
Names Forum

Claude Henry Neuffer Endowed Chair

The University of South Carolina Institute for Southern Studies has recently announced the establishment of an endowed chair honoring Professor Claude Henry Neuffer (1911–1984), a long-time member and supporter of the American Name Society.

In 1954, as a faculty member in the Department of English at the University of South Carolina, he started the first state placename journal in the U.S., *Names in South Carolina*, an annual publication featuring stories about the origin of placenames in South Carolina. He retired from teaching in 1977 but continued the journal until the year before his death, marking nearly thirty years, always with the assistance of his wife, Irene, of the study of onomastics in the Palmetto State. *Names in South Carolina* was a major contribution to the study of American placenames.

The endowment, initiated by Professor Neuffer's family and friends, will provide an annual stipend for a faculty member in the University's College of Humanities and Social Sciences to teach courses in the Southern Studies curriculum. The faculty member will hold the chair for a three-year term.

Additional contributions are welcome and may be sent to the Claude H. Neuffer Chair Professorship in Southern Studies, Development Office, 615 Byrnes Building, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208.

Pennsylvania German Placenames

Professor C. Richard Beam, Director of the Center for Pennsylvania German Studies, writes that his Center would like to hear from anyone who might know about Pennsylvania Dutch (i.e., German) placenames anywhere in the United States or Canada. The Center is currently collecting placenames in York and Lehigh Counties (recorded as *Yarick Kaundi* and *Lechaa Kaundi*), as part of a Pennsylvania German Dictionary. They have been much more successful in finding these names in the original settlement area of southeastern Pennsylvania than in the daughter colonies to the west and north. Professor Beam's background led to his lifelong interest in PG placenames: his paternal grandparents lived at Fivepointville (*Druckne*) and his maternal grandparents at Red Run (*die*

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Rot Kuh), Breaknock Township, Lancaster County (*Lengeschder Kaundi*). Write to Professor Beam at Millersville University, Millersville, PA 17551.

1993 Western States Geographic Names Council

The University of Texas at El Paso will host the next meeting of the Western States Geographic Names Conference. The dates are September 8–11, 1993; the site, the historic Westin Paso del Norte Hotel, in the heart of downtown El Paso. As at previous conferences, the US Board on Geographic Names will hold its monthly meeting, and there will be other sessions on geographic names. But participants won't be working all of the time. Optional events include a trip to Juarez, with dinner, and a toponymic tour over the route travelled by Don Juan de Onate, as far as Mesilla, New Mexico. A highlight of the conference will be a tour of the Lurline H. Coltharp Collection of Onomastics at the UTEP library. To find out more, write to Lurline H. Coltharp at 4263 Ridgecrest, El Paso, TX 79902.

Although plans for conference sites after 1993 are tentative, likely locations are Alaska in 1994, the Black Hills of South Dakota in 1995, and Oklahoma in 1996.

Name Queries

In this section of the March issue of *Names* (40:85) we asked a few questions raised by Brenna Lorenz (Box 1135, Yigo, Guam 96929). Lack of space squeezed out one more question and a comment. The question is, does anyone know the origin of *Gassaway* (or *Gasaway*), which is used as a first name, a surname, and a placename (towns in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia)? The comment is in response to a question, asked by John Algeo (on behalf of Allen Walker Read), if *Guamanian* is the usual adjectival form of *Guam*. "It is," Brenna Lorenz says, "I am not aware of other forms, but when I first came here (Aug. 1991), I heard a story about an American serviceman who was beaten up in a bar for (innocently?) referring to the inhabitants of Guam as 'Guamians.'"