

Names in Brief

Port Tobacco.—A geographical name of considerable interest by reason of its corruption is that of Port Tobacco, a town in Charles County, Maryland. It took its name from *Potopaco*, a Conoy Indian village, meaning cove or bay. The settlement is noted by Strachey in his *Historie of Travelle into Virginia Britannia*, 1612, and appears on the map of Captain John Smith, 1629, as well as in varied forms in other early sources. The name, of course, has nothing to do with either a port or tobacco.

FWH

Fremont, Ohio.—The original name of Fremont was Lower Sandusky, founded at the close of the War of 1812 and enlarged in 1822 to include the town of Croghansville on the opposite bank of the Sandusky River. By the latter 1840's business houses in this part of Ohio were handicapped because of the confusion in names of towns in the vicinity: Sandusky City, Upper Sandusky, and Little Sandusky were all important places, and mail and express were constantly being misdirected.

Led by Sardis Birchard, a pioneer merchant and uncle of Rutherford B. Hayes, the businessmen in Lower Sandusky appointed young Hayes to petition the Court for a change of name for the town. He was asked to investigate and suggest a new name. In recollecting the incident many years later Hayes wrote to the historian Henry Howe on January 22, 1889: "Next to an Indian name our *hero* should have been called to mind in our name viz. Croghan. But it was *then pronounced* uniformly, *Krawn*. Nobody hearing it could spell it, and no one seeing it spelled could pronounce it. Hence we took refuge in the *then* romantic and *non-partisan* name, Fremont."

It seems to me that this incident as recorded by Hayes is of interest, first, because of the fact that in the renaming of the town the selection of Fremont came not because of any association of his with the vicinity but simply because he was something of an

American military hero at the time. In the second place, it is interesting to have this phonetic spelling of Croghan. Croghansville had been named for Major George Croghan (1791–1849), the hero in the defense of Fort Stephenson, on the site of Fremont, on August 2, 1813, against the British. So far as I know, this Irish name is usually pronounced “Crone” by historians but the pronunciation which Hayes gives as of the middle of the nineteenth century was most likely perpetuated by word of mouth from the eighteenth century.

LESTER J. CAPPON

Florence, Colorado.—Silvery haired Mrs. Minnie Florence Collins recently celebrated her 83rd birthday here. Mrs. Collins is the daughter of the late Senator James A. McCandless, pioneer of Colorado, who was head of a land development company bearing his name in the 1870's. A competent surveyor had been engaged to plot a town on the McCandless property, and having completed his work queried as to what the name might be. McCandless frankly admitted he had not given so important a matter any serious thought. Little Minnie Florence had been trudging along with her father and the surveyor. The surveyor having taken quite a fancy to the tot suggested naming the town in honor of McCandless' little daughter, and the parent was much pleased with the idea. Her middle name “Florence” was considered most appropriate and so it remains the name of the town to this day.

RALPH EMERSON WOODS



The Moral Insurance Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma, seems to indicate by its very name high ethical standards. However, the origin of the name has nothing to do with morals in business. The name was coined from the names of the owners who started the company years ago: *Morton* and *Albert*.