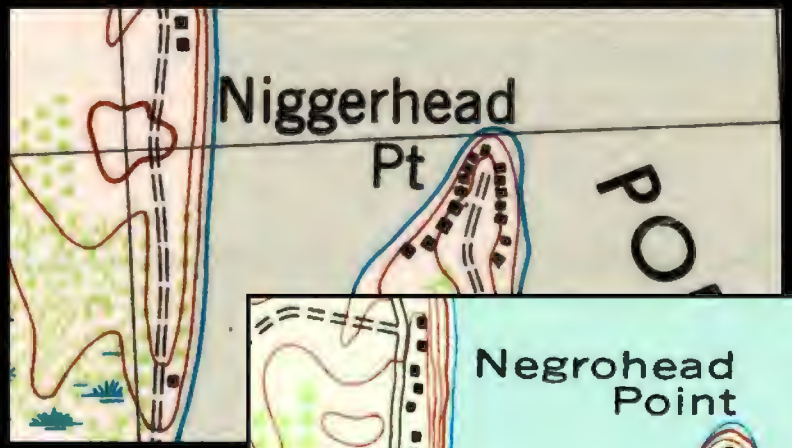
Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), 2003

Toponyms containing "Negro," circa 2003

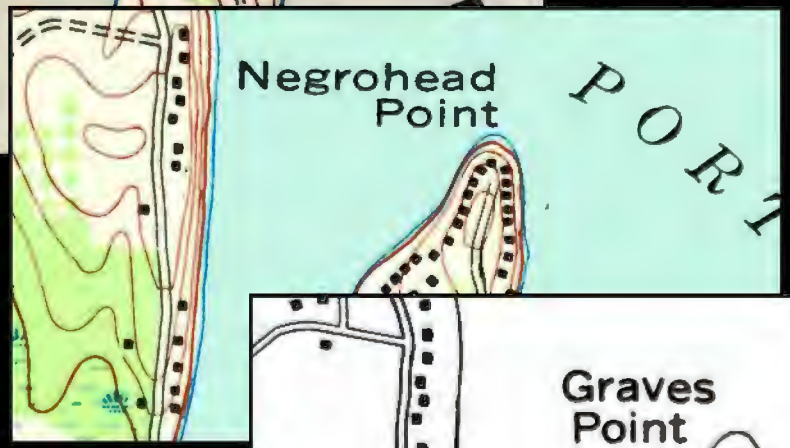


Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), 2003

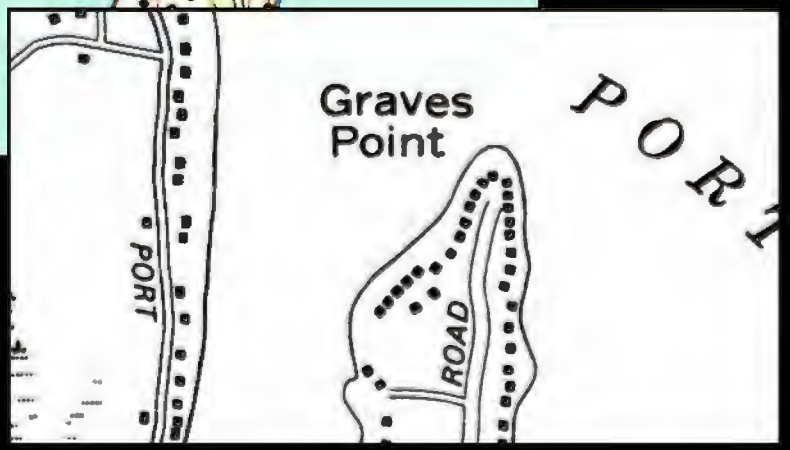
A Transition in Upstate New York



1943, USGS

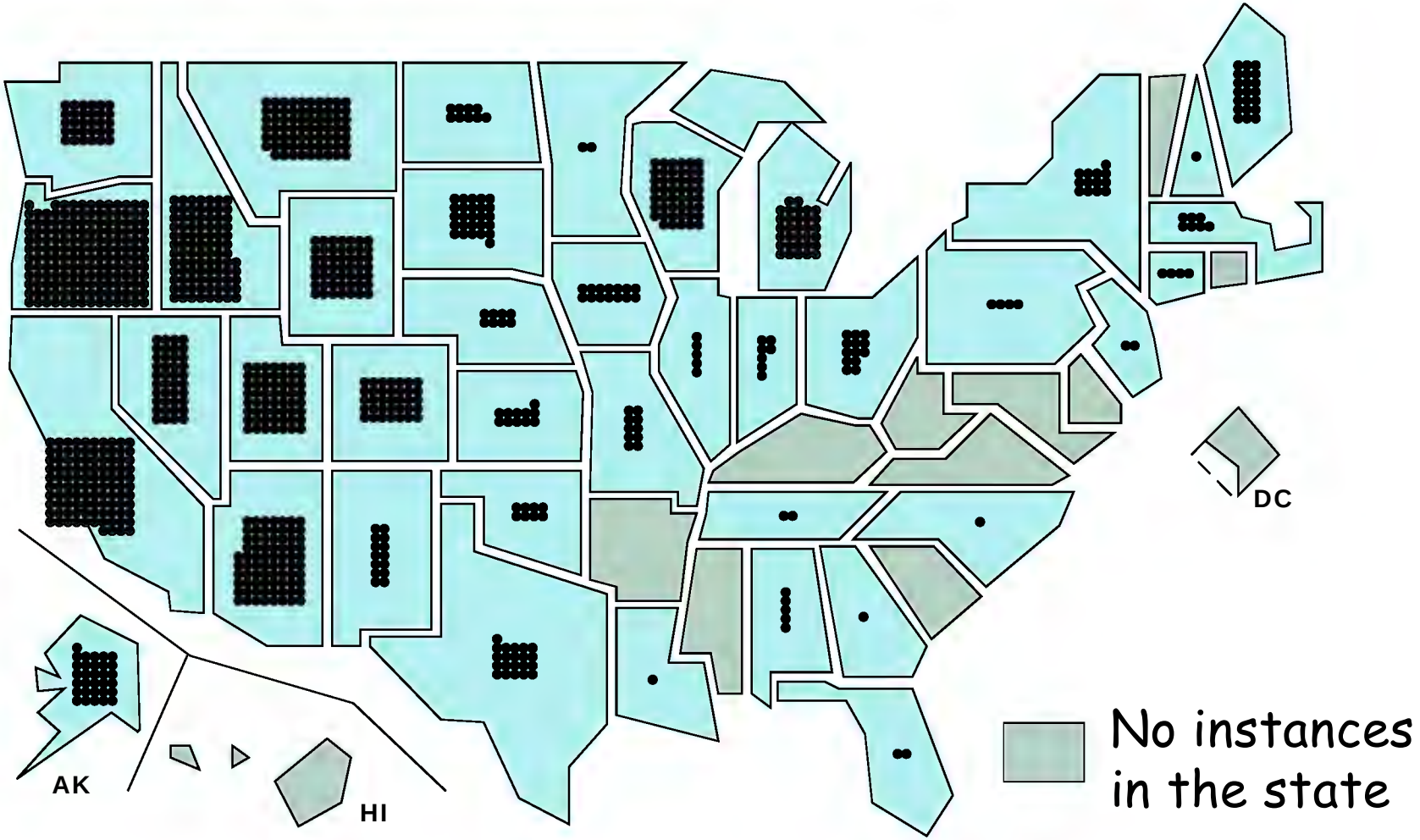


1953, USGS



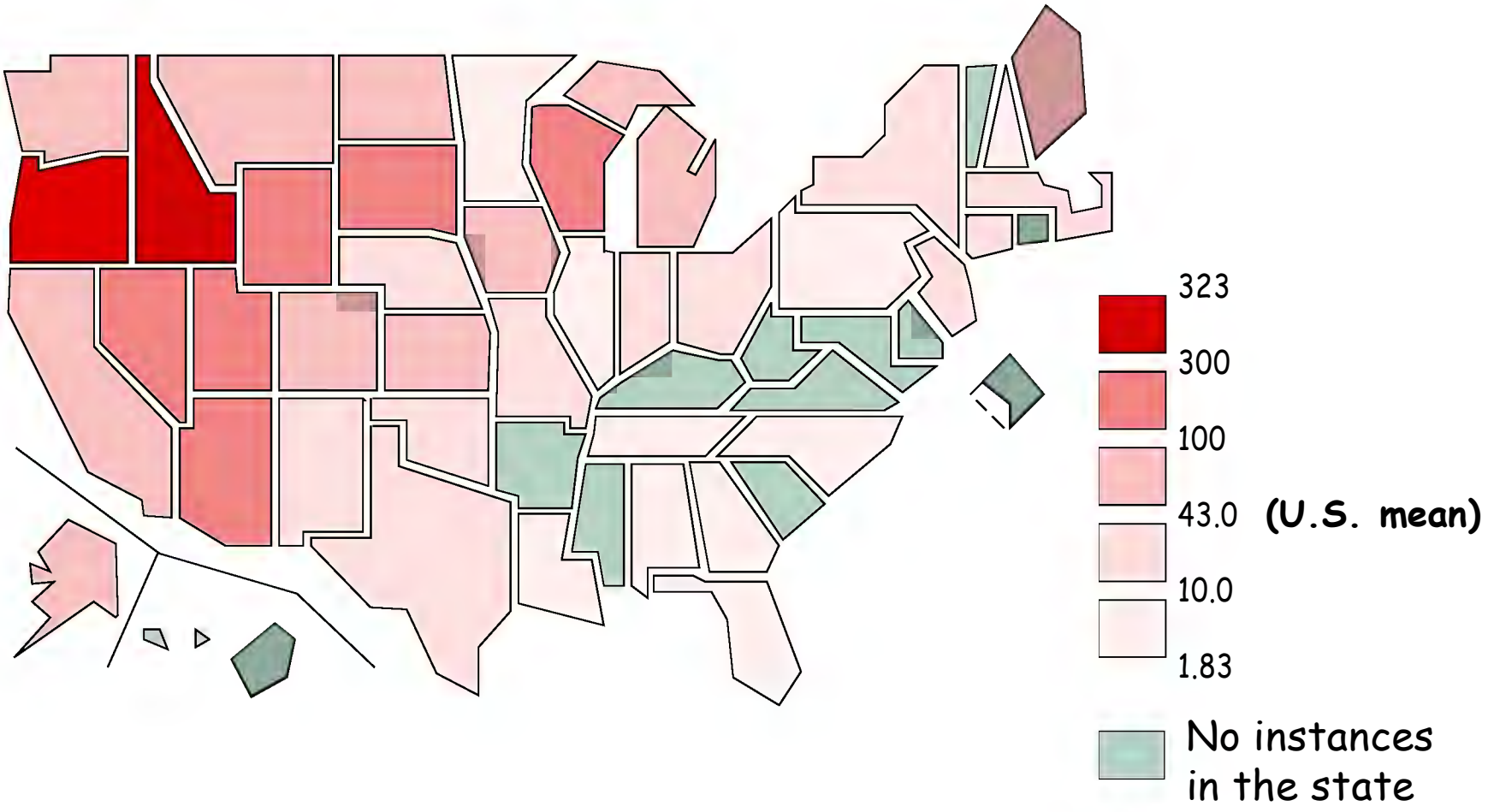
1977, New York DoT

Toponyms containing "Squaw," c, 2003



Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), 2003

Current toponyms containing "Squaw"

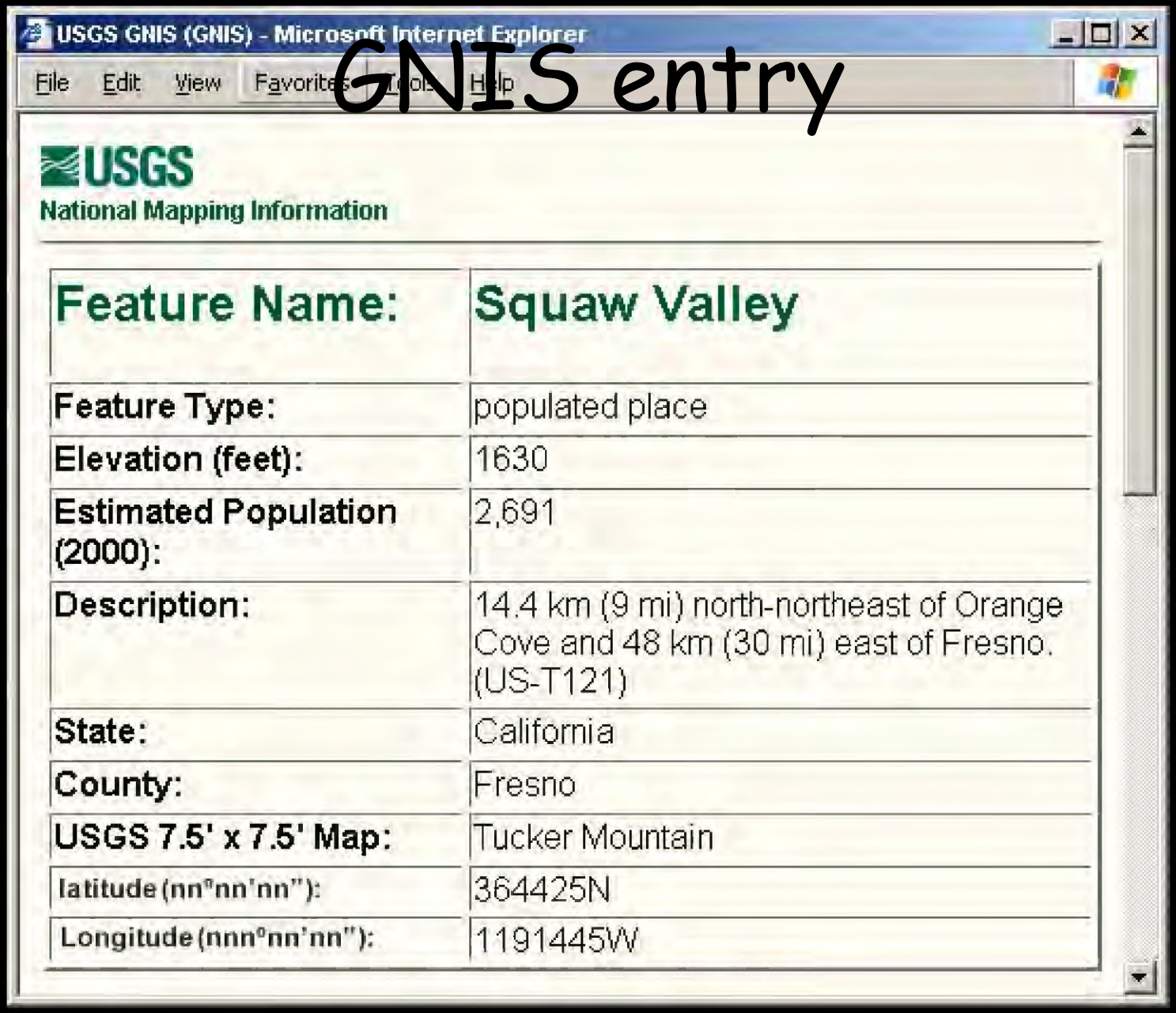


Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), 2003

Replacement Requirements

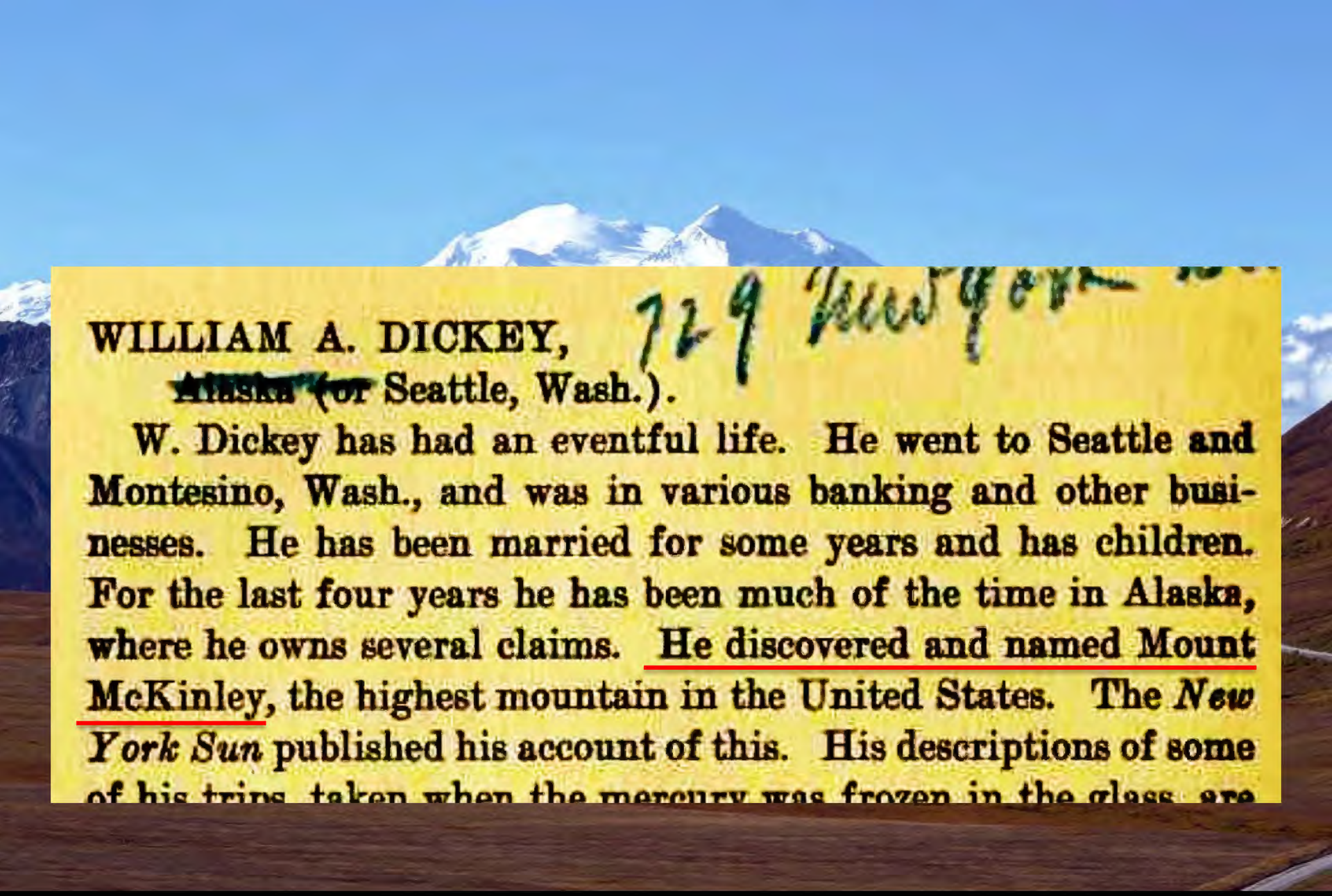
- No duplicate names
- Name must be locally relevant, or commemorate a person of great importance
- No names commemorating persons deceased less than five years
- Renaming is a formal process
- State, tribal approval (generally)
- Other rules

GNIS entry



Feature Name:	Squaw Valley
Feature Type:	populated place
Elevation (feet):	1630
Estimated Population (2000):	2,691
Description:	14.4 km (9 mi) north-northeast of Orange Cove and 48 km (30 mi) east of Fresno. (US-T121)
State:	California
County:	Fresno
USGS 7.5' x 7.5' Map:	Tucker Mountain
latitude (nn°nn'nn"):	364425N
Longitude (nnn°nn'nn"):	1191445W

Barbara Miers, flickr | Creative Commons



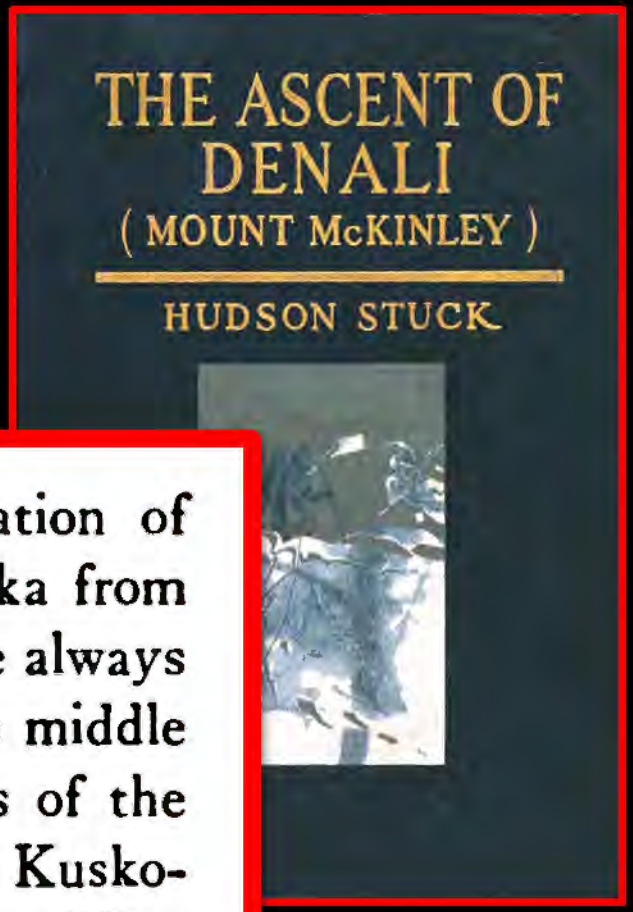
WILLIAM A. DICKEY, 729 New York

~~Alaska (or~~ Seattle, Wash.).

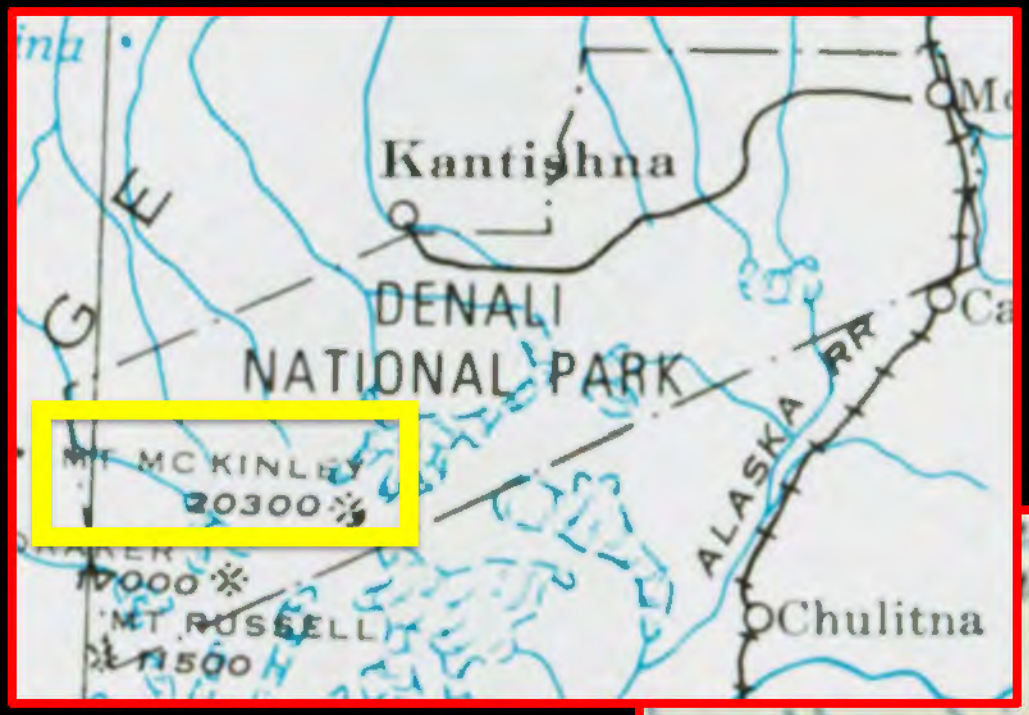
W. Dickey has had an eventful life. He went to Seattle and Montesino, Wash., and was in various banking and other businesses. He has been married for some years and has children. For the last four years he has been much of the time in Alaska, where he owns several claims. He discovered and named Mount McKinley, the highest mountain in the United States. The *New York Sun* published his account of this. His descriptions of some of his trips, taken when the mercury was frozen in the glass, are

Sesquidecennial Record of the Class of 1885, Princeton University, January, 1901

A NARRATIVE OF THE
FIRST COMPLETE ASCENT OF THE HIGHEST
PEAK IN NORTH AMERICA

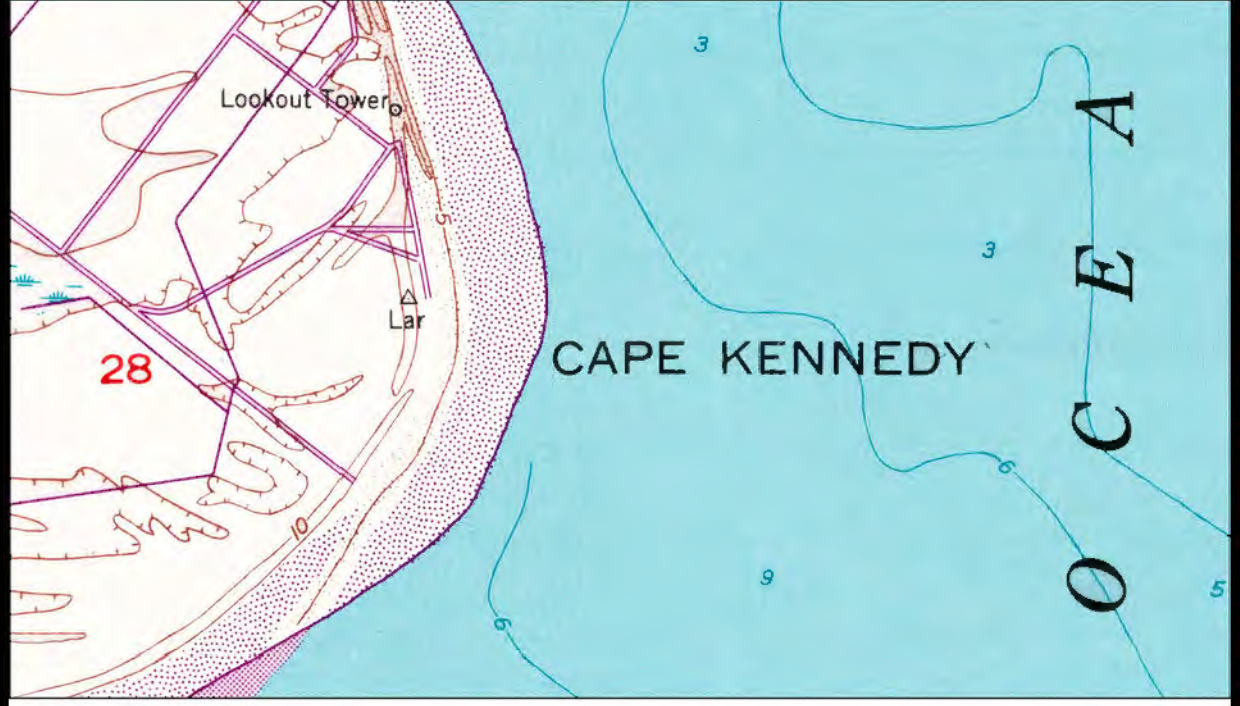


To the relatively large Indian population of those wide regions of the interior of Alaska from which the mountains are visible they have always borne Indian names. The natives of the middle Yukon, of the lower three hundred miles of the Tanana and its tributaries, of the upper Kuskokwim have always called these mountains "Denali" (Den-ah'li) and "Denali's Wife"—either precisely as here written, or with a dialectical difference in pronunciation so slight as to be negligible.

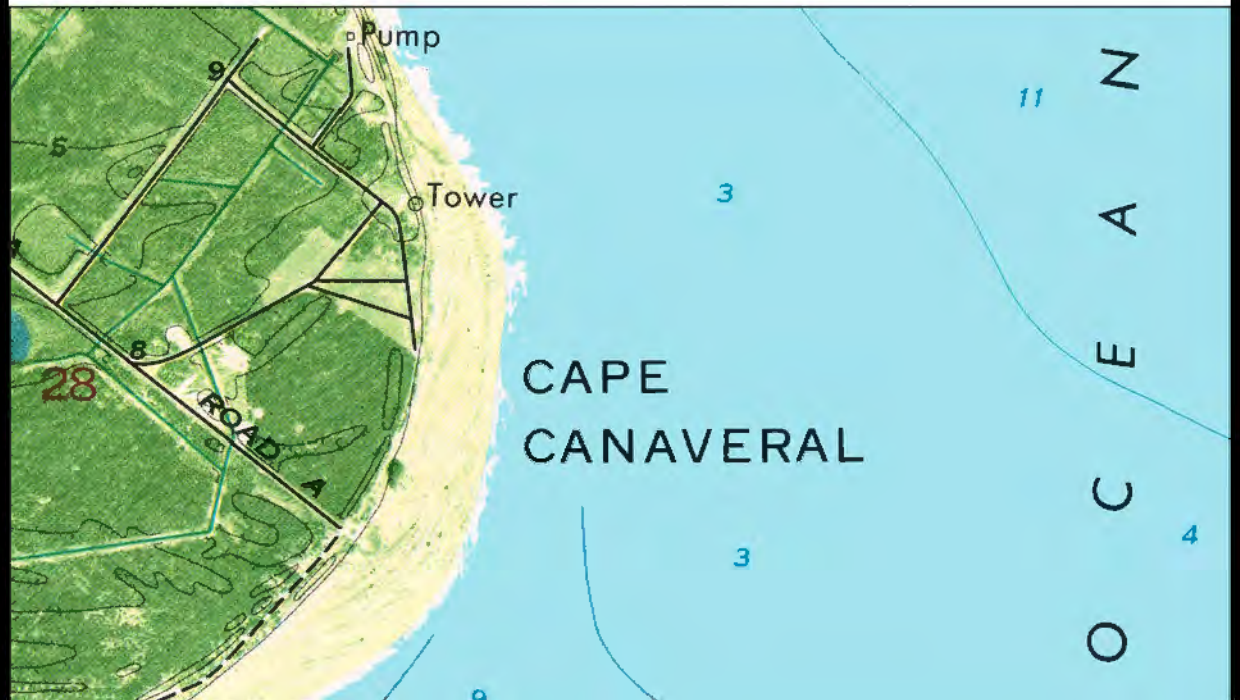


U.S. Geological Survey,
Map of Alaska,
1:500,000, **1996**

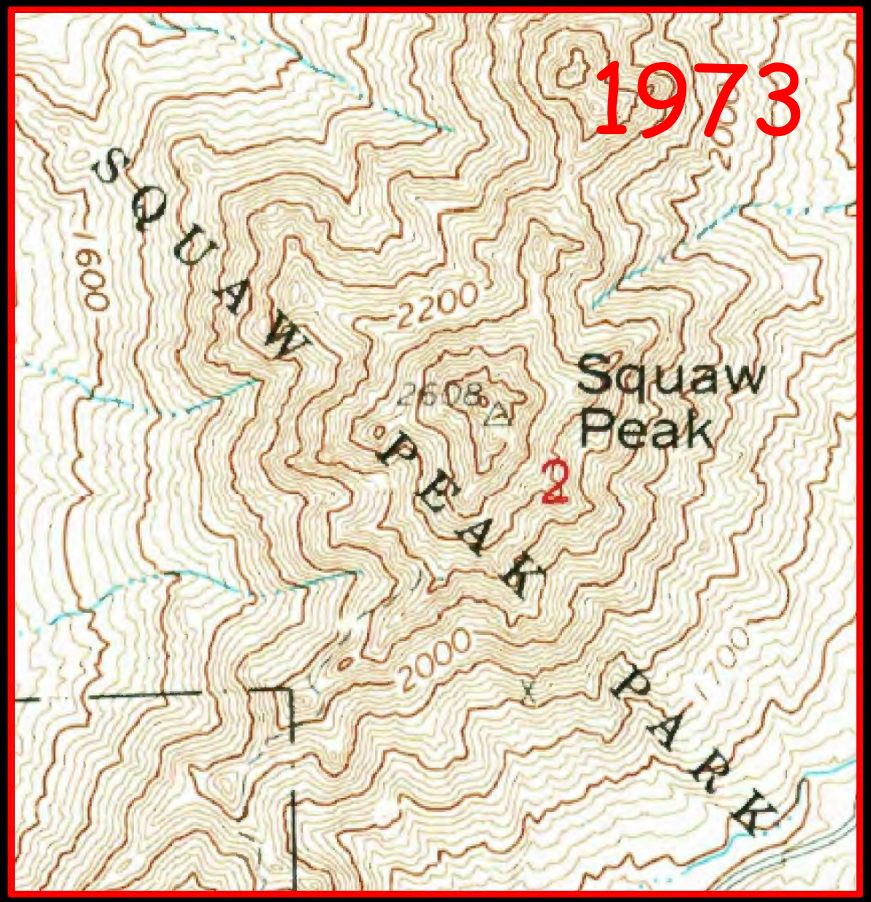
U.S. Geological Survey,
Map of Alaska,
1:500,000, **1936**

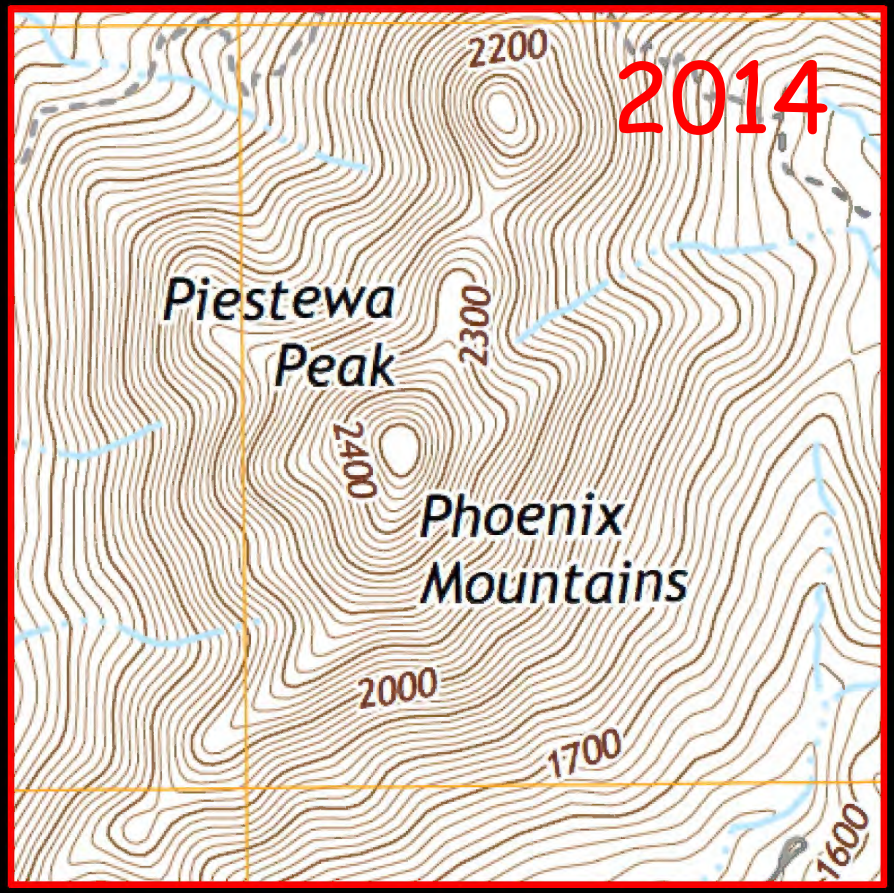


U.S. Geological Survey, **1970**



U.S. Geological Survey, **1976**





SUNNYSLOPE, ARIZ.

N3330—W11200/7.5

1965

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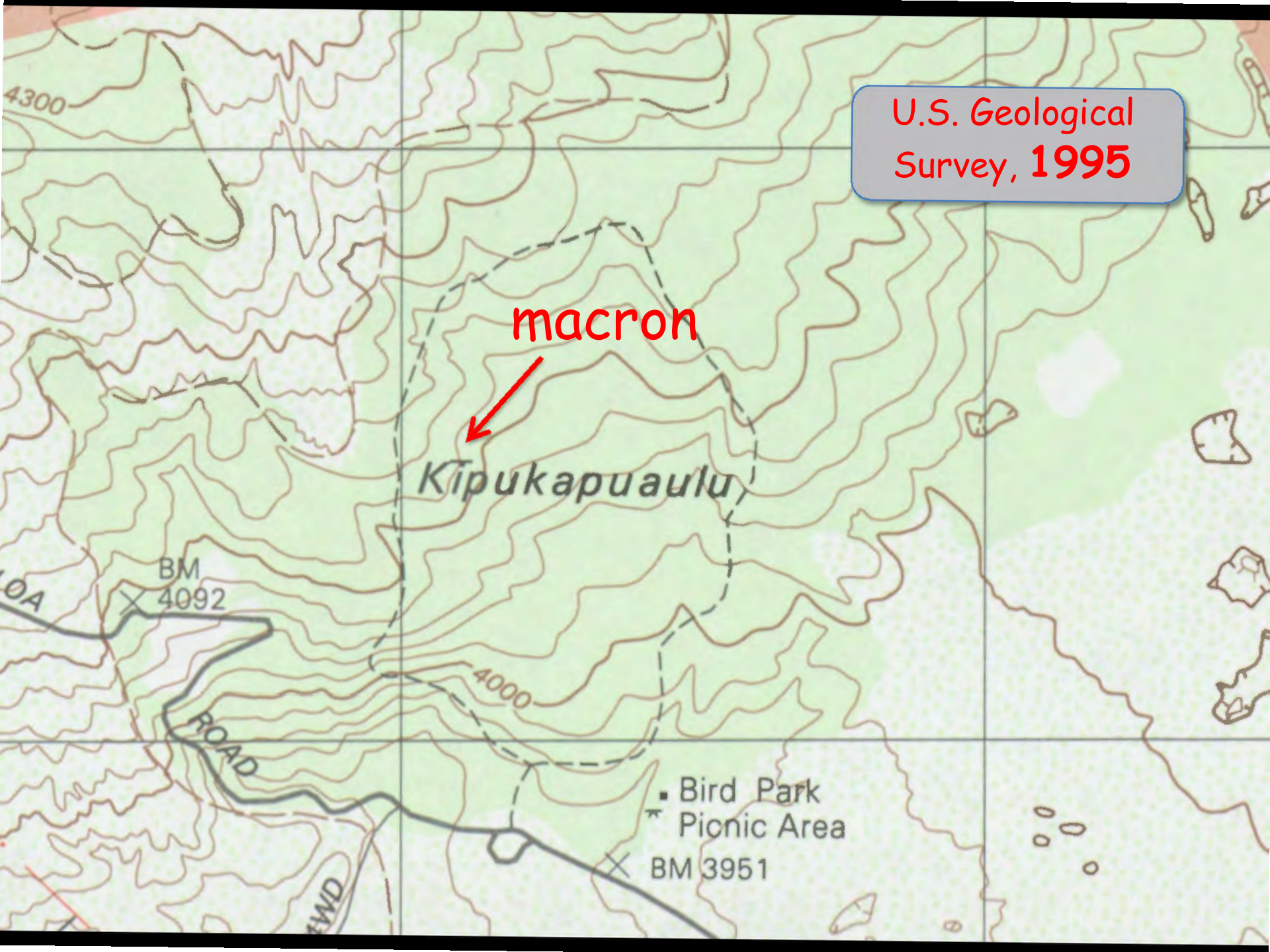
SUNNYSLOPE QUADRANGLE

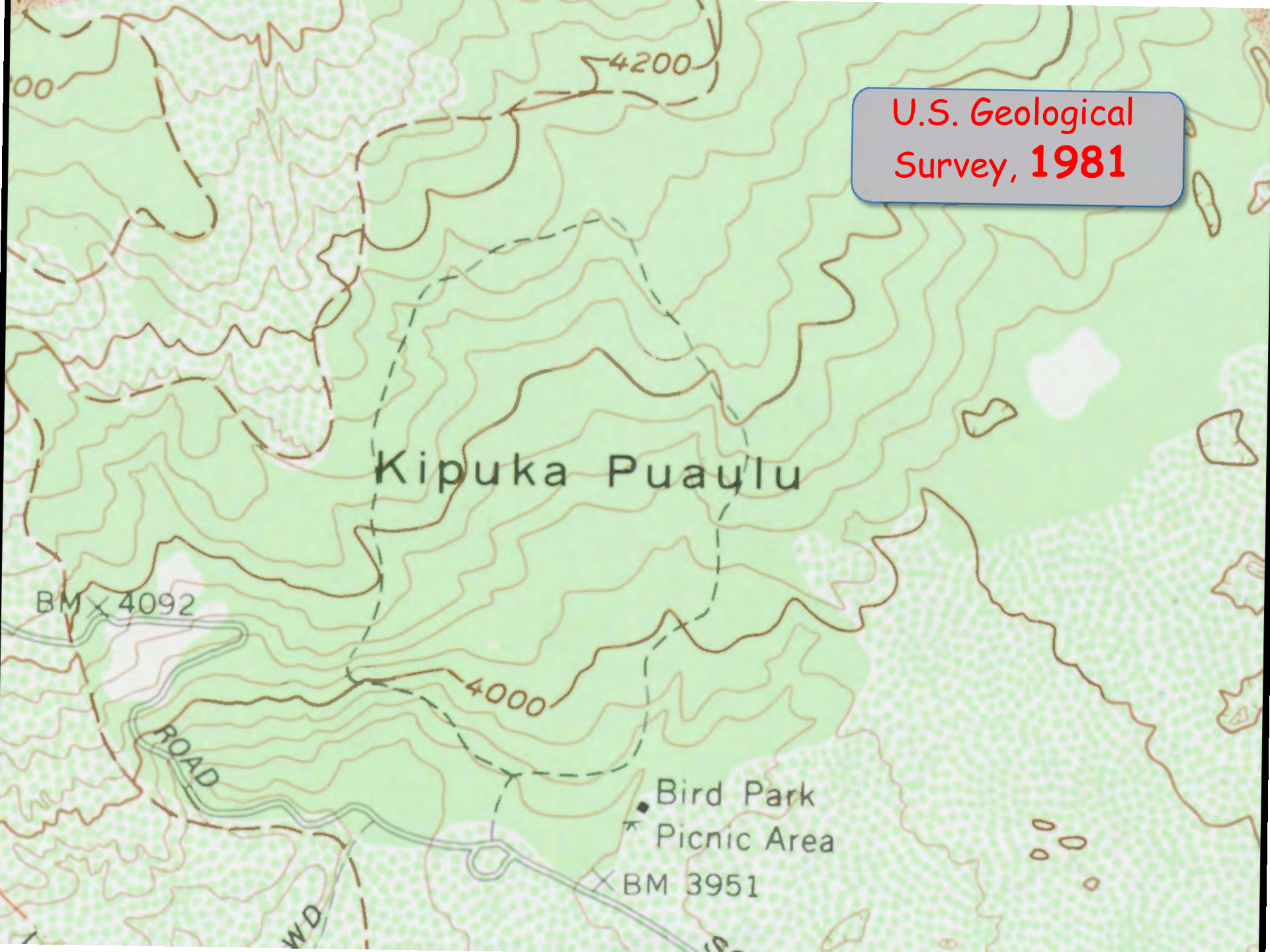
ARIZONA-MARICOPA CO.

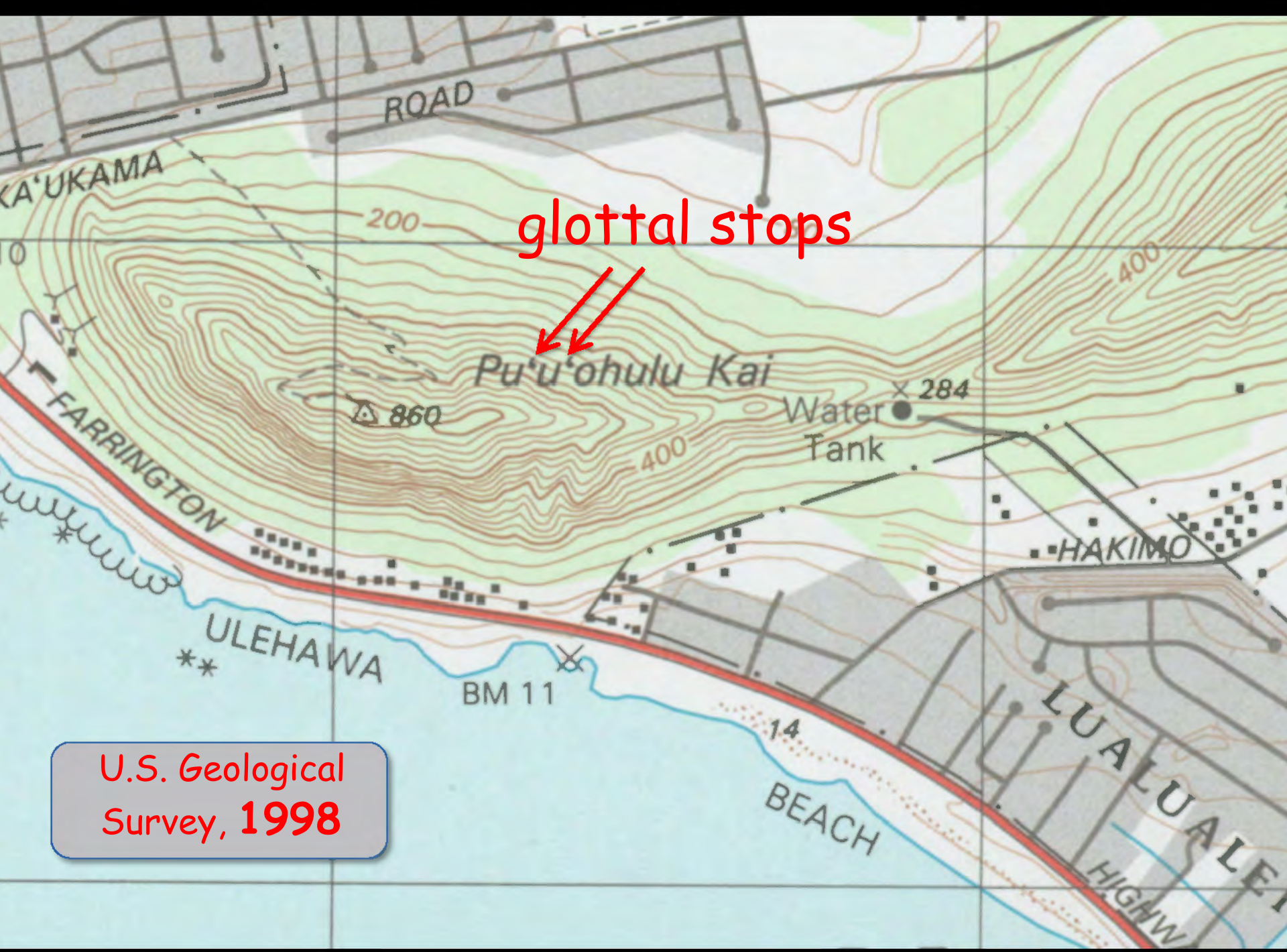
7.5-MINUTE SERIES

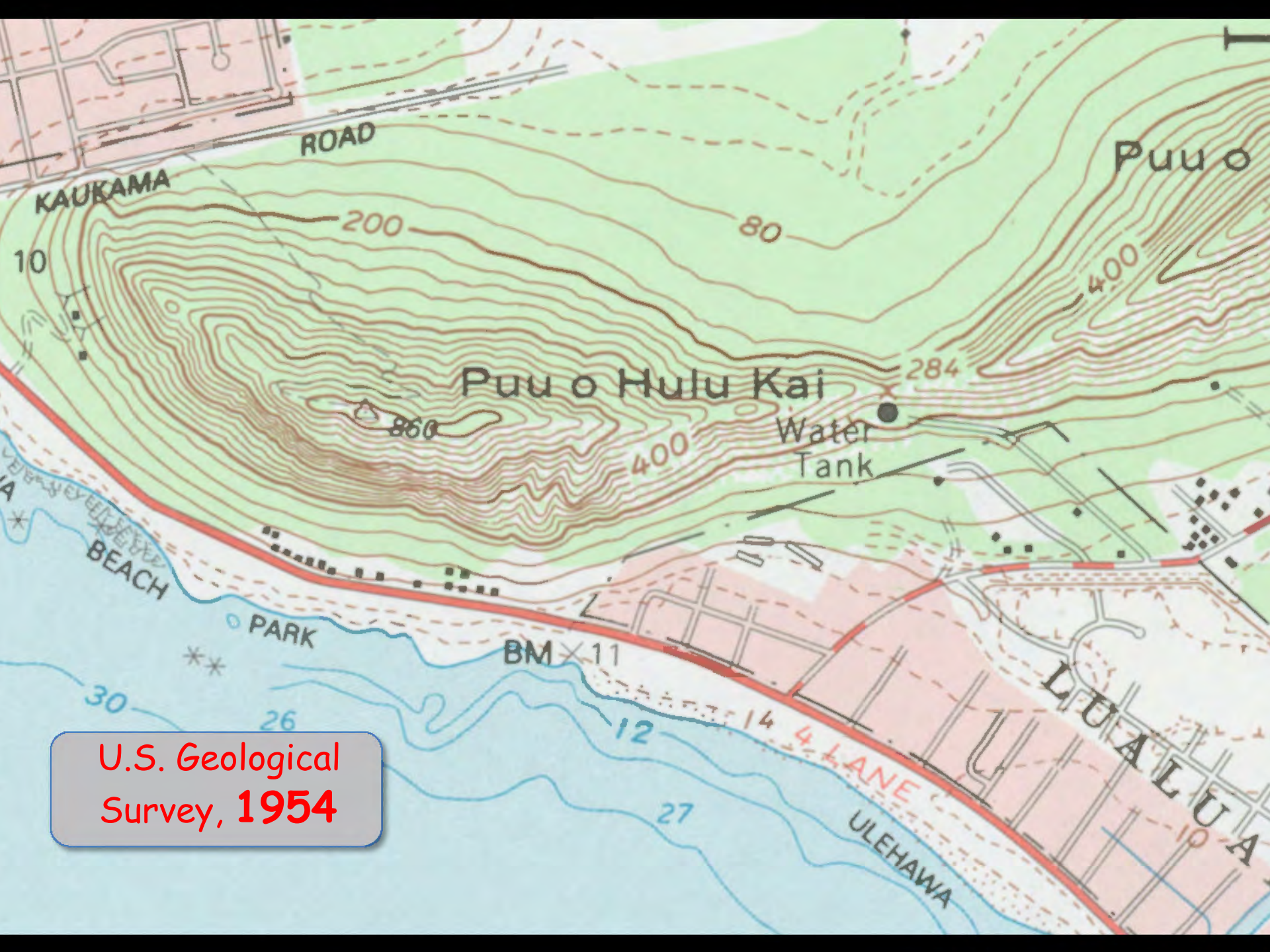
SUNNYSLOPE, AZ

2014

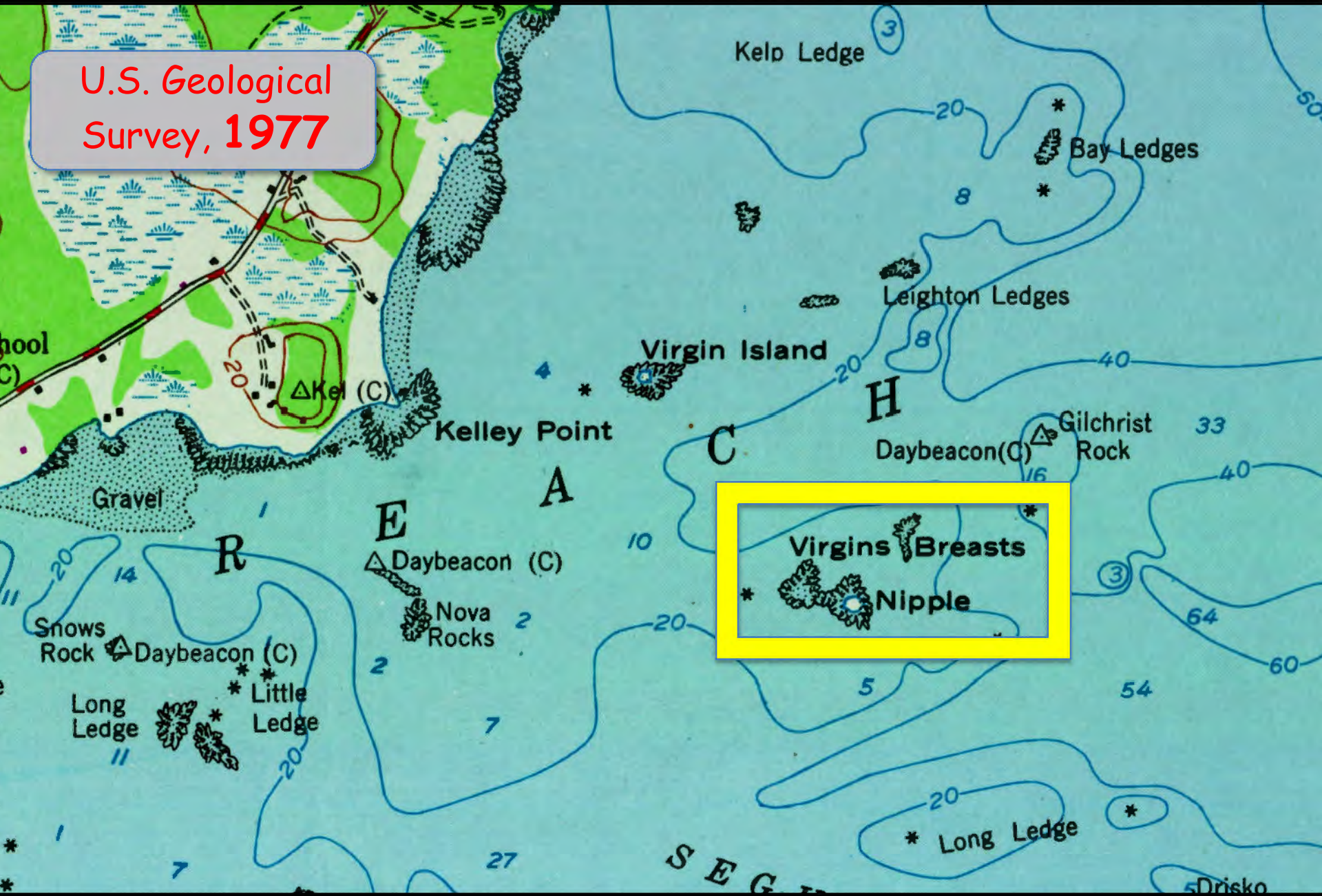

U.S. Geological Survey, 1995
macron
Kipukapuaulu
4300
4000
BM 4092
ROAD
Bird Park
Picnic Area
BM 3951

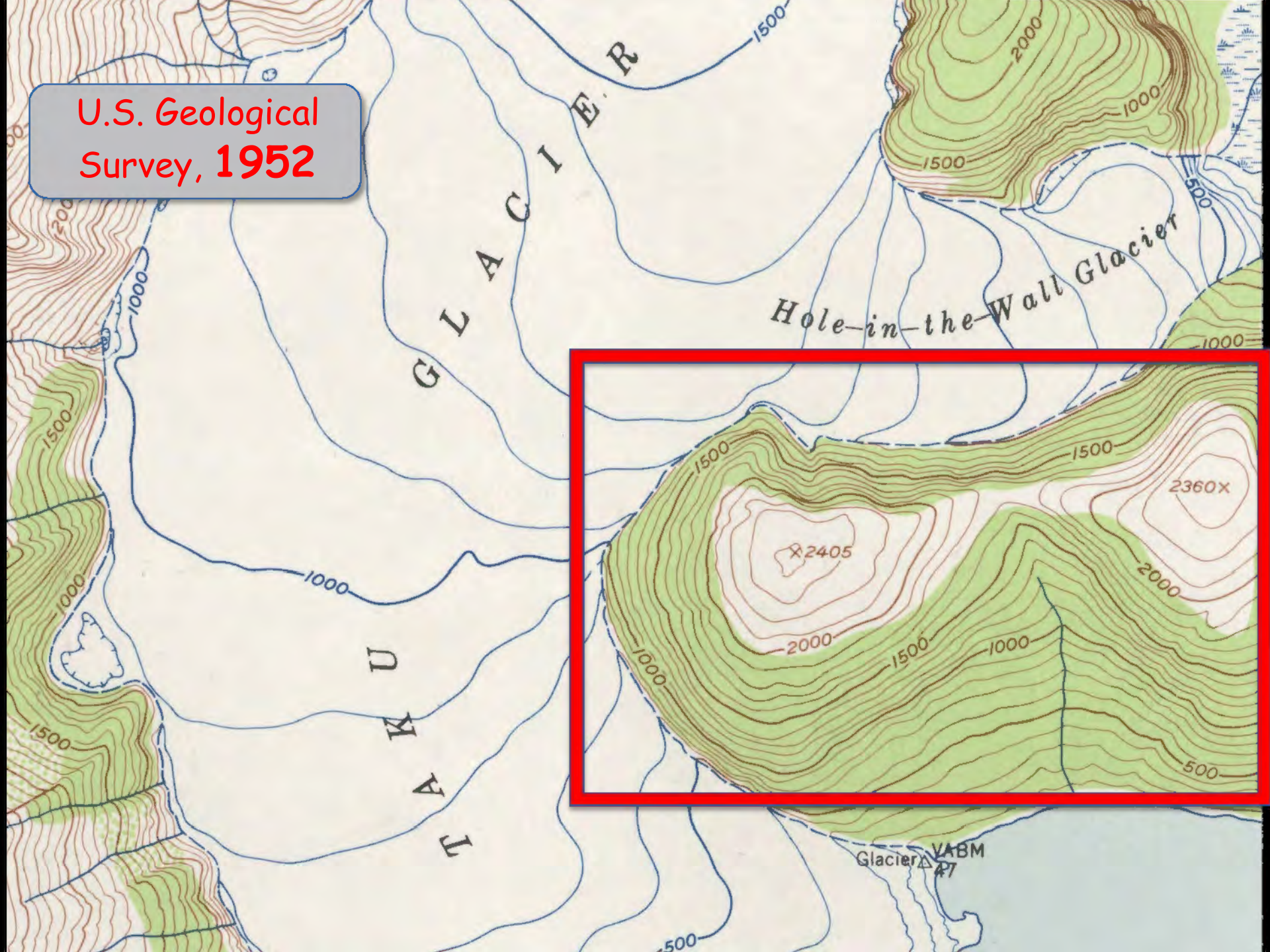

U.S. Geological Survey, 1981
4200
Kipuka Puaulu
BM 4092
4000
ROAD
Bird Park
Picnic Area
BM 3951


glottal stops
ROAD
KA'UKAMA
200
400
Pu'u'ohulu Kai
860
284
Water Tank
FARRINGTON
HAKIMO
ULEHAWA
BM 11
14
BEACH
LUALUALEI
HIGHW
U.S. Geological Survey, 1998



U.S. Geological Survey, **1954**


U.S. Geological Survey, 1977
Kelp Ledge
Bay Ledges
Leighton Ledges
Virgin Island
Kel (C)
Kelley Point
Gilchrist Rock
Daybeacon(C)
Virgins Breasts
Nipple
Gravel
Daybeacon (C)
Nova Rocks
Snows Rock
Daybeacon (C)
Long Ledge
Little Ledge
Long Ledge
Drisko


U.S. Geological Survey, 1952
GLACIER
TAKU
Hole-in-the-Wall Glacier
2405
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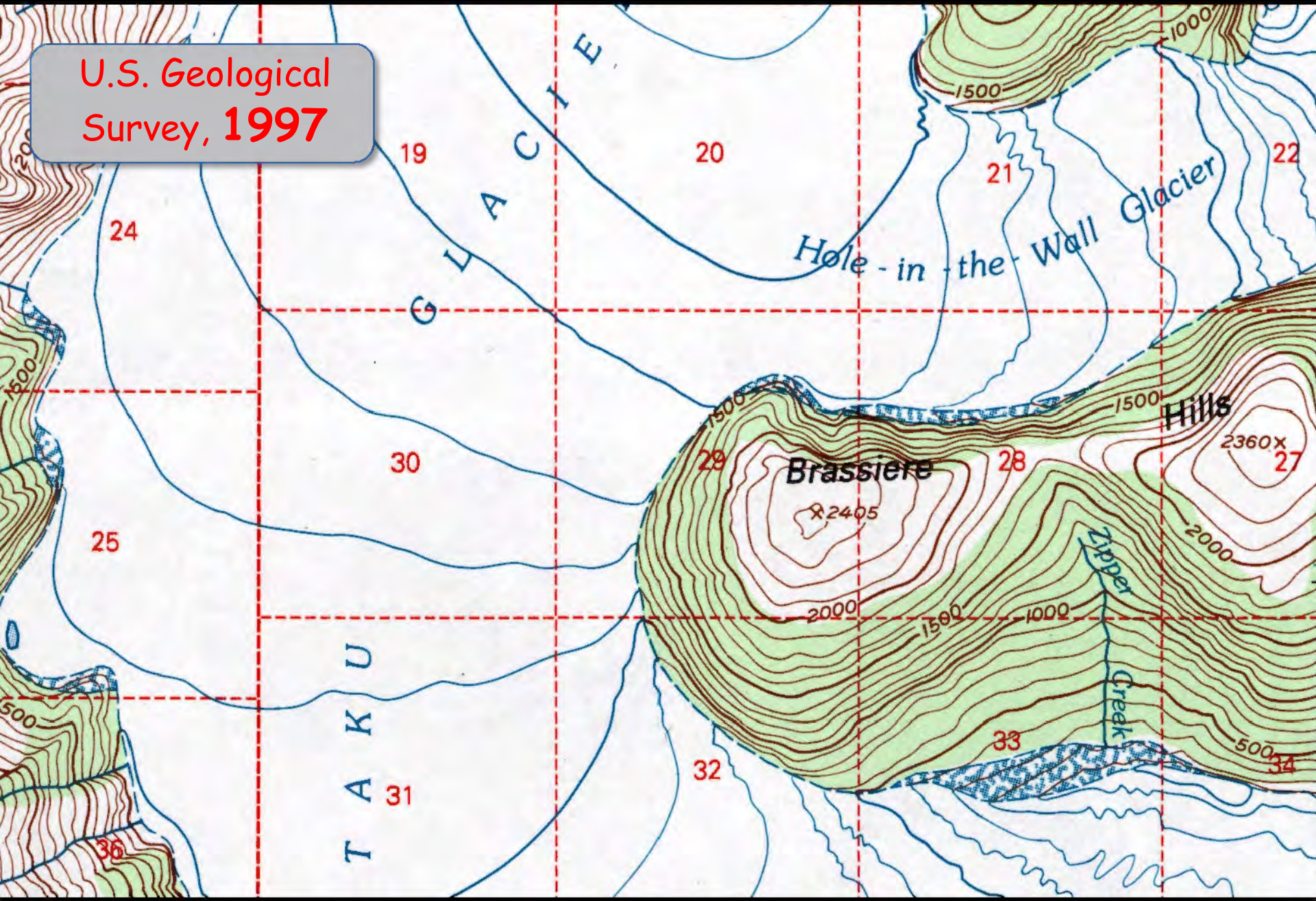
Glacier
VABM
1500
1000
2000
500


U.S. Geological Survey, 1997
GLACIER
TAKU
Hole-in-the-Wall Glacier
Brassiere
X2405
Hills
2360X
Zipper
Creek
19
20
21
22
24
25
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
36
1000
1500
2000
500

Questions?

Geographic names authorities, standardization and international cooperation

Helen Kerfoot

Former Chair, UNGEGN /

Emeritus Scientist, Natural Resources Canada

US BGN at 100 years

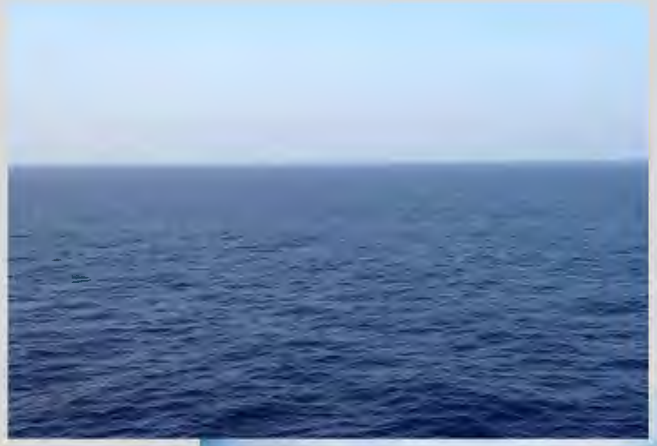
In recognition of international cooperation in toponymy

- Our border through maps and names
- Surveying - 49th Parallel in the West
- "USA" in Québec
- Thousand Islands
- Across the Niagara
- Honouring American Presidents
- Men of the International Boundary
- Treatment of names of shared features

125 years 1890 2015

Public enquiry – who can approve a name?

Anker Point



He assumed that the United Nations could approve this!

Early days at the UN

- 1948 – UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- 1959 – ECOSOC resolution 715 A (XXVII)
- 1960 – First experts group meeting
- 1967 – First Conference on standardization of geographical names

- national standardization
  - basis of international standardization
    - romanization
    - resolution I/4 … foundation

Cornerstone – names authorities

- Authorities come in "different shapes and sizes"
  - depends on government, nature of country, languages …

(1) No national names authority
National mapping agencies

(2) Centralized names authority
- decisions made by one group
- sub- or advisory committees
- *Madagascar, Estonia, Hungary*

(3) Decentralized authority
- decisions at regional level
- central coordination
- *Australia, Canada, Malaysia*

(4) National and regional level authorities
- *USA, South Africa*

Foreign names boards
e.g. *BGN, PCGN, Poland, Bulgaria*

Street names – demands of urban growth

China (Dai, 2006)

20,000 new urban names each year

The World (You, 2009)

- Urban dwellers (UN data)
  - 50% 2008
  - over 80% 2030

Street names

World Bank Report, 2005

50% of city streets in sub-Saharan Africa - no names or addresses
- densification of central core and urban expansion

Financing of street addressing and database initiatives
- use of numbering system, gradually augmented by names

Yaoundé, Cameroon

1670 streets listed; 6 zones; street map printed

New names board acts – cultural heritage

Burkina Faso … décret 2013

- To conserve place names
- To preserve or re-appropriate national toponymic heritage, relevant to culture and language

Tunisia … décret 2013

The CNT - conserving and developing the national toponymic heritage …

- preserving specifics of spoken Tunisian and assuring studies are undertaken on geographical names

Language, history, cultural heritage, identity

Toponyms link man and the land; points of reference;
bearers of history and language; carriers of our identity

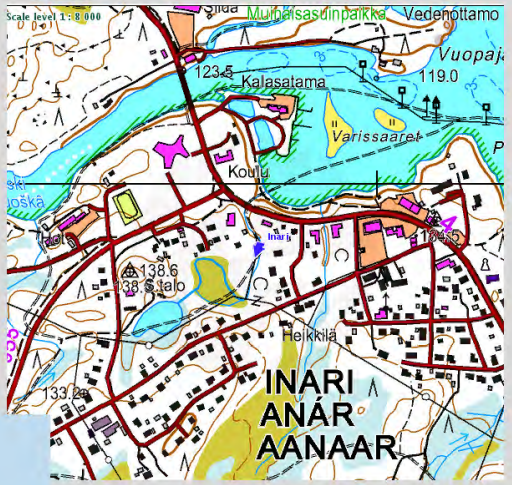
Language and history – one name or more?

Univocity

or **multiple names**

to recognize

language traditions?



Mount Taranaki or
Mount Egmont

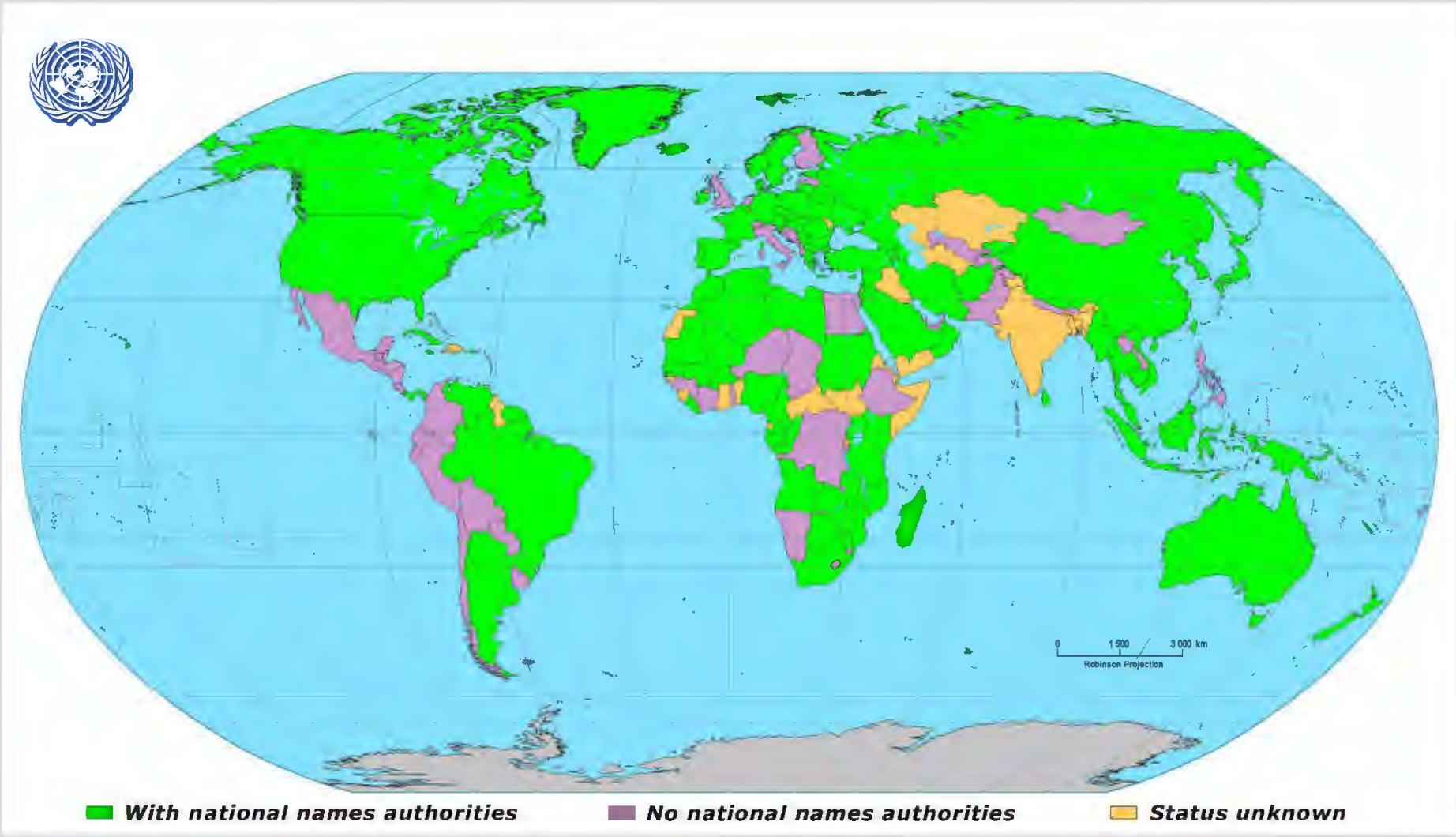
Aoraki/Mount Cook

Mackenzie River
has 7
official names

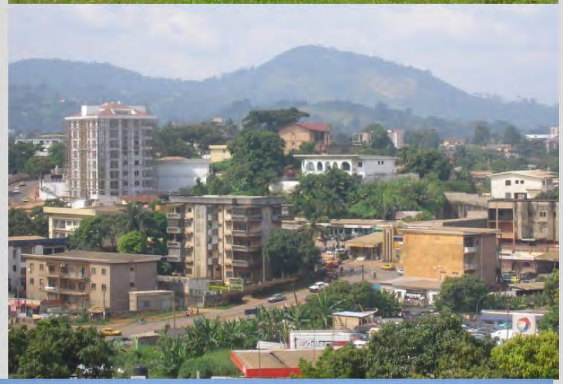
Time sequence of names authorities

- Historically many lists of place names (e.g. explorers' maps)
- Early boards
  - USA 1890
  - Denmark 1910
  - New Zealand 1946
  - Canada 1897
  - Iceland 1935
  - Ireland 1946
- Now ~ 80 countries have national authorities
- Most recent:
  - 2013 - Saudi Arabia, Burkina Faso, Tunisia
  - 2010 - Sri Lanka, Denmark - Føroyar
  - 2009 - Mozambique, Afghanistan, Serbia, Brazil
- *Although established by law – some boards are non-functional*

Geographical Names Authorities (01/2015)



What is important ?



Benefits of standardized names?

Technical benefits

e.g. Mapping / GIS
Information management

Economic benefits

e.g. Infrastructure
Tourism promotion
Delivery services

Social benefits

e.g. Urban planning
Humanitarian aid
Search and rescue

Cultural benefits

e.g. Recording history
Language retention
Identity

Lack of standardized data …

- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
  - Earthquake in Pakistan, 2005
    - delays in providing assistance to remote villages
    - difficult to obtain - standardized names, coordinates of villages, gazetteers, population statistics, maps

Data or scrambled eggs?

Duplication

Repetition

Lack of standardization

Incomplete data

Resources lost

Security compromised

Confusion

Bad decisions

IHO & SCUFN

International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN)

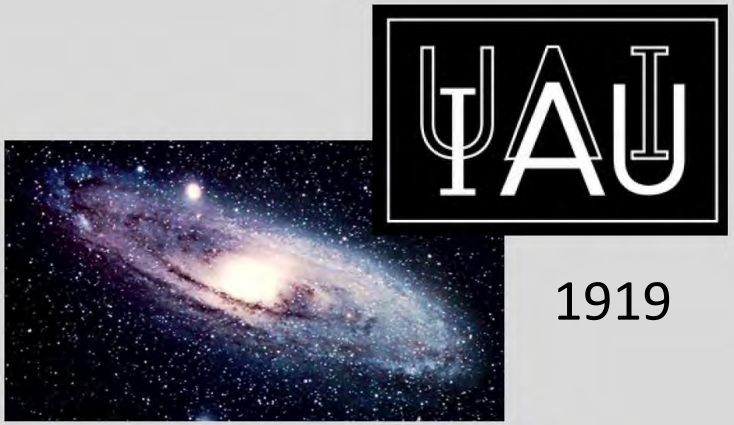
- IHO coordinating activities
- no decisions on ocean names, but influence through publications
- S-23 *Limits of Oceans and Seas* (update 1953 edition)
- SCUFN – online gazetteer

http://www.iho.int/srv1/

Beyond Earth - IAU

International Astronomical Union (IAU)

Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN)



1919

- By early 1970s great interest in space exploration and features on the Moon and the planets
- 1973 – WGPSN – authorizes names
- *Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature* (USGS maintains online)

http://www.iau.org
http://planetarynames.wr.usgs.gov

Continued need for standardized geographical names

Thank you!

Difference in mandates

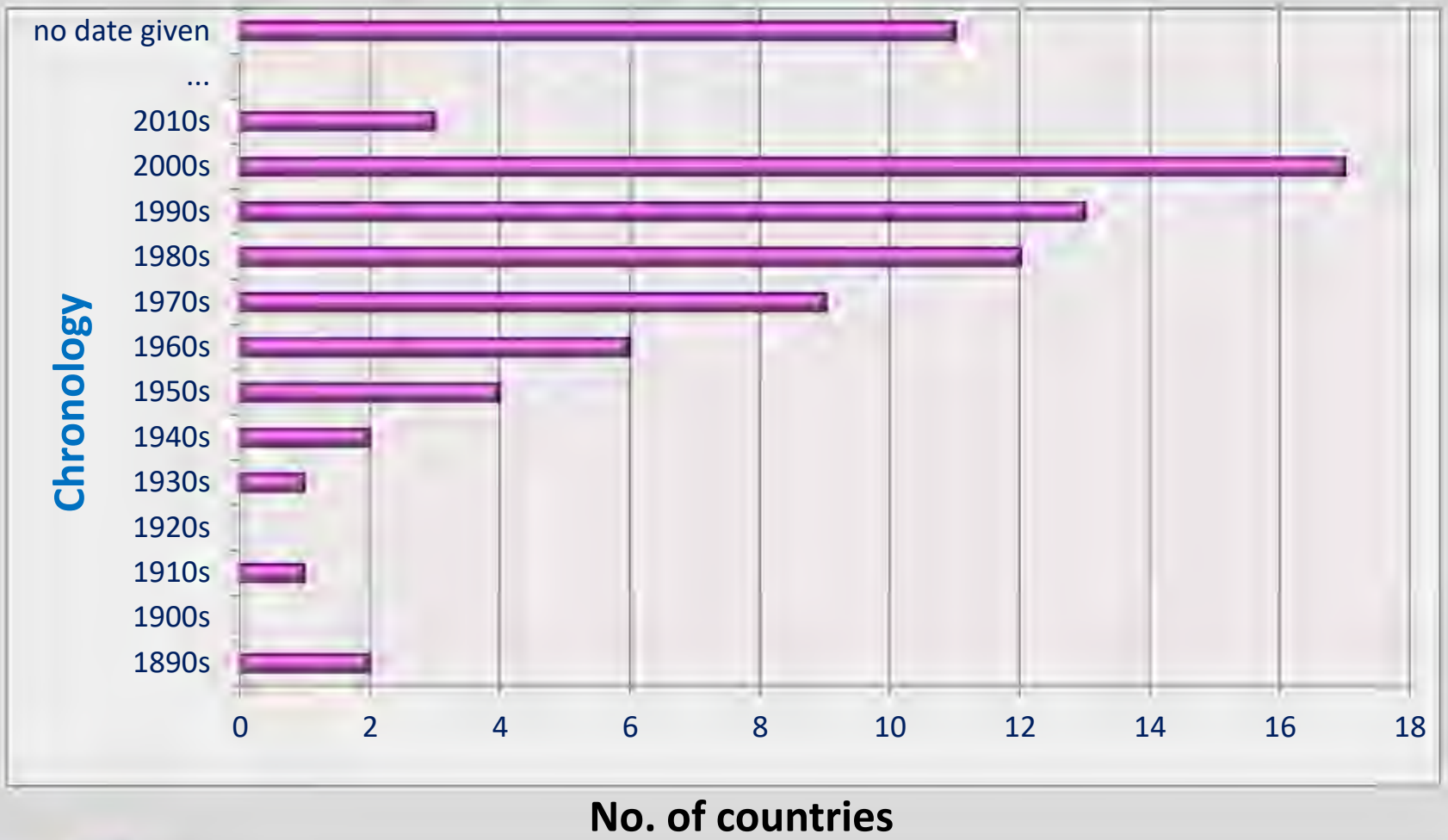
- Types of named features/places … mandates vary
  - Geographical features … land, water
  - Populated places … unincorporated
  - Administrative areas … national parks, national defense areas, conservation areas, municipalities ….
  - Marine and undersea features
  - Constructed features … bridges, docks, buildings
  - Urban streets, local parks
  - Ephemeral features (e.g. polynas)
  - Cultural associations (e.g. place where ….)

Legislation: names, language

- Some countries have legislation regarding the names
  - Norway: since 1990 .. Norwegian, Saami & Finnish names
  - Estonia: since 1996 .. include language & spelling rules
  - New Zealand: since 1998 .. Māori place names for maps
  - Ireland: Official Languages Act, 2003

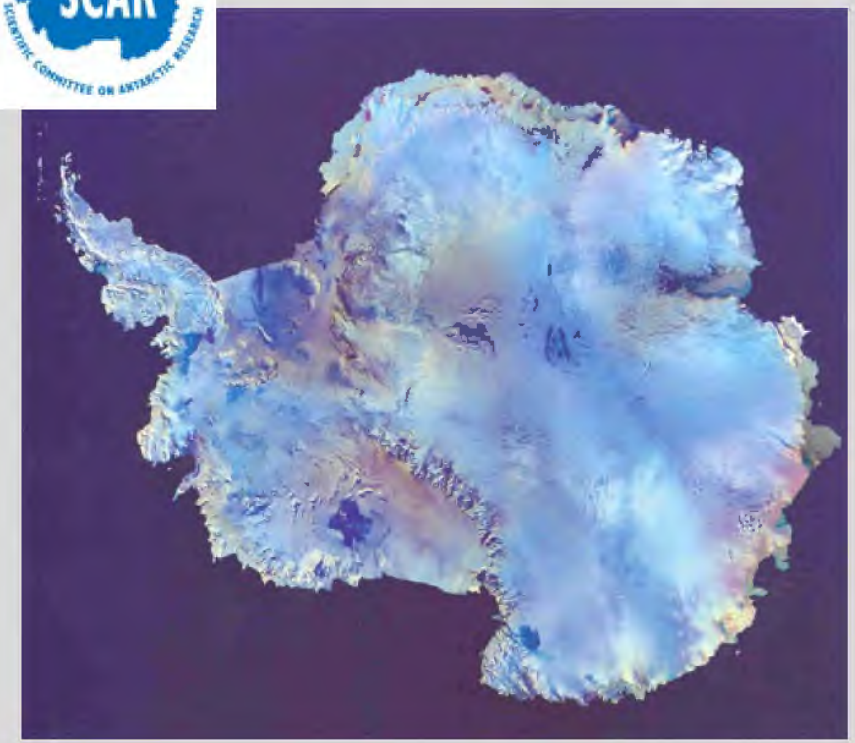
Growth of national names authorities

- dates of first establishment



SCAR

Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)



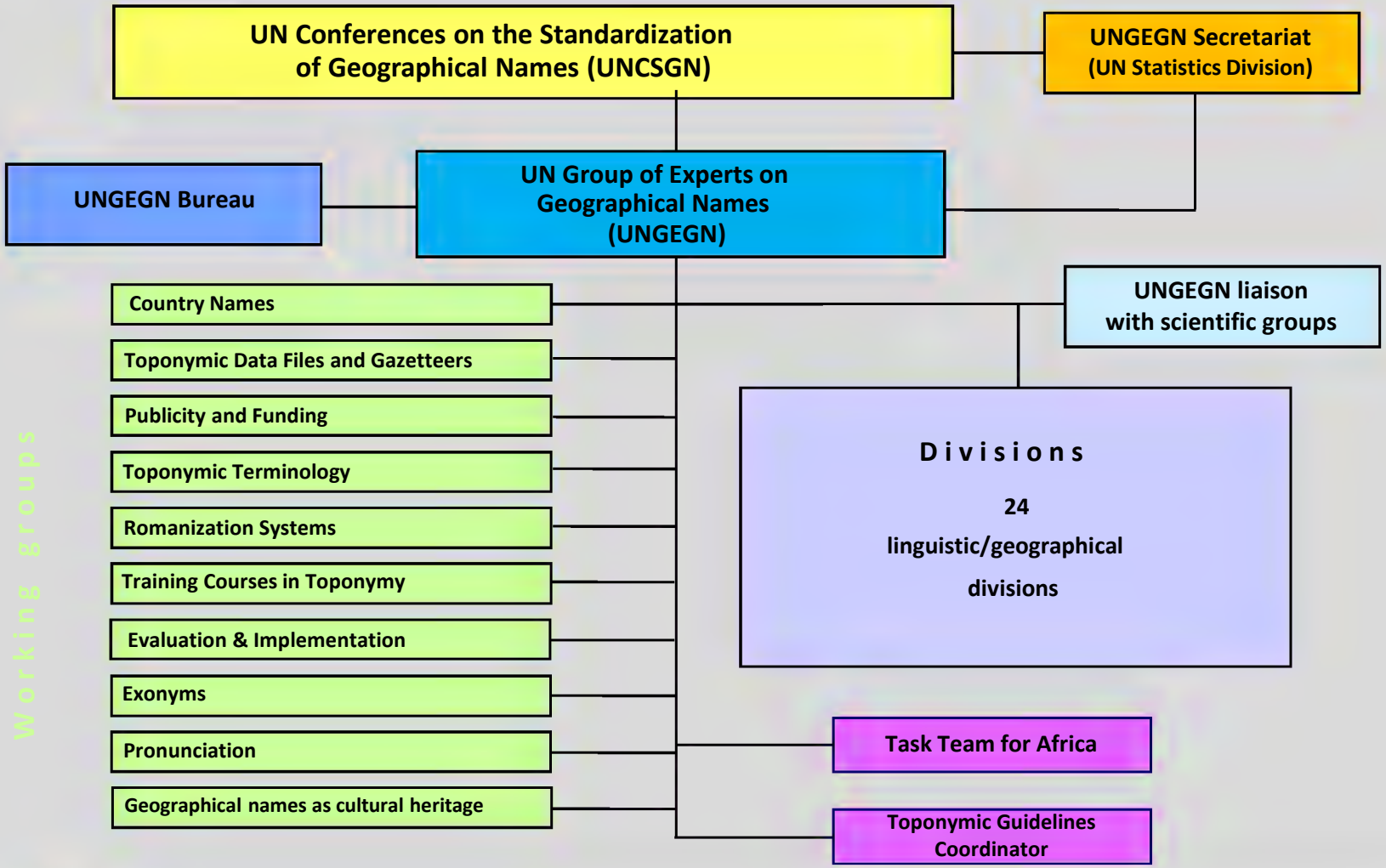
- collated names since 1992
- online gazetteer (CGA)
- >12 languages; 5 scripts
- 19,303 features
- with variants = 37,325 names
- linked to SCAR maps
- > 1/3 names supplied by USA/BGN

http://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/gaz/scar

UNGEGN with SCAR since 1996

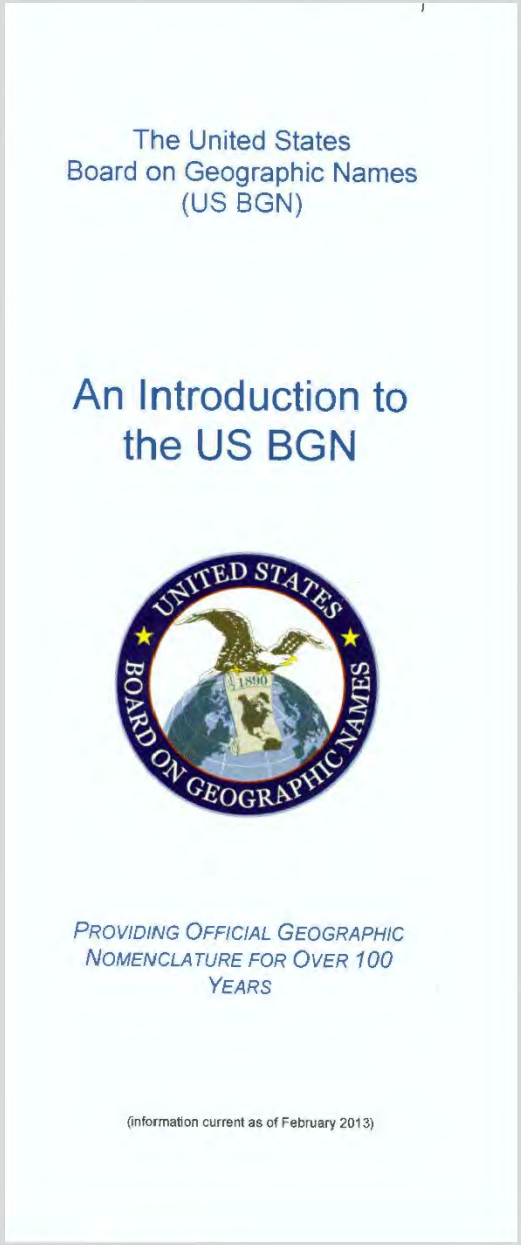

Kyev Kiev Kyiv Kyyev
Sidney Sydney
New Zealand Aotearoa
Mumbai Bombay
Montréal Montreal
Αθήνα Athens
Athenai Athina
Cape Town Le Cap
Kaapstad Kapstadt
Uluru / Ayers Rock
Ekapa Kapkaupunki
eKapa
Helsinki Helsingfors
125 years
1890
2015

UNGEGN structure



The Origin(s) of the United States Board on Geographic Names

Presented by:
Captain Albert Theberge NOAA Corps (ret.)
NOAA Central Library



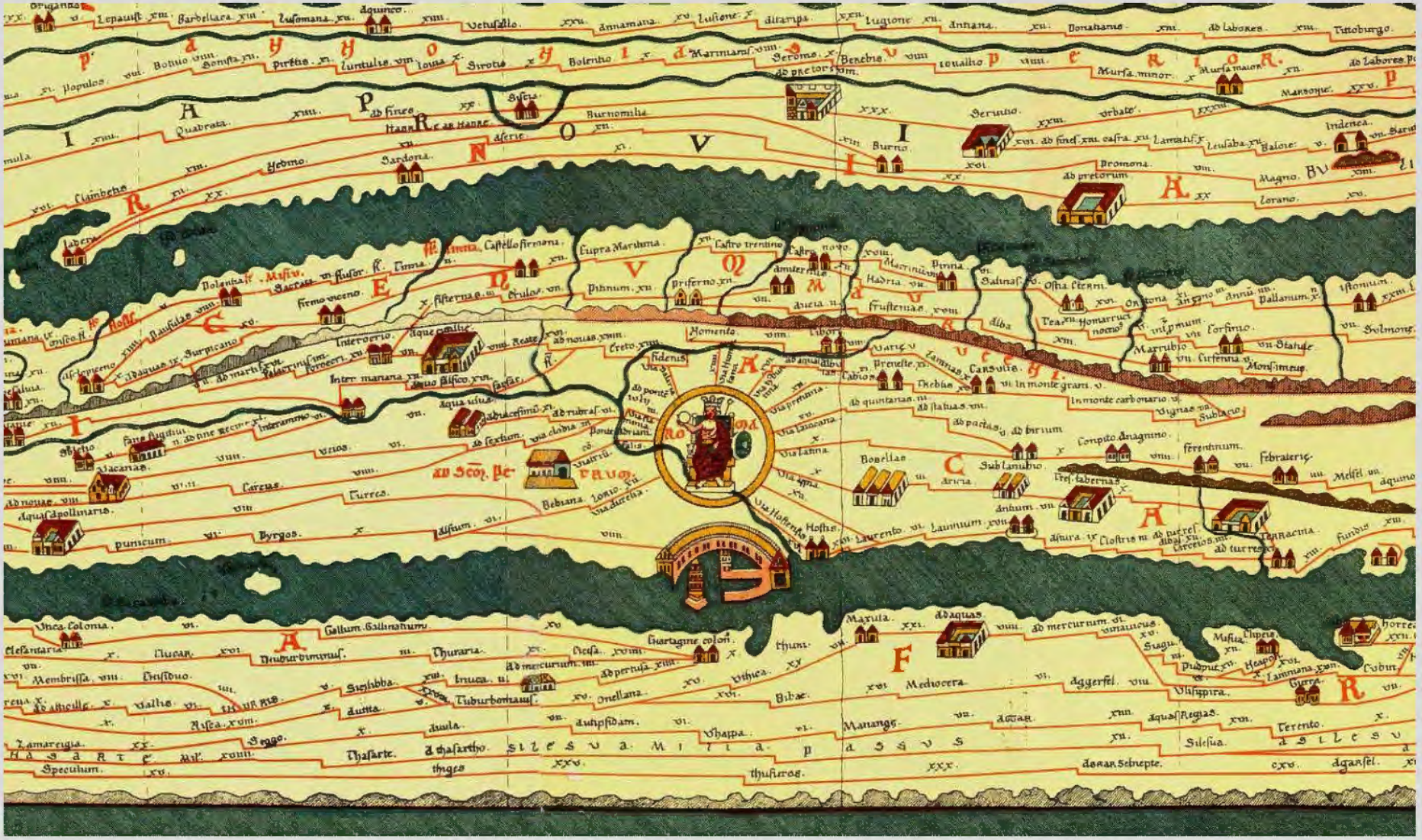
Brochure explaining origins and functions of BGN and its relationship to the United States Geological Survey.

Domestic Names

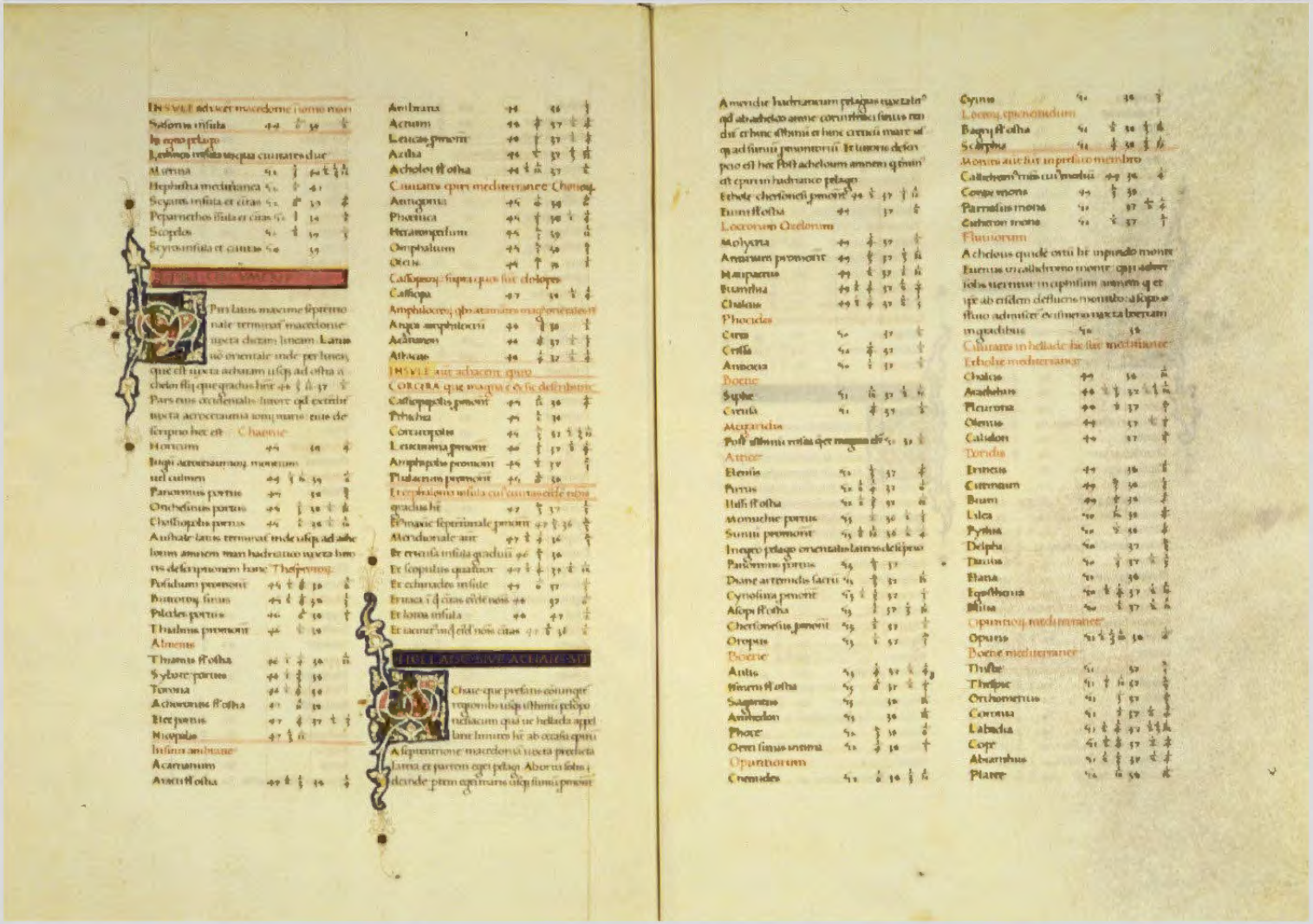
The origins of the US BGN can be traced to the surge of exploration, settlement, and economic exploitation of the American West after the Civil War. Contradictions and inconsistencies concerning names of geographic features were a serious problem for surveyors, mapmakers, government officials, and scientists who required uniform and unambiguous geographic nomenclature. In 1890 President Benjamin Harrison created the Board and gave it the authority to resolve unsettled geographic names questions. Decisions of the Board were – and

The End –
Just Kidding!

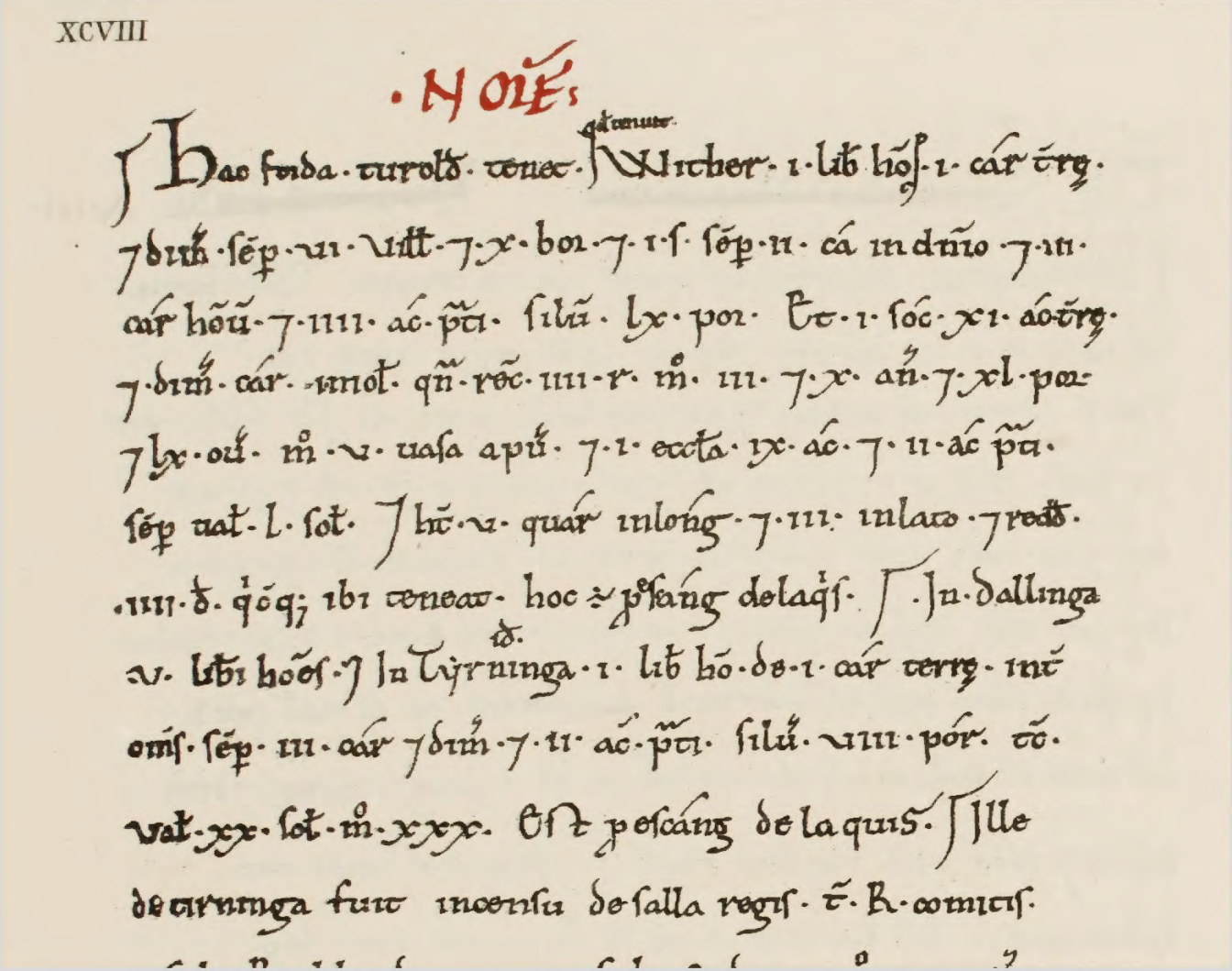
The BGN has its intellectual roots in the earliest map-making efforts. As societies became more complex, the necessity to name and define geographic entities assumed increasingly greater importance. These names were incorporated in maps, charts, gazetteers, peripli (portolani, routiers, rutters, coast pilots, etc.), census listings, and related documents.



The Tabula Peutingeriana – dates to Emperor Augustus. 555 cities, 3500 place names. Approximately 15 B.C.E. produced under direction of Marcus Vipsanius Agrippa.



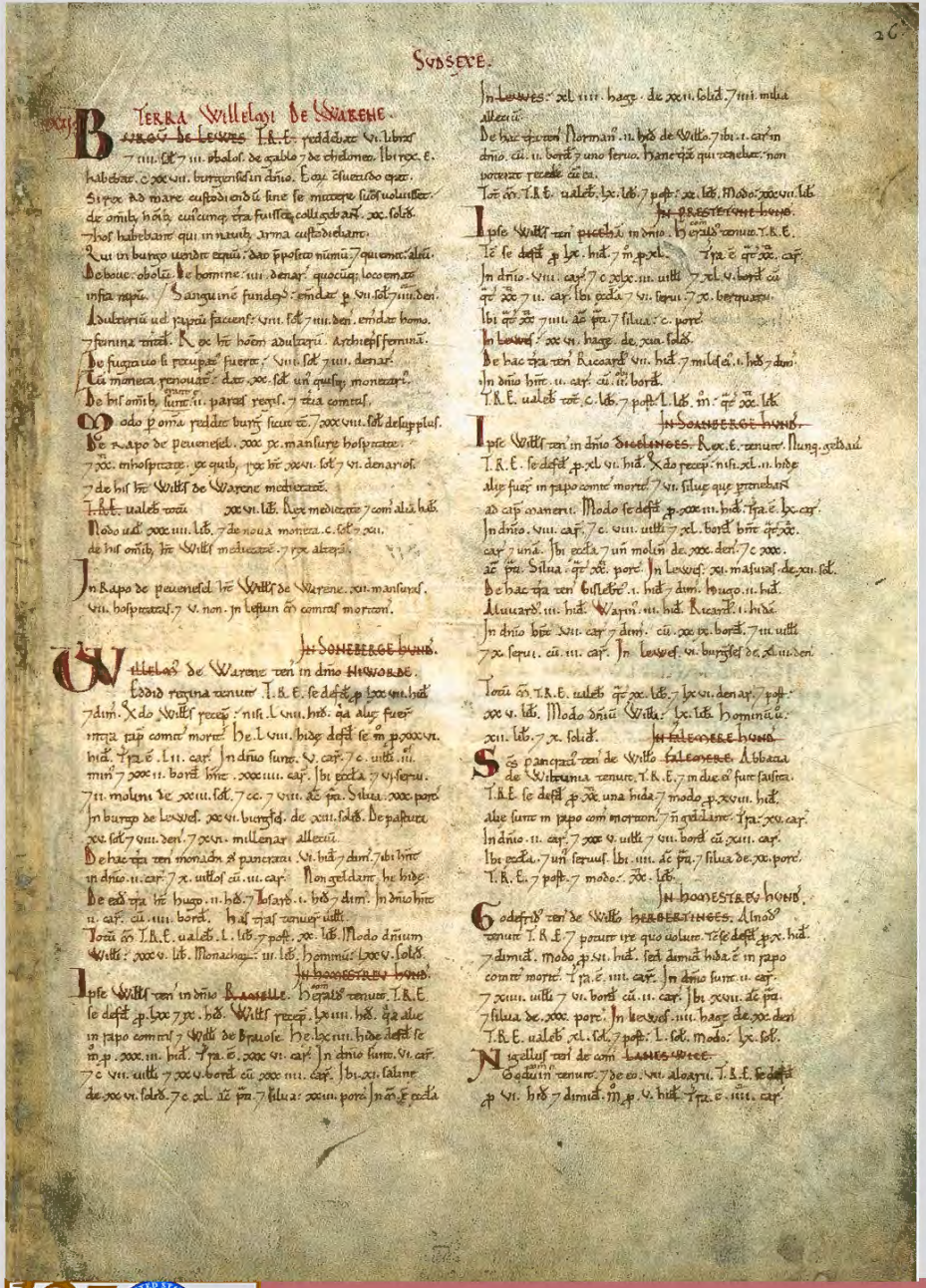
Listing of place names and geographic coordinates produced by Claudius Ptolemy AD 150. Approximately 8000 place names with latitude/longitude coordinates were recorded.



Domesday Book -1086. Over 13,000 place names ordered by county and then hierarchy of ownership. Primarily for taxation.

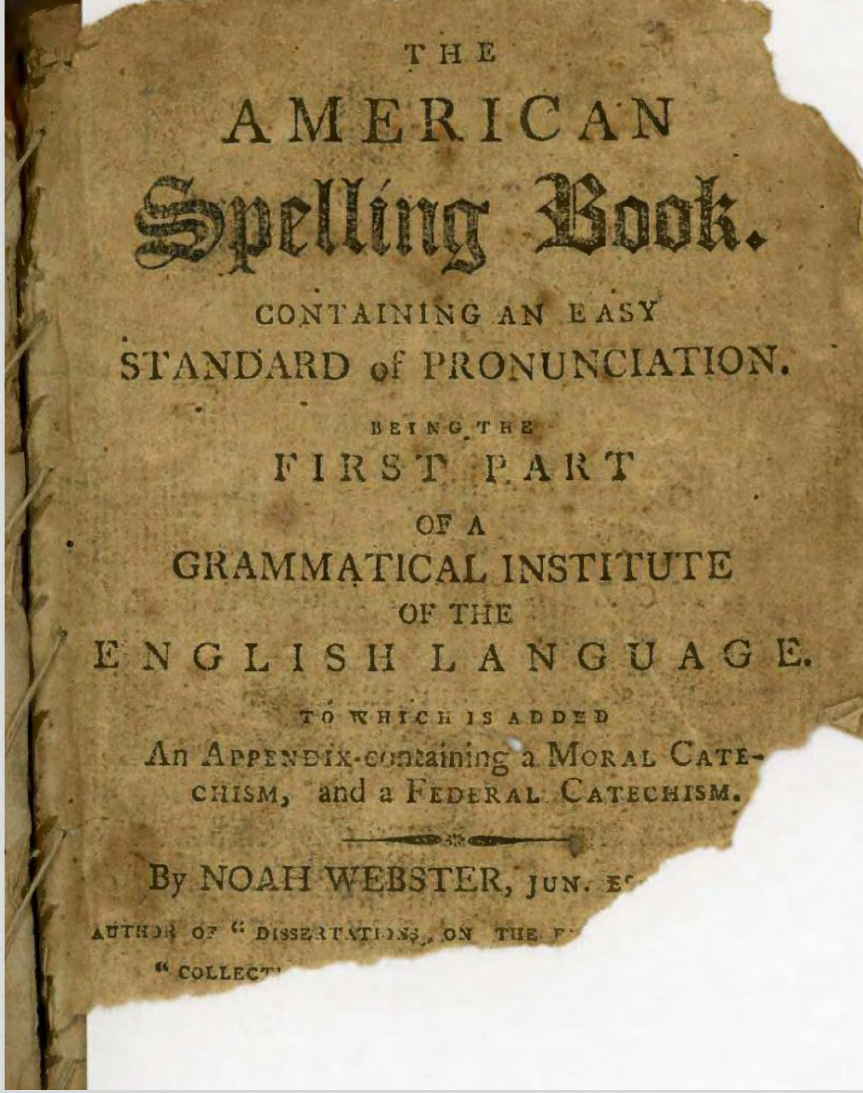
The questions asked can be summarized as follows:
1.What is the manor called?
2.Who held it in the time of King Edward (in 1066)?
3.Who holds it now (in 1086)?
4.How many hides are there (what is its tax assessment)?
5.How many plough (team)s on the demesne (local lord's own land) and among the men (rest of the village)?
6.How many free men, sokemen , villans, cotta[ge]rs , slaves ?
7.How much woodland, meadow, pasture, mills, fisheries?
8.How much has been added to or taken away from the manor?
9.How much was the whole worth (1066) and how much now (1086)?
10.How much had or has each freeman and each sokeman?
All the above questions to be recorded three times: in the time of King Edward (1066), when William gave it (often 1066), and now (1086)

The Domesday Book was concerned primarily with relating place names to the wealth of the kingdom for taxation purposes.



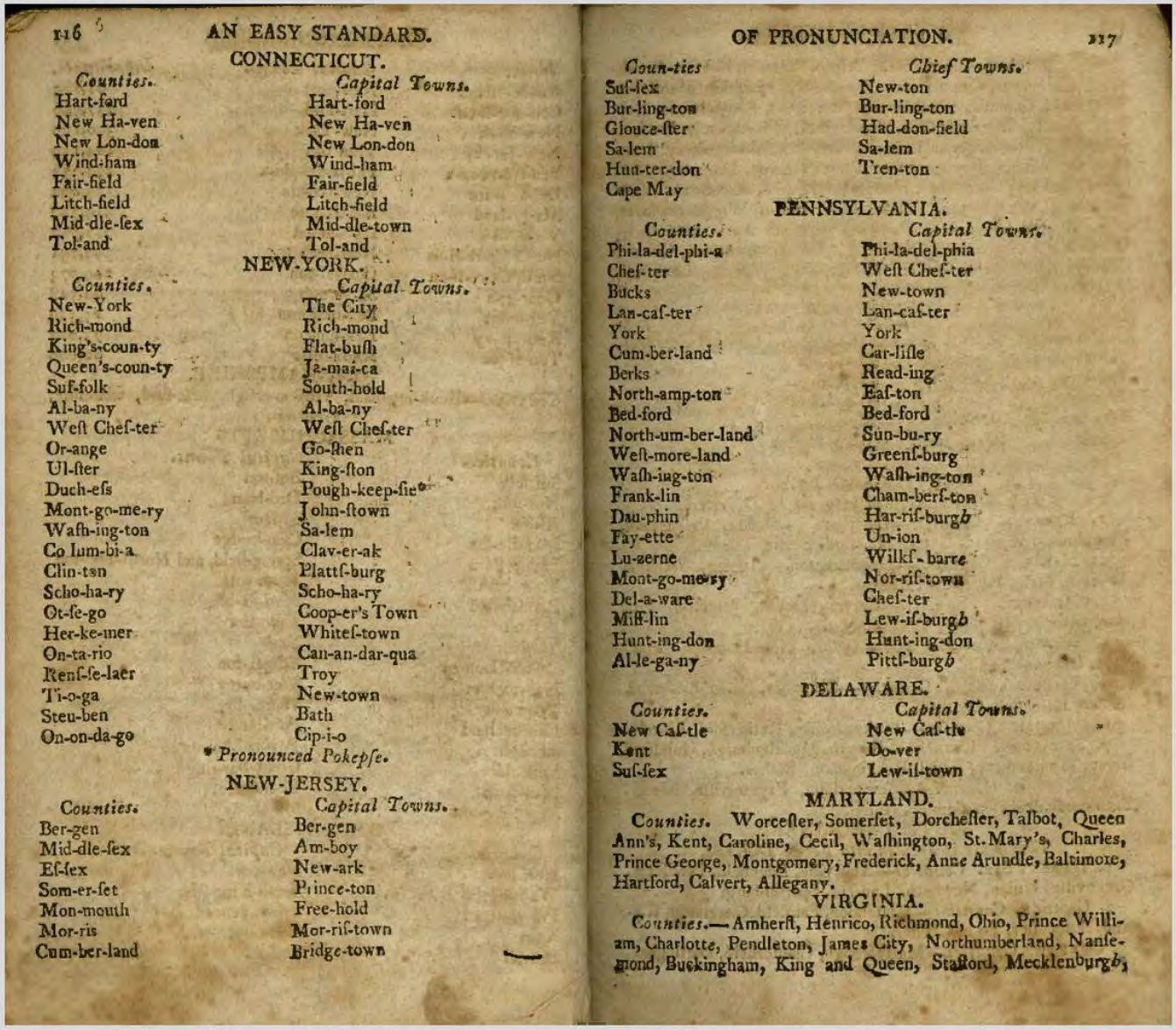
An original page from the Domesday Book

The Cassini map-1815 completion. 62,000 place names. First national map based on geodetic principles.



Noah Webster, the first great American Orthographer.

1802 (?) American Spelling Book



116 AN EASY STANDARD.

CONNECTICUT.

Counties.	*Capital Towns.*
Hart-ford	Hart-ford
New Ha-ven	New Ha-ven
New Lon-don	New Lon-don
Wind-ham	Wind-ham
Fair-field	Fair-field
Litch-field	Litch-field
Mid-dle-ſex	Mid-dle-town
Tol-and	Tol-and

NEW-YORK.

Counties.	*Capital Towns.*
New-York	The City
Rich-mond	Rich-mond
King's-coun-ty	Flat-buſh
Queen's-coun-ty	Ja-mai-ca
Suf-folk	South-hold
Al-ba-ny	Al-ba-ny
Weſt Cheſ-ter	Weſt Cheſ-ter
Or-ange	Go-ſhen
Ul-ſter	King-ſton
Duch-eſs	Pough-keep-ſie*
Mont-go-me-ry	John-ſtown
Waſh-ing-ton	Sa-lem
Co lum-bi-a	Clav-er-ak
Clin-ton	Plattſ-burg
Scho-ha-ry	Scho-ha-ry
Ot-ſe-go	Coop-er's Town
Her-ke-mer	Whiteſ-town
On-ta-rio	Can-an-dar-qua
Renſ-ſe-laer	Troy
Ti-o-ga	New-town
Steu-ben	Bath
On-on-da-go	Cip-i-o

* *Pronounced Pokepſe.*

NEW-JERSEY.

Counties.	*Capital Towns.*
Ber-gen	Ber-gen
Mid-dle-ſex	Am-boy
Eſ-ſex	New-ark
Som-er-ſet	Prince-ton
Mon-mouth	Free-hold
Mor-ris	Mor-riſ-town
Cum-ber-land	Bridge-town

OF PRONUNCIATION. 117

Coun-ties	*Chief Towns.*
Suſ-ſex	New-ton
Bur-ling-ton	Bur-ling-ton
Glouce-ſter	Had-don-field
Sa-lem	Sa-lem
Hun-ter-don	Tren-ton
Cape May	

PENNSYLVANIA.

Counties.	*Capital Towns.*
Phi-la-del-phi-a	Phi-la-del-phia
Cheſ-ter	Weſt Cheſ-ter
Bucks	New-town
Lan-caſ-ter	Lan-caſ-ter
York	York
Cum-ber-land	Car-liſle
Berks	Read-ing
North-amp-ton	Eaſ-ton
Bed-ford	Bed-ford
North-um-ber-land	Sun-bu-ry
Weſt-more-land	Greenſ-burg
Waſh-ing-ton	Waſh-ing-ton
Frank-lin	Cham-berſ-ton
Dau-phin	Har-riſ-burg*b*
Fay-ette	Un-ion
Lu-zerne	Wilkſ-barre
Mont-go-me-ry	Nor-riſ-town
Del-a-ware	Cheſ-ter
Miff-lin	Lew-iſ-burg*b*
Hunt-ing-don	Hunt-ing-don
Al-le-ga-ny	Pittſ-burg*b*

DELAWARE.

Counties.	*Capital Towns.*
New Caſ-tle	New Caſ-tle
Kent	Do-ver
Suſ-ſex	Lew-is-town

MARYLAND.

Counties. Worceſter, Somerſet, Dorcheſter, Talbot, Queen Ann's, Kent, Caroline, Cecil, Waſhington, St. Mary's, Charles, Prince George, Montgomery, Frederick, Anne Arundle, Baltimore, Hartford, Calvert, Allegany.

VIRGINIA.

Counties.—Amherſt, Henrico, Richmond, Ohio, Prince William, Charlotte, Pendleton, James City, Northumberland, Nanſemond, Buckingham, King and Queen, Stafford, Mecklenburg*b*,

Webster's spelling and pronunciation of selected place names in the United States.

Lewis and Clark Expedition 1804-1806. Apparently William Clark was not influenced by Webster's American Spelling Book.

November 7, 1805 – "Ocian in view! O! the joy." "Great joy in camp we are in view of the Ocian, this great Pacific Octean which we been So long anxious to See." William Clark.


POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

LIST

OF

W. P. ELLIOT.

POST-OFFICES

IN THE

UNITED STATES,

WITH THE

NAMES OF THE POST-MASTERS,

OF THE

COUNTIES AND STATES, TO WHICH THEY BELONG; THE DISTANCES FROM THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, AND THE SEATS OF STATE GOVERNMENTS, RESPECTIVELY;

Exhibiting the State of Post-Offices, on the 1st of June, 1828.

BY DIRECTION OF THE

POST-MASTER GENERAL.

Washington:

WAY & GIDEON, PRINTERS.

1828.

Office.	*County.*	*State.*	*Postmasters.*	*Dist. from* Washington.	*Dist. from* State Cap.
Shelburn	Franklin	Ms	Walter Wells	405	100
Shelby	Genesee	N Y	Andrew A. Ellicott	406	246
Shelby	Macomb	Mic T	William Smith	569	38
Shelby Basin	Orleans	N Y	Christian Groff, jr.	410	266
Shelbyville	Shelby	Al	Jack Shackleford	820	56
Shelbyville (*c. h.*)	Bedford	Te	Thomas Davis	705	50
Shelbyville (*c. h.*)	Shelby	K	Robert Brenham	562	24
Shelbyville (*c. h.*)	Shelby	In	William O. Little	569	25
Shelbyville (*c. h.*)	Shelby	Il	Joseph Oliver	799	35
Sheldon	Franklin	Vt	Joshua W. Sheldon	532	62
Sheldon	Genesee	N Y	Fitch Chipman	385	264
Shepherdstown	Cumberland	Pa	David Sheffer	108	4
Shepherdstown	Jefferson	Va	John T. Cookers	74	191
Shepherdsville (*c. h.*)	Bullet	K	Abraham Field	607	69
Sherburne	Rutland	Vt	Cephas Wood	466	67
Sherburne	Middlesex	Ms	Calvin Sanger	418	18
Sherburne	Chenango	N Y	Silvester P. Scoville	352	102
Sherburne	Beaufort	S C	David Fitts	647	158
Sherburne Mills	Fleming	K	John Andrews	450	82
Sheridan	Chautauque	N Y	Titus Roberts	385	370
Sherman	Fairfield	Ct	Isaac Sherwood	319	57
Sherman	Huron	O	Rufus S. Price	408	99
Sherrard's Store	Hampshire	Va	A. D. Alexander	98	184
Sherril's Ford	Lincoln	N C	Michael Sherrill	415	160
Sherwood's Corner	Cayuga	N Y	Allen Thomas	389	164
Sheshequin	Bradford	Pa	Joseph Kingsbury	292	182
Shieldsboro (*c. h.*)	Hancock	Mi	John B. Joulme	1189	168
Shiloah	Camden	N C	Peter Elliott	282	234
Shiner's Mills	Lycoming	Pa	Andrew Shiner	234	124
Shingle Creek	St. Lawrence	N Y	James Bailey	487	189
Shinnston	Harrison	Va	Asa J. Shinn	235	251
Shippen	M'Kean	Pa	Elisha Chadwick	285	185
Shippensburgh	Cumberland	Pa	David M'Clure	104	38
Shippensville	Venango	Pa	Richard Shippen	295	195
Shippingport	Jefferson	K	Nicholas Berthoud	593	55
Shirley	Middlesex	Ms	Thomas Whitney	474	38
Shirleysburgh	Huntingdon	Pa	James M'Donald	139	82
Shivers' Mills	Warren	Ga	James Shivers	629	34
Shoals of Ogechee	Hancock	Ga	Thomas Cheely	638	38
Shober's Mills	Jefferson	O	John Shober	307	132
Shoreham	Addison	Vt	Moses Seymour	457	85
Short Mountain	Crawford	Ar T	Gilbert Marshall	1146	35
Short Pump	Henrico	Va	R. H. Saunders	114	9
Short Tract	Alleghany	N Y	Elias Smith	345	275
Shown's Cross Roads	Centre	Te	Greene Moore	443	276
Shrewsbury	Rutland	Vt	Stephen Gleason	451	81
Shrewsbury	Worcester	Ms	Calvin R. Stone	407	58
Shrewsbury	Monmouth	N J	Benjamin White	202	35
Shrewsbury	York	Pa	Philip Folckemmer	70	40
Shrewsbury	Kenhawa	Va	William Shrewsbury	338	277
Shutsbury	Franklin	Ms	Joseph Smallidge, jr.	392	77
Sibylsville	Frederick	Md	William M. Flautt	83	56
Sidney	Kennebeck	Me	Crosby Barton	621	68
Sidney	Delaware	N Y	George Thatcher	343	104
Sidney	Shelby	O	James Wells	481	82
Sidney Plains	Delaware	N Y	Nathan Edgerton	347	101

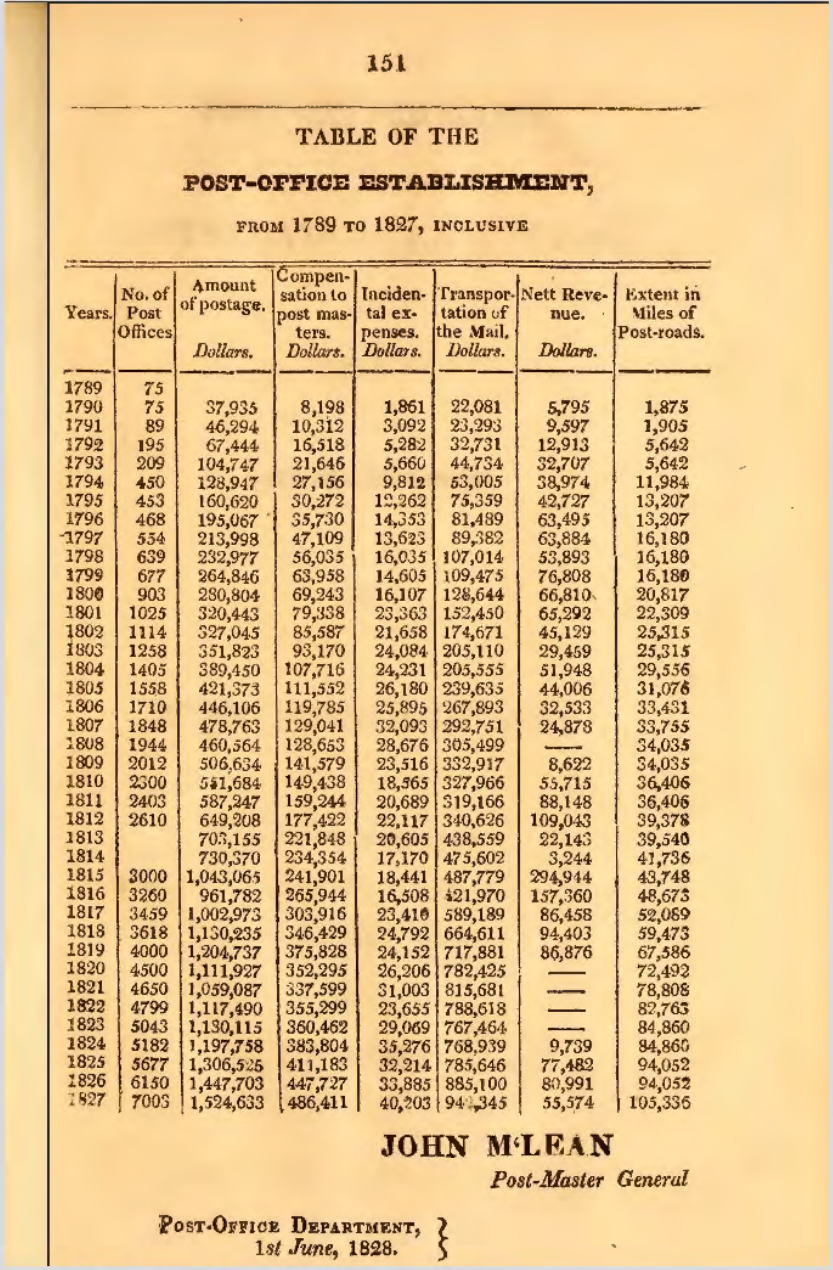


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TABLE OF THE

POST-OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT,

FROM 1789 TO 1827, INCLUSIVE

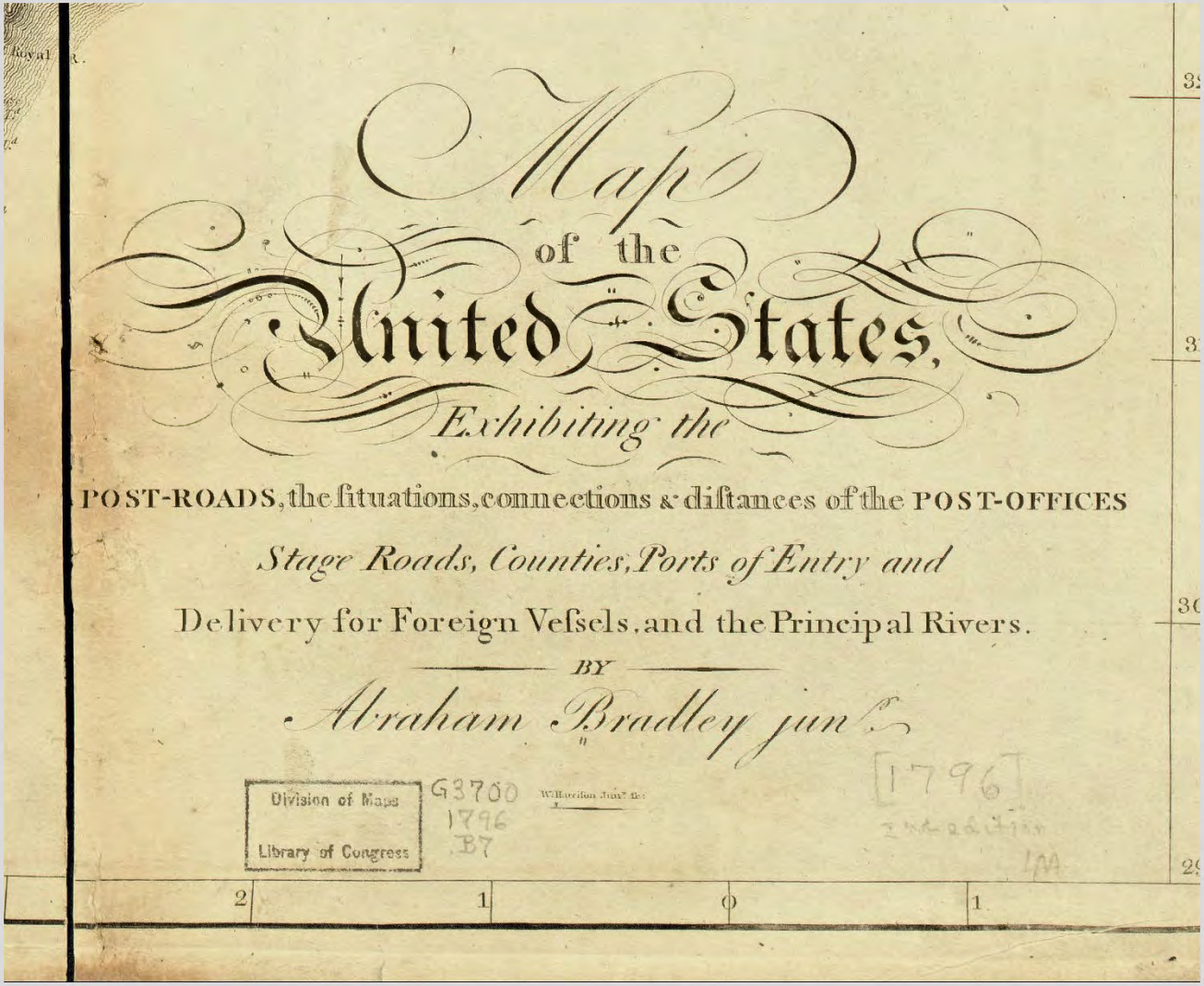
Years.	No. of Post Offices	Amount of postage. *Dollars.*	Compensation to post masters. *Dollars.*	Incidental expenses. *Dollars.*	Transportation of the Mail. *Dollars.*	Nett Revenue. *Dollars.*	Extent in Miles of Post-roads.
1789	75						
1790	75	37,935	8,198	1,861	22,081	5,795	1,875
1791	89	46,294	10,312	3,092	23,293	9,597	1,905
1792	195	67,444	16,518	5,282	32,731	12,913	5,642
1793	209	104,747	21,646	5,660	44,734	32,707	5,642
1794	450	128,947	27,156	9,812	53,005	38,974	11,984
1795	453	160,620	30,272	12,262	75,359	42,727	13,207
1796	468	195,067	35,730	14,353	81,489	63,495	13,207
1797	554	213,998	47,109	13,623	89,382	63,884	16,180
1798	639	232,977	56,035	16,035	107,014	53,893	16,180
1799	677	264,846	63,958	14,605	109,475	76,808	16,180
1800	903	280,804	69,243	16,107	128,644	66,810	20,817
1801	1025	320,443	79,338	23,363	152,450	65,292	22,309
1802	1114	327,045	85,587	21,658	174,671	45,129	25,315
1803	1258	351,823	93,170	24,084	205,110	29,459	25,315
1804	1405	389,450	107,716	24,231	205,555	51,948	29,556
1805	1558	421,373	111,552	26,180	239,635	44,006	31,076
1806	1710	446,106	119,785	25,895	267,893	32,533	33,431
1807	1848	478,763	129,041	32,093	292,751	24,878	33,755
1808	1944	460,564	128,653	28,676	305,499	——	34,035
1809	2012	506,634	141,579	23,516	332,917	8,622	34,035
1810	2300	551,684	149,438	18,365	327,966	55,715	36,406
1811	2403	587,247	159,244	20,689	319,166	88,148	36,406
1812	2610	649,208	177,422	22,117	340,626	109,043	39,378
1813		703,155	221,848	20,605	438,559	22,143	39,540
1814		730,370	234,354	17,170	475,602	3,244	41,736
1815	3000	1,043,065	241,901	18,441	487,779	294,944	43,748
1816	3260	961,782	265,944	16,508	521,970	157,360	48,673
1817	3459	1,002,973	303,916	23,416	589,189	86,458	52,089
1818	3618	1,130,235	346,429	24,792	664,611	94,403	59,473
1819	4000	1,204,737	375,828	24,152	717,881	86,876	67,586
1820	4500	1,111,927	352,295	26,206	782,425	——	72,492
1821	4650	1,059,087	337,599	31,003	815,681	——	78,808
1822	4799	1,117,490	355,299	23,655	788,618	——	82,763
1823	5043	1,130,115	360,462	29,069	767,464	——	84,860
1824	5182	1,197,758	383,804	35,276	768,939	9,739	84,860
1825	5677	1,306,525	411,183	32,214	785,646	77,482	94,052
1826	6150	1,447,703	447,727	33,885	885,100	80,991	94,052
1827	7003	1,524,633	486,411	40,203	943,345	55,574	105,336

JOHN M'LEAN

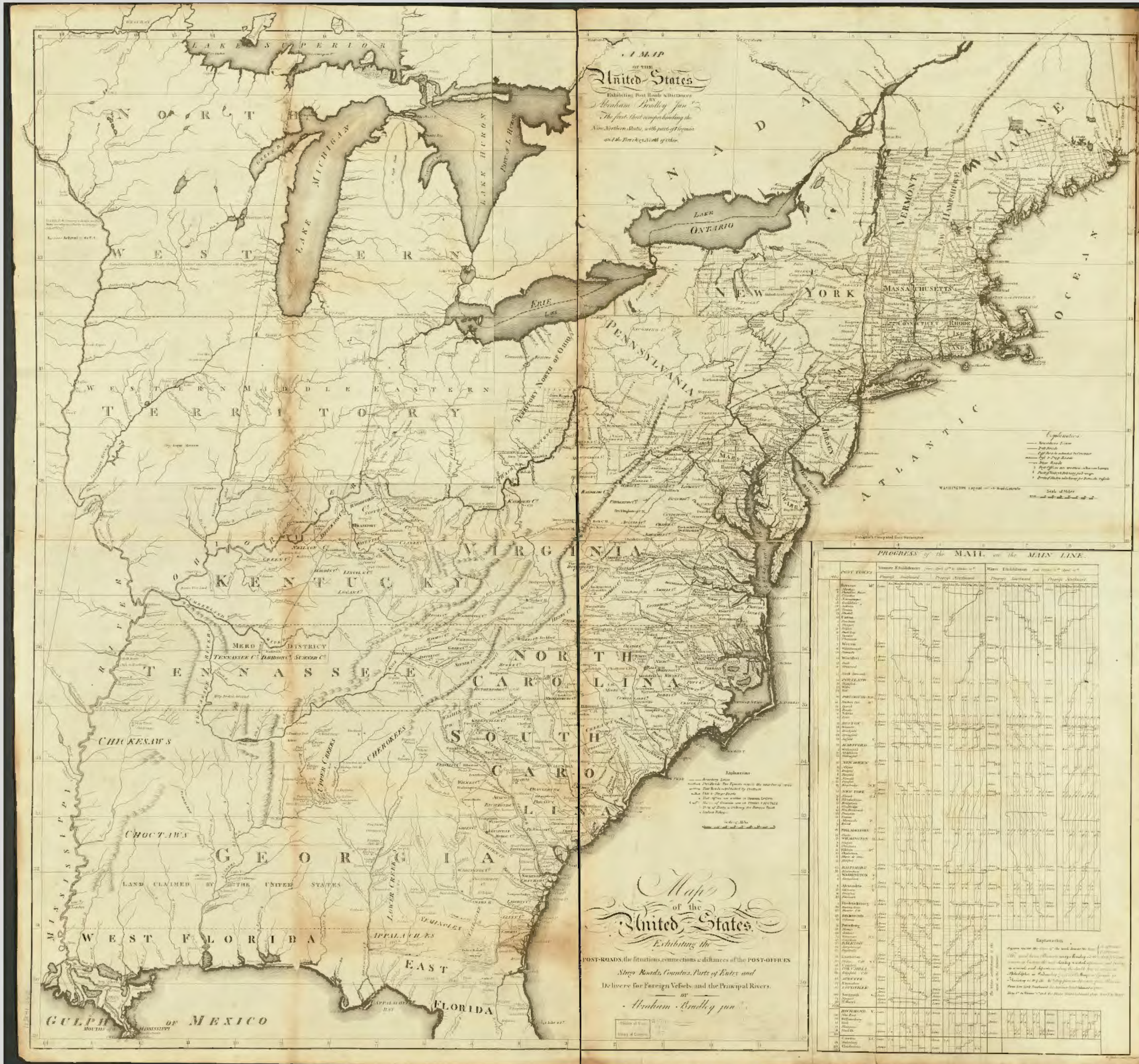
Post-Master General

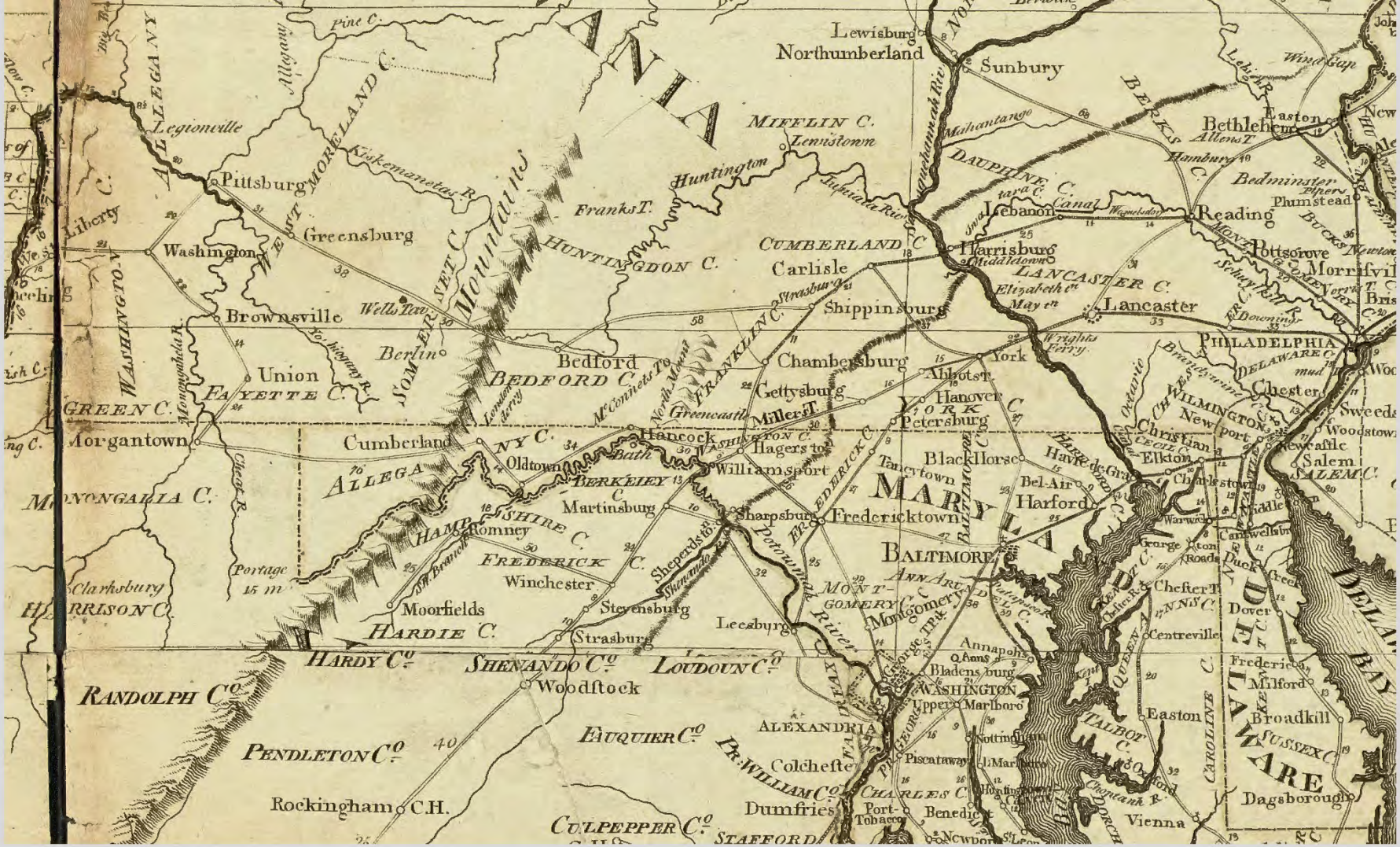
POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
1st June, 1828.

Post Offices grew from 75 in 1789 to 7,003 by 1827. Thence 18,417 by 1850 and 62,401 by 1890. Besides naming new post offices, many were either stricken from the listing over time, or renamed. The Post Office kept track of all these changes through time.



Post Office cartography - Legend of the First United States Post Route Map - 1796


A MAP
OF THE
United States
Exhibiting Post Roads & Distances
BY
Abraham Bradley Jun.
The first Sheet comprehending the
Nine Northern States, with parts of Virginia
Map
of the
United States
Exhibiting the
POST-ROADS, the situations, connections & distances of the POST-OFFICES
Stage Roads, Counties, Ports of Entry and
Delivery for Foreign Vessels and the Principal Rivers.
BY
Abraham Bradley jun.
PROGRESS of the MAIL on the MAIN LINE.
LAKE SUPERIOR
LAKE MICHIGAN
LAKE HURON
LAKE ONTARIO
ERIE LAKE
NORTH
WESTERN
TERRITORY
WESTERN MIDDLE EASTERN
TERRITORY NORTH OF OHIO
CANADA
NEW YORK
VERMONT
NEW HAMPSHIRE
MAINE
MASSACHUSETTS
CONNECTICUT
RHODE ISLAND
PENNSYLVANIA
VIRGINIA
KENTUCKY
MERO DISTRICT
TENNASSEE
NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTH CAROLINA
GEORGIA
CHICKESAWS
CHOCTAWS
CHEROKEES
UPPER CREEKS
LOWER CREEKS
SEMINOLES
LAND CLAIMED BY THE UNITED STATES
WEST FLORIBA
EAST FLORIDA
MISSISSIPPI
GULPH OF MEXICO
ATLANTIC OCEAN

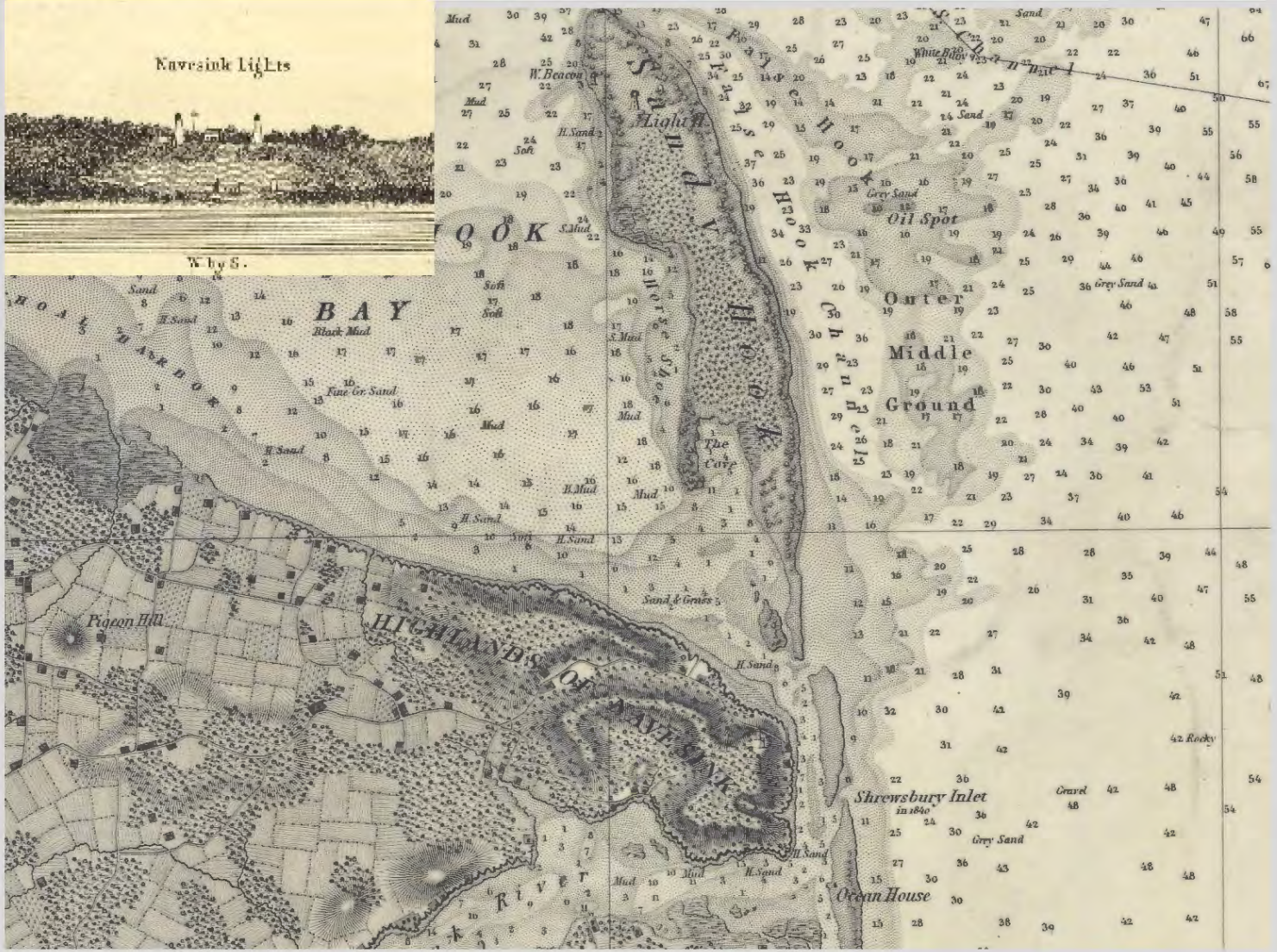


Section of first Post Route Map 1796

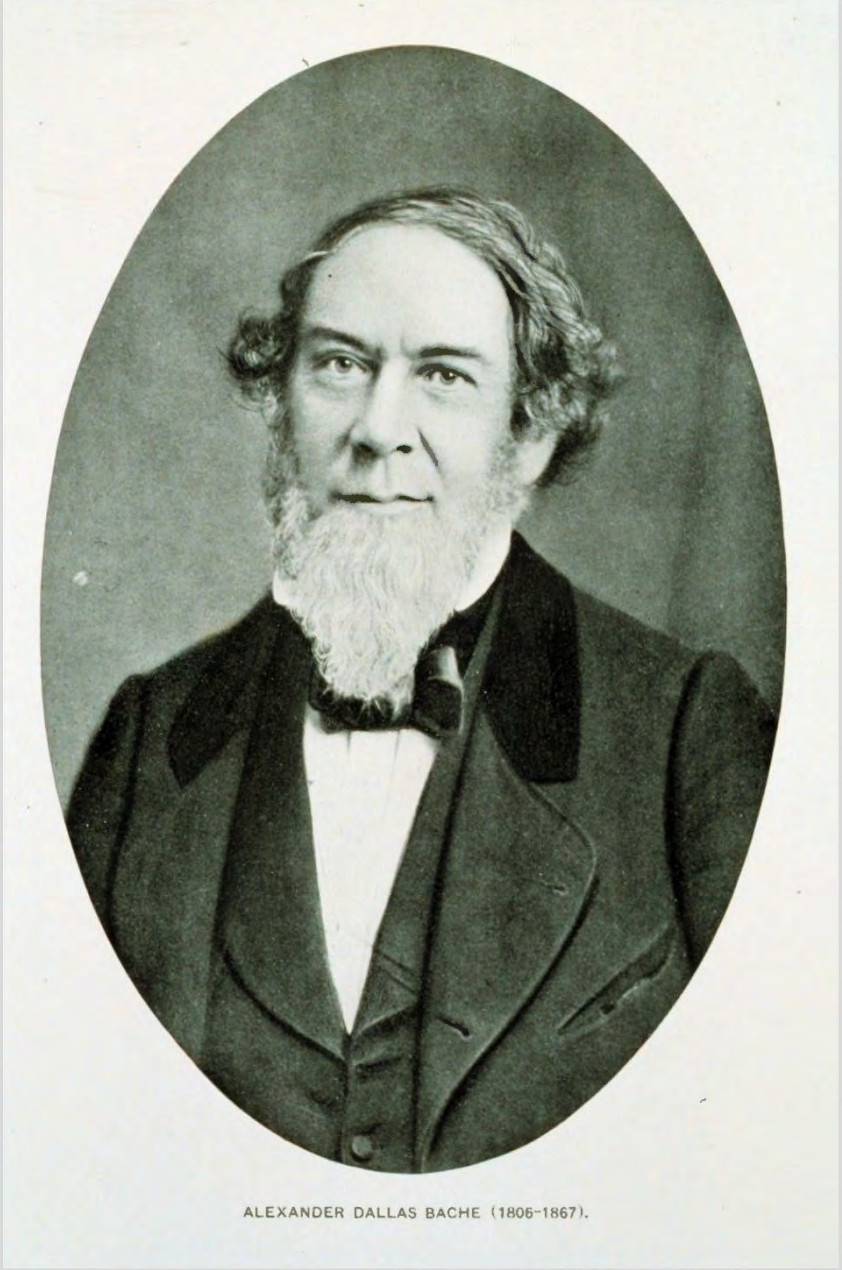
Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler, first Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey. The Coast Survey was among the earliest mapping agencies concerned with orthography.

FERDINAND RUDOLPH HASSLER (1770-1843).

"He was quaint in his language, particularly in his orthography, cautioning his assistants always to inquire closely into the derivation and spelling of the names of localities in our surveys. He would never accept the spelling of 'Neversink', one of the prominent points near Sandy Hook, but insisted upon 'Navesink' as the correct orthography; and upon every name put down by us on the charts he would make his comments." RADM Benjamin Sands, 1899. From Reefer to Rear-Admiral. Pp. 90-91. Commenting upon Ferdinand Rudolph Hassler (1770-1843), First Superintendent of the United States Coast Survey.



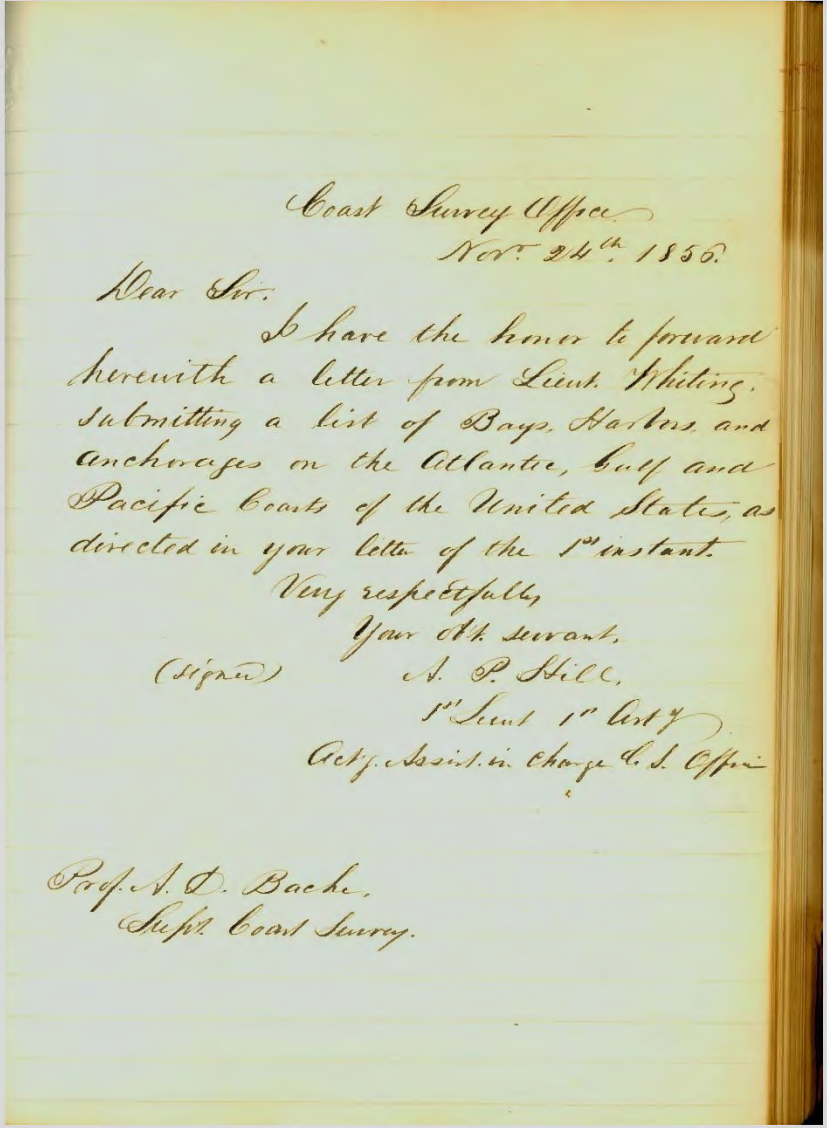
“Neversunk” “Neversink” - “Navesink” and so it is today.



ALEXANDER DALLAS BACHE (1806-1867).

Alexander Dallas Bache, grandson of Benjamin Franklin, Second Superintendent of the Coast Survey (1806-1867). Issued instructions concerning correct orthography of place names. Also, commissioned first study of Native-American place names.


1853
JUAN DE FUCA
COAST SURVEY OFFICE U.S.
Verified
H. W. Benham. Capt. of Engrs
Asst. in charge of Office
Chibah'dehl Rocks
Clesseet's Village
Kydikabbit Pt.
Kort'lah Pt.
NEÉ-AH HARBOR
Wa-addah Island
Ba-adah Pt.
Dtoko-ah Pt.
Klatch'opis Pt.
ASHINGTON TER



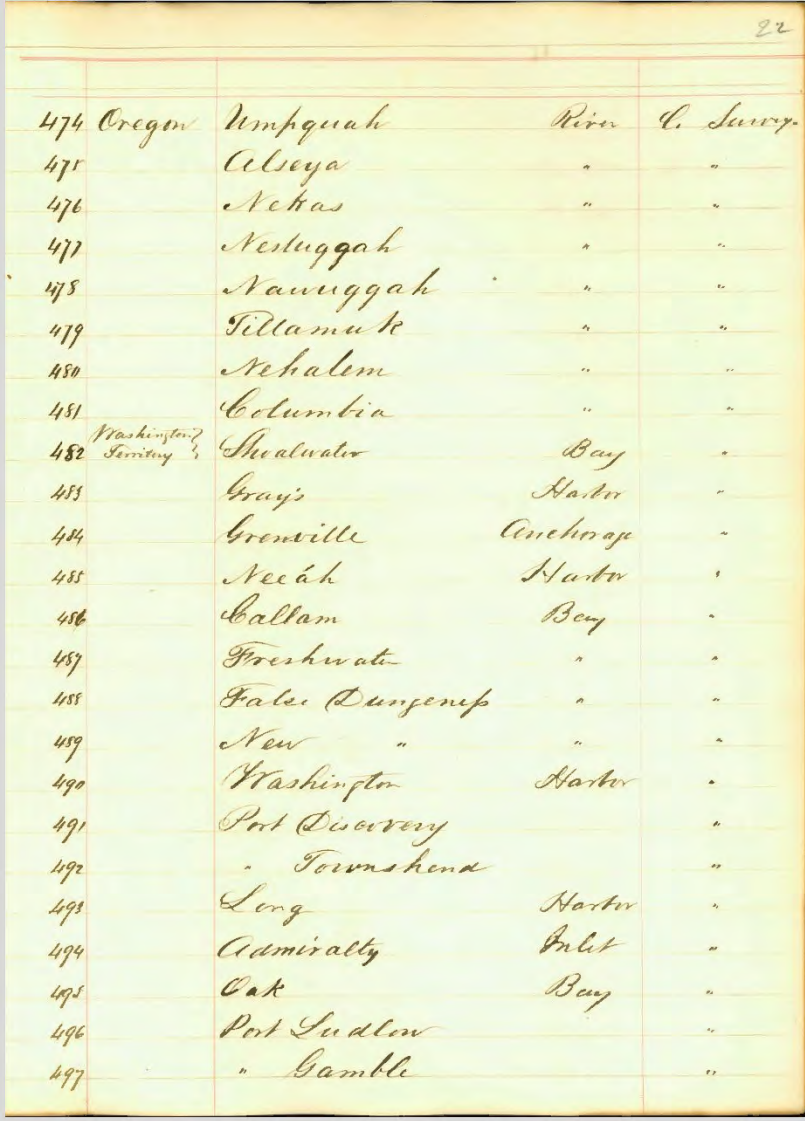
Coast Survey Office
Nov. 24th 1856.

Dear Sir.

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from Lieut. Whiting, submitting a list of Bays, Harbors and Anchorages on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific Coasts of the United States, as directed in your letter of the 1st instant.

Very respectfully,
Your Ob. servant,
(Signed) A. P. Hill,
1st Lieut 1st Art'y
Actg. Assist. in charge U. S. Office

Prof. A. D. Bache,
Supt. Coast Survey.



22

474	Oregon	Umpquah	Riv	C. Survy.
475		Alsea	"	"
476		Nekas	"	"
477		Nestuggah	"	"
478		Nanuggah	"	"
479		Tillamuk	"	"
480		Nehalem	"	"
481		Columbia	"	"
482	Washington Territory	Shealwater	Bay	"
483		Gray's	Harbr	"
484		Grenville	Anchorage	"
485		Neeah	Harbr	"
486		Callam	Bay	"
487		Freshwater	"	"
488		False Dungeness	"	"
489		New "	"	"
490		Washington	Harbr	"
491		Port Discovery		"
492		" Townshend		"
493		Long	Harbr	"
494		Admiralty	Inlet	"
495		Oak	Bay	"
496		Port Ludlow		"
497		" Gamble		"

List of Bays, Harbors, and Anchorages in U.S. waters as of 1856 compiled under direction of Bache. Note signature: A. P. Hill, a future Confederate General.

“The transliteration of Indian names has everywhere been a fruitful source of differences in spelling, inasmuch as no two persons understand alike or render into the same English characters the obscure sounds of Indian names.” Second Report of BGN.

The Reverend Edward Ballard

“I have the honor to present to you the following attempt at an examination of the geographical nomenclature of the coast of Maine, for the purpose of furnishing a list of the names of Indian origin, with their proper orthography, as far as it now can be ascertained, and their interpretation….” Reverend Edward Ballard, 1868 Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, Appendix No. 14. Geographical Names on the Coast of Maine.

U. S. COAST SURVEY.

COAST PILOT OF

ALASKA.

PART FIRST.

UNITED STATES COAST SURVEY.

BENJAMIN PEIRCE, Superintendent.

PACIFIC COAST.

COAST PILOT OF ALASKA,

(FIRST PART,)

FROM

SOUTHERN BOUNDARY TO COOK'S INLET.

BY

GEORGE DAVIDSON,
ASSISTANT COAST SURVEY.

1869.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1869.

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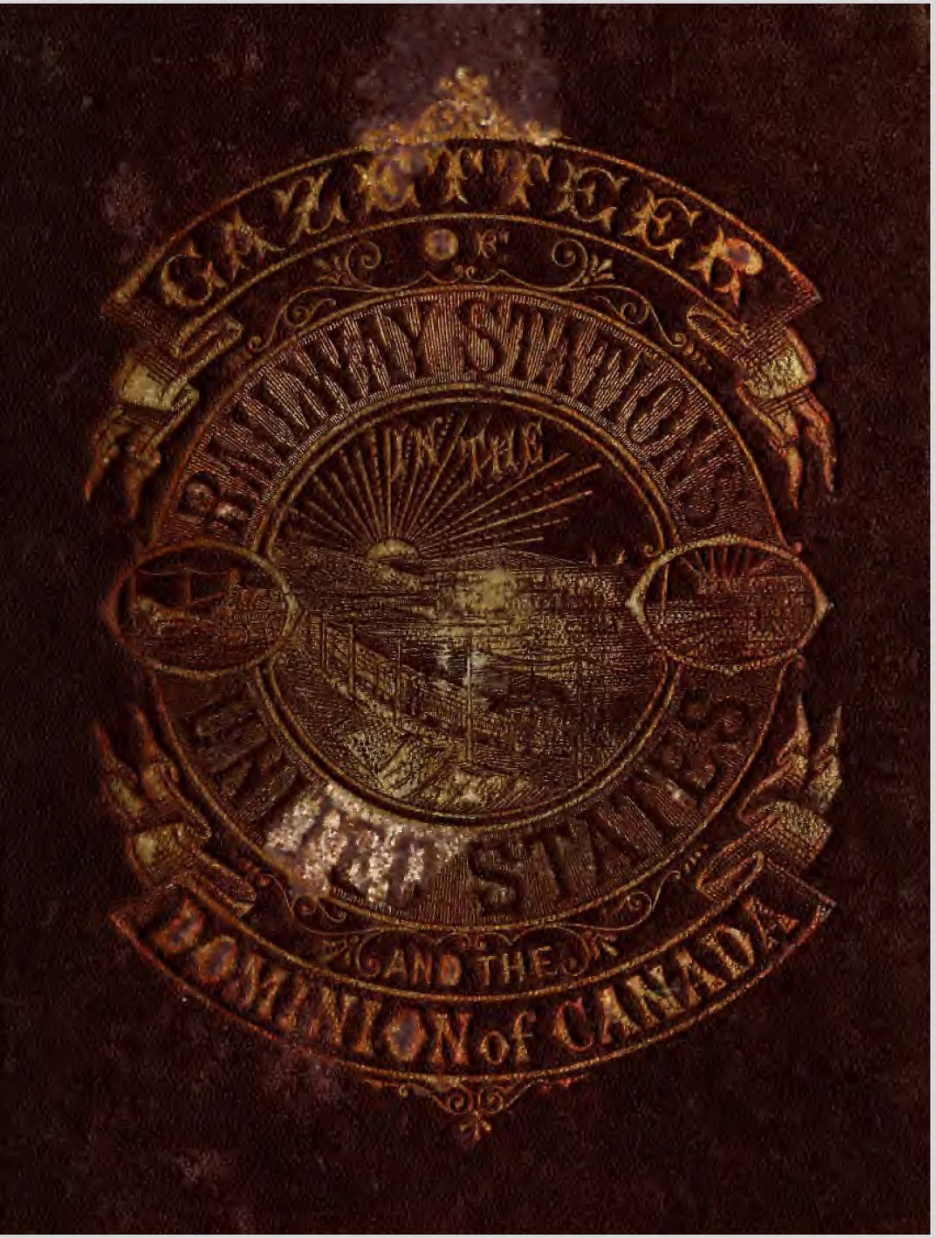
Index with listing of hundreds of place names in Southeast Alaska

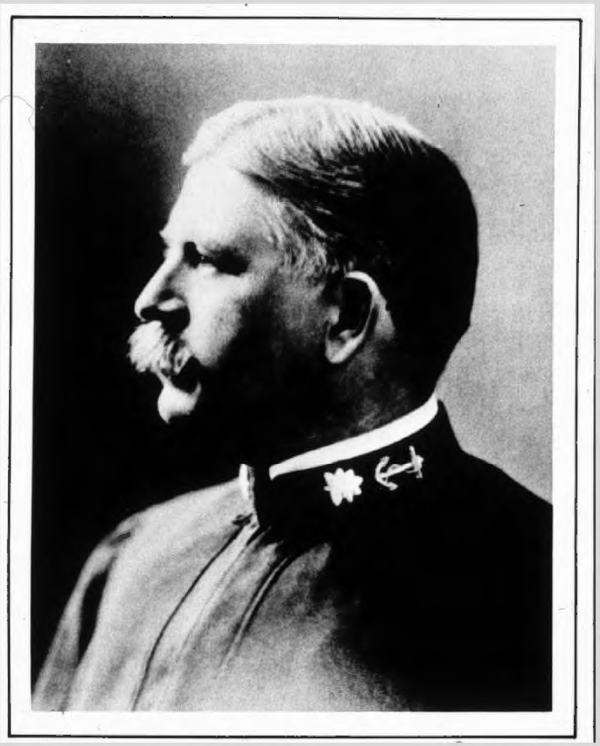


STATION.	COUNTY AND STATE.	NAME OF ROAD.	Population.
L'Anguille	St. Francis, Ark.	Memphis & Little Rock	
+L'Anse	Houghton, Mich.	Marquette, Houghton & Onton. □ ♁	1500
L'Anse á Giles	L'Islet, Quebec.	Grand Trunk	
+Labadie	Franklin, Mo.	Missouri Pacific ♁	125
+La Belle	Lewis, Mo.	Quincy, Missouri & Pacific	
+Labette	Labette, Kan.	Missouri, Kansas & Texas □	250
Labran	Fremont, Colorado.	Denver & Rio Grande ♁	300
+Labuda	Adams, Ill.	Toledo, Wabash & Western □	500
+Lacadie	St. John's, Quebec.	Grand Trunk	
Lacesco	Westmoreland, Pa.	Allegheny Valley	
Laceyville	Wyoming, Pa.	Lehigh Valley □ ♁	300
+Lackawanna	Luzerne, Pa.	Delaware, Lack. & Western ♁	
+Lackawaxen	Pike, Pa.	Erie □ ♁	500
Lack. and Bloom. Jn.	Luzerne, Pa.	Lehigh Valley ♁	
+La Clede	Fayette, Ill.	Illinois Central □	125
++La Clede	Linn, Mo.	Burlington & South-western □ ♁ Hannibal & St. Joseph	700
La Clede	St. Louis, Mo	Missouri Pacific	150
+Lachine	JacquesCartier,Que.	Grand Trunk	
++La Colle	St. Johns, Quebec.	Grand Trunk □	
++Lacon	Marshall, Ill.	Chicago & Alton □	2000
++Laconia	Belknap, N. H.	Boston, Concord & Montreal ♁	
+Lac-qui-parle	Lac-qui-parle,Minn.	Chicago & North-western	
+La Crescent	Houston, Minn.	Chicago, Dubuque & Minnesota □ ♁	380
La Crescent Junction	Houston, Minn.	Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul	
+La Crosse	Hancock, Ill.	Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw	
+La Crosse	La Porte, Ind	Louisville, New Alb. & Chic. □ ♁ Pittsburg, Cincinnati & St. Louis	25
++La Crosse	La Crosse, Wis.	Chicago, Dubuque & Minn. □ ♁ Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Southern Minnesota	7785
Lacton	Du Page, Ill.	Chicago, Burlington & Quincy	
Lacy	Ocean, N. J.	Tuckerton	50
+Laddonia	Audrain, Mo.	Chicago & Alton ♁	50
+Ladiga	Calhoun, Ala.	Selma, Rome & Dalton	175
++Ladoga	Montgomery, Ind.	Louisville, New Alb. & Chicago □ ♁	878
+Ladora	Iowa, Ia.	Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific □ ♁	125
+Ladore	Neosho, Kan.	Missouri, Kansas & Texas	50
Ladson's	Charleston, S. C.	South Carolina	
+La Due	Henry, Mo.	Missouri, Kansas & Texas	
++Lafargeville	Jefferson, N. Y.	Utica & Black River □	350
Lafayette	Chambers, Ala.	East Alabama & Cincinnati	
+Lafayette	Stark, Ill.	Peoria & Rock Island ♁	
++Lafayette	Tippecanoe, Ind.	Cincinnati, Lafayette & Chic. □ ♁ Indianapolis, Cincinnati & Laf Louisville, New Albany & Chicago Toledo, Wabash & Western	20,000
Lafayette	Baltimore, Md.	Baltimore & Potomac	
+Lafayette	Sussex, N. J.	Sussex	
+Lafayette	Onondaga, N. Y.	Delaware, Lack. & Western □ ♁	
Lafayette	Allen, O.	Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago □	350
Lafayette	Montgomery, Pa.	Philadelphia & Reading	
Lafayette	Bell, Tenn.	Memphis & Charleston □ ♁	375
+Lafayette	Chippewa, Wis.	Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Chicago & North-western	
Lafayette Junction	Tippecanoe, Ind.	Toledo, Wabash & Western	
+Laflin	Bollinger, Mo.	St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern □	
Laflin	Luzerne, Pa.	Central of New Jersey	
+La Fourche	La Fourche, La.	Morgan's Louisiana & Texas	
La Fourche	Ouachita, La.	North Louisiana & Texas	
+La Fox	Kane, Ill.	Chicago & North-western □	100
+La Grange	Troup, Ga.	Atlanta & West Point □ ♁ North & South Georgia	2500
La Grange	Cook, Ill.	Chicago, Burlington & Quincy	180
++La Grange	La Grange, Ind.	Grand Rapids & Indiana □ ♁	1600

+Post Office. ++Money Order P. O. □ Express Office. ♁ Telegraph Station.

Gazetteer of Railway Stations in the United States and the Dominion of Canada 1874

These two men met in the first week of 1890 to discuss problems with Alaska place names. Mendenhall expanded the concept to include all government agencies concerned with nation-wide orthography.



Thomas Corwin Mendenhall, Seventh Superintendent of the C&GS, physicist, college professor, seismologist, geophysicist, named ampere, volt, and ohm at International Electrical Congress of 1893

LCDR Richardson Clover, Hydrographer of the Navy, Superintendent of the Navy Hydrographic Office. Served ten years in the Coast Survey, four in Alaska as commanding officer of the C&GS Ship PATTERSON

President Benjamin Harrison 1889-1893. Among the major issues facing his administration were civil service reform, the administration of Civil War pensions and the regulation of tariffs. The spending policies of the federal government during Harrison's term earned the legislative branch the moniker "the Billion Dollar Congress."

Among Benjamin Harrison's lesser known accomplishments was the establishment of a "Board on Geographic Names." His Executive Order dated September 4, 1890, stated:

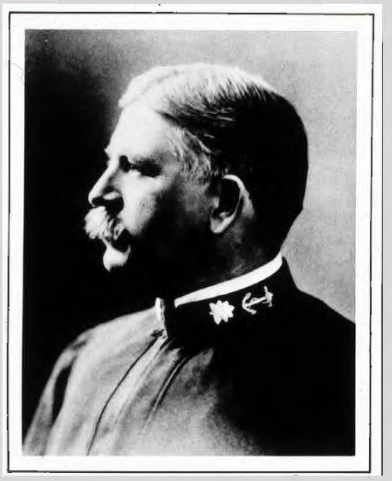
"As it is desirable that uniform usage in regard to geographic nomenclature and orthography obtain throughout the Executive Departments of the Government, and particularly upon the maps and charts issued by the various Departments and Bureaus, I hereby constitute a Board on Geographic Names…."

Thomas Corwin Mendenhall, USC&GS. First Chairman of the BGN

The Executive Committee – Prepares material for full board to review

Herbert Gouverneur Ogden, USC&GS, VP National Geographic Society

Henry Gannett, Chief Geographer, USGS



LCDR Richardson Clover, Hydrographer of the Navy And Secretary of the Board

Otis T. Mason
Smithsonian
Ethnologist

Captain H. L. Howison
Lighthouse Board

Andrew H. Allen
State Department

Marcus Baker, USGS
and NGS

Pierson Bristow,
Post Office

Maj. Thomas Turtle
US Army C of E

"After the American Civil War there was a surge of mapping and scientific reporting associated with the exploration, mining, and settlement of the western territories. Inconsistencies and contradictions among the many names, their spellings, and applications became a serious problem to mapmakers and scientists who required uniform, nonconflicting geographic nomenclature. As a result, President Benjamin Harrison signed an Executive Order on September 4, 1890, establishing the United States Board on Geographic Names. "

Donald Orth and Roger Payne in: Domestic Geographic Names: Principles, Policies, and Procedures. 1987, online 2003.

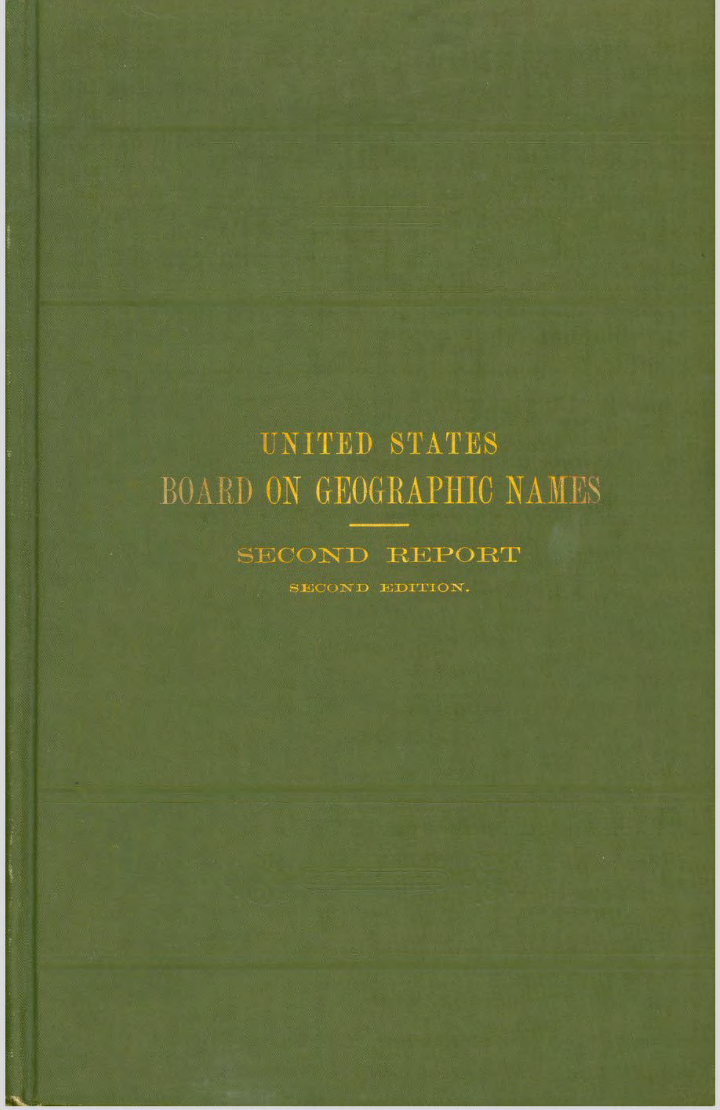
To ascertain whether the BGN was formed in response to the "surge of exploration, settlement, and economic exploitation of the American West" after the Civil War, an analysis of both Bulletin 1 of the BGN and the first ten years of names decisions of the Board was made. It would seem that if the above statement is correct, decisions concerning western states place names, particularly those of the intermontane west, should dominate the early activities of the BGN. Alaska also, perhaps because of the initial meeting between Mendenhall and Clover, has also been invoked as a prime mover for the formation of the BGN.

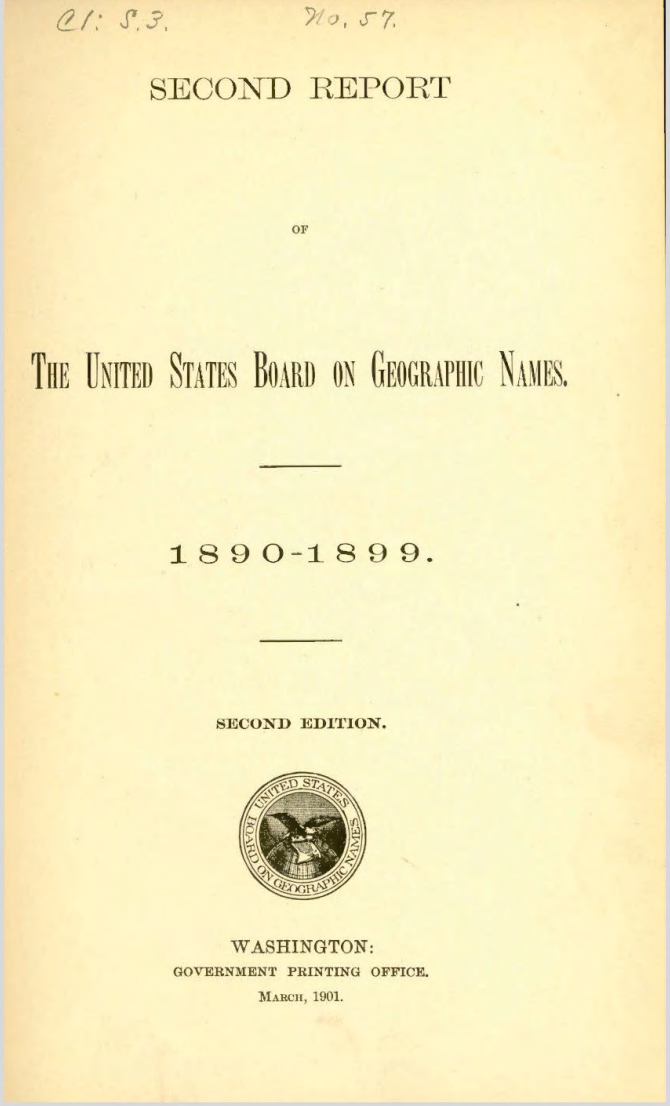
Decisions of BGN Bulletin No. 1, December 31, 1890

ALASKA (155)

Maine (15) California(4) New York (3) Massachusetts (2)
Washington (2) Colorado (1) Oregon (1) Connecticut (1)
North Carolina (1) Florida(1) District of Columbia (1) Maryland (1)

Arizona + New Mexico + Utah + Nevada + Idaho + Montana + Wyoming = 0





Second Report of BGN 1890-1899.

Generic Terms

Civil Terms (2132)

Nautical Terms (1496)

Terrestrial Physiographic Terms (172)

Post Office (1045)

Township (436) **Island (358)** **RR Station (330)**

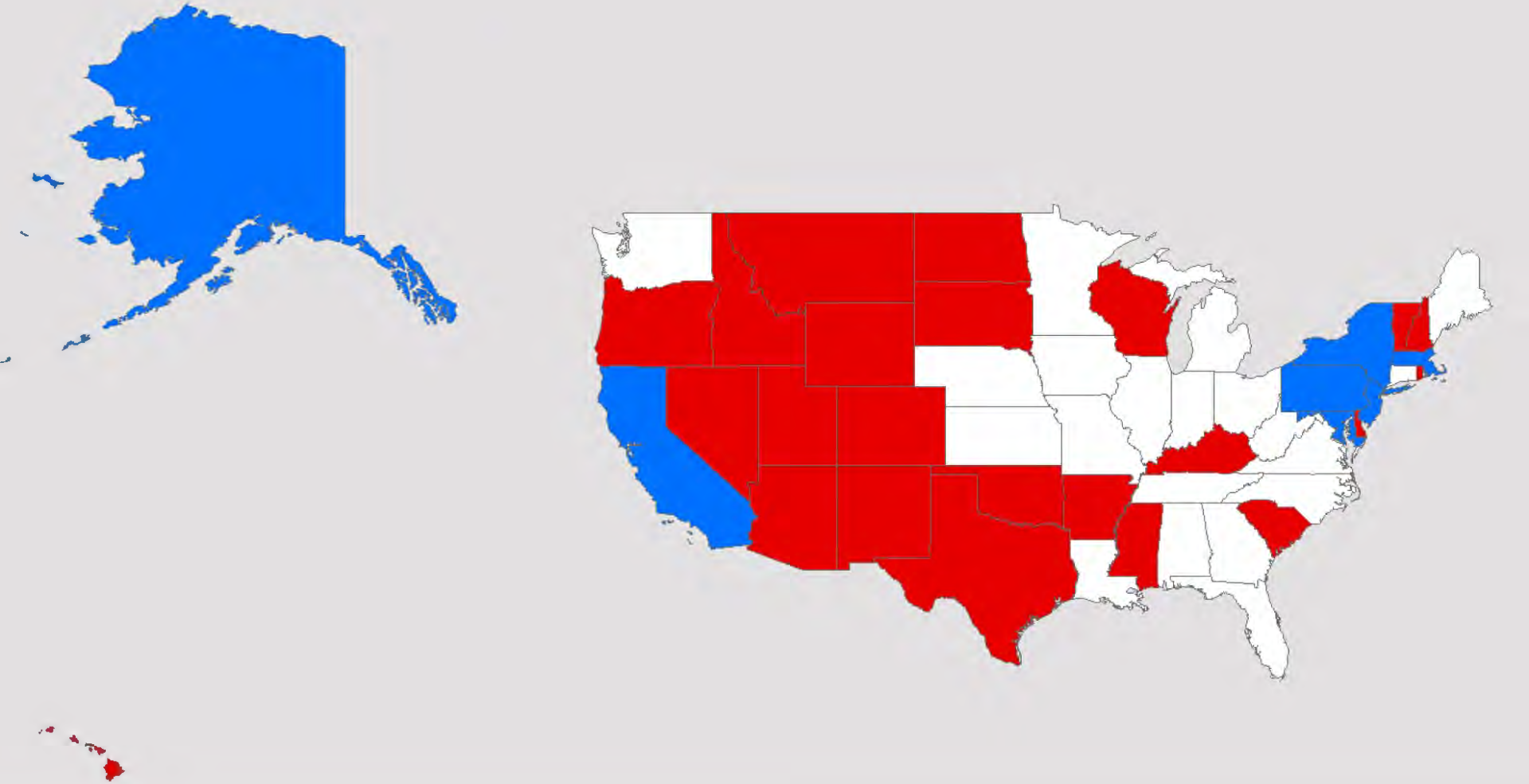
Points (231) **Cities (194)** **Mountains (165)** **Towns (140)**

Bays (127) **Post Lights (108)** **Landings (106)**

Generic Features with over 100 occurences in 2nd Report . There are forty additional generic terms found in the first 10 years of decisions, most of which are nautical in nature.

Regional Decisions by BGN 1890-1899.

Decisions east of Mississippi River	2319
Decisions west of Mississippi River	1297
Foreign	503



Cumulative blue states are top 1/3 of names decisions; white represents middle 1/3 of names decisions; and red bottom 1/3

258	New York
228	Alaska
178	Massachusetts
167	Pennsylvania
163	Maryland
148	California
141	New Jersey

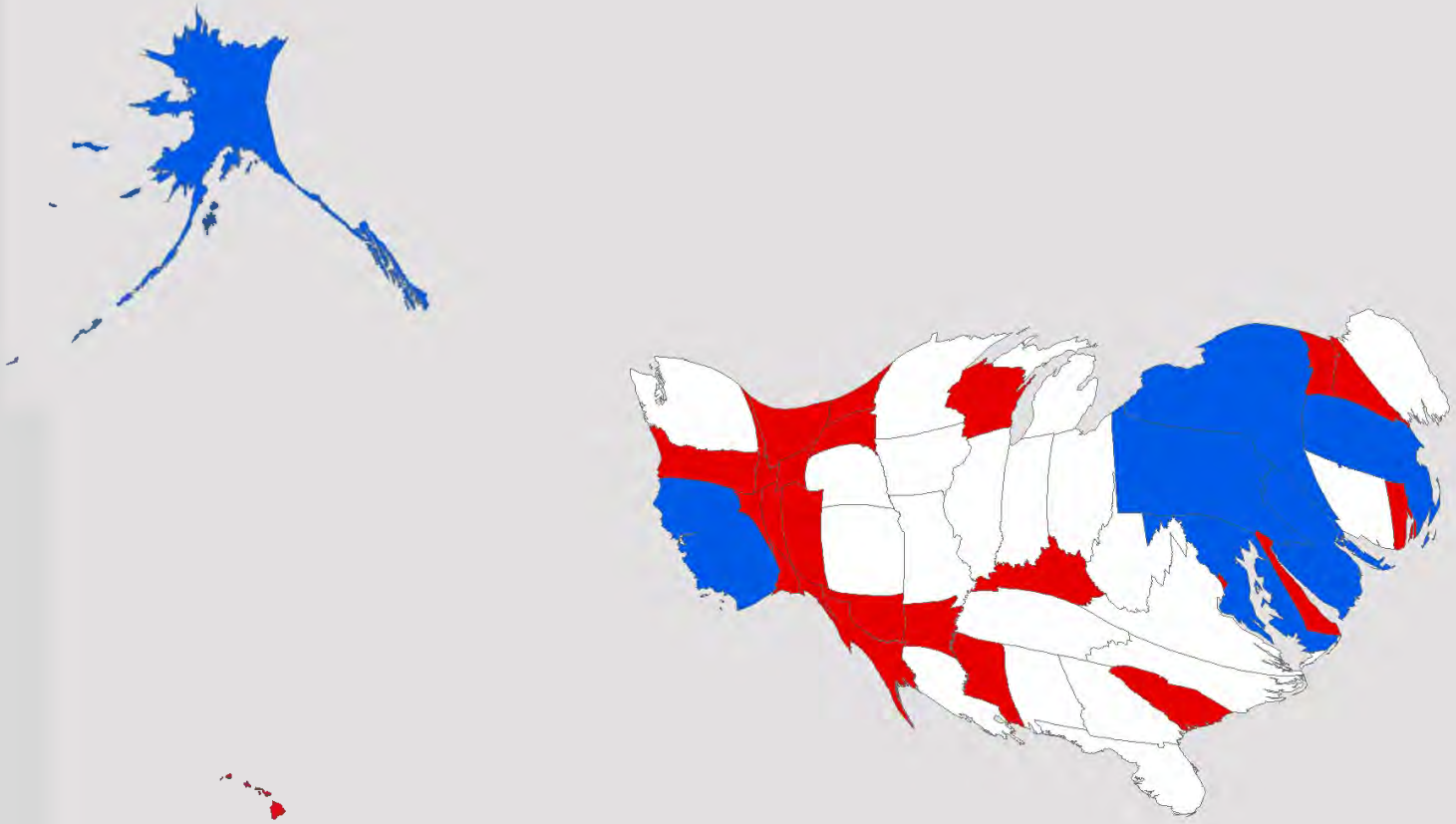
Highest number of names decisions per state in first ten years of BGN activity. 1283 total.

131	Virginia	79	N. Carolina
125	Washington	78	Florida
122	Tennessee	77	Georgia
106	Minnesota	76	Michigan
106	Ohio	74	W. Virginia
104	Maine	67	Iowa
103	Kansas	66	Connecticut
91	Illinois	62	Louisiana
85	Missouri	61	Alabama
81	Indiana	60	Nebraska

Middle third of data as per Cartogram algorithm. 1754 name decisions.

55	Wisconsin	18	NH
47	Colorado	17	Utah
46	Oregon	16	Rhode Island
46	South Carolina	15	Vermont
45	Kentucky	10	N. Dakota
39	Montana	10	Wyoming
39	Mississippi	9	Idaho
31	Texas	8	Arizona
29	Arkansas	8	Dist. of Col.
27	Indian Terr./OK	7	Nevada
24	Delaware	4	Hawaii
22	South Dakota	3	New Mexico

Bottom 24 states and territories have 593 decisions.



Cartogram of number of names per state. Relative size a function of area and number of names.

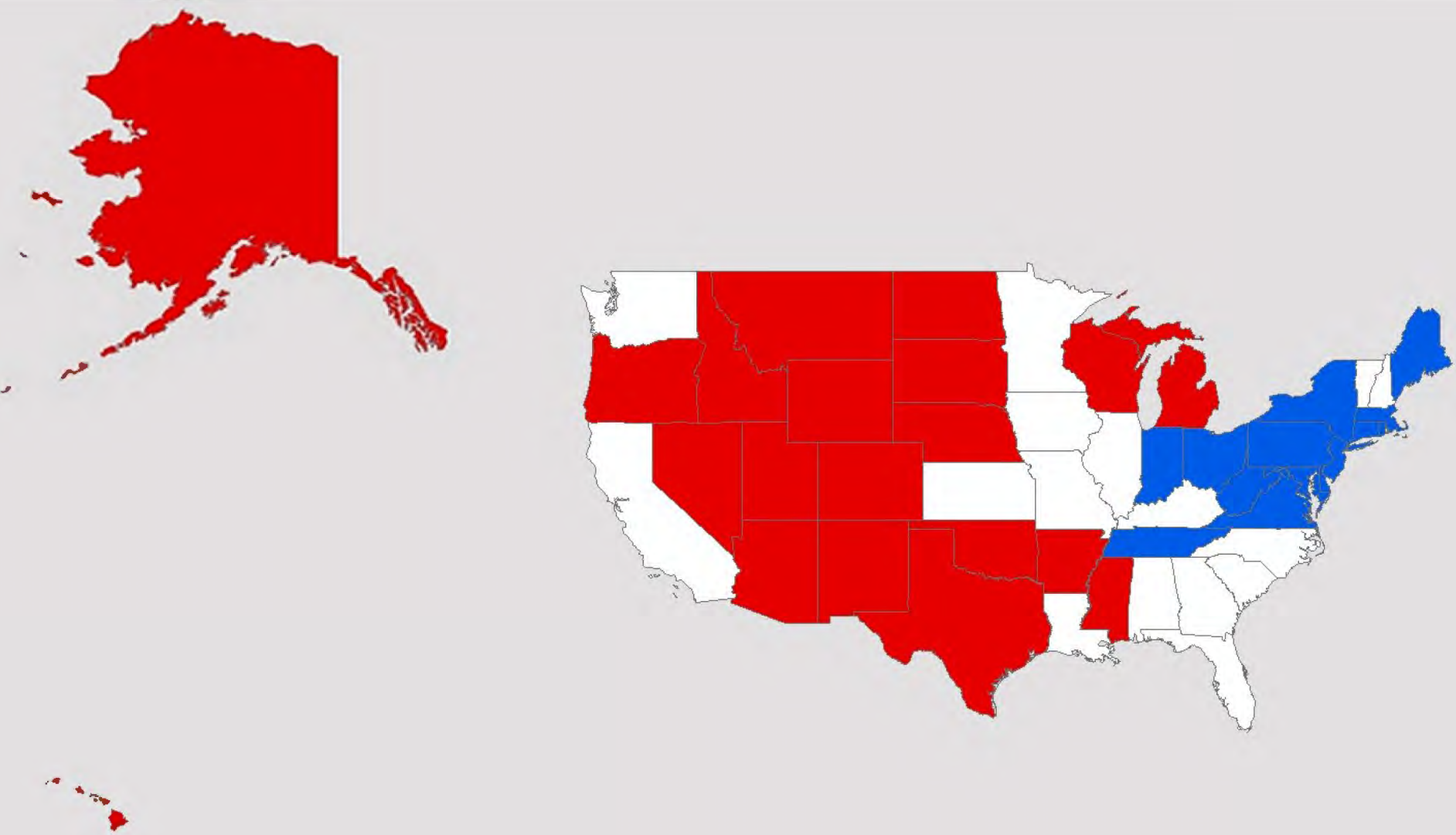
Washington, D.C	114.3
Massachusetts	17.0
New Jersey	16.2
Rhode Island	13.3
Maryland	13.1
Connecticut	12.0
Delaware	9.6
New York	4.7
Pennsylvania	3.6
Virginia	3.1

10 highest intensity states

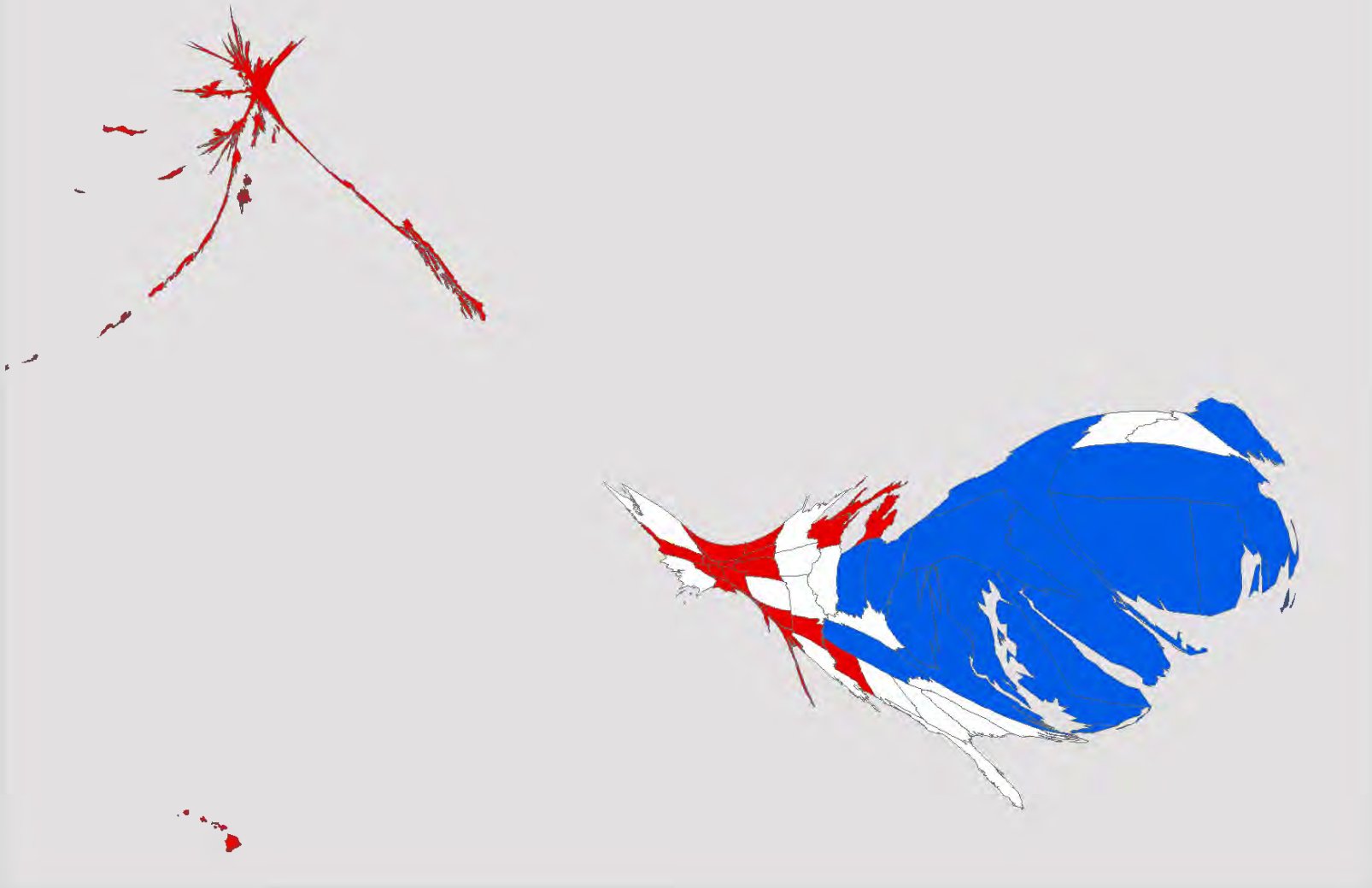
Montana	0.3
South Dakota	0.3
Utah	0.2
Wyoming	0.1
Texas	0.1
North Dakota	0.1
Nevada	0.1
Idaho	0.1
Arizona	0.1
New Mexico	0.02

10 lowest intensity states

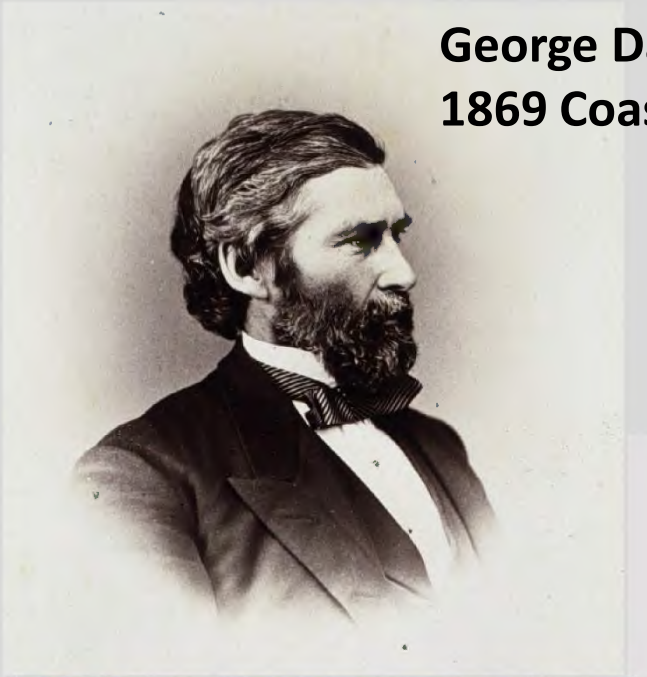
Names Decisions per 1,000 square miles per state – BGN decision intensity.



Names decisions per 1,000 square miles per state – Measure of BGN decision intensity

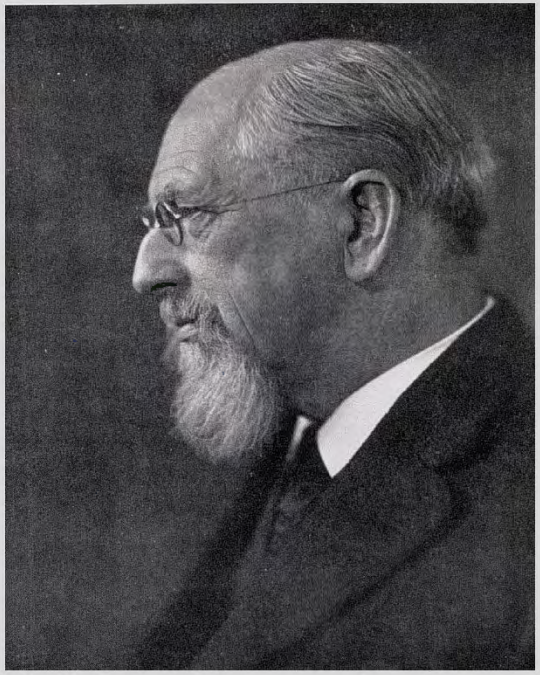


Cartogram of BGN name decision intensity. Name decisions per thousand square miles per state.



George Davidson,
1869 Coast Pilot

William Healy Dall
Pacific Coast Pilot:
Coast and Islands of
Alaska 1879



Marcus Baker: Dall's
assistant and 1890-93 BGN

Herbert Gouverneur
Ogden 1890-1893 BGN

Alaska and the BGN

Two or three hundred Alaska names presented to board early on for consideration

First Bulletin of BGN reported 155 Alaska decisions and 241 names superceded. The majority of which were coastal.

Magnitude of Alaska names decisions issues became apparent so Board appointed Marcus Baker of USGS and Herbert Gouverneur Ogden of C&GS as a committee to research Alaska names.

By 1893 Ogden had compiled 2400 names in Southeast Alaska, Baker 1900 names for the rest of Alaska.

Work stopped for eight years. Thence first great territorial compilation of names was published by the BGN. A year later the Alaska compilation was published by the USGS.

SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

RELATING TO

THE GEOGRAPHIC NAMES IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
MAY, 1901.

Espiritu Santo, cabo.
Estancia, fondeadero.
Estilete, monte.
Eulalia, villeta.
Eulili, punta.
Eustasia, bantay, y punta.

Faltabin, isla.
Famosa, villeta.
Farol, isla, y punta.
Faunil, estero.
Fernandez, punta.
Filantropia, punta.
Flaca, punta.
Flechas, punta.
Font, isla.
Foon-Pandanan, punta.
Fortun, isla.
Fragata, rio.
Fraile, isla.
Frailes, islas.
Fuego (de), *or* **de Calayo**, punta.
Fuga, islas.
Fulin, isla.

Gaba, seno.
Gabo, puerto, y punta.
Gabot, punta.
Gabung, isla.
Gadd, roca.
Gajo, punta.
Galangalan, monte.
Galban, *or* **Malagundi**, punta.
Galera, puerto, y punta.
Gallina (La) y Los Pollos, islas.
Gallo (Cresta de), isla, y monte.
Galoc, islas.
Galvaney, isla, y punta.
Gam, punta.
Gamay, punta.
Gan, seno.
Gandol, isla.
Ganga, punta.
Ganon, pueblo.
Ganoy, lago.
Gantung, monte.
Gapan, rio.
Gapay, rio.
Gapo, (de) paso.
Gapus, monte.
Garan, punta.
Garcia, bajo.
Gardiner, isla.
Gardoqui, punta.
Garot, rio.
Garza, isla.
Gasacan, punta.
Gasan, pueblo, y monte.
Gaspar, isla.
Gata, *or* **Bulag**, punta.
Gatas, isla.
Gato, islote.
Gaus, isla.
Gavet, arroyo, y seno.
Gavilan, punta.
Gay, isla.
Gayo-mayo, canal.
Gazan, *or* **Bano**, punta.
Geladioc, rio.
Geminis, islotes.
General, isla.
Genuruan, isla.
Getafe, pueblo.
Gibong, rio.
Gibuson, isla.
Gigantangan, isla.
Gigantes, islas.
Gigoso, punta.
Gilutugan, isla.
Gim, rio.
Gimalic, punta.
Gimanoc, isla.
Ginablan, punta, y visita.
Ginac, ensenada.
Ginatilan, pueblo.
Ginigaran, pueblo, y rio.
Ginoso, visita.
Gintacor, cerro.
Ginunagan, pueblo.
Gipdo, isla.
Gitana, isla.
Glan, villeta.
Glan-Masila, fondeadero.
Gnat, arrecife.
God, isla.
Gogo, punta.
Goitya, bajo.
Golgotha, cabo.
Golo, islas, y (de) paso.
Gomagamot, arroyo.
Gomez, *or* **Lalangan**, ensenada, y punta.
Gondra, islote.
Gorda, punta.
Gordag, punta.
Gordu, punta.
Govenen, isla.
Grande, isla.
Grande de la Pampanga, rio.
Granja, villeta.
Gran Laja, isla.

Produced by Naval Hydrographic Office, published by BGN.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

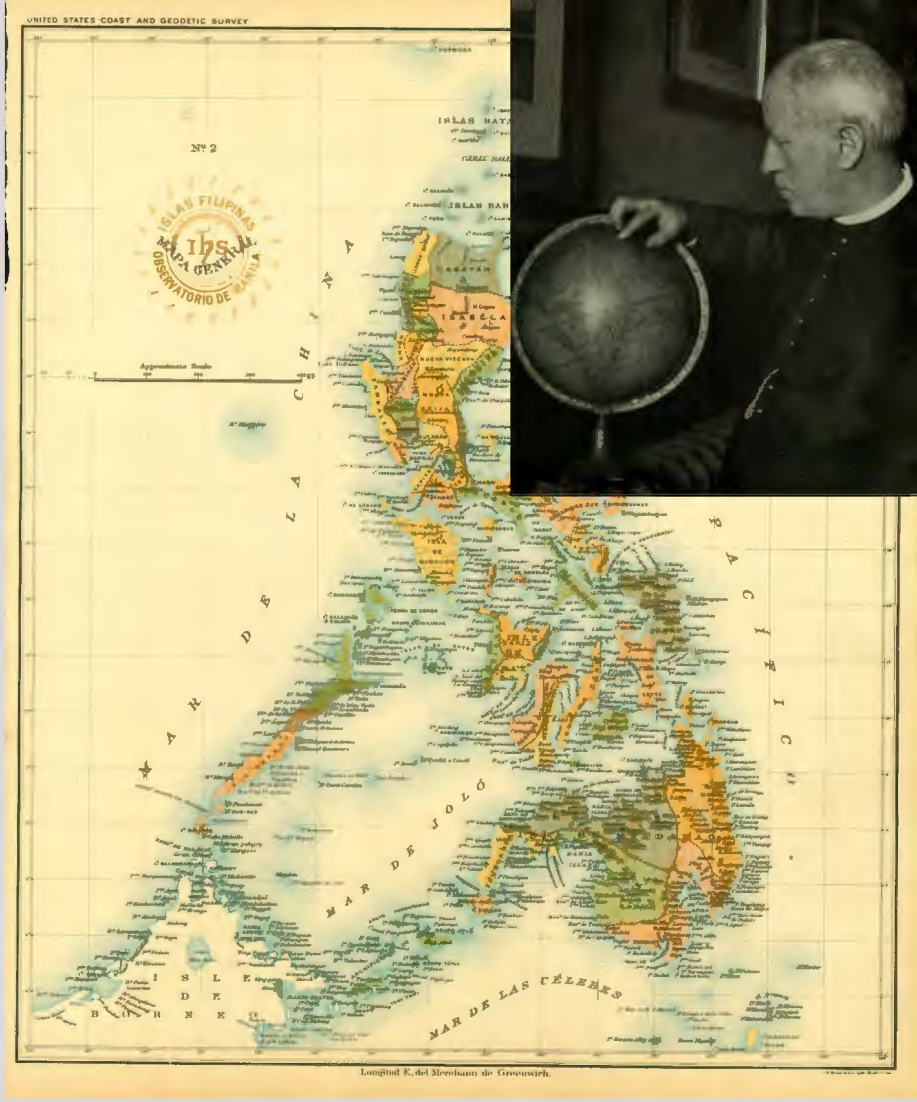
U. S. COAST AND GEODETIC SURVEY.

HENRY S. PRITCHETT,
SUPERINTENDENT.

SPECIAL PUBLICATION NO. 3.

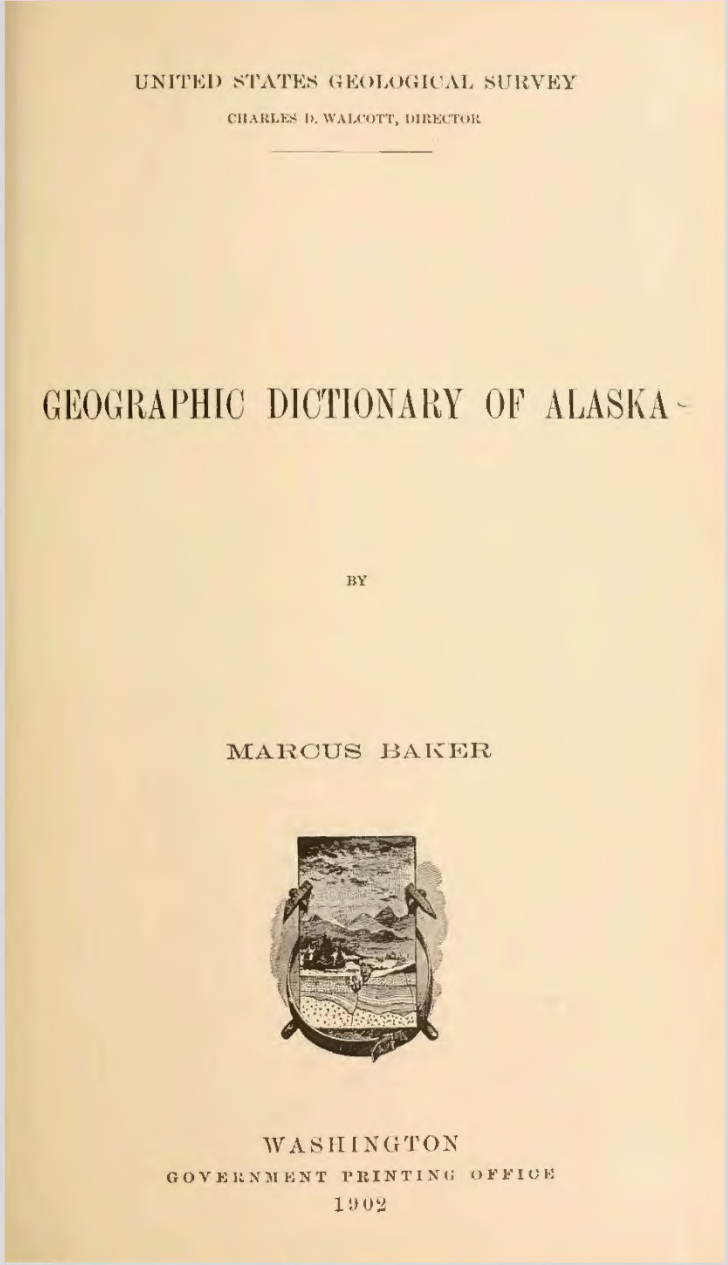
ATLAS OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1900.



Based on atlas produced by Coast and Geodetic Survey in turn based on work of Father Jose Algue, S. J., of the Manila Observatory.

125 years 1890 2015



UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CHARLES D. WALCOTT, DIRECTOR

GEOGRAPHIC DICTIONARY OF ALASKA

BY

MARCUS BAKER

WASHINGTON

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1902

Marcus Baker's Geographic Dictionary of Alaska, published by USGS in 1902. How does this compare to USGS efforts concerning place names during the formative years of the BGN?

Henry Gannett, Chief Geographer of the USGS, published the following Geographic Dictionaries between 1894 and 1906:

Massachusetts 1894
New Jersey 1894
Rhode Island 1894
Connecticut 1894
Kansas 1898

Utah 1900
Texas 1902
Virginia 1904
Maryland 1904
Oklahoma 1905

Puerto Rico 1901
Cuba 1904
West Virginia 1904
Delaware 1904
Colorado 1906

My conclusions based on an analysis of the work accomplished in the BGN early years:

1) Although the Alaska meeting of Mendenhall and Clover was the catalyst for the formation of the BGN, they recognized that it (a BGN) was an idea whose time had been a long time coming.

2) Numerous governmental organizations had been wrestling with problems of orthography for many years prior to formation of the BGN.

3) As opposed to names issues with frontier areas, both the BGN and its member organizations, including the USGS, were more concerned with the highly developed, more heavily populated eastern states.

4) Needs of communication, transportation, and commerce followed by diplomacy, defense, and exploration were the driving forces dictating the formation and work of the BGN

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS

In 1816, Ferdinand Hassler, founder and first superintendent of the United States Coast Survey, wrote: "The duty of every man is to be honest and to do good." The Coast Survey in all its various names through time has done its best to follow that simple precept, as have all the great agencies and organizations here today.

The United States Board on Geographic Names embodies that spirit and concept. Its work is one of the invisible underpinnings of our civilization and society and I am proud to have been on one of its committees for a number of years. Its work has truly done "good", in the best sense of the word, for our Nation and citizens.

THE END

THANK YOU!

albert.e.theberge.jr@noaa.gov

THE EVOLUTION OF THE U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Executive Order 399

It is hereby ordered that there be added to the duties of the United States Board on Geographic Names……. **the duty of determining, changing, and fixing place names within the United States and insular possessions, and……. all names…..suggested for any place by any officer or employee of the Government shall be referred to said Board for its consideration and approval before publication.**

In these matters, as in all cases of disputed nomenclature, the decisions of the Board are to be accepted by the Departments of Government as the standard authority.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

January 23, 1906.

Executive Order 493

The official title of the United States Board on Geographic Names is changed to United States Geographic Board. In addition to its present duties, advisory powers are hereby granted to this board concerning the preparation of maps compiled, or to be compiled, in the various bureaus and offices of the Government, with a special view to the avoidance of unnecessary duplications of work; and for the unification and improvement of the scales of maps, of the symbols and conventions used upon them, and of the methods of representing relief. Hereafter, all such projects as are of importance shall be submitted to this board for advice before being undertaken.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,

August 10, 1906.

U. S. Geographic Board

1906 - 1934

Conventional Signs adopted by the U.S. Geographic Board

National, State, or Province Line

County Line

Civil Township, District, Precinct, or Barrio

Reservation Line

Land-Grant Line

City, Village, or Borough

Cemetery, Small Park, etc.

Township, Section, and Quarter Section Lines (any one for township line alone, any two for township and section lines

Township and Section Corners Recovered

Boundary Monument

Triangulation Station

Bench mark BM X 1232

U. S. Mineral Monument

Conventional Signs

DRAINAGE

Streams in general

Intermittent Streams

Lake or Pond in general
(with or without tint, waterlining, etc.)

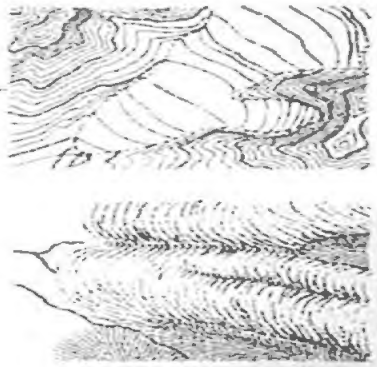
Salt Pond (broken shoreline if intermittent)

Intermittent Lake or Pond

Spring

Falls and Rapids

Glaciers
- *Contours (or as below)*
- *Form Lines showing flow*

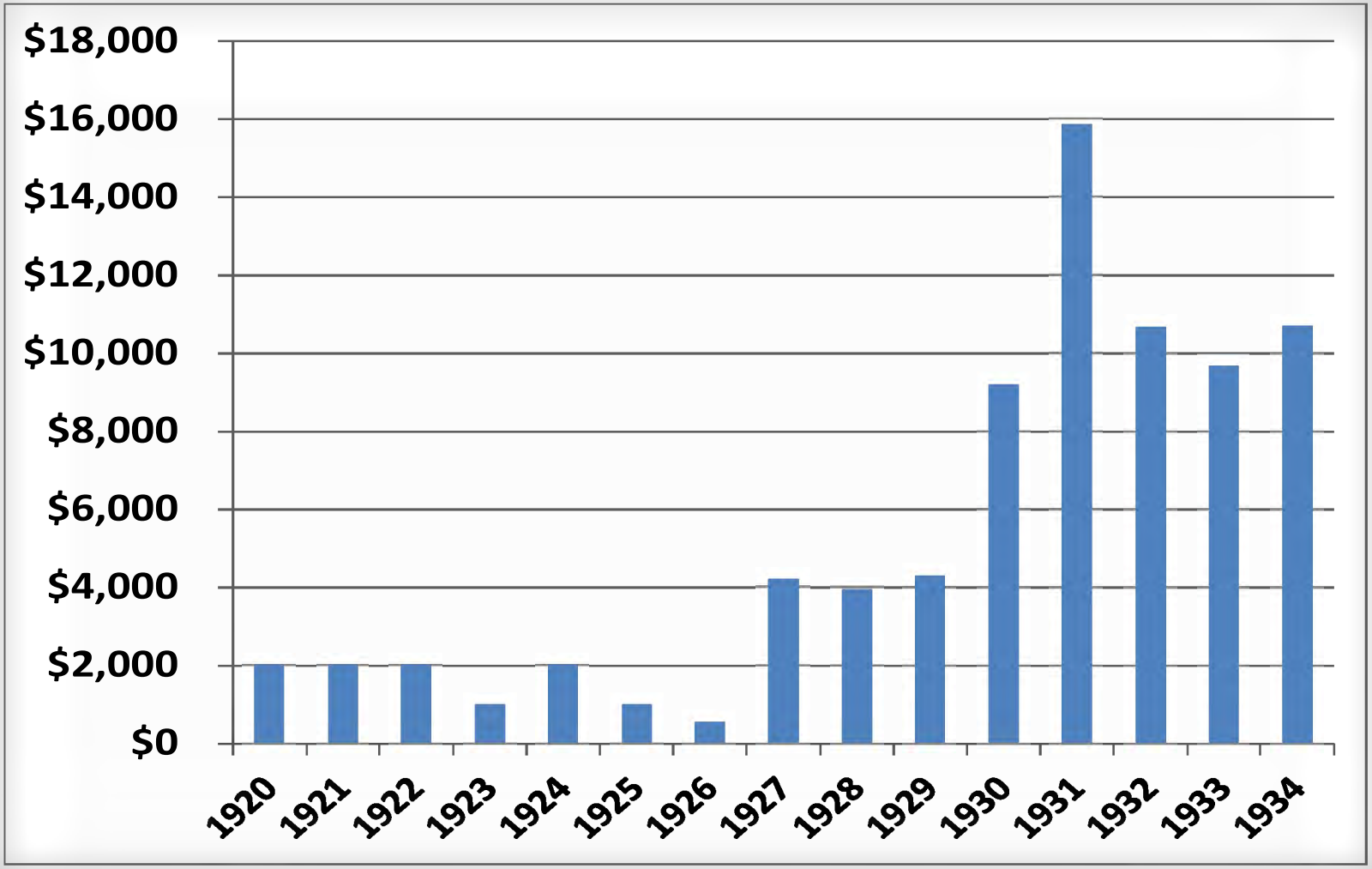


Confusing Names

U.S. Geographic Board OUTREACH

- Advisory Board
- State Names Authorities
- National Names Authorities

Direct Appropriations U.S. Geographic Board 1920-1934



U. S. Geographic Board
June 1932

UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD
MEETING OF JUNE 1, 1932

Nelson A. Tacy, Supt. Div. of Postmasters, Post Office Dept.
F. M. Price, Temporarily Representing the Post Office Dept.
Oliver M. Maxam, Chief, Div. of Operations, U.S. Coast Guard
Joseph H. Wheat, U.S. Geological Survey
C. E. Batschelet, Geographer, Bu. of the Census
E. E. Carter, Forest Service
Lt. Col. H. T. Bull, General Staff, War Department
Rear Adm. W. R. Gherardi, Hydrographer of the Navy
S. W. Boggs, Geographer, Department of State
Frank Bond, Chairman
John J. Cameron, Secretary
Dr. Helen M. Strong, Bu. of Foreign and Domestic Commerce

ABSENT MEMBERS

J. N. B. Hewitt, Bu. of American Ethnology
Capt. R. S. Patton, Coast and Geodetic Survey
Col. Lawrence Martin, Library of Congress
Edward A. Huse, Govt. Printing Office
Geo. R. Putnam, Bu. of Lighthouses

UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

FIRST REPORT
ON
FOREIGN GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
1932

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1932

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. - - - - - - Price 10 cents

HOW TO SPELL FOREIGN NAMES

Geographic Board Lists 2500 of Them

DON'T SAY "RIO GRANDE RIVER," U. S. GEOGRAPHIC BOARD WARNS

Report Setting Americans Straight on 2,500 English Spellings of Foreign Names Is Issued.

Executive Order 6680

U.S. Geographic Board Abolished

Now, therefore, by virtue of and pursuant to the authority vested in me by the aforesaid section 16 of the act of March 3, 1933, it is ordered that the United States Geographic Board be, and it is hereby, abolished; and it is further ordered that all of the functions of said Board, together with its chairman, secretary, and clerk-stenographer, records, supplies, equipment, and property of every kind, and unexpended balances of appropriations, be, and they are hereby, transferred to the Department of the Interior to be administered under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior.

Hoover Dam or Boulder Dam?

U.S. Board on Geographical Names

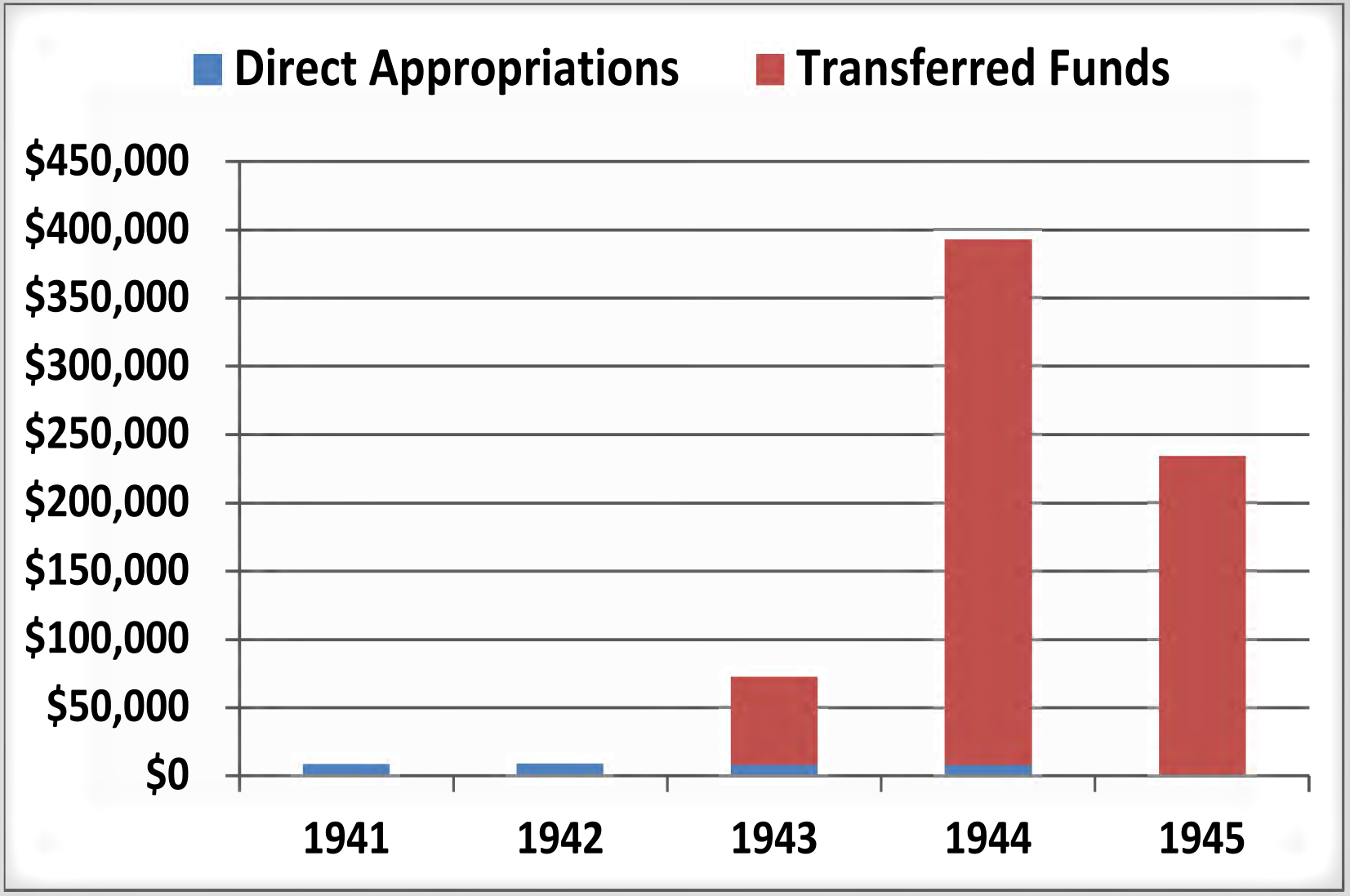
Division of Geographic Names

+

Advisory Committee on Geographic Names

Funding of Division of Geography

Fiscal Years 1941 -1945



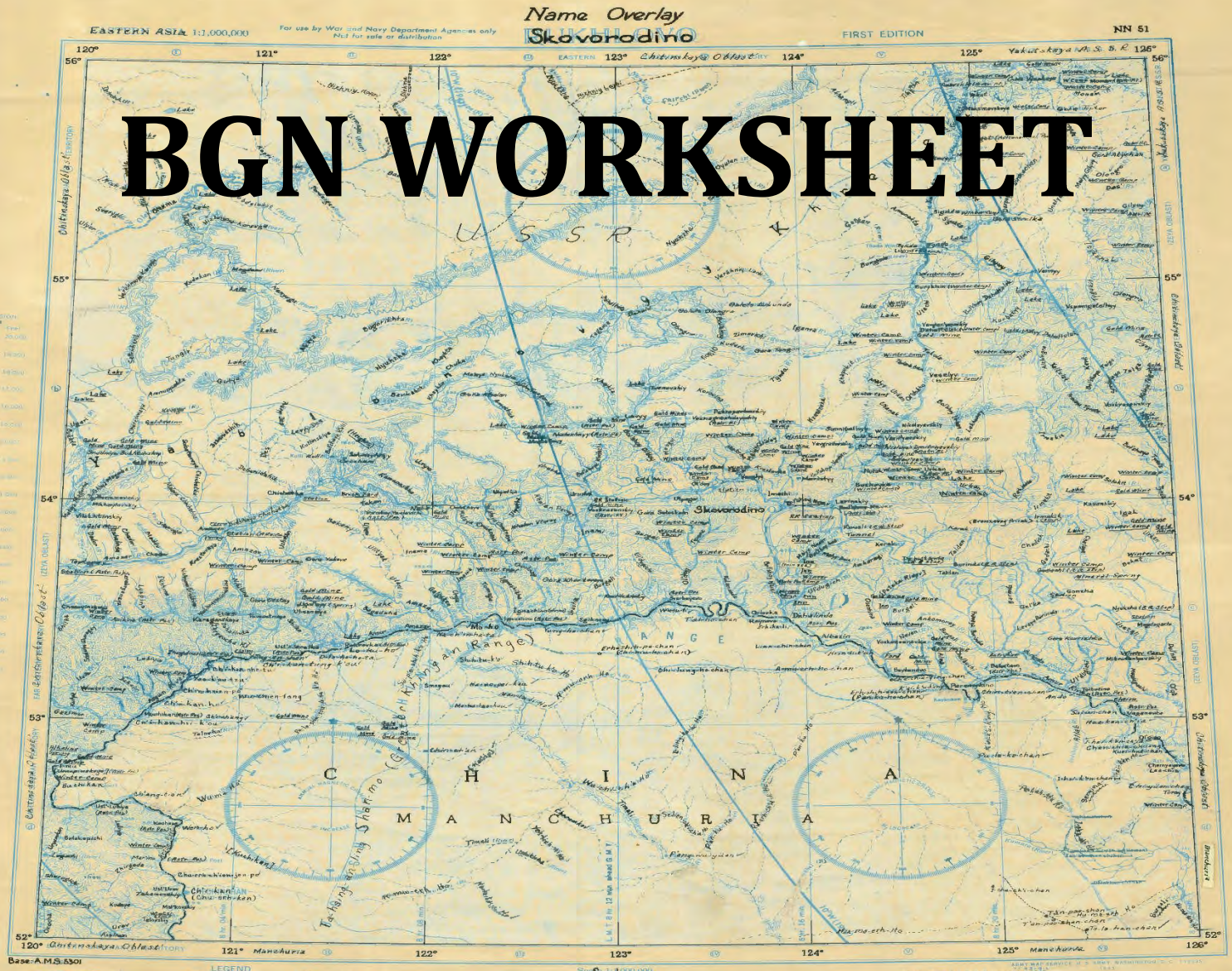
I was “about the only geographer around; so the Secretary of Interior picked me.”

U.S. Board on Geographical Names

Division of Geography

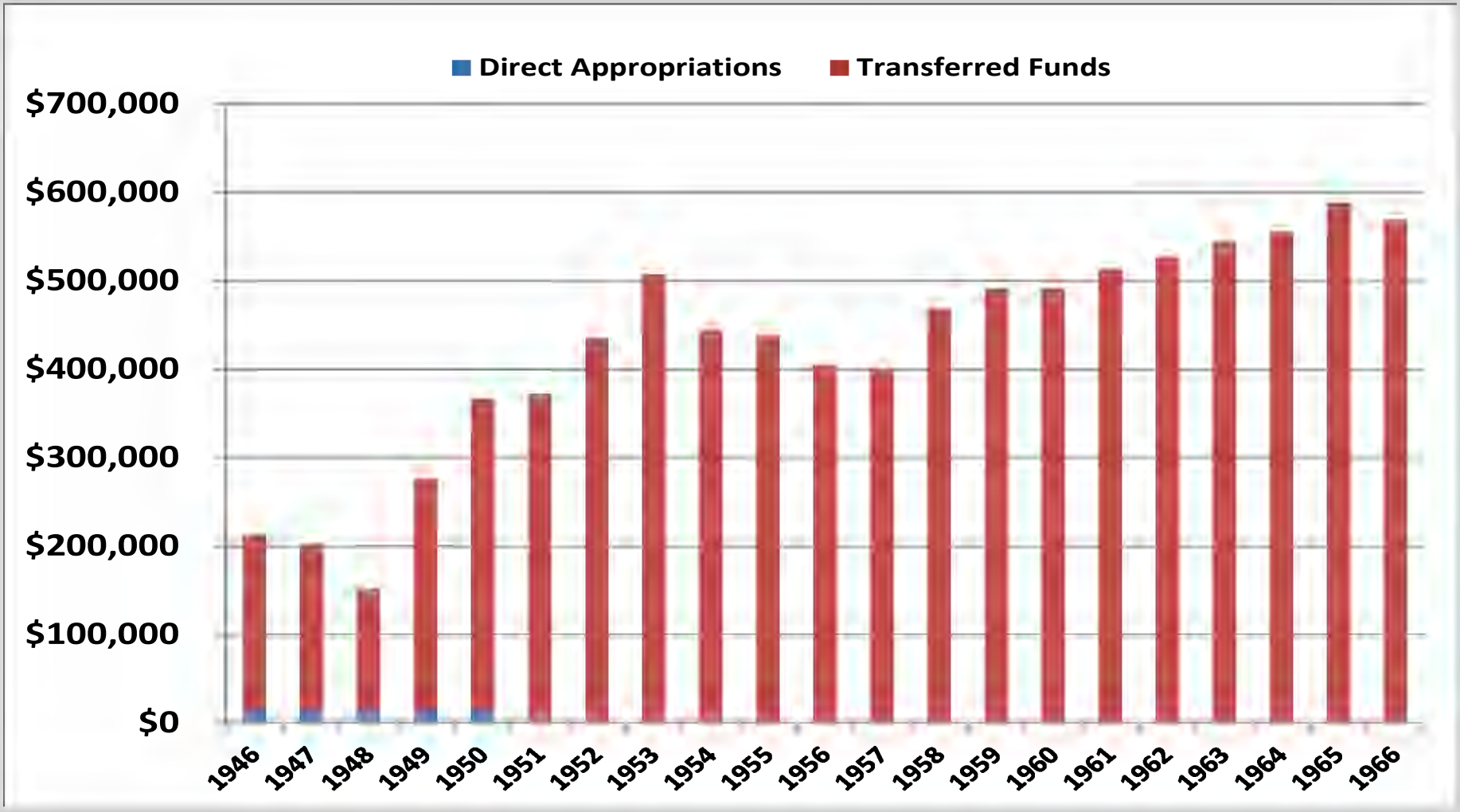
+

Advisory Committee on Geographic Names


Name Overlay
Skovorodino
EASTERN ASIA 1:1,000,000
For use by War and Navy Department Agencies only
Not for sale or distribution
FIRST EDITION
NN 51
BGN WORKSHEET
U S S R
C H I N A
M A N C H U R I A
Skovorodino
Base: A.M.S. 5301
LEGEND
Scale
INDEX TO BOUNDARIES
INDEX TO ADJOINING SHEETS
COMPILATION DIAGRAM
GLOSSARY
Russian
Chinese
Names supplied by the United States Board on Geographical Names in accordance with Directives for the Treatment of Names in Accordance with Directives for the Treatment of Geographical Names in Manchuria, 1945, and Directives for the Treatment of Geographical Names in China, 1944, for the Treatment of Geographical Names in China, Special Publication No. 29, November 1, 1944.
KURATCHOVO, MANCHURIA AND U. S. S. R.
N5200-E12000/400x600

Funding of the Office of Geography

Fiscal Years 1946-1966



Public Law 242 - 80th Congress

To provide a central authority for standardizing geographic names for the purpose of eliminating duplication in standardizing names among the Federal departments, and for other purposes. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That **the Secretary of the Interior**, hereinafter called the Secretary, **conjointly with the Board on Geographic Names**, as hereinafter provided, **shall provide for uniformity in geographic nomenclature and orthography throughout the Federal Government**. The Secretary may exercise his functions through such officials as he may designate, except that such authority as relates to the final approval or review of actions of the Board on Geographic Names shall be exercised by him, or his Under or Assistant Secretaries.

U.S. Board on Geographic Names
1947

James B. Hunt, Chairman

Standing Committees

Executive

Domestic Names

Foreign Names

Publications

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Domestic Names Functions

1958

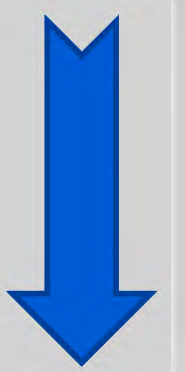
Transferred

Geological Survey

Foreign Names Functions

1968

Transferred



Department of Defense,

Army Map Service

THE EVOLUTION OF THE U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

Text Box for text

The Influence of Technology on the Use of and Access to Geographic Names

BGN 125th Anniversary

September 18, 2015

Luis Bermudez

Executive Director of Compliance and e-Learning,
Open Geospatial Consortium

OGC®
Making location count.

125 years 1890 2015

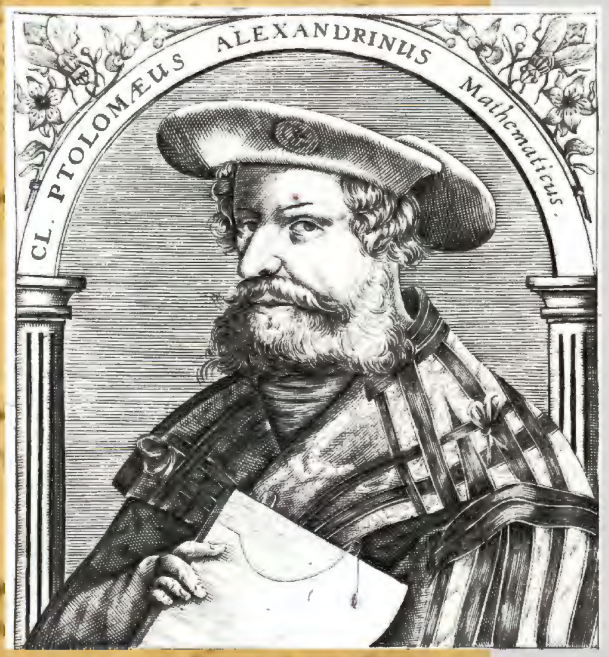
Content

- Maps and names of places
- Two problems: Names and search
- Third revolution
- To infinity and beyond

First Map of the World

Catal Huyuk (South East Turkey) 6200 BC

16th Century



Hartl, Martin, 1805

Two Problems

Names and Search

Hartl, Martin, 1805

DICTIONARY OF ALASKA PLACE NAMES

By Donald J. Orth

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PROFESSIONAL PAPER 567

The principal names listed conform with nomenclature established through decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names or are recognized by the Board as standard names for use on Federal maps and other publications

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE, WASHINGTON : 1967

Bering Sea: *sea*, N part of Pacific Ocean, between Siberia on W and Alaska on E, enclosed by Aleutian Is. on S and Komandorski Is. on SW, and connected by Bering Strait with Chukchi Sea on N; 60° N, 175° E; *BGN 1951; Var.* Aleutian Sea, Behring Sea, Eastern Ocean, Kamchatka Sea, Mer d'Aléoutienne, Mer d'Aliaska, Mer d'Ormante, Sea of Alaska, Sea of Kamchatka, Sea of Otters (Bobrovoi), Sleepy Sea.

Named in 1822 by Capt. V. M. Golovnin, IRN, for Comdr. Ivan Ivanovich (Vitus) Bering, IRN, who was selected by Peter the Great, Tsar of Russia "for the work of exploring eastern Asia and western America • • •. Before 1822 it was for the most part called the Sea of Kamchatka • • •. On a very old map it is called the Mer d'Ormante and on another the Sleepy sea • • •" (Baker, 1906, p. 129).

Behring Glacier: *glacier*, see Bering Glaci

Behring Sea: *sea*, see Bering Sea.

Behring Strait: *water passage*, see Bering

Where is Ontario?


66
15
10
10
Ontario
Pomona
60
Chino
71
83

Ontario


San Luis Obispo
Los Angeles
Anaheim
Long Beach
San Diego
Mexicali
Tijuana
BAJA CALIFORNIA


Canada
Hudson Bay
AB
MB
SK
ON
QC
MT
ND
MN
SD
WI
MI
ID
WY
NE
IA
IL
IN
OH
PA
NY
NH
NV
United States
DE

What is the nearest lake from my current location that I can go fishing?

Techniques to:

- agree on geographic names
- make those names accessible to the public

Agreement via Controlled Vocabularies (Terms + Community)

List of Terms → Dictionary → Tables and Relations

UNITED STATES

BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES.

BULLETIN No. 1.

ISSUED DECEMBER 31, 1890.

CITY OF WASHINGTON:
PUBLISHED BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.
1890.

UNITED STATES

BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES.

BULLETIN No. 2.

ISSUED MAY 25, 1891.

FIRST REPORT

OF THE

34743

UNITED STATES Geographic Board

BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES.

1890—1891.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

APPENDIX A.

LIST OF DECISIONS.

In the following lists the adopted forms are printed in heavy face lower case type, certain discarded forms are entered in the same alphabetical list and printed in *italics*. In each case after the discarded form the adopted form is added in parentheses for ready reference.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

Abagadasset Point. Kennebec River, Maine.
Abagadusset Point. (Abagadasset.)
Aboit. Allen County, Indiana.
Aboite. (Aboit.)
Absaroka Range. Wyoming and Mon-
Akoun Island. (Akun.)
Akoutan Island. (Akutan.)
Akun Island. Alaska.
Akutan Island. Alaska.
Alamota. Lane County, Kansas.
Alapaha. Berrien County, Georgia.

NAMES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

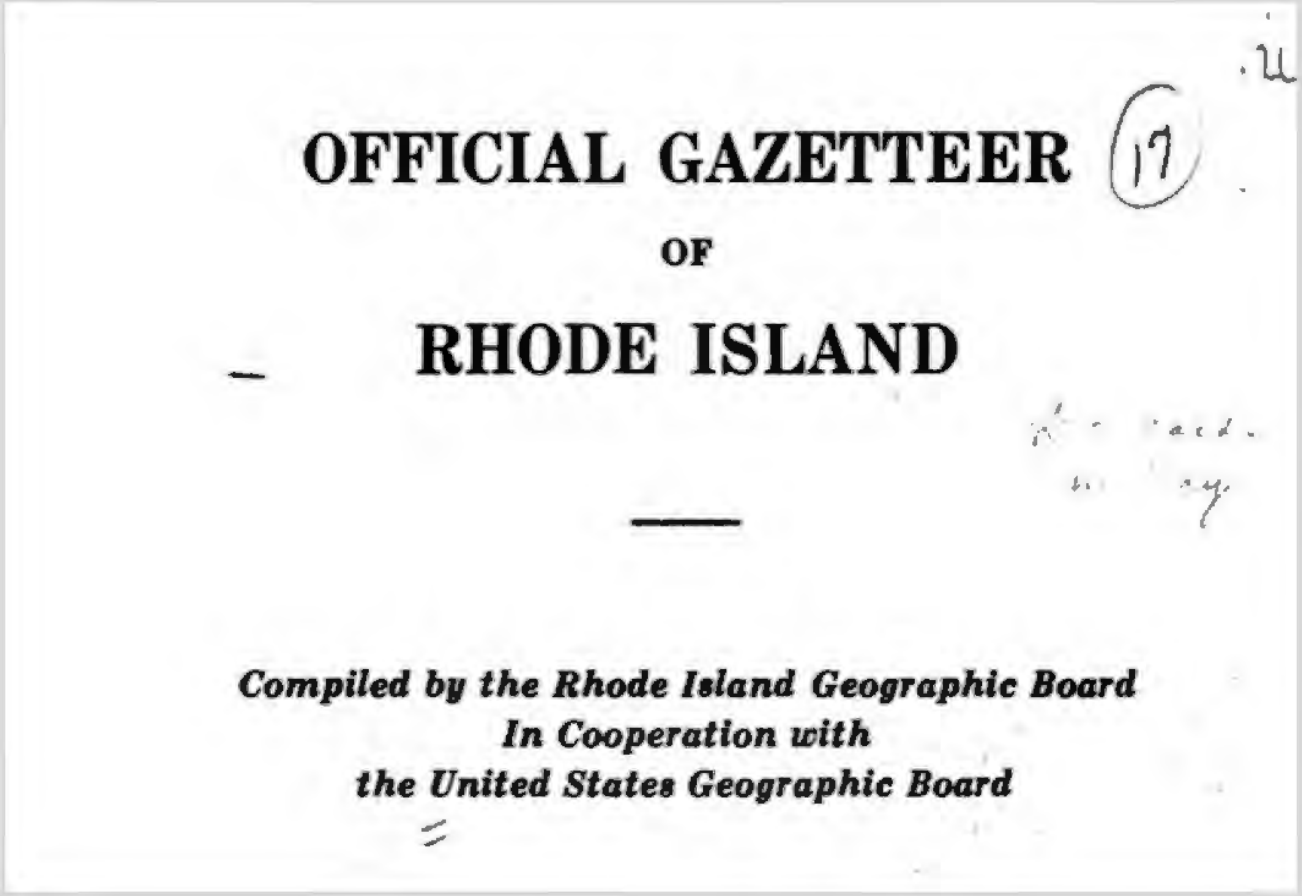
Balouchistan. (Baluchistan.)
Baluchistan. India.
Barbados Island. In West Indies.
Barbadoes Island. (Barbados.)
Bayreuth. (Baireuth.)
Carrical. (Karikal.)
Casamance. (Kasamanze.)
Casamanza. (Kasamanze.)
Casamanse. (Kasamanze.)
Cashmere. (Kashmir.)

APPENDIX B.

DECISIONS OF THE BOARD.

LIST OF COUNTIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

ALABAMA.				
Autauga.	Marengo.	Clark.	Pike.	Monterey.
Baldwin.	Marion.	Clay.	Poinsett.	Napa.
Barbour.	Marshall.	Cleburne.	Polk.	Nevada.
Bibb.	Mobile.	Cleveland.	Pope.	Orange.
Blount.	Monroe.	Columbia.	Prairie.	Placer.
	Montgomery.	Conway.	Pulaski.	Plumas.
	Morgan.	Crittenden.	Randolph.	Sacramento.



OFFICIAL GAZETTEER

OF

RHODE ISLAND

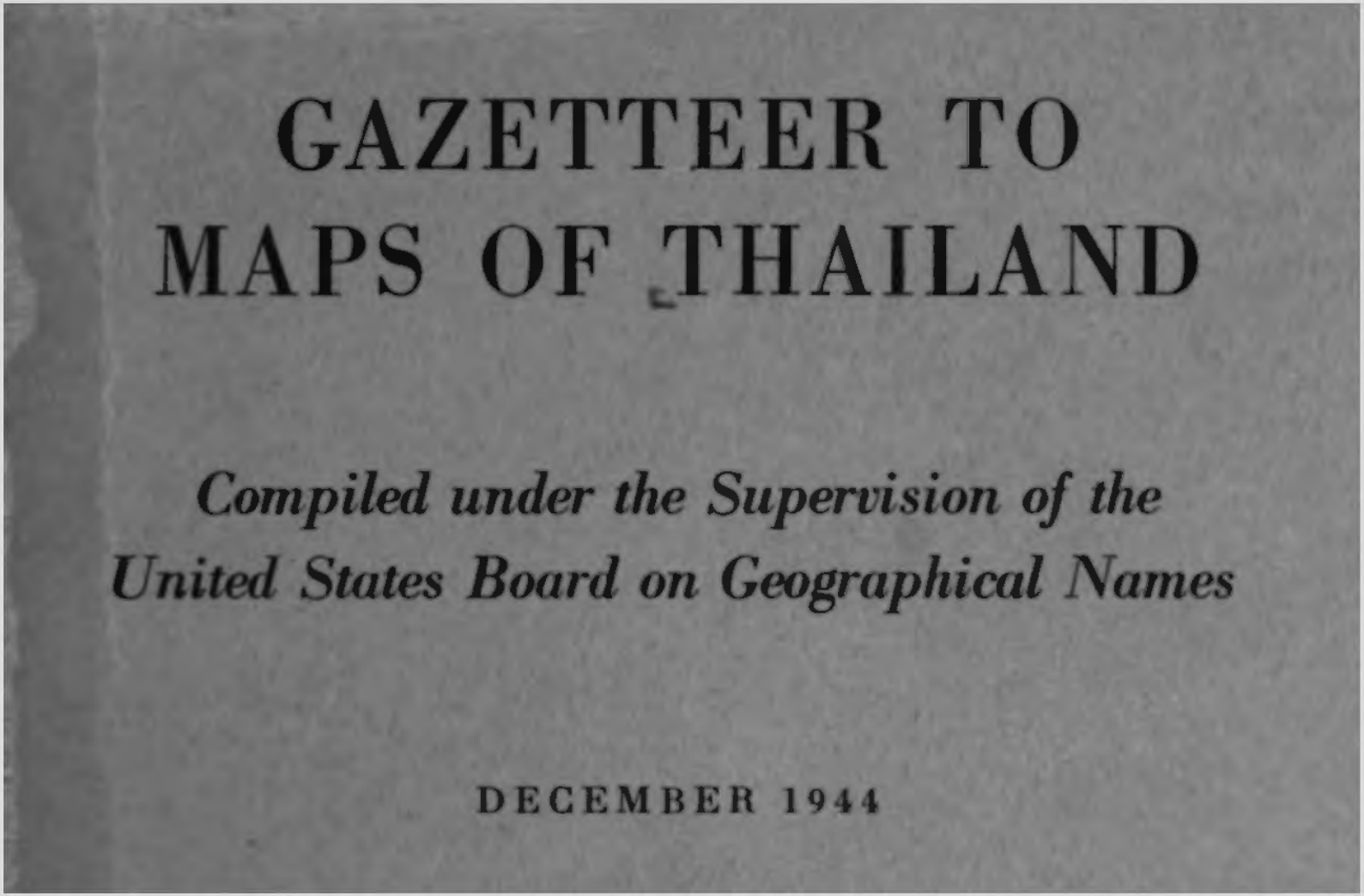
Compiled by the Rhode Island Geographic Board
In Cooperation with
the United States Geographic Board

1932

Core Elements Dictionary Style

Almy: **rock**, in **Tiverton, Newport County**, south of Fogland Point, in Sakonnet River, near **lat. 41° 33′ N., long. 71° 13′ W.**

Name	Class or Type	Location	Containment


GAZETTEER TO
MAPS OF THAILAND
Compiled under the Supervision of the
United States Board on Geographical Names
DECEMBER 1944

1944

Gazetteer to Maps of Thailand
Table style and relations

Name	Desig	Map Reference	Lat N ° ′	Long E ° ′
AI SIPHO	S	RSD/B47-18	5 50	101 05
AI TIKA	S	RSD/B47-18	5 55	101 40
AI TIMUNG	S	RSD/B47-18	5 50	101 40
AI WAENG	S	RSD/B47-18	5 55	101 55
AI WENG	S	RSD/B47-18	5 55	101 05
AI YINYANG	S	RSD/B47-18	5 55	101 20
Akat Amnuai (see B. Kha)		SI/E48-O		
**Alabaster Rks*	Rocks	BA/2414	12 20	102 00
**Alabaster Rks*	Rocks	BA/2721	12 20	102 00
**Alabaster Rks (see Hin Put)*		HO/3132		
**Alang Jai*	I	BA/842	8 00	98 25
**Alert Passage*	Chn	BA/842	6 35	99 15

1944

Something happened between 1960-2000

- Internet/Web revolution
- Digital revolution

Transistor was invented 1947

October 29, 1969
@ 22:30
Internet was born

1970 – 1980 Relational Databases were born

Mozaic Browser 1993

1996

Acquired in 2000 by AOL by 1.1 billion

Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

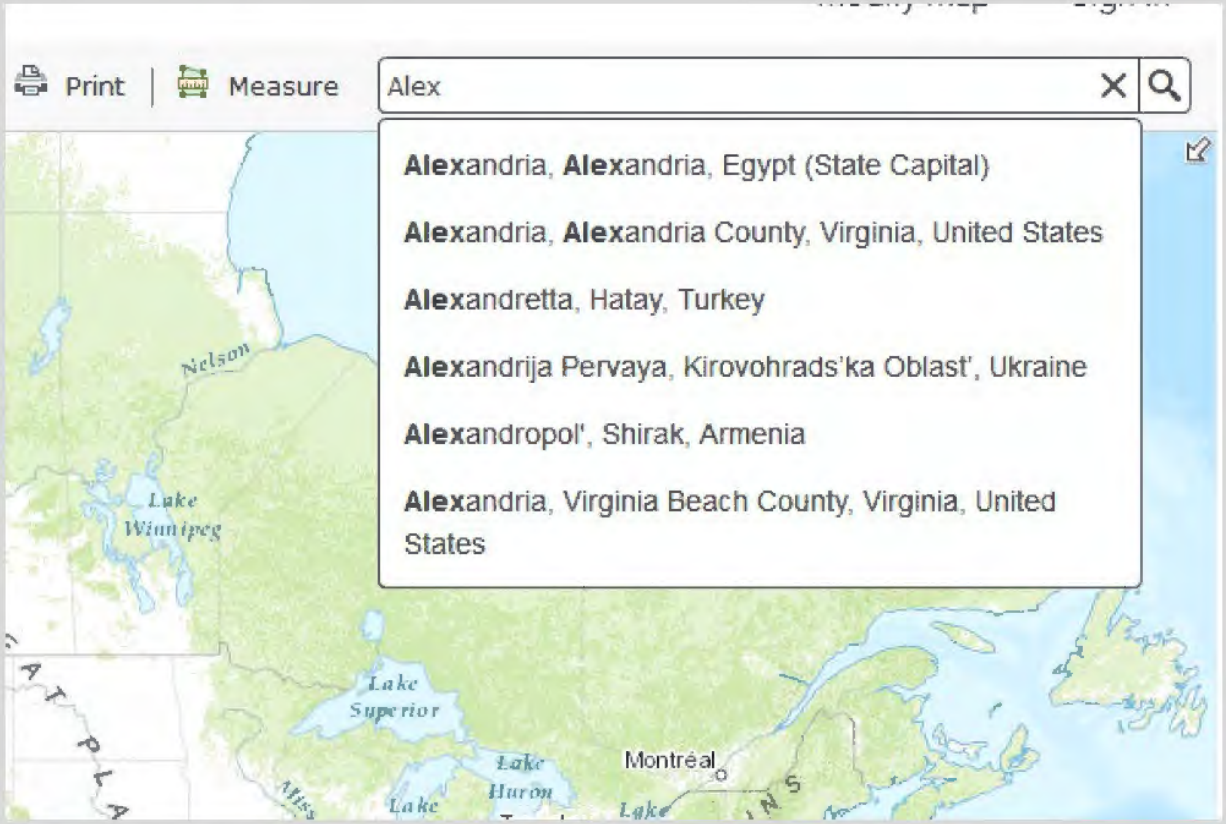
- Created in 1994 – 8 Members
- From OpenGIS Project
- Interfaces for Open Geodata Interoperability
- 1997 OpenGIS Simple Features Specification
- 2000 Web Map Service 1.0
- 2002 Web Feature Services 1.0

2004

More People use maps online than email

2007 - Maps in your pocket

2002– Web Search Interface



With probably more fields

Geographic Names Information System – GNIS Web Services

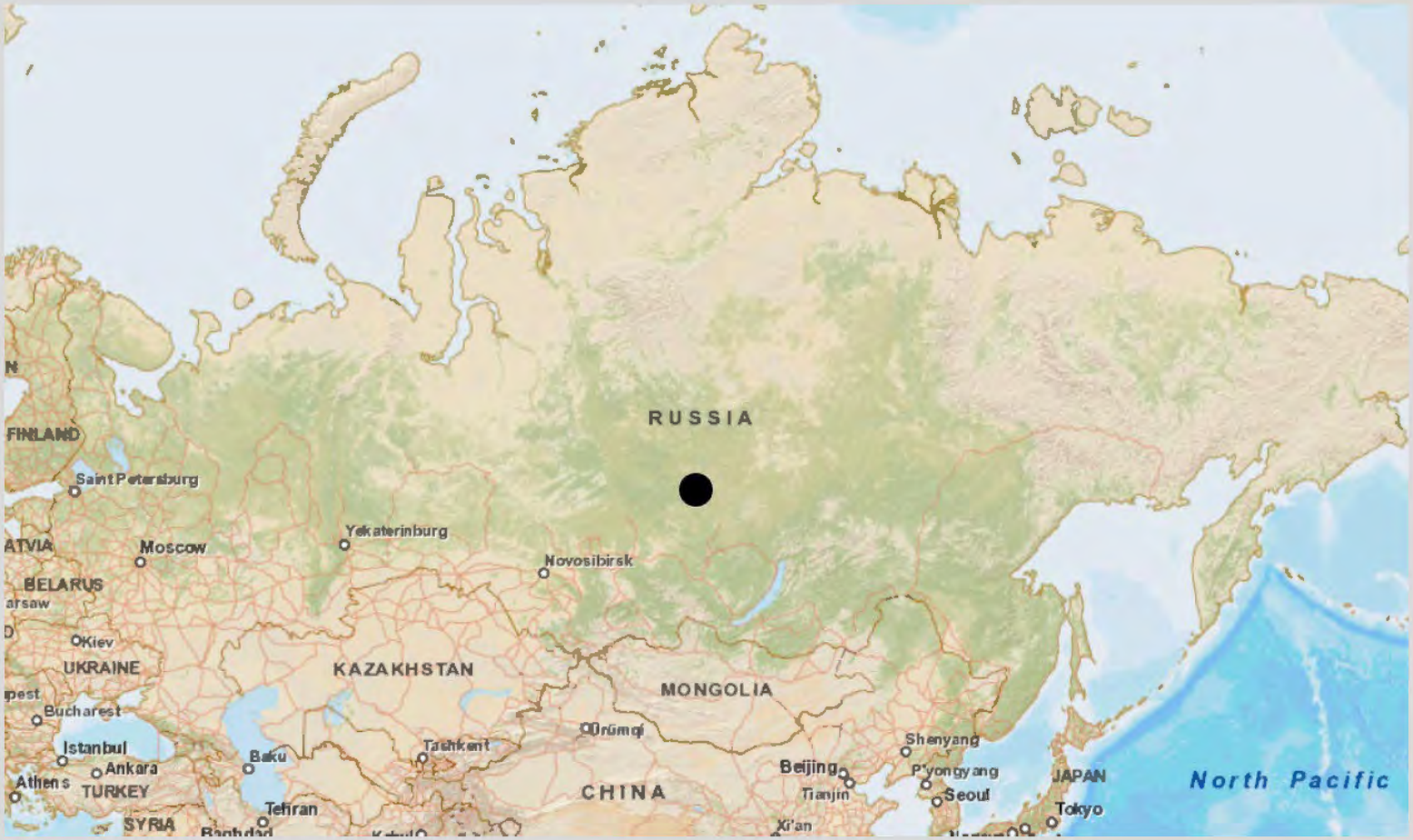
- 2008 – First web service (XML and several input parameters and dynamically get elevation from National Elevation Dataset (NED)
- 2008 – OGC Web Map Service (WMS)
- 2010 – OGC Web Feature Service (WFS)
- 2010 – Prototype WFS-G

To Infinity and Beyond

- Advanced location representation
- Advanced semantics
- Advanced linking
- Advanced search

Where is Russia?

Look at the point!

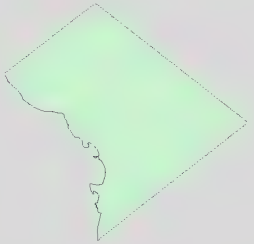


Advanced Representation

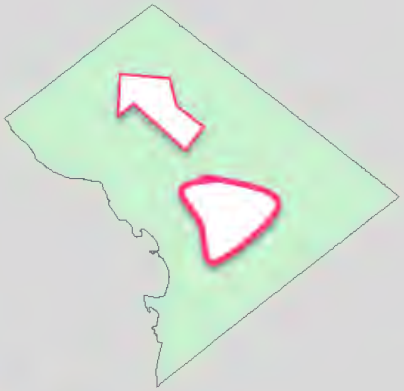
Point

Bounding Box

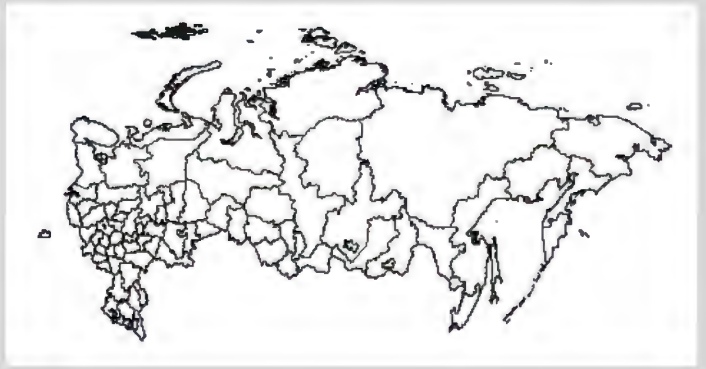
Linear Ring



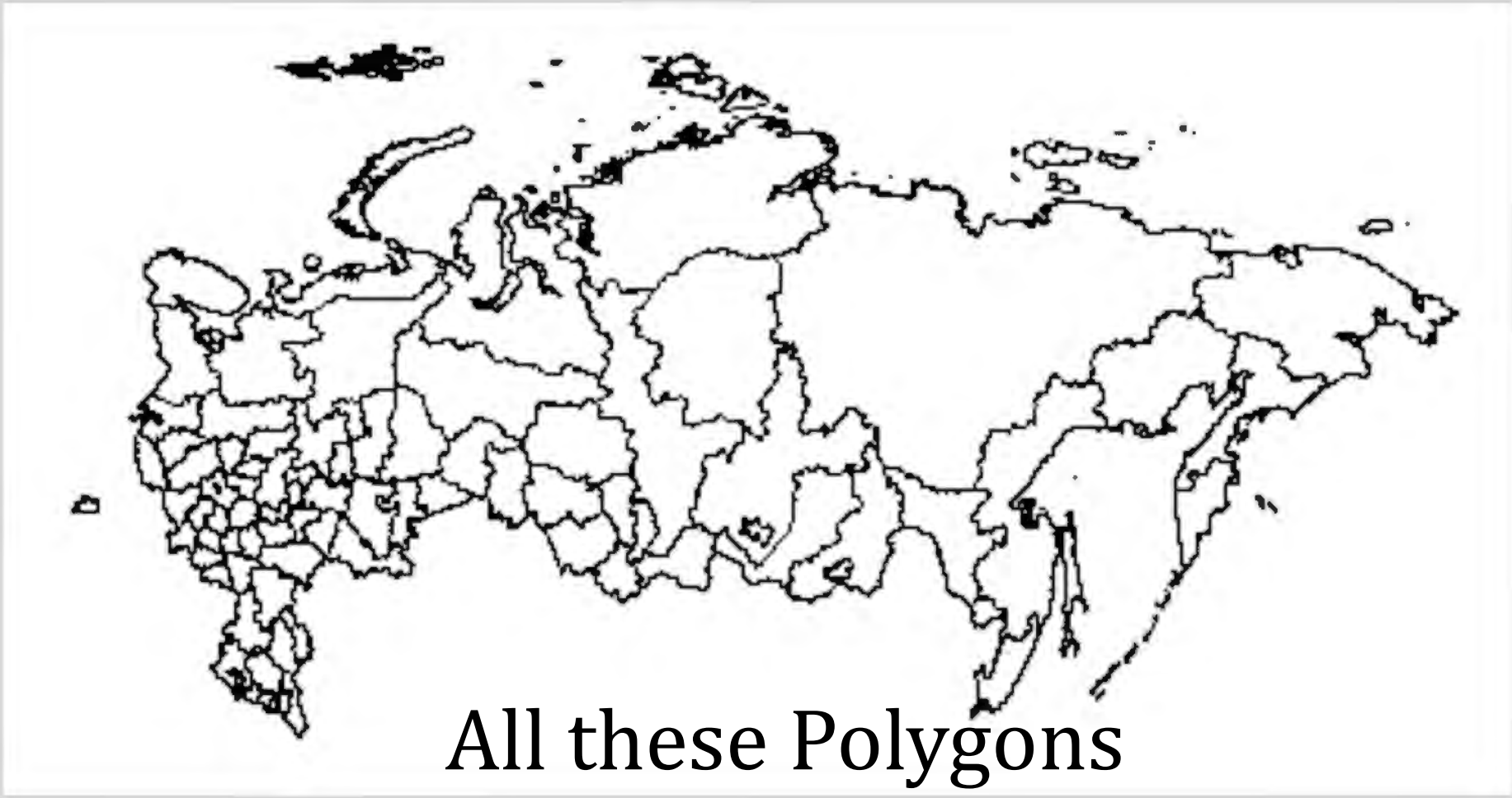
Polygon



Multi Polygons



Where is Russia?

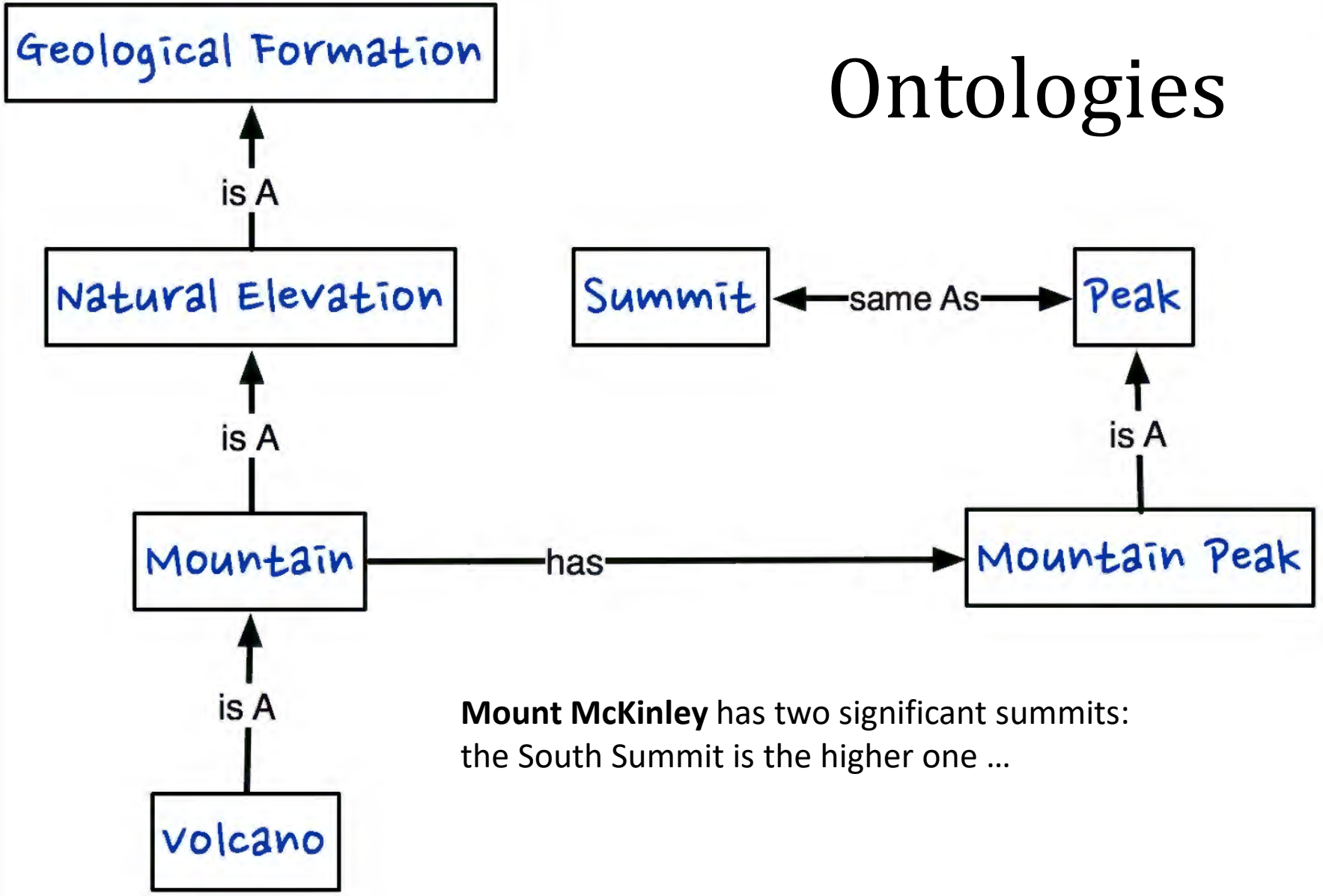


All these Polygons

What is a summit in the GNIS

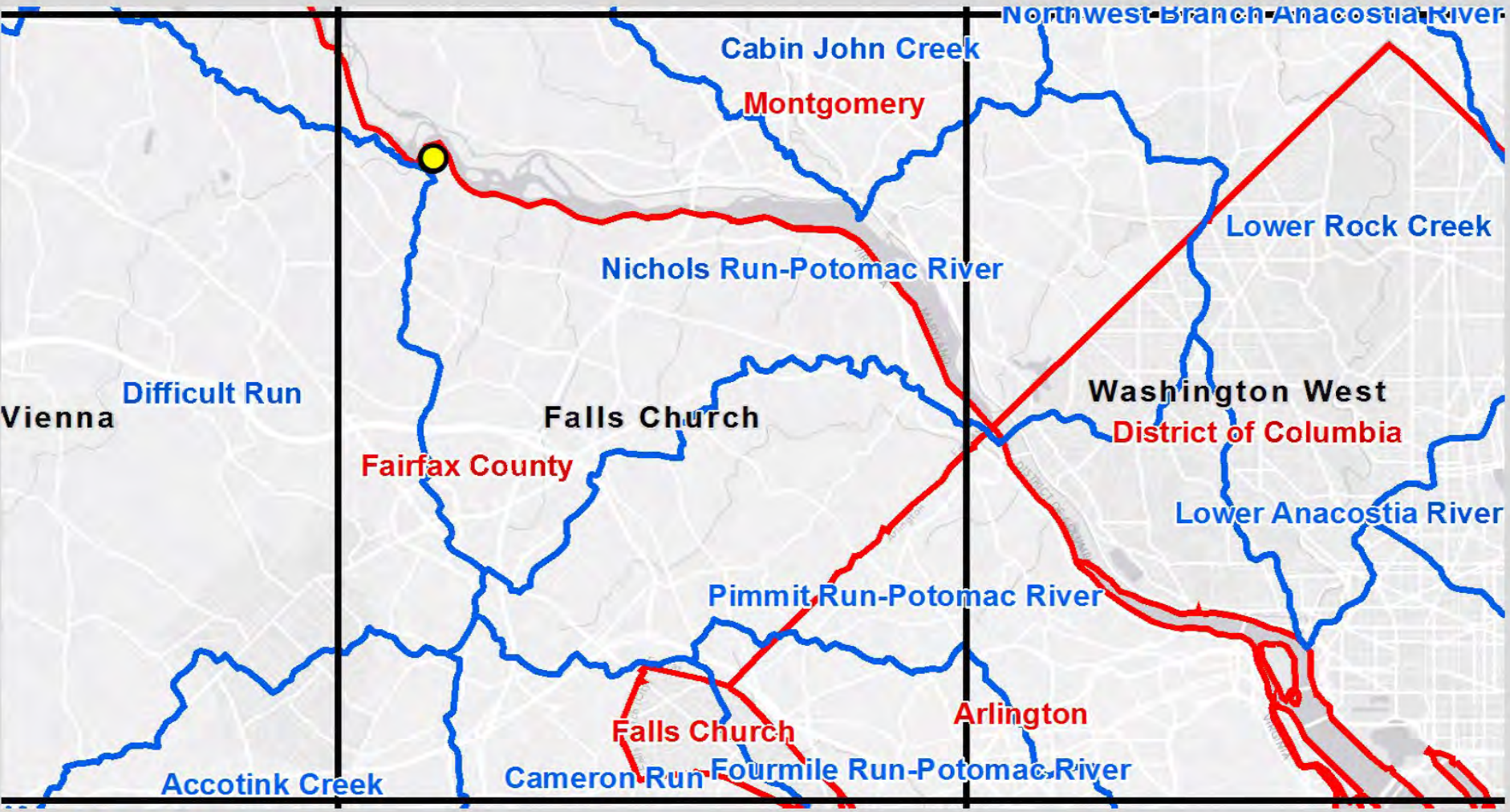
- Butte
- Caldera
- Cone
- Hill
- Maintain
- Peak
- Volcano …

Ontologies

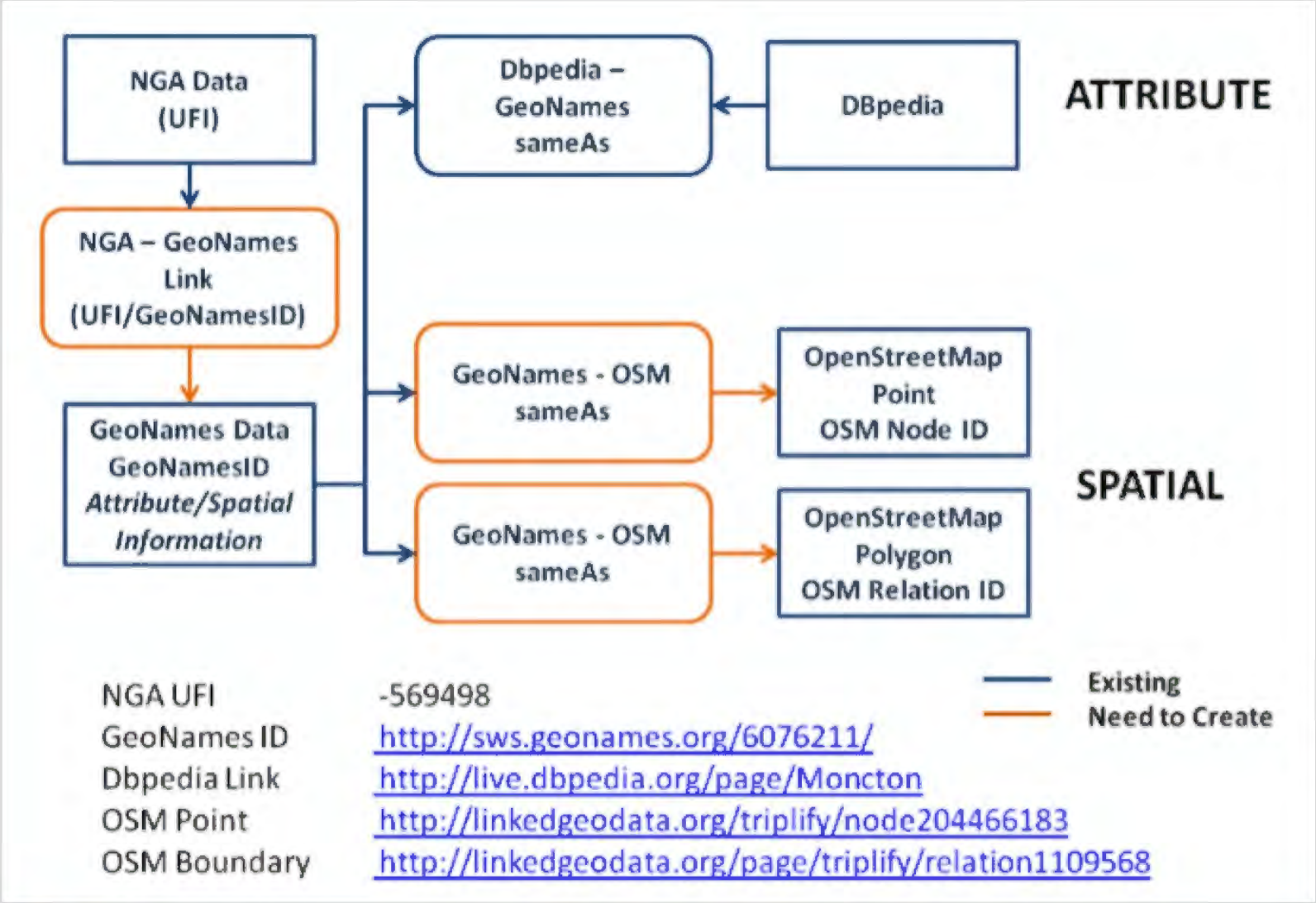


Mount McKinley has two significant summits: the South Summit is the higher one …

Inside what?


Northwest Branch Anacostia River
Cabin John Creek
Montgomery
Lower Rock Creek
Nichols Run-Potomac River
Difficult Run
Vienna
Falls Church
Washington West
District of Columbia
Fairfax County
Lower Anacostia River
Pimmit Run-Potomac River
Arlington
Falls Church
Cameron Run
Fourmile Run-Potomac River
Accotink Creek

Advanced Linking



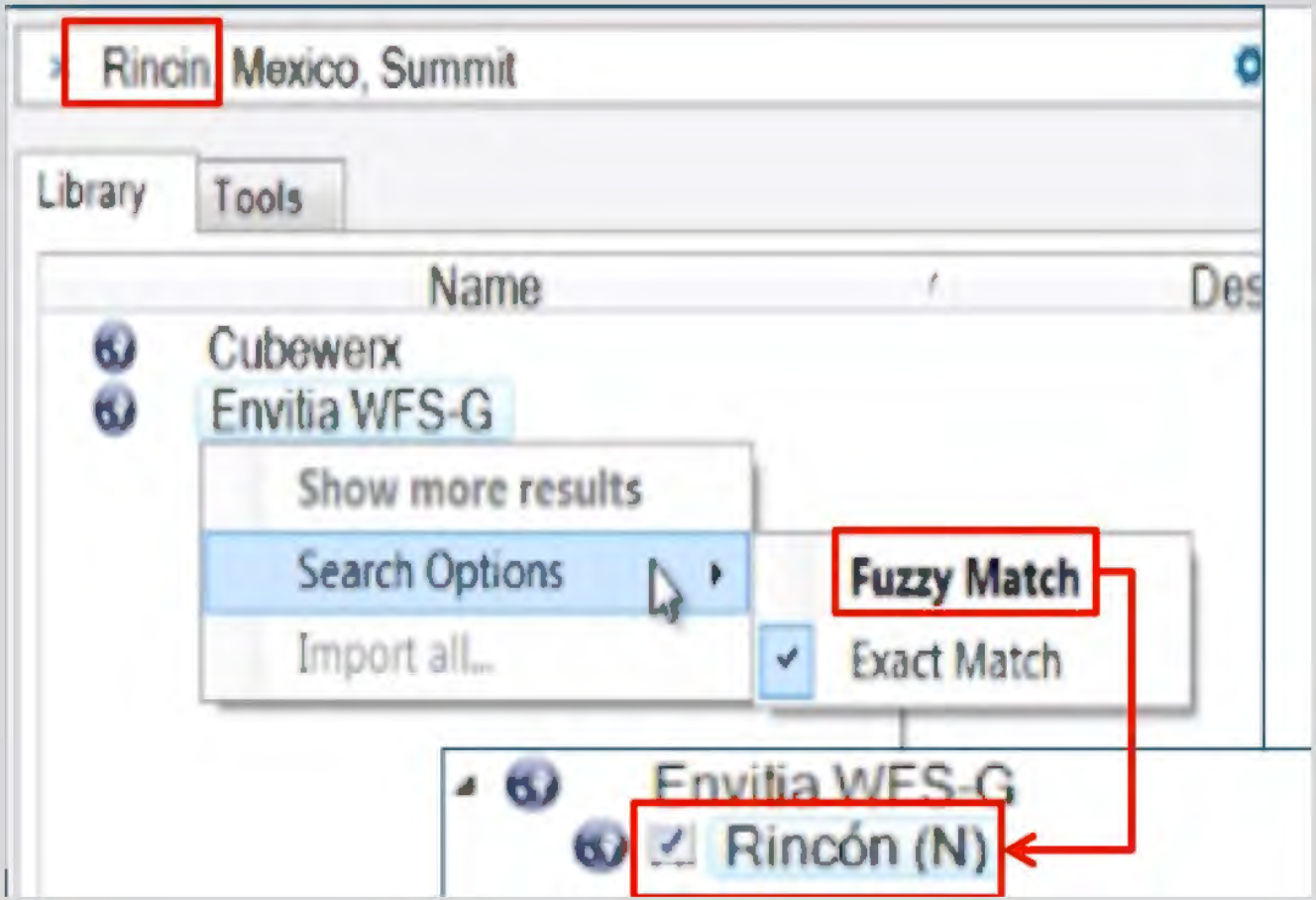
Get additional information from other sources

dbo:PopulatedPlace/populationMetroDensity 57.6

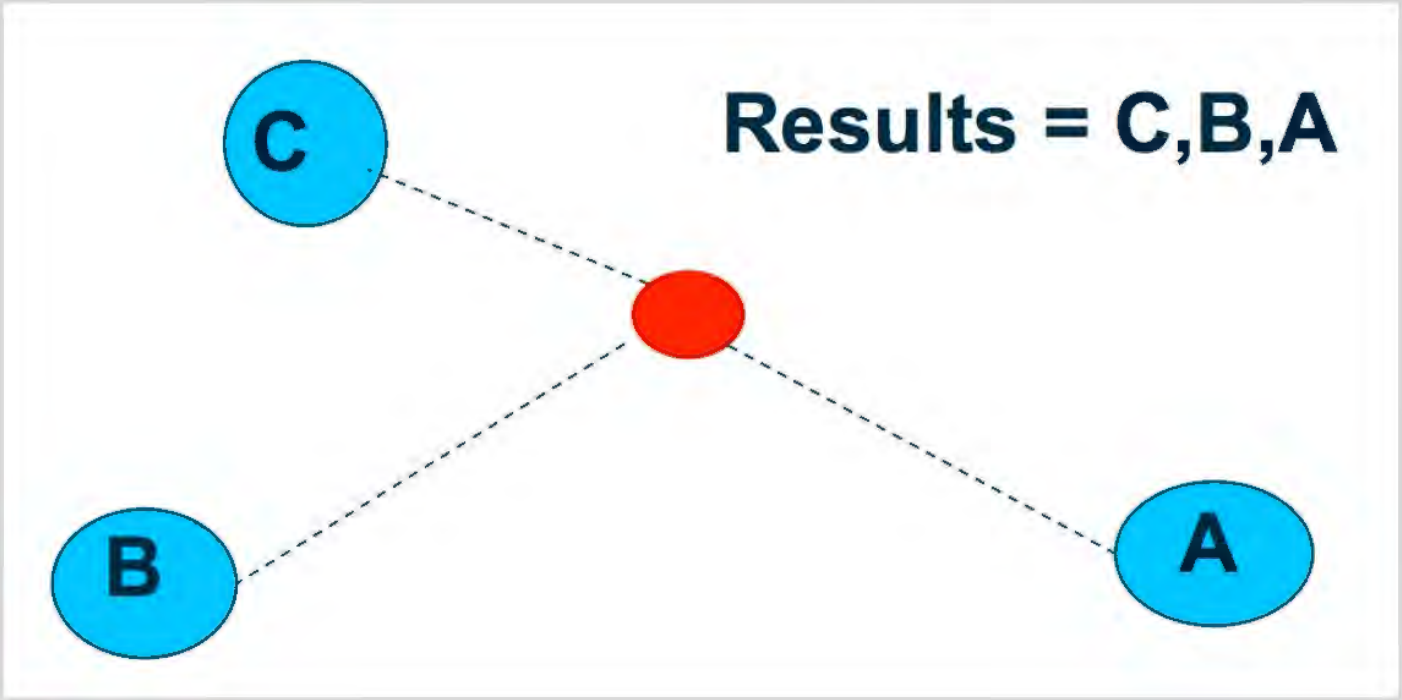
dbo:abstract is a Canadian city located in Westmorland County in southeastern New Brunswick. Situated in the Petitcodiac River Valley, it lies at the geographic centre of the Maritime Provinces. The city has gained the nickname "Hub City" because of its central location and also because Moncton has historically been the railway and land transportation hub for the Maritimes….

dbo:RainDays 12.3

Web services support for advanced search

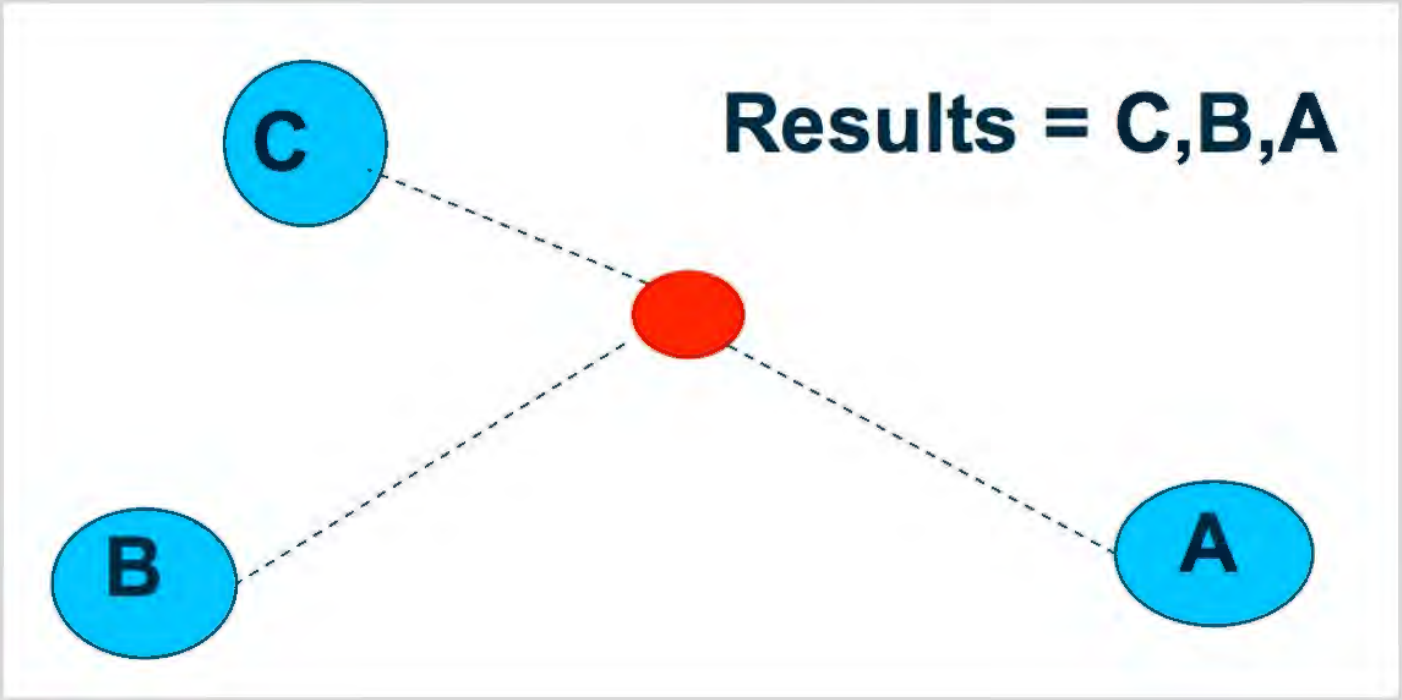


Web services support for advanced search



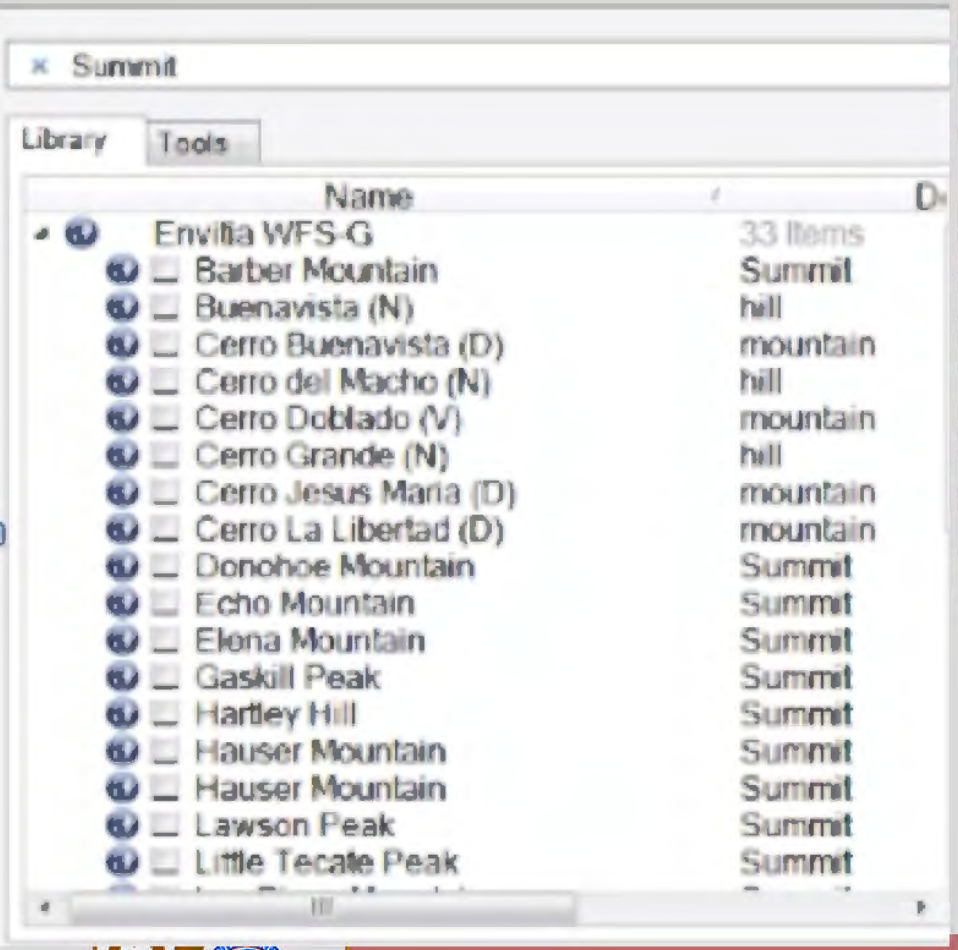
Nearest Neighbor

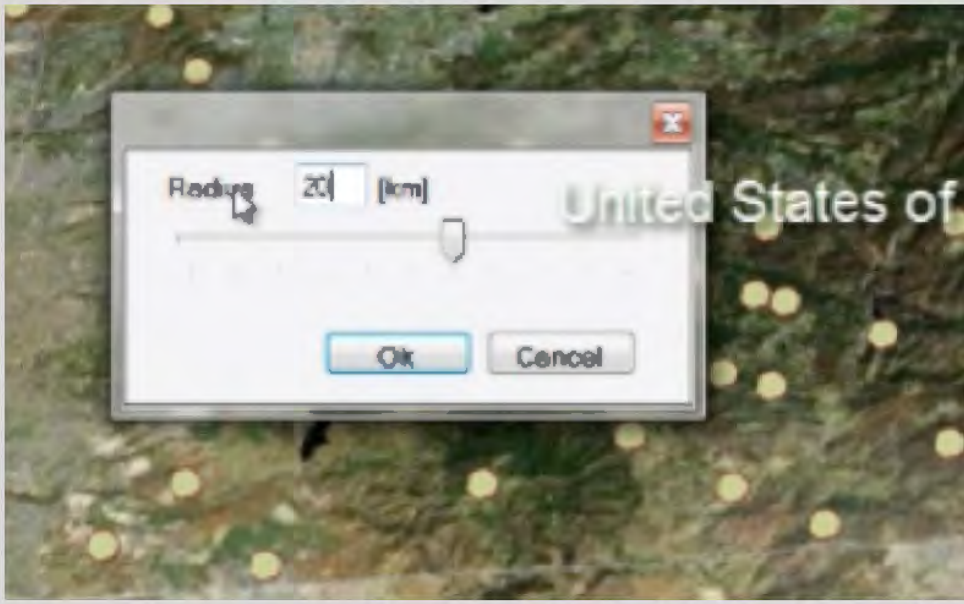
Web services support for advanced search



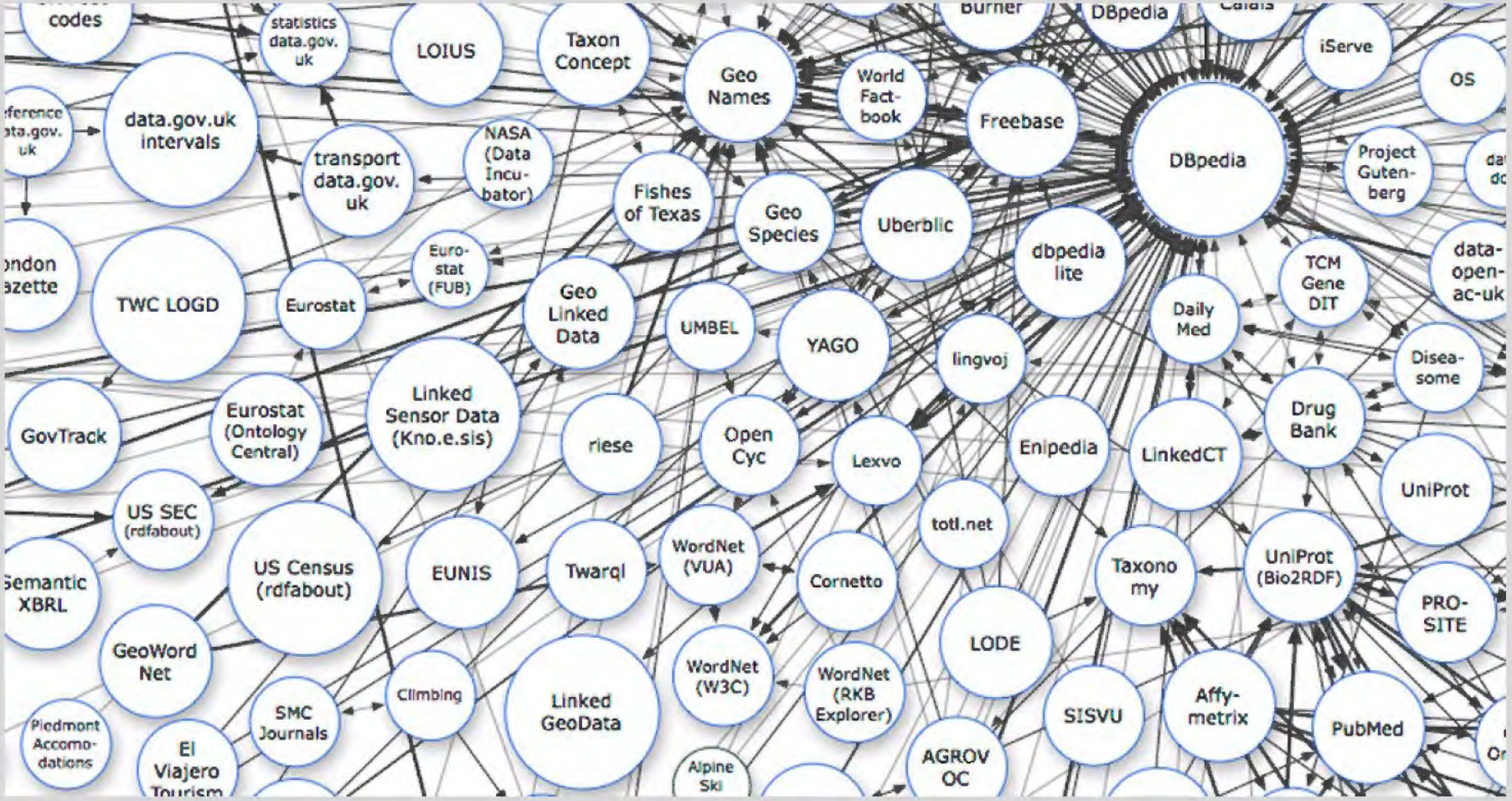
Nearest Neighbor

Web services support for advanced search





And Beyond ...


codes
statistics data.gov. uk
LOIUS
Taxon Concept
Geo Names
World Fact-book
Freebase
DBpedia
iServe
OS
data.gov.uk intervals
transport data.gov. uk
NASA (Data Incu-bator)
Fishes of Texas
Geo Species
Uberblic
dbpedia lite
Project Guten-berg
TWC LOGD
Eurostat
Euro-stat (FUB)
Geo Linked Data
UMBEL
YAGO
lingvoj
Daily Med
TCM Gene DIT
data-open-ac-uk
GovTrack
Eurostat (Ontology Central)
Linked Sensor Data (Kno.e.sis)
riese
Open Cyc
Lexvo
Enipedia
LinkedCT
Drug Bank
Disea-some
US SEC (rdfabout)
US Census (rdfabout)
EUNIS
Twarql
WordNet (VUA)
Cornetto
totl.net
Taxono my
UniProt (Bio2RDF)
UniProt
Semantic XBRL
GeoWord Net
LODE
PRO-SITE
Climbing
Linked GeoData
WordNet (W3C)
WordNet (RKB Explorer)
SISVU
Affy-metrix
PubMed
Piedmont Accomo-dations
SMC Journals
El Viajero Tourism
Alpine Ski
AGROV OC

Thank you for your attention

Luis Bermudez
lbermudez@opengeospatial.org
@berdez

Authoritative Data and Crowd Sourcing: What's the Connection?
or
How Can Volunteers Provide Authoritative Data to BGN

David Stage

Authoritative Data and BGN Business Requirements

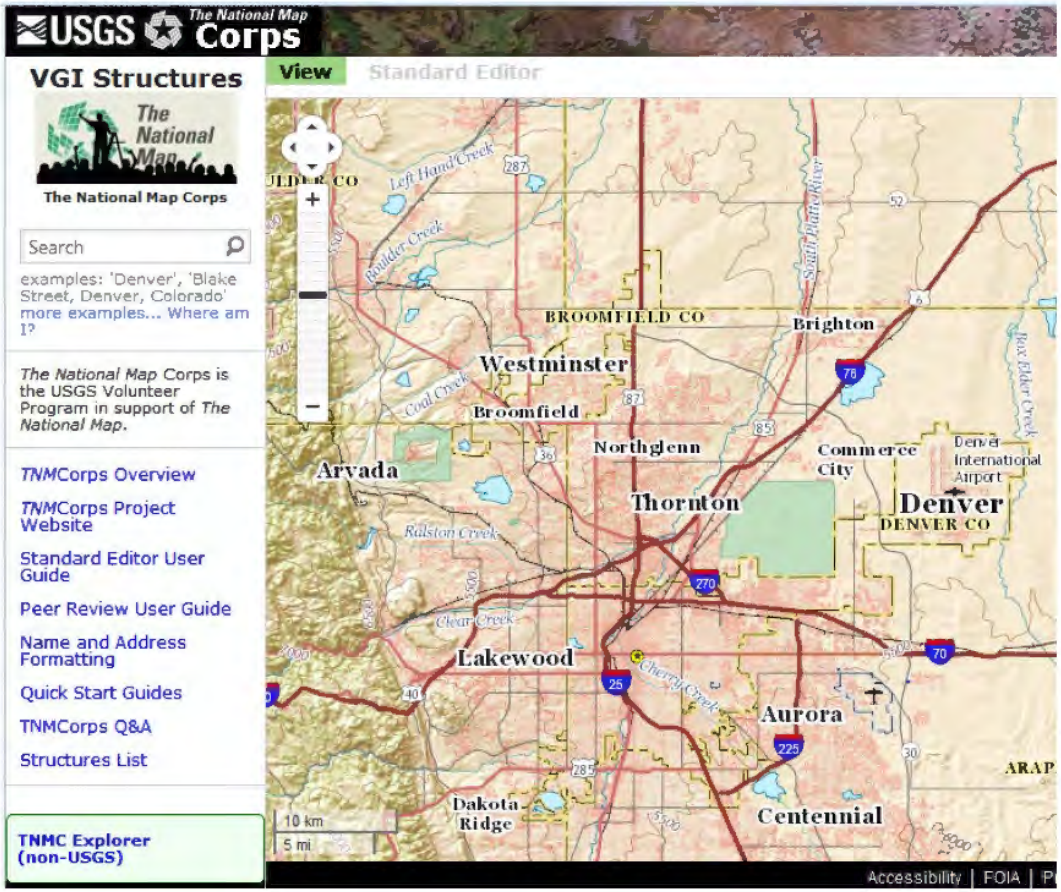
Authoritative Source:

- An Organization that has Legislative mandate and "budget" to create data to meet a specific business need

- **Place Names for USGS Quads**
- **Provide an Official Process to create and maintain official place names**
- **Maintain Currency of that Data**
- **Maintain Place Name History**

The National Map Corps

A Door for "Crowd-Sourced" Data to Become Authoritative Data



Authoritative Data Sphere
Inside the Process

- **Authority:** Legal responsibility by a public agency to conduct business for the public good
- **Authoritative Data Source:** has legal authority to collect data for a specific business purpose
- **Authoritative Data** is officially recognized data that comes from an Authoritative Source
- **Data Steward**: entity within source that has the responsibility for collecting data
- **Certified Data:** has been vetted by an a authoritative entity and has legal standing
- **Uncertified data:** – more current but yet to be vetted

Volunteer Data Sphere

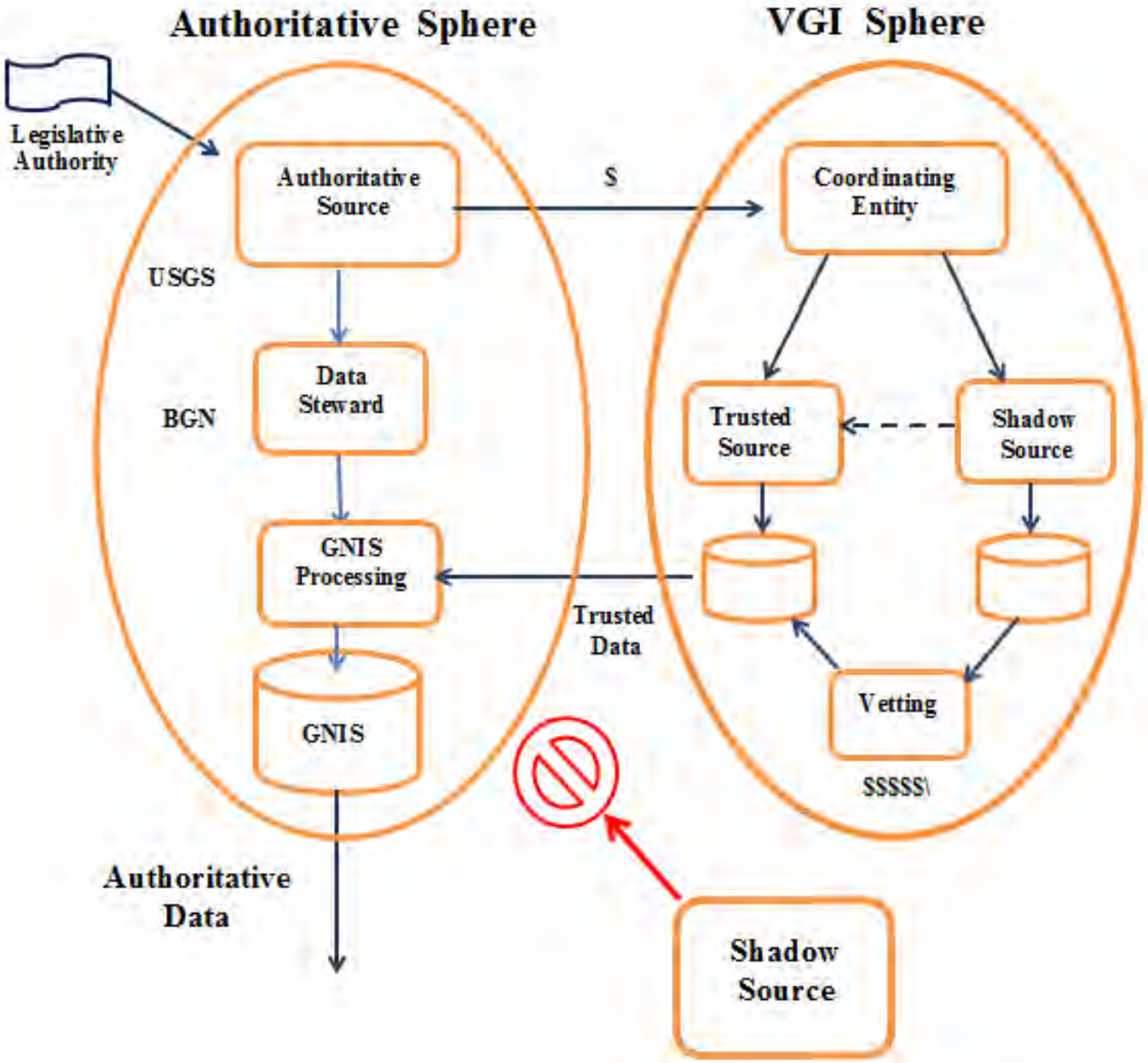
Sources Outside of the Process

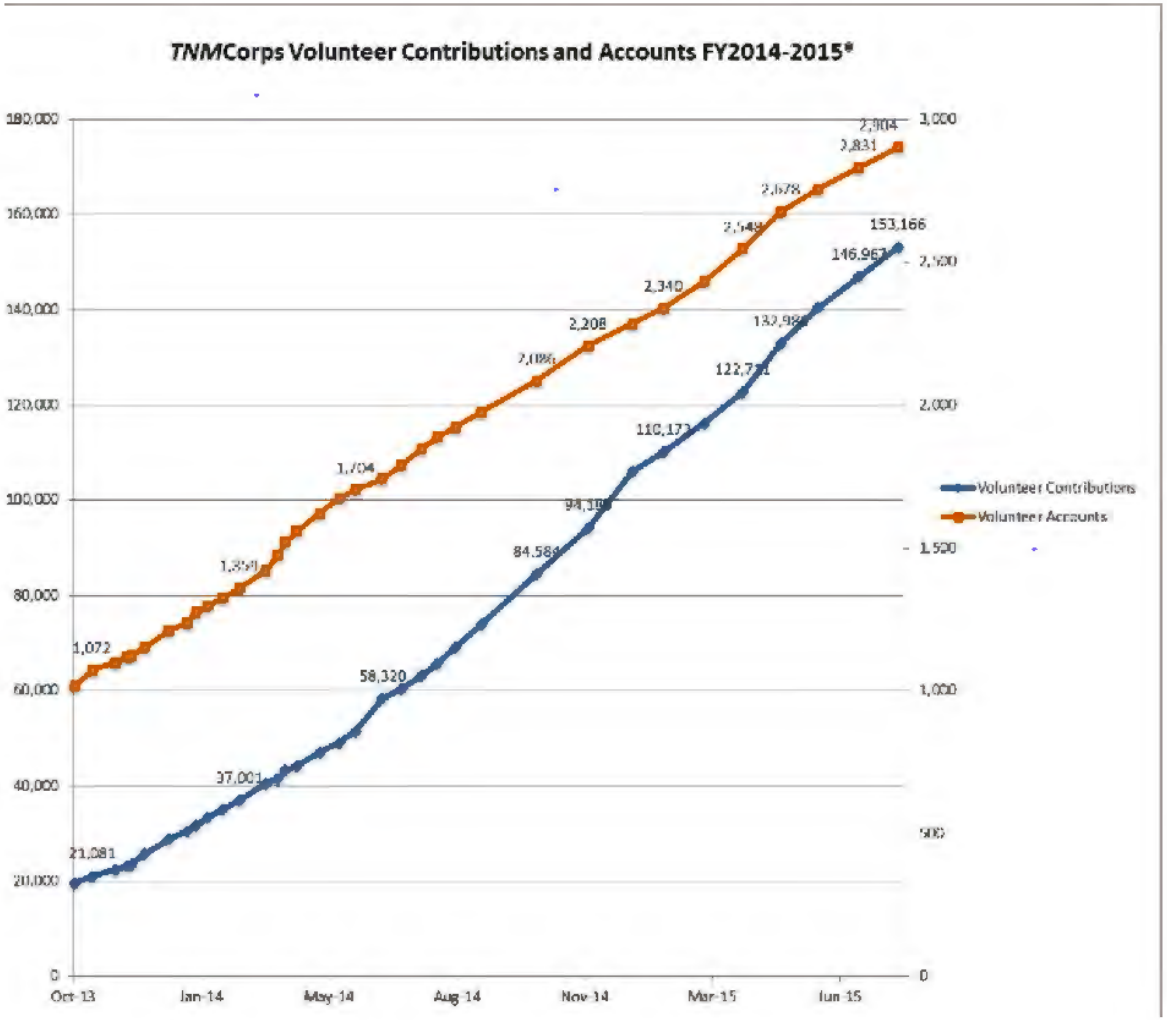
- **Strangers of the Night**
  - **Shadow Source:** Source whose veracity is unknown.
  - **Shadow Data:** Data from a source that is outside the authoritative process of which little is known
- **Friendships of Utility**
  - **Trusted Source:** An entity whose trust has been earned
  - **Trusted Data:** Data from outside the authorized process whose limitations, currency and attributes are known and can be verified

*VGI – Volunteer(ed) Geographic Information

Volunteer Data Sphere
Volunteer Types

- **Type I:** Intergovernmental Cooperatives
  - Direct Management Support
- **Type II:** NGO's, Associations and Govt. Agencies
  - Indirect Management Support
- **Type III:** Independent Individuals
  - Altruism
  - No Infrastructure

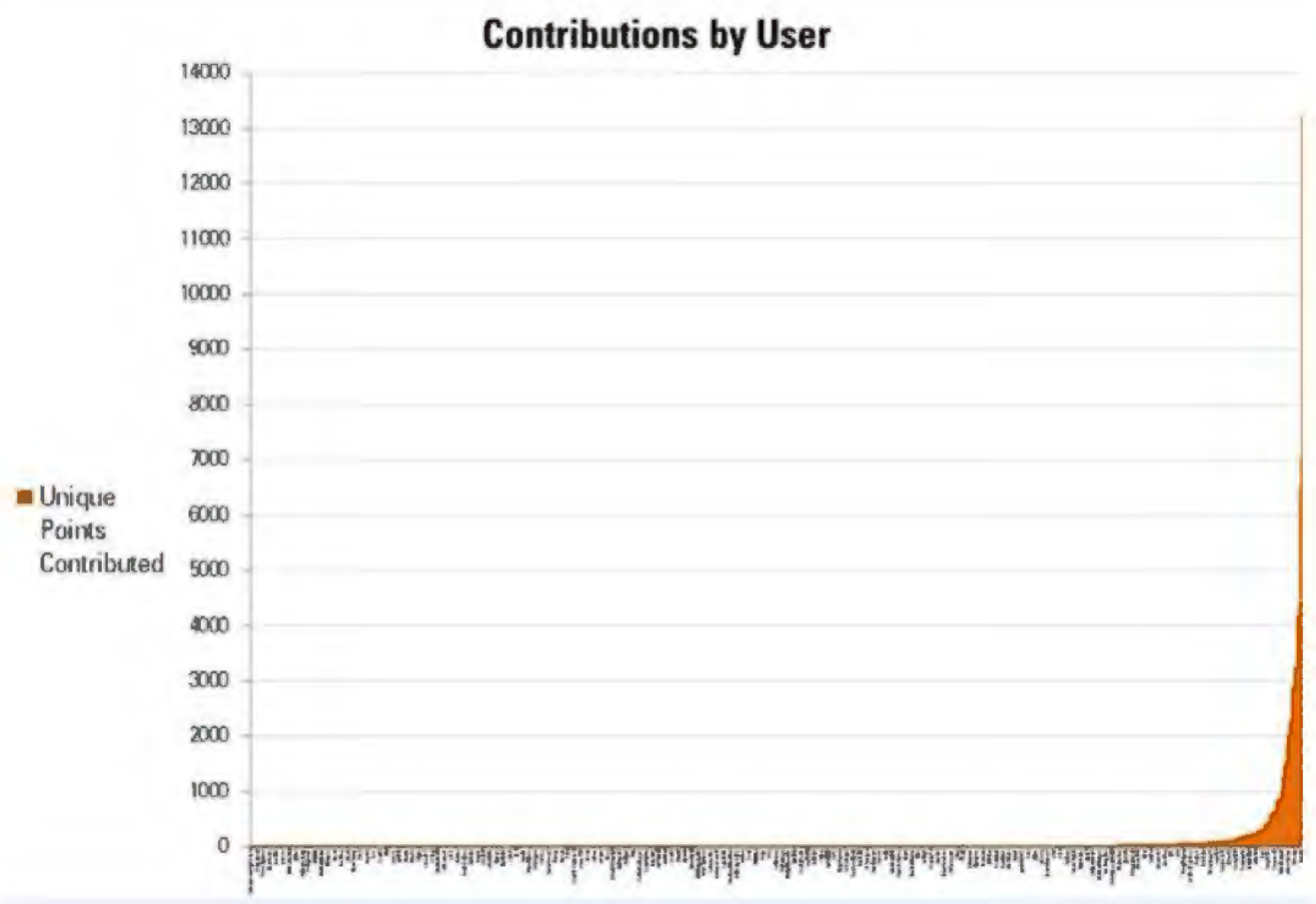

Authoritative Sphere
VGI Sphere
Legislative Authority
Authoritative Source
S
Coordinating Entity
USGS
Data Steward
BGN
Trusted Source
Shadow Source
GNIS Processing
Trusted Data
GNIS
Vetting
SSSSS\
Authoritative Data
Shadow Source



TNMCorps

2014 - 2015

- **125,000 contributions**
- **2,000 Accounts**



National Map Corps Data Providers by User

A universal phenomena of volunteer efforts

Coordinators/Leaders Relationship to Volunteer

Goal: Create Authoritative Data using Volunteers

What tools do you have?

- No authority over volunteers
- No funds
- No stick
- What can you do?

What to Do

A managers job is to make it possible for their employees/volunteers to do a good job!

- **Motivation:** How can persons be motivated to volunteer their services
- **Quality Assurance:** How do you facilitate quality control
- **Trusted Sources**: How to transition *Strangers of the Night* to *Friends of Utility*

Motivating Communities

Objective: Increase participation of volunteers

- **Provide recognition and rewards**
- **Make it easy** – minimal input and tools
  - **Training** (User Guides, WebEx, . . .)
- **Document Success**
  - Pay the person to help you put together a training package
- **Target specialist communities** that have an interest in the resulting data (Type I – III Volunteers)
- **Accept the idea that going beyond your mission** can be valuable motivator (focus on volunteer community)

Quality Assurance

Misconception - Crowd-sourced data is unreliable

Objective: Assure data quality

1. **Self Regulation (Wiki Approach)**
   - Peer Review
- **Make it simple**

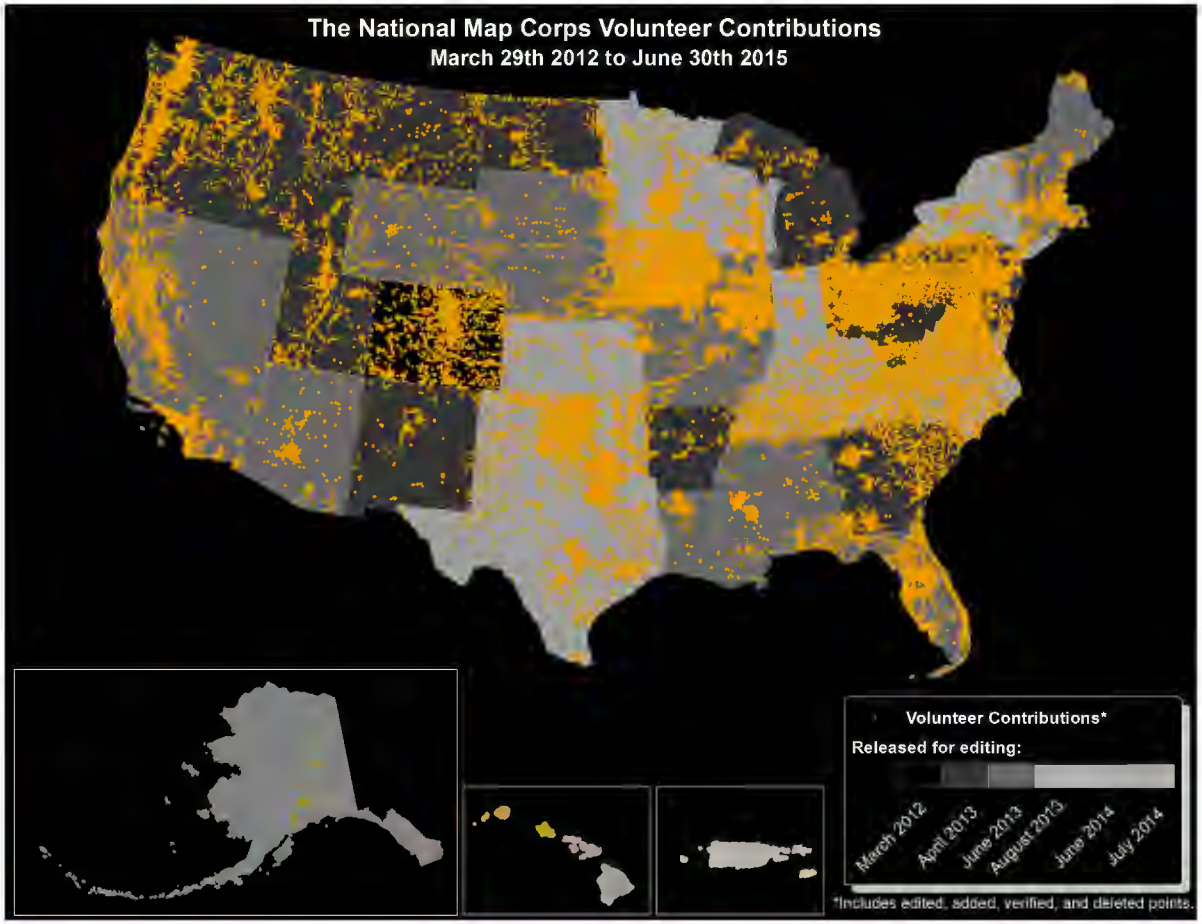
1. **Develop data checking procedures**
   - Sampling
   - Automation
2. **Track and evaluate data input by provider**
   - **Identify quality data providers**
   - **Advanced Editors (200 edits)**

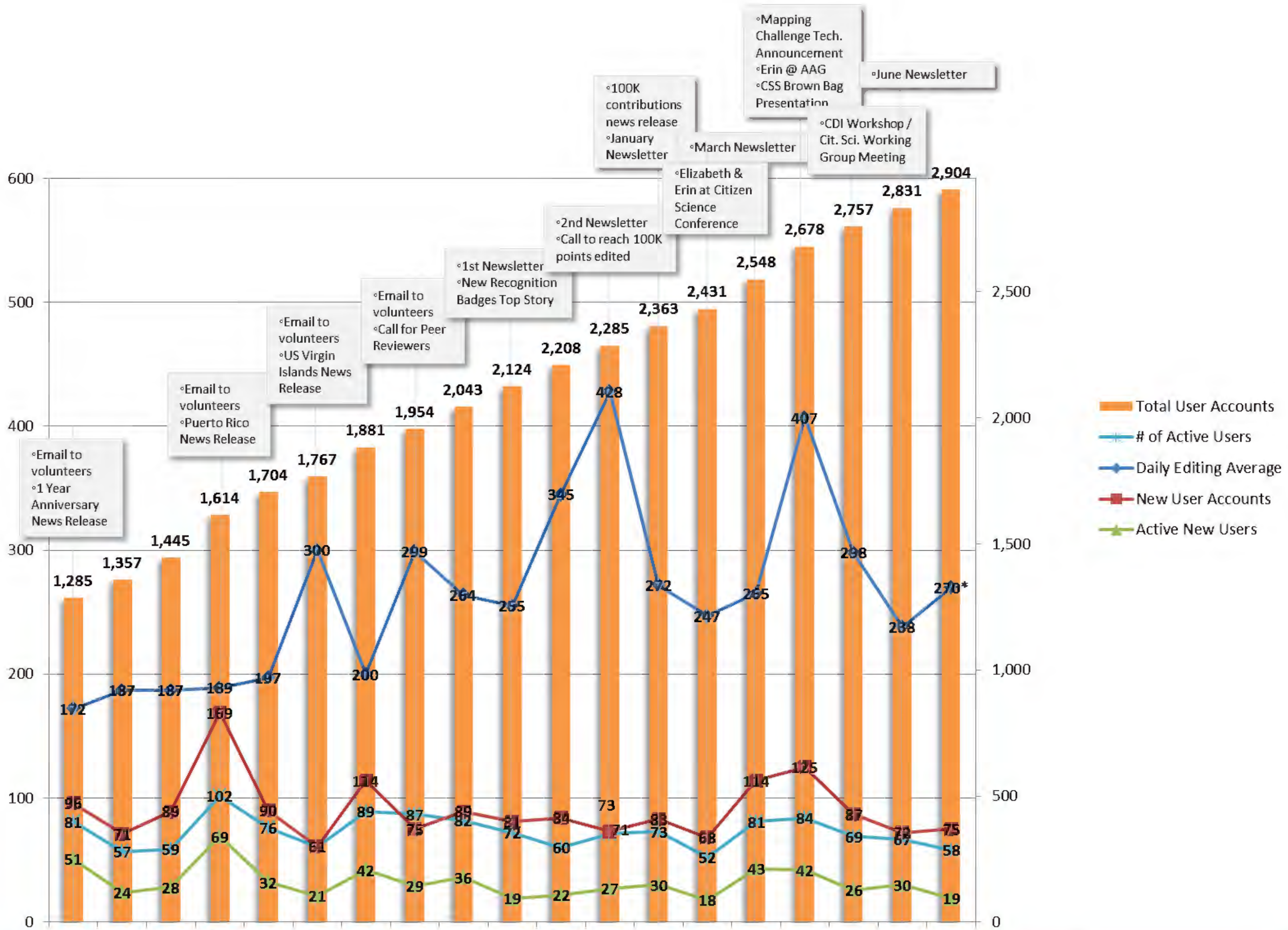
Creating Trusted Sources

Objective: Increase Confidence in Data Sources

- **Track and evaluate data input by provider**
- **Create Levels of Responsibility/Authority based on the track record of the provider**
- **Provide super-provider with a fast-track pathway into the *Authoritative Data Sphere***
  - ***TNMCorps Advanced Editor***

What's the Status?





◦Email to volunteers ◦1 Year Anniversary News Release
◦Email to volunteers ◦Puerto Rico News Release
◦Email to volunteers ◦US Virgin Islands News Release
◦Email to volunteers ◦Call for Peer Reviewers
◦1st Newsletter ◦New Recognition Badges Top Story
◦2nd Newsletter ◦Call to reach 100K points edited
◦100K contributions news release ◦January Newsletter
◦Elizabeth & Erin at Citizen Science Conference
◦March Newsletter
◦Mapping Challenge Tech. Announcement ◦Erin @ AAG ◦CSS Brown Bag Presentation
◦CDI Workshop / Cit. Sci. Working Group Meeting
◦June Newsletter
1,285 1,357 1,445 1,614 1,704 1,767 1,881 1,954 2,043 2,124 2,208 2,285 2,363 2,431 2,548 2,678 2,757 2,831 2,904
172 187 187 189 197 300 200 299 264 255 345 428 272 247 265 407 298 238 270*
96 71 89 169 90 61 114 75 89 81 84 73 83 68 114 125 87 72 75
81 57 59 102 76 61 89 87 82 72 60 71 73 52 81 84 69 67 58
51 24 28 69 32 21 42 29 36 19 22 27 30 18 43 42 26 30 19
0 100 200 300 400 500 600
0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500
Total User Accounts
# of Active Users
Daily Editing Average
New User Accounts
Active New Users

Lessons Learned

Laura Kostanski: *Crowd-Sourcing Geospatial Information for Government Gazetteers*

1. **Focus on the end-users**
2. **Don't rely solely on digital technology**
3. **Volunteers can only do so much** – can't fill in all of the gaps
   - Be happy with what a user wants to provided
   - Provide guidance on scoped data sets and areas
   - Publish successful practices for targeted data
4. **Work with Special Interest Groups (Type I, II and III)**
   - State and Federal Agencies (Emergency Management, Parks and Recs, School Systems, State GI Boards)
   - NGO's (Birders, Hikers, Canoeist, Bikers, National State Organizations)

Lessons Learned

Laura Kostanski

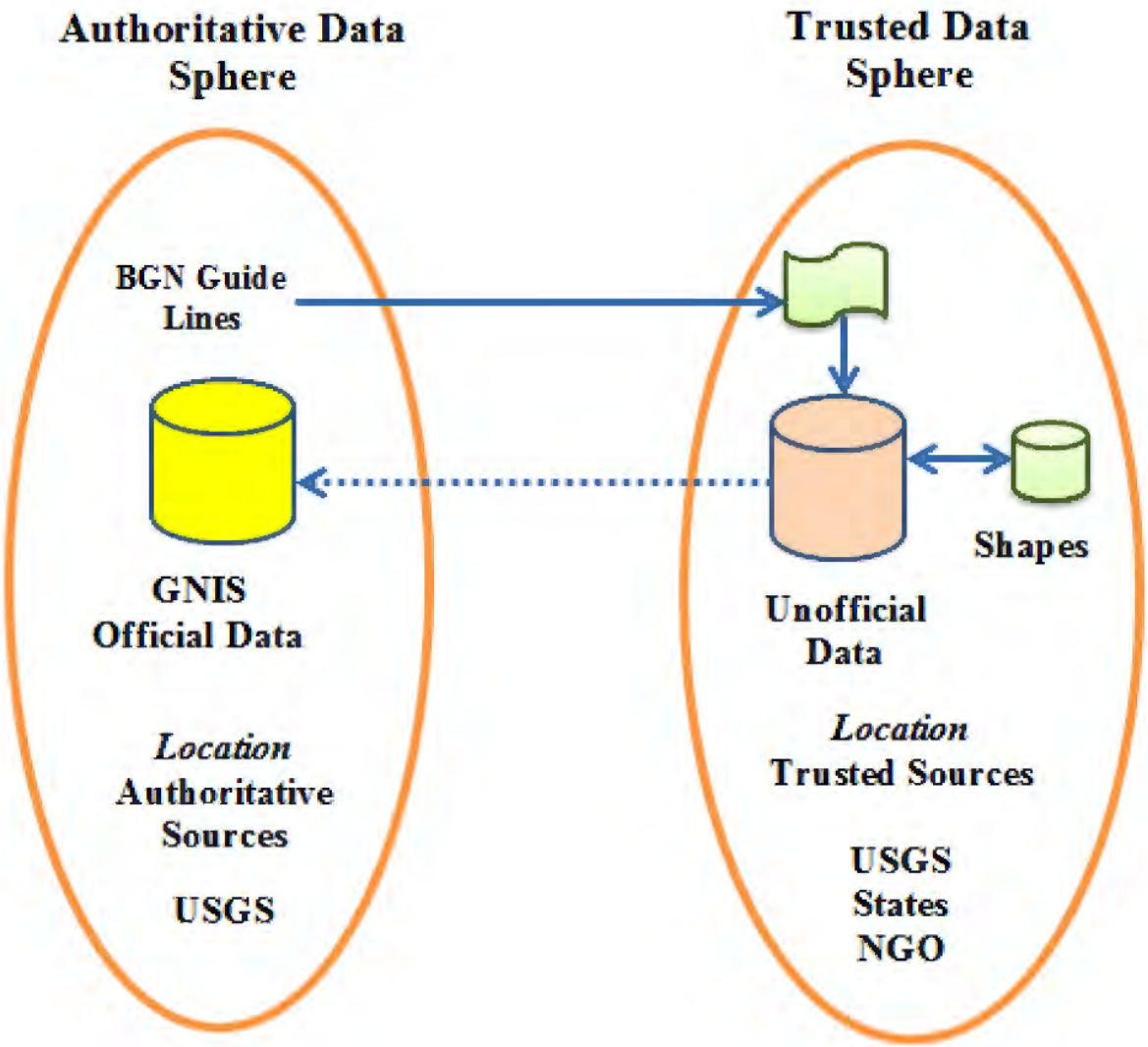
5. **Provide Easy/Simple Accessible Technology**
   - Don't make it complicated - Ask for the minimum
6. **Develop policies for Quality Assurance**
7. **Track Entries to Identify Trusted Sources**
   - Allows provider to earn a higher trust status
8. **Provide greater responsibility to Trusted Sources**
9. **Give Rewards/Attention to Volunteers**
   - Tangible: Data, points, cash,
   - Intangible: communication, improved information for user groups, more independence

Lessons Learned

Laura Kostanski

10. Re-evaluate your data spectrum to attract user interest

- Provide Unofficial Data along with Official Data
  - Target data to user interest
  - Lines (trails), Polygons/Footprints
  - Publish successful procedures
- Offsite Trusted Sources


Authoritative Data Sphere
Trusted Data Sphere
BGN Guide Lines
GNIS Official Data
Location Authoritative Sources
USGS
Unofficial Data
Shapes
Location Trusted Sources
USGS
States
NGO

Suggestions

("And Do That Too")

1. **User needs assessment** – organization by organization (LK 1, 4)*
2. **State GIS Organizations** (GIS Boards) and NGO's (NSGIC) (LK 1, 4)
3. **Challenges**: Identify Tasks to be Completed (LK 1, 5)
4. **Allow users to identify data of opportunity** (LK 8)
   - Provide High Level Volunteers with Representative/Liaison Status

*Laura Kostanski(LK) and number of lesson learned

Suggestions

5. **Provide Access to Unofficial and Official Data (LK 10)**
   - USGS, States, Regional Governments
   - Guidelines for Unofficial Data Collections
6. **Footprints (LK 10)**
   - Lines & Polygons
7. **Publish Successful Data Collection Procedures** (LK 5, 8, 9)

Conclusion

VGI can be used to create Authoritative Data

It's here now!

The future will be an interesting time!

Questions?

Key References

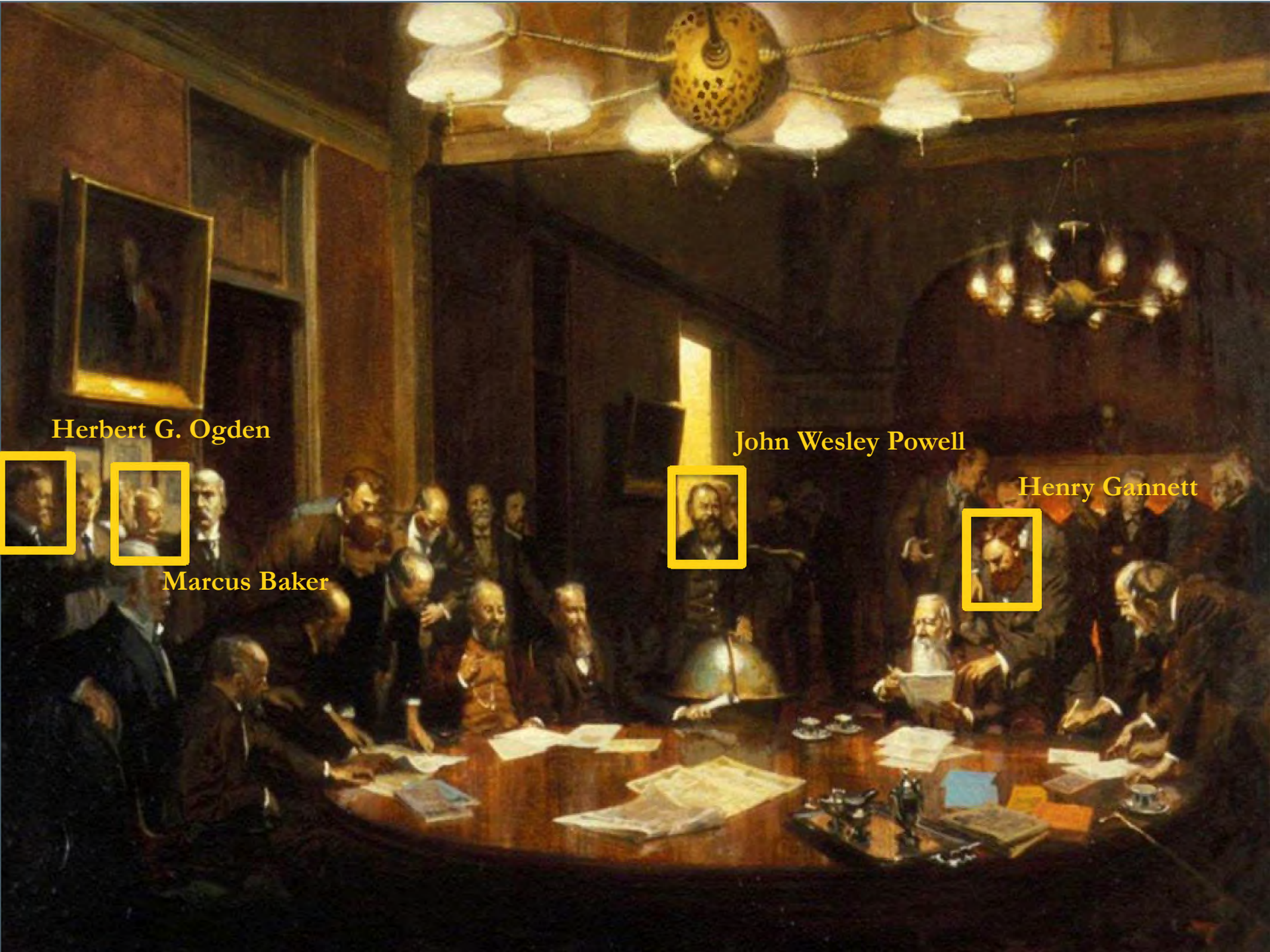
- Kostanski, Laura, Crowd-Sourcing Geospatial Information for Government Gazetteers, Submitted by Australia, Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographic Names, August 2012..
- Elizabeth McCartney, Kari Craun, Ern Korris, David Brostuen and Laurence Moore; “Crowdsourcing the National Map”, U.S. Geological Survey, National Geospatial Technical Operation Center, May 2015
- Erin Korris, Greg Matthews, Larry Moore, “Assessment of Data Quality Improvements in the National Ma Corps Project for 2012 Colorado Pilot” (unpublished).
- David Stage, “Authority and Authoritative Data: A Clarification of Terms and Concepts”, IAAO, Fair and Equitable, 2009, http://www.iaao.org/uploads/Stage.pdf

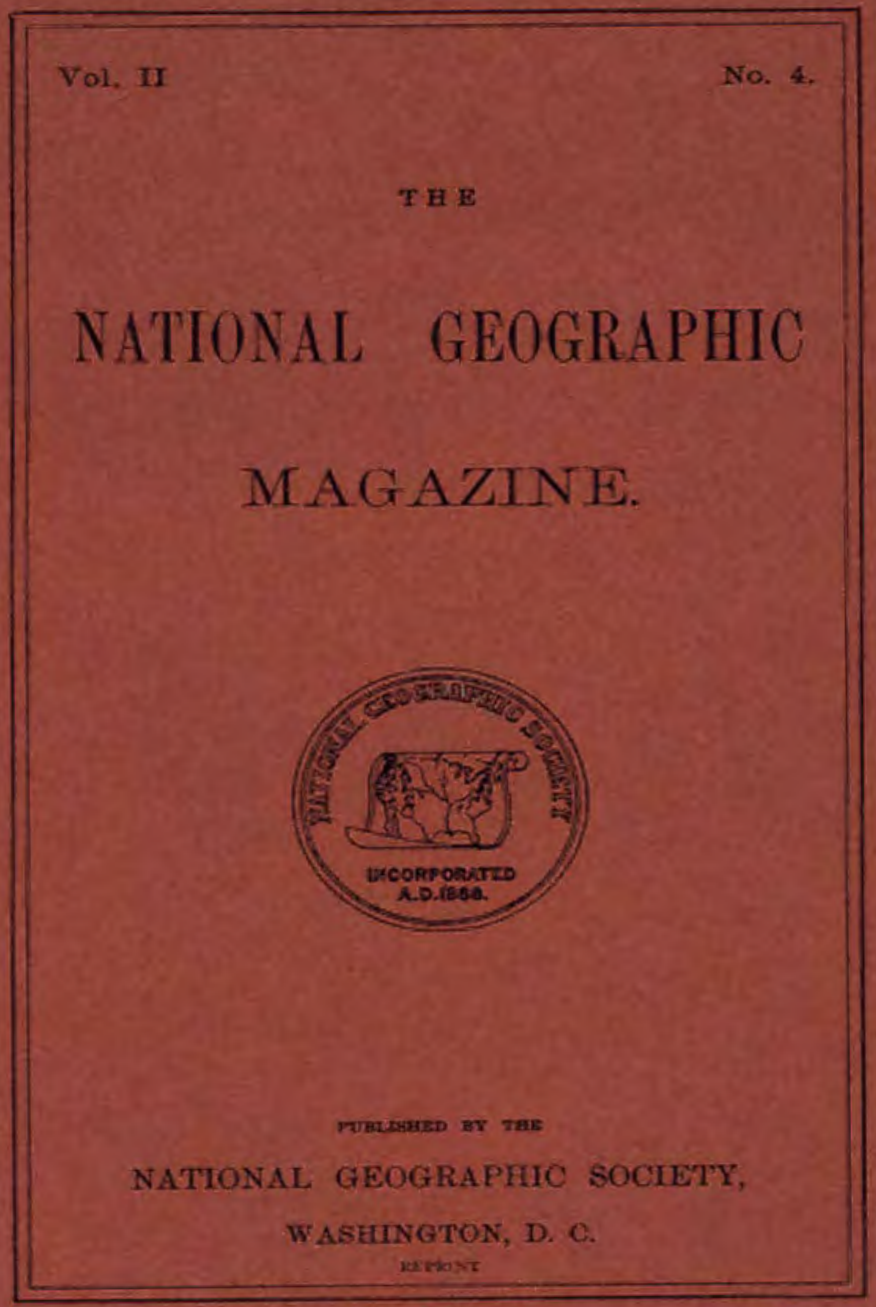
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names and National Geographic

125 years of Disseminating Place-Names

Juan José Valdés
National Geographic
September 18, 2015


Herbert G. Ogden
Marcus Baker
John Wesley Powell
Henry Gannett



GEOGRAPHIC NOMENCLATURE

Remarks by Herbert G. Ogden, Gustave Herrle, Marcus Baker, and A.H. Thompson

VOL. III, PP. 31-40 APRIL 30, 1891

THE

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

GEOGRAPHY OF THE LAND

ANNUAL REPORT BY VICE PRESIDENT

HERBERT G. OGDEN

WASHINGTON

PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

REPRINT

Price 25 Cents.

Under the provisions of an executive order issued on the fourth of September last, our own Government has virtually adopted the European system in the treatment of foreign names, thus bringing us in accord with the principal nations upon a most important subject to students and geographers the world over. The executive order constitutes a board composed of ten representatives from different departments and bureaus of the Government service, to which all questions relating to the work of the board that may arise in the departments are to be referred, and requires all persons in the Government service to respect the decisions that may be rendered. The board in its first bulletin, recently issued, has announced its adoption of the English system for the treatment of foreign names and transliteration into Roman characters, and has presented principles to guide in reaching decisions affecting home names. These principles will doubtless be added to as new questions arise, so that at no very distant day we may see formulated a set of rules that will be instructive as well as useful in their application. The first bulletin seems to have been received favorably, and we may hope, as the work of the board advances and the importance of the subject is more generally realized, that it will gain the hearty endorsement of the public and a support that must largely increase the usefulness of its labors.

Vol. VII JULY, 1896 No. 7

The National Geographic Magazine

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

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WASHINGTON

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THE WORK OF THE UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

By HENRY GANNETT,

Chairman of the Board and Chief Geographer of the U. S. Geological Survey and of the Tenth and Eleventh Censuses

This board was originally constituted, in the early part of 1890, as a voluntary association of officers of various departments of the government for the purpose of securing uniformity in the official spelling of geographic names. It was the result, in the main, of the efforts of Dr T. C. Mendenhall, then Superintendent of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, who was chosen its first chairman. It was given standing and authority by an executive order of September 4, 1890, which reads as follows:

"As it is desirable that uniform usage in regard to geographic nomenclature and orthography obtain throughout the executive departments of the government, and particularly upon the maps and charts issued by the various departments and bureaus, I hereby constitute a Board on Geographic Names and designate the following persons, who have heretofore coöperated for a similar purpose under the authority of the several departments, bureaus, and institutions with which they are connected, as members of said board. . . . To this board shall be referred all unsettled questions concerning geographic names which arise in the departments, and the decisions of the board are to be accepted by these departments as the standard authority in such matters." . . .

The board now consists of representatives of the following departments and bureaus: State, War, and Navy departments, Light-House Board, Coast and Geodetic Survey, Geological Survey, General Land Office, Post Office Department, and Smithsonian Institution.

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The National Geographic Magazine

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY

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WASHINGTON
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PORTO RICO*

By Robert T. Hill,
United States Geological Survey

CONFIGURATION AND GEOLOGY

Porto Rico is the most eastern and the smallest of the Great Antilles, being 500 square miles less in area than Jamaica. It is 95 miles long, 35 miles wide, and has an area of 3,668 square miles.† The coast-line is about 360 miles in length. Its area is 300 square miles greater than that of Delaware, Rhode Island, and the District of Columbia combined, and 300 square miles less than that of Connecticut. At the same time, it is the most productive in proportion to area, the most densely settled, and the most established in its customs and institutions. It is also notable among the West Indian group for the reason that its preponderant population is of the white race, and that it produces foodstuffs almost sufficient to supply its inhabitants as well as some of the neighboring islands.

MOUNTAIN SCENERY NEAR LARES

* Published by permission of the Chief of the Division of Forestry of the Department of Agriculture and the Director of the Geological Survey, under whose auspices the researches upon which this article is based were made.

† The area of the island cannot be stated exactly. Some authorities give slightly different figures from the above.

Vol. XI AUGUST, 1900 No. 8

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U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

The decisions of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names will hereafter be published in the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE. All the decisions of the Board up to June 1, 1900, are included in a report recently submitted to President McKinley and now in press. The Board recommended that, in addition to the

U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

The decisions of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names will hereafter be published in the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE. All the decisions of the Board up to June 1, 1900, are included in a report recently submitted to President McKinley and now in press. The Board recommended that, in addition to the usual number, some 1,800 or 1,900, 8,000 extra copies be printed for general and departmental use. On this recommendation the Senate acted favorably, but the House of Representatives took no action. The Board therefore has no copies of this report for distribution, and persons desiring copies should apply to their Representatives in Congress. The following are the decisions rendered since the report went to press:

Alamoosook; lake in town of Orland, Hancock County, Maine. (Not Great [pond].)

Bolden; run, Franklin township, Fayette County, Penna. (Not Boland.)

Brewer; pond, Penobscot County, Maine. (Not Orrington Great.)

Carasaljo; lake, Ocean County, N. J. (Not Caracaljo.)

Cotteral; brook, Ocean County, N. J. (Not Cotterall's.)

Douglas; post village and town, Worcester County, Mass. (Not Douglass.)

East Douglas; post-office and railroad station, Worcester County, Mass. (Not East Douglass.)

Garrett; island at mouth of the Susquehanna River, Cecil County, Md. (Not Watson.)

Green; lake, Hancock County, Maine. (Not Reed's [pond].)

Greenlake; post-office and railroad station, Hancock County, Maine. (Not Green Lake.)

Grove City; post-office and railroad station, Franklin County, Ohio. (Not Grove.)

Heagan; mountain, Waldo County, Maine. (Not Heagen.)

Lacarpe; creek, Ottawa County, Ohio. (Not Lacarne.)

Leonia; post-office and railroad station, Kootenai County, Idaho. (Not Leonai.)

Little Sandy; creek, Fayette County, Penna., and Preston County, W. Va. (Not Gibbons nor Gibbons Glade.)

Nikolaiefsk; town on the Amur River, 25 miles from its mouth, eastern Siberia. (Not Nicolaieffsk, etc.)

Osborn; island in Manasquan River, Monmouth County, N. J. (Not Osborne.)

Phillips; lake in Dedham, Hancock County, Maine. (Not Filtz, Fitts, nor Fitz [pond].)

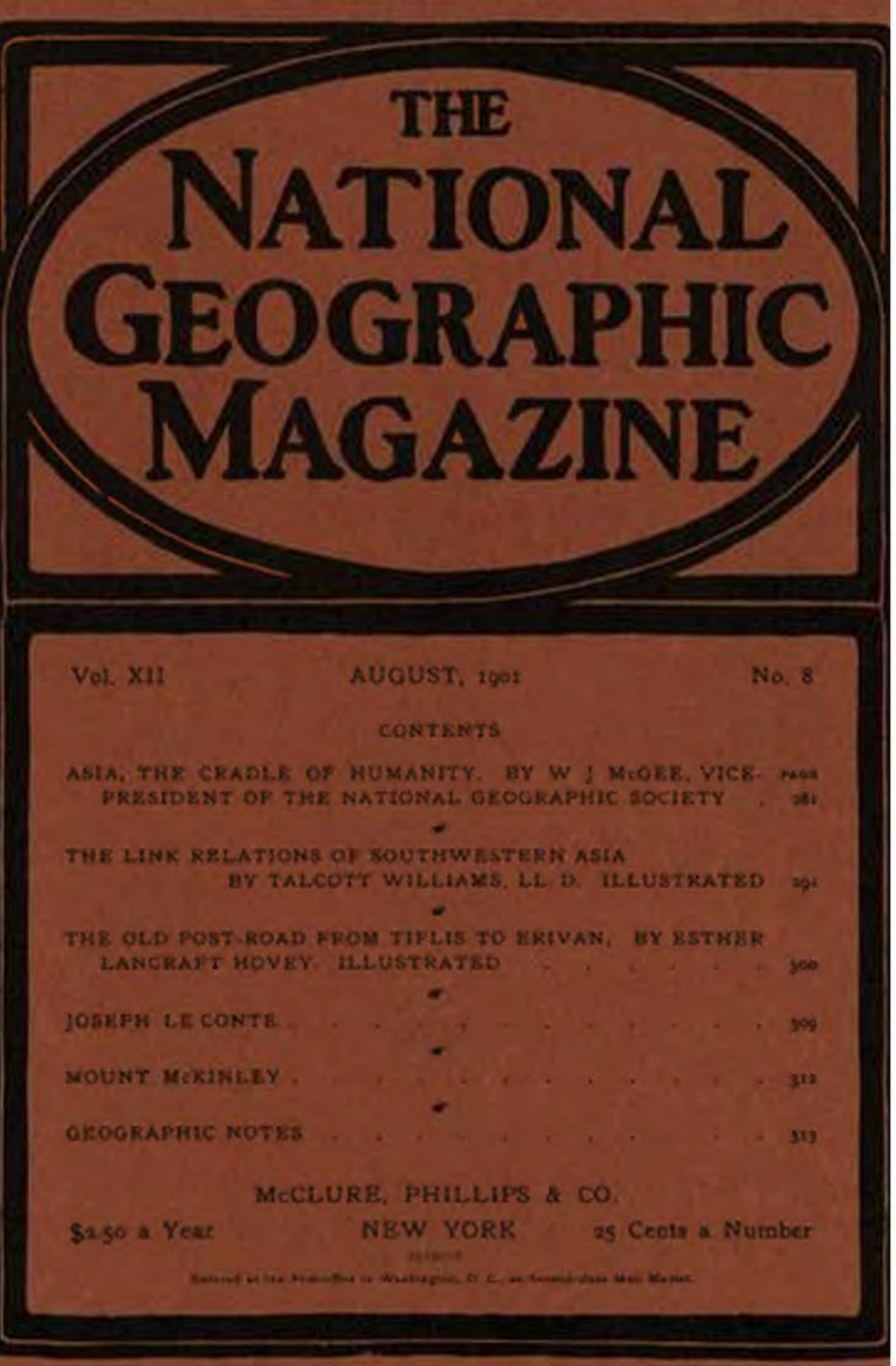
Pine; knob in South Union, Fayette County, Penna. (Not Piney.)

Prestonsburg; magisterial district and post-office, Floyd County, Ky. (Not Prestonburgh.)

Sedgeunkedunk; stream, tributary of Penobscot River, Penobscot County, Maine. (Not Segeunkedunk.)

Souadabscook; river, Penobscot County, Maine. (Not Soadabscook nor Sowadabscook.)

Swan; lake in Swanville, Waldo County, Maine. (Not Goose [pond].)



The U. S. Board on Geographic Names has published a special report containing a list showing the approved spelling of about 4,000 coastwise names in the Philippine archipelago. There has hitherto been much difficulty with the names, inasmuch as existing charts, books, maps, and publications all disagreed. Spanish charts contained either all Spanish names or Spanish names and also Malay names written according to Spanish methods. On English charts the spelling of some of the Malay names had been altered to conform to English and American methods of writing native names, and naturally numerous errors and great confusion had arisen. The U. S. Board on Geographic Names, when appealed to for advice, after due consideration, recommended that the names in current use and their spelling, as shown on the best Spanish official maps and charts, should be followed. The Hydrographic Office, pursuant to this advice, under the direction of Capt. C. C. Todd, U. S. N., prepared, chiefly from Spanish official charts, the list of names which are included in this special report of the Board. It is interesting to note that the names were approved by Father José Algué, of Manila, the highest authority in the Philippine Islands.

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types of civilization—oriental and occidental—and by doing so to bring forth a new type of civilization, in which the culture and science of the two hemispheres will meet, not in conflict, but in harmony, so as to enable us to share the inheritance of Christian religion, oriental philosophy, Greek art, Roman law, and modern science.

Thus we hope in the course of the twentieth century to have at least one fruit out of our earnest and persevering efforts to contribute to the progress of mankind.

GEOGRAPHIC NAMES IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE STORIES THEY TELL

By R. H. WHITBECK, NEW JERSEY STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

THE geographical names of a country tell much of its history. Each race that inhabits a region gives its own names to mountains, rivers, and lakes, or adopts names previously given. A stronger people may, in later centuries, destroy or drive out every member of the earlier race. The latter may hand down no written sentence of its own history, yet some record of the race will be preserved in the geographical names which survive. The Romans were not able to vanquish the Britons. Comparatively little of Roman civilization penetrated the British Isles. The fact that the Roman "conquest" was little more than a *military* occupancy is attested by the geographic names which the Romans left, most of which terminate in -caster or -chester, from the Roman military word *castra*, a camp. Each wave of invasion—Roman, Angle, Danish, Saxon, or Norman—left its story in the names which it gave, and which remain like the stranded boulders of a glacier long since melted away.

The varied history through which different sections of the United States have passed is told in the varied nature of its geographic names. The red man built no cities in whose ruins we may read the story of his past, for the Indian was not a builder. He has left no roads or fortresses or castles; his methods of warfare called rather for a forest trail and an ambuscade, and these leave no ruins. Were a traveler to examine every valley and hill, every pass and ford and mountain from Maine to Florida, he would now find few traces of the red man in any material thing which survives him. But on every hand he would find the record of Indian occupancy in the names of rivers, creeks, and lakes in which the red man fished and on whose shores he camped and hunted and warred. The mountains seem to have had little attraction for the Indian, and it is seldom that a mountain bears an Indian name. The red man cared little for the bays and inlets along the coast; he made little use of the offshore islands; hence it is that among the hundreds of local names given to islands and bays along the coast of America one seldom meets an Indian word. But the streams and lakes were the Indian's delight. On their surfaces or along their banks most of his time was spent. Along their sides ran his trails and on their shores stood his villages. Every considerable stream and every lake had its name. When the pale face came he found the lake and the stream already named. When he traded

The August number of this Magazine will contain an address by the Secretary of War, Hon. William H. Taft, on the Philippines, illustrated with a four-colored map of the Philippine Islands.

A Tribute to American Topographers. In an account of a lecture given by Mr Bailey Willis before the geographers of Venice, Professor Penck, than whom there is no higher authority on topographic maps, pays a high compliment to American topographers:

"... Above all an opportunity was afforded of obtaining an insight into the really astounding cartographic results achieved by Willis' party in China. The maps which were exhibited gave proof of the very decided superiority of American topographic methods over those employed by most European expeditions. The Willis party carried on plane-table surveys, on a scale of 1:50,000, with 20 to 30 meter contours, from Paitingfu to Taijaufu. This mapping was the work of Sargent, the topographer of the expedition, one of that group of expert cartographers of the United States Geological Survey. In 58½ days Sargent mapped no less than 8,500 square kilometers, occupying 103 stations, locating 2,600 points by intersection, and measuring the altitudes of 2,150 points."

A. H. B.

"The Negritos of Zambales" is the subject of a recent publication of the Ethnological Survey of the Philippines. The pamphlet is very fully illustrated with maps and pictures showing the customs and life of the little brown people.

Although living in the mountainous and wooded portions of the islands, the Negrito grows tobacco, maize, and vegetables. He usually plants in cleared spots in the forest, because the soil is loose and needs no plowing, as in the case of the lowland. All work of digging up the soil, planting, and cultivating is done with sharpened sticks of hard wood, sometimes, but not always, pointed with iron, for iron is scarce. The piece of ground for planting is regarded as the personal property of the head of the family which cleared it. No one else would think of planting on it, even though the owner had abandoned it, unless he declared that he had no more use for it.

Many of the vices of the Negrito, says the report, are due to contact with the Malayan, to whom he is, at least in point of truthfulness, honesty, and temperance, far superior.

While living in the wild state, they have a very simple form of government. They simply gather around the most powerful man, whom they are quick to recognize in this way for superior ability or greater wealth; but when living peaceably scattered through the mountains each head of a family is a small autocrat, and rules his family and those of his sons who elect to remain with him. When he dies the oldest son becomes the head of the family.

* Penck, Prof. Dr Albrecht: The Investigations in China by the Carnegie Institution. Die Zeit, Wien, April 15, 1905.

DECISIONS OF THE U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

April 5, 1905

CHINESE PROVINCES

Anhui (not Nganhwei, Ngan-hwei, Ngan-hoei, Ngan-hui, Ngan-hwuy, nor Ngan-Hwuy).
Chehkiang (not Cheh-kiang, Chekiang, nor Che-kiang).
Chihli * (not Pechili, Pe-chili, Pe-chi-li, Chih-li, nor Chi-li).
Fuhkien * (not Fukien, Fu-kien, Fuh-kien, nor Foo-kien).
Honan (not Ho-nan).
Hsin chiang (not Eastern Turkestan nor Kashgaria).
Hunan (not Hu-nan nor Hoo-nan).
Hupeh (not Hu-peh nor Hoo-pe).
Kansu (not Kan-su, Kansuh, nor Kan-soo).
Kiangsi (not Kiang-si nor Kiang-se).
Kiangsu (not Kiang-su).

* Revision of previous decision.

Kuangsi (not Kwangsi, Kwang-si, nor Quangse).
Kuangtung (not Kwangtung, Kwang-tung, Kwantung, Kang-tung, nor Quang-tung).
Kueichou (not Kui-chou, Kweichou, Kwei-chow, nor Quei-chow).
Shangtung (not Shantung nor Shan-tung).
Shansi (not Shan-si nor Shan-se).
Shensi (not Shen-si nor Shen-se).
Sauch'uan (not Szechuen, Sze-chuen, nor Sze-chuan).
Yünnan (not Yunnan, Yun nan, nor Yun-nan).
Mukden; city, China (not Mookden nor Moukden).

Banka; island, lying between Sumatra and Borneo (not Banca nor Bangka).
Captains; bay, Alaska, between Hiuliuk Bay and Nateekin Bay.
Carquinez;* bay, point, and strait, connecting Suisun and San Pablo Bays, California (not Carquines, Karquines, nor Karquenas).
Choutean;* county, Montana (not Choteau).
Dona Ana;* county, post-office, railroad station, and precinct, New Mexico (not Donna Ana nor Doña Ana).
Grass; river, tributary to the St Lawrence River, St Lawrence County, New York (not De Grasse, Grasse, nor La Grasse).
Hiuliuk;* harbor, Alaska, an arm of Unalaska Bay, east of Dutch Harbor (not Unalaska, Captains Harbor, nor Levashef).
Le Conte; bay and glacier, east of Mitkof Island, Frederick Sound, southeastern Alaska (not Hutli, Hnlti, nor Thunder).
Lewis and Clark;* county, Montana (not Lewis and Clarke).
Little Salmon; stream, tributary to Lake Ontario, near Texas and about 4 miles west of Salmon River, Oswego County, New York (not Salmon).
Port Levashef; port, Alaska, at head of Captains Bay (not Captains Harbor nor St Paul).
Sycamore; creek, tributary to Verde River from the northeast, Yavapai County, Arizona (not Dragoon nor Dragoon Fork).

May 3, 1905

Chefoo; city, China (not Chifu, Chi-fu, Chefoo, Chee-foo, nor Tschi-fu).
Liaoyang; city, China (not Liau-yang, Liaoyang, nor Liaoyan).
Tieling; city, China (not Thieling, Tie-ling, nor Tielin).
American Corners; village, post-office, and district, Caroline County, Maryland (not American Corner).
Hinchinbrook; principal entrance to Prince William Sound, southern Alaska (not Meiklejohn).

* Revision of previous decision.

Choga; creek, Macon County, North Carolina (not Chogee).
Hughes; post-office and railroad station, Butler County, Ohio (not Hughs).
Indian; creek, Chowan County, North Carolina (not Dillard nor Dillard Mill).
Marshyhope; branch of the Nanticoke River, Dorchester and Caroline counties, Maryland, and Kent and Sussex counties, Delaware (not Marshy Hope, Marsh Hope, West Branch of Nanticoke River, West or Northwest Fork of Nanticoke, nor Northwest Prong of Nanticoke).
Norris; glacier on the west side of Taku Inlet, southeastern Alaska (not Kadishle, Kadishle, nor Windom).
Salt Lake City; city, capital of Utah (not Salt Lake).
Santeetlah; creek and post-office, Graham County, North Carolina (not Santeetla nor Santutlah).
Shewbird; post-office and mountain, Clay County, North Carolina (not Shoo Bird nor Shoobird).
Shoshone; established for all place names, but not for tribal name or reservation.
Taku; glacier at the head of Taku Inlet, southeastern Alaska (not Klumú Gutta, Klumma Gutta, nor Foster).

June 7, 1905

Donaldson; creek, Caldwell County, Kentucky (not Dollison, Dollarson, nor Donalson).
Hayden; island in Columbia River, Multnomah County, Oregon (not Shaw's, Shaws, nor Vancouver).
* Hornblow; point, Chowan County, North Carolina (not Hornblower, Hornblow's, nor Skinners).
Kivalina; river, debouching in Corwin Lagoon, on the Arctic coast of Alaska, 60 miles southeast of Point Hope (not Kevulik, Kevuleek, Kuveleek, Kivalena, Kivalinagmiut, Kiveleena, Kivilenya, Kivelow, nor Kiv-a-linyah).
Kobuk; river in northwestern Alaska tributary to Hotham Inlet (not Kowak, Putnam, Koouk, Kubuk, nor Kuvuk).
Poverty; point, Dorchester County, Maryland (not Brockman, Brokman, nor Brohawn).
Roasting Ear; point, Dorchester County, Maryland (not Roasting Ear nor Rose Neck).
Tigari; Eskimo village on Point Hope, Arctic coast of Alaska (not Tikira, Tik-i-ráh, Tik-i-ráh-mûn, Tikirak, Tik-é-rá, Tikera, Tiekagagmiut, Tiekaga, Tigera, Tig-a-ra, Tig-a-rah, nor Figarok).
Whale; island, between Afognak and Kodiak, Alaska (not Tobopymeriü, Tobopymek, Ketoy, nor Kittiwake).

* Reversal of previous decision.

The NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

Vol. XVII MARCH, 1906 No. 3

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MOROCCO, THE LAND OF THE EXTREME WEST
and the Story of My Captivity
By ION PERDICARIS.
With Pictures of the People, Towns, and Country.

OUR HETEROGENEOUS SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
An Explanation of the Reasons Why the United States Should Abandon its Obsolete System of Inches, Toes, and Gallons. By ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL.

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U. S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES

IT is hereby ordered that there be added to the duties of the United States Board on Geographic Names, created by Executive order dated September 4, 1890, the duty of determining, changing, and fixing place names within the United States and insular possessions, and it is hereby directed that all names hereafter suggested for any place by any officer or employee of the government shall be referred to said board for its consideration and approval before publication.

In these matters, as in all cases of disputed nomenclature, the decisions of the board are to be accepted by the departments of government as the standard authority.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

The White House, January 23, 1906.

The NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

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DECISIONS OF THE UNITED STATES GEOGRAPHIC BOARD

The following important decisions relating to geographic names and their application were made by the United States Geographic Board on February 6, 1907. In reaching these decisions the Board has obtained the advice of many of the foremost American geographers and geologists, and the decisions here given are, in nearly all cases, the result of a consensus of opinion among the gentlemen consulted.

CORDILLERAS—the entire western mountain system of North America.

ROCKY MOUNTAINS—the ranges of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and western Texas.

PLATEAU REGION—the plateaus of Colorado River and its branches, limited on the east by the Rocky Mountains, on the west by the Wasatch Range, and extending from the southern end of the Wasatch southward, southeastward, and eastward to the eastern boundary of Arizona, following the escarpment of the Colorado Plateau, and including on the north the Green River basin.

BASIN RANGES—all those lying between the Plateau Region on the east, the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Range on the west, and the Blue Mountains of Oregon on the north, including the Wasatch and associated ranges.

PACIFIC RANGES—the Cascade Range, the Sierra Nevada, and the coast ranges collectively.

SIERRA NEVADA—limited on the north by the gap south of Lassen Peak and on the south by Tehachipi Pass.

CASCADE RANGE—limited on the south by the gap south of Lassen Peak and extending northward into British Columbia.

COAST RANGE—extend northward into Canada and southward into Lower California, and include all mountains west of Puget Sound and the Willamette, Sacramento, and San Joaquin valleys, and southwest of Mohave Desert.

BITTERROOT RANGE—extends from Clarks Fork on the northwest to Monida, the crossing of the Oregon Short Line on the southeast, including all mountain spurs.

MISSION RANGE—range east and southeast of Flathead Lake, Montana.

WASATCH RANGE—includes on the north the Bear River Range, extending to the bend of Bear River at Soda Springs, Idaho, and on the south extends to the mouth of San Pete River near Gunnison.

SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS—include all the mountains of southwest Colorado south of Gunnison River, west of San Luis Valley, and east of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad.

SACRAMENTO MOUNTAINS—include those groups known as Jicarilla, Sierra Blanca, Sacramento, and Guadalupe.

SALMON RIVER MOUNTAINS—include the group in central Idaho lying south of main Salmon River, west of Lemhi River, north of Snake River, and east of the valley of Weiser River.

BLUE MOUNTAINS—include all the mountains of northeastern Oregon with the exception of the Wallowa Mountains, and extend into Washington.

SANGRE DE CRISTO RANGE—extends from Poncha Pass, Colorado, to the neighborhood of Santa Fé, New Mexico, thus including the southern portion locally known as the Culebra Range.

FRONT RANGE—includes on the north the Laramie Range as far as the crossing of the North Platte and on the south includes the Pikes Peak group.

APPALACHIAN SYSTEM—includes all the eastern mountains of the United States from Alabama to northern Maine.

BLUE RIDGE—includes the ridge extending from a few miles north of Harpers Ferry to northern Georgia.

APPALACHIAN PLATEAU—includes the entire plateau forming the western member of the Appalachian system, known in the north as the Allegany Plateau and in the south as the Cumberland Plateau.

OZARK PLATEAU—the plateau in northwestern Arkansas and southern Missouri.

QUACHITA MOUNTAINS—the ridges of western Arkansas south of the Arkansas River, Indian Territory, and Oklahoma.

COMMITTEES OF 1907

The following committees of the National Geographic Society have been appointed by President Willis L. Moore for 1907:

Executive Committee.—President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Messrs Blount, Grosvenor, and Henry.

Finance.—Charles J. Bell, John Joy Edson, Gilbert H. Grosvenor.

Communications (Lectures and Meetings).—Gilbert H. Grosvenor.

Research.—Henry Gannett, J. Howard Gore, C. Hart Merriam, F. V. Coville, A. J. Henry, O. H. Tittmann, C. W. Hayes, L. A. Bauer, W. H. Holmes, O. P. Austin, C. M. Chester, Gilbert H. Grosvenor. (With power of the Chairman to add to its members.)

Publications.—Gilbert H. Grosvenor, A. W. Greely, W J McGee, C. Hart Merriam, Willis L. Moore, O. H. Tittmann, O. P. Austin, Alexander Graham Bell, David T. Day, G. K. Gilbert, Angelo Heilprin, R. D. Salisbury, Alfred H. Brooks, Alexander McAdie, Almon Gunnison, David Fairchild.

Admissions.—O. P. Austin, Gilbert H. Grosvenor, Charles Denby.

Library.—O. P Austin, Gilbert H. Grosvenor, H. H. Kimball.

Excursions.—Henry F. Blount, F. V. Coville, Gilbert H. Grosvenor, Otto Luebkert.


MAP OF THE
WESTERN THEATRE OF WAR
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE


THE WORLD
PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR
THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE
GILBERT GROSVENOR, EDITOR
EDITION 1921
POLITICAL DIVISIONS, including Areas established after the World War
ARCTIC OCEAN
UNEXPLORED REGION
GREENLAND
SIBERIA
EUROPE
NORTH AMERICA
PACIFIC OCEAN
ATLANTIC OCEAN
AFRICA
INDIAN OCEAN
SOUTH AMERICA
AUSTRALIA
ANTARCTIC (SOUTHERN) OCEAN
UNEXPLORED


UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
Compiled and Drawn in the Cartographic Section of the National Geographic Society for THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE
Gilbert Grosvenor, Editor
RUSSIAN SOVIET FEDERATED SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
SIBERIA
YAKUTSK A.S.S.R.
OUTER MONGOLIA
GOBI
SINKIANG
ARCTIC OCEAN
PACIFIC OCEAN
BARENTS SEA
KARA SEA
LAPTEV SEA
EAST SIBERIAN SEA
CHUKCHI SEA
SEA OF OKHOTSK
SEA OF JAPAN
BERING SEA
BLACK SEA
CASPIAN SEA
ARAL SEA
KAZAKH S.S.R.
TURKMEN S.S.R.
UZBEK S.S.R.
KIRGHIZ S.S.R.
TADZHIK S.S.R.
AFGHANISTAN
IRAN
TURKEY
CHOSEN (KOREA)
HOKKAIDO
CHINA

New Atlas Maps Announced by The Society

Expanded Map Program, Marking National Geographic's 70th Year, Will Bring to Members Plates for a Big New Atlas

By James M. Darley

Chief Cartographer, National Geographic Society

Ever since Marco Polo journeyed to Cathay and Columbus's caravels braved the Ocean Sea, maps have spelled adventure. Each inked-in line speaks of man's quest for the distant shore, his urge to fathom the mysterious sea or to scale the lofty peak.

National Geographic Society maps continue to strike this responsive chord. Members acclaim them as welcome companions on any trip and magic carpets to faraway places.

Now, on the 70th anniversary of the founding of The Society, members will reap even greater rewards from a vastly expanded map program. After long study and planning, The Society launches with this issue an ambitious new project: the National Geographic World Atlas map series.

The handy size and larger scale of these maps makes them ideal for guidance while traveling as well as for reference use at home. All maps in this series will be the same size, planned as integral plates of a world Atlas which each member can build up for himself.

Members formerly received four supplement maps a year. In 1958, however, your National Geographics will bring the first seven in this important new Atlas series.

Cartographers Charting World Anew

When I joined The Society's staff 37 years ago, its Cartographic Division consisted of two men—Chief Cartographer Albert H. Bumstead and myself. Today we have 38 men and women hard at work on the first half dozen sheets of the Atlas series.

Last year our four large ten-color supplement maps totaled nine million copies. This year, with the seven Atlas maps, the number will soar to 16 million.

For this series the entire world is being mapped afresh, region by region. There will also be an occasional special-purpose map, such as one planned for 1958 showing the National Parks and Monuments of the United States and Canada.

All Atlas maps will open out to 25 by 19 inches—small enough for ease of handling, yet large enough to permit a generous scale and wealth of detail. One, for instance, will portray the British Isles on a scale of 28.8 miles to the inch. Modern "bleed," or marginless, design makes use of all 475 square inches to convey geographic information.

To help members preserve their Atlas maps for ready reference, The Society is preparing a sturdy, attractive portfolio, which will be available at modest cost. With it will come a glossary of geographic terms used in the new maps. Later a comprehensive index will be compiled, containing an estimated 120,000 place names.

Large wall charts will also be presented to members from time to time, and copies of maps previously issued will continue to be available from The Society.

Winter Holiday Area Depicted First

Now, with Christmas past and winter's chill settling over the land, many Americans think longingly of royal palms, warm Florida sands, and majestic sailfish sporting in blue Gulf Stream waters. If you join the thousands heading south for a holiday in the sun, you will want to take along the new MAP OF THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES accompanying this issue of your Geographic.

Whether you cruise on the Intracoastal Waterway, drive along Florida's new Sunshine State Parkway, or travel by train or airplane, this lead-off map in the new Atlas series will chart your way to winter warmth.

Each year more hotels crowd the glittering skyline at Miami Beach (pages 54-55), more resorts open along Florida's "Gold Coast" to receive vacationing throngs (map inset C).

Key Biscayne, an uninhabited "South Sea isle" until about 15 years ago, is today a year-round playground linked to the mainland by Rickenbacker Causeway (page 68). County-owned Crandon Park, where thousands come to bathe on palm-fringed beaches, to picnic, or to visit the zoo, shares the key with a fast-growing community of homes, motels, and shopping centers.

In three decades a swelling tide of new residents has pushed Florida from 31st to 13th place among the States in population.

The entire Southeast is rich in history. Jamestown, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Harpers Ferry, Fort Sumter, Appomattox—a multitude of place names charged with meaning appears on this Atlas map. Here are scenic and recreational places that attract increasing numbers of America's tourists: Kentucky's Mammoth Cave, with more than 150 miles of explored passageways; the beautiful lakes of the Tennessee Valley; Shenandoah National Park and famed Skyline Drive; and the Great Smokies, the most visited of our national park areas, with an estimated three million visitors in 1957.

On North Carolina's Outer Banks, where Sir Walter Raleigh's Roanoke Island colonists perished and pirates and wreckers once lured ships to their destruction, the Wright brothers ushered in the age of powered flight. Even more portentous are the rockets that today blast off from Patrick Air Force Missile Test Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida. A 5,000-

National Geographic Photographer Willard R. Culver

Each Member Can Build Up His Own Atlas of the World

Chief Cartographer James M. Darley shows one way of binding the maps in the new Atlas series. Since all will be the same size, they can be unfolded and clipped or bound together in a variety of ways for quick and easy reference, or members may prefer the handsome box-type portfolio to be made available by The Society at low cost. Miss Carol Cunningham of the Cartographic Division checks a proof of the first Atlas map, Southeastern United States. She uses postal bulletins, one source consulted to assure completeness and accuracy.

W. Soviet Union Plate 73

Geopolitically Correct

THE WORLD KEEPS TURNING, and our cartographers keep up with it. For the second revision of the sixth edition of the Society's *Atlas of the World*, a map of Kazakhstan (above) is losing its *h*. To reflect its recent independence, the Central Asian republic abandoned the transliterated Russian spelling in April. Nearly 3,500 place-names have been changed since the atlas's last revision in 1992. Also added: the route of the English Channel Tunnel, opened in 1994, the Aral Sea's shrinking shoreline, and the new nations of Eritrea and Palau. Adjustments have been made to the borders between Oman and Yemen and between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.


World Atlas
Tap to Search
All Nations & Territories
Africa
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United States of America
Sacramento, CA
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC KIDS
WORLD ATLAS
Gulf of Mexico
ATLAS OF THE WORLD
TENTH EDITION
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
NEPAL
SINGAPORE
Bali
ASIA
CHINA
OCEAN
TAIWAN
AREA ENLARGED
CHINA
SOUTH CHINA SEA
NG Maps
Sources: UNESCO

Conventional place-names

Cultural features: Political and Populated place-names

Physical features: Geographical and Hydrographical names

Conventional place-names

Shared geographic features – Physical and political reference maps and atlas sectional plates

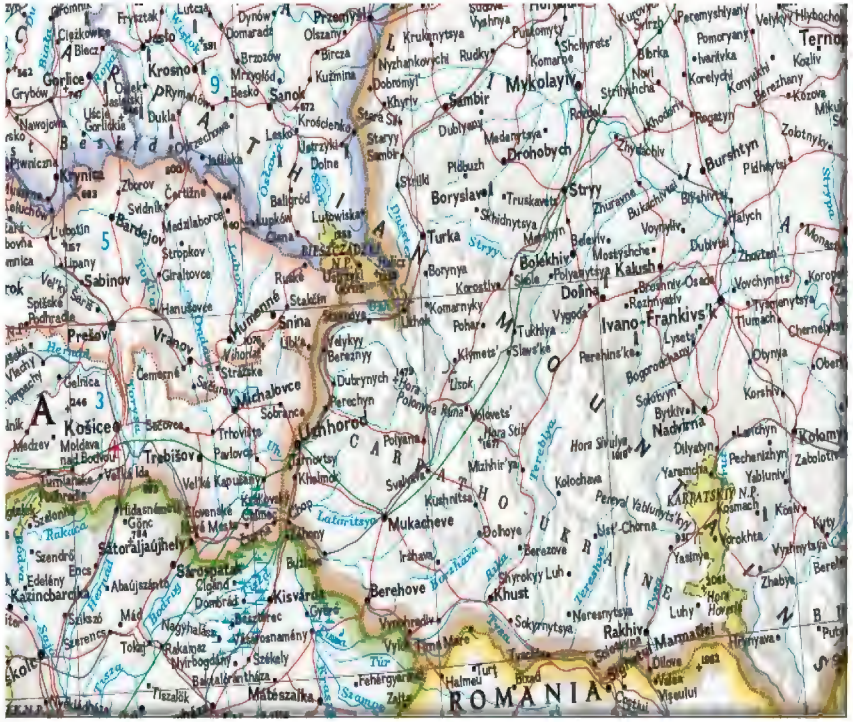
Dead Sea

Yam HaMelaḥ Hebrew

Al Baḥr al Mayyit
Arabic

Carpathian Mountains

Karpati Czech, Polish, Slovak, Ukrainian



Kárpatók
Hungarian

Carpaţi
Romanian

Variant place-names

Political reference maps and atlas sectional plates

Romanized names—Native (Conventional): Italy

MILANO (MILAN)
Romanized–Native (Conventional)

Venezia (Venice)
Romanized–Native (Conventional)

Alternating variant names: Ireland (Erie)

Toraigh (Tory I.)
Local-Gaelic (Conventional)

Creeslough (An Craoslach)
Conventional (Local-Gaelic)

Transliterated place-names

Political reference maps and atlas sectional plates

Ar Riyāḍ (Riyadh)

Athína (Athens)

El Qâhira (Cairo)

Krung Thep (Bangkok)

Moskva (Moscow)

Contentious place-names

Local (Chinese) short-form name

Conventional name

Local name

Variant (Tibetan) name

Conventional name

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MINISTERIO DE JUSTICIA

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ASAMBLEA NACIONAL DEL PODER POPULAR

RICARDO ALARCON DE QUESADA, **Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular de la República de Cuba.**

HAGO SABER: Que la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular, en la sesión del 1ro. de agosto de 2010, correspondiente al Quinto Período Ordinario de Sesiones de la Séptima Legislatura, en concordancia con lo establecido en el Artículo 75, inciso b) de la Constitución de la República, ha adoptado el siguiente:

ACUERDO NUMERO VII - 49

Aprobar por unanimidad la Ley No. 110, "Modificativa de la Ley No. 1304 de 3 de julio de 1976 De la División Político-Administrativa" y el dictamen elaborado por la Comisión de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos.

Publíquese en la Gaceta Oficial de la República para general conocimiento.

Dado en la sala de sesiones de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular, Palacio de las Convenciones, ciudad de La Habana, el día 1ro. de agosto de 2010.

RICARDO ALARCON DE QUESADA **Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular de la República de Cuba.**

HAGO SABER: Que la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular de la República de Cuba en sesión celebrada el día 1ro. de agosto de 2010, correspondiente al V Período Ordinario de Sesiones de la VII Legislatura, ha aprobado lo siguiente:

POR CUANTO: La Constitución de la República en su Artículo 102 define que "el territorio nacional, para los fines político-administrativos, se divide en provincias y municipios; el número, los límites y la denominación de los cuales se establece en la Ley".

POR CUANTO: La Ley No. 1304 de 3 de julio de 1976, Ley de División Político-Administrativa, estableció la división del país en catorce provincias y ciento sesenta y nueve municipios, incluyendo el municipio especial Isla de la Juventud, con expresión de sus nombres y de su distribución en el territorio nacional.

POR CUANTO: La experiencia obtenida ha demostrado la necesidad de efectuar modificaciones a la actual división político-administrativa a los efectos de alcanzar una organización más racional y funcional que contribuya al desarrollo económico y social del país.

POR TANTO: En uso de la facultad que le otorga el Artículo 75 inciso b), de la Constitución de la República, la Asamblea Nacional del Poder Popular aprobó la siguiente:

LEY No. 110

"MODIFICATIVA DE LA LEY No. 1304 DE 3 DE JULIO DE 1976 DE LA DIVISION POLITICO-ADMINISTRATIVA"

ARTICULO 1.-Se modifican los artículos del 1 al 5 de la Ley No. 1304 de 3 de julio de 1976, los que quedan redactados de la manera siguiente:

"Artículo 1.-El territorio nacional, para los fines político-administrativos, se divide en quince provincias y en ciento sesenta y ocho municipios, incluyendo el municipio especial Isla de la Juventud".

"Artículo 2.-Las provincias se denominan: Pinar del Río, Artemisa, La Habana, Mayabeque, Matanzas, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spíritus, Ciego de Avila, Camagüey, Las Tunas, Holguín, Granma, Santiago de Cuba y Guantánamo".

"Artículo 3.-La provincia de Pinar del Río comprende los once municipios siguientes: Sandino, Mantua, Minas de Matahambre, Viñales, La Palma, Los Palacios, Consolación del Sur, Pinar del Río, San Luis, San Juan y Martínez y Guane.

La capital de la provincia es la ciudad de Pinar del Río".

"Artículo 4.-La provincia de La Habana comprende los quince municipios siguientes: Playa, Plaza de la Revolución, Centro Habana, La Habana Vieja, Regla, La Habana del Este, Guanabacoa, San Miguel del Padrón, Diez de Octubre, Cerro, Marianao, La Lisa, Boyeros, Arroyo Naranjo y Cotorro.

La capital de la provincia es la ciudad de La Habana".

"Artículo 5.-La provincia de Artemisa comprende los once municipios siguientes: Bahía Honda, Mariel, Guanajay, Caimito, Bauta, San Antonio de los Baños, Güira de Melena, Alquízar, Artemisa, Candelaria y San Cristóbal.

La capital de la provincia es la ciudad de Artemisa".

ARTICULO 2.-Se intercalan dos nuevos artículos a la Ley No. 1304 de 3 de julio de 1976, cuya numeración se ajusta en lo sucesivo en correspondencia con esto.

TO: BGN Foreign Names Committee

FROM: G. Troop, Staff

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED FILE CHANGES: CUBA

DATE: 16 December 2010

Summary: This paper recommends approval of two new first-order administrative divisions (ADM1s) in Cuba. The two new ADM1s are the result of the division of the former Provincia de La Habana. This increases the total of ADM1s for Cuba to 16 from the 15 presently listed in the GNDB. A new center point for Provincia de Pinar del Rio is necessary due to three of its municipalities being involved in the creation of the new administrative divisions. Provincia de Ciudad de La Habana has been renamed Provincia de La Habana.

Present Entry	Recommended Entry
Ciudad de La Habana, Provincia de [long form]; **Ciudad de La Habana** [short form]: ADM1 23° 08' N 82° 22' W (CU02)	**La Habana, Provincia de** [long form]; **La Habana** [short form]: ADM1 23° 05' N 82° 18' W (CU02)
La Habana, Provincia de [long form]; **La Habana** [short form]: ADM1 22° 45' N 82° 10' W (CU11)	**La Habana, Provincia de** [long form]; **La Habana** [short form]: ADM1H 22° 45' N 82° 10' W (CU00)
Pinar del Rio, Provincia de [long form]; **Pinar del Rio** [short form]: ADM1 22° 35' N 83° 40' W (CU01)	**Pinar del Rio, Provincia de** [long form]; **Pinar del Rio** [short form] ADM1 22° 25' 00" N 83° 50' 00" W (CU01)
None	**Artemisa, Provincia de** [long form]; **Artemisa** [short form]: ADM1 22°53' N 82°42' W (CU17)
None	**Mayabeque, Provincia de** [long form]; **Mayabeque** [short form]: ADM1 22°53' N 81°57' W (CU18)

The recommended file change is based on evidence contained in the following sources:

1. Gaceta Oficial de la Republica de Cuba, Número 23, *Ley Modifictiva de la Ley No. 1304 de Julio se 1976 "Ley de la División Politico Administrativa,"* 2 september 2010.
2. El Pais.com Internacional. http://www.elpais.com/articulo/internacional/Cuba/divide/provincia/Habana/ahorrar/costes/elpepuint/20100608elpepuint_10/Tes

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Style Manual

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PLACE-NAMES

Follow *National Geographic Atlas of the World*, then the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, whose database for U.S. and Antarctic place-names can be found at the USGS Geographic Names Information System and for non-U.S. names at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). See also individual entries in this manual.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC