

Names in Brief

Name Changes.—There are many instances of the corruption of a name into something quite different from the original, either in the actual spelling of the derived name, or in the local pronunciation of names that remain unchanged on published maps. There is the classic example of Picketwire from Purgatoire. Gloster and Wooster are samples of name shortening, although the city of Wooster, Ohio, was named for a general of the Revolutionary War. Cape Rosier and Bois Bubert Island on the coast of Maine are respectively Roseway and Bowbear in local usage, while Cockenoe Island on the coast of Connecticut was formerly (1878), if not at present, pronounced Cawkins. At one time there was a settlement (and postoffice) called Chomly on Cholmondeley Sound, Prince of Wales Island, Alaska, a close approximation of Chumly, the spoken abbreviated form commonly used in England for the longer name.

The reverse process evolved the names Bombay Hook Island and Bombay Hook Point in Delaware, on the west shore of Delaware Bay. At first glance they seemingly point to a definite origin, but in reality they have no connection with the city of Bombay in India, although that name may have had some influence upon the adoption of the present form of the names. The Delaware Guide (Federal Writers' Project) on page 486 states that a tract of land on the island was granted in 1675 to Peter Bayard of Bohemia Manor, and that the name is a corruption of the Dutch "Bompies" or "Bompties" Hook. On several maps published in Europe up to 1778, the name varies quite widely. In 1696 it was Bombayes Point, in 1773 Bumpo Point, and on two maps of 1778 it was Bumba Island and Bumbo Island. Bumba Island is shown on one of them as quite definitely separated from the mainland. Boomties Hook and Boomkes Hook or Hoek are other variants. On the earliest Federal survey (1841) both names are Bombay Hook Island and Point as at present. The name Bombay Hook in American usage has been traced back to 1817 (Blunt's American Pilot). In his "Origin of Certain Place Names in the United States" (1905) Gannett lists only the small town of Bombay, N.Y., definitely named

for the Indian city. There would seem to be some ground to assign the name to the influence of French mapmakers. The 1696 map cited above was published in Paris, while another French map of 1779 has Bombay Hook Island.

LEWIS HECK

Group Names.—There are interesting descriptive names for groups of islands, rocks, or shoals which as a rule include one larger feature and a number of smaller ones. Most frequently used are Hen and Chickens and Sow and Pigs (at least six of each), while there are single instances of Ship and Barges, Cow and Calf, Bishop and Clerks, and Cat and Kittens. Nearly all are located along the Atlantic Coast, with only the Cat and Kittens feature at the mouth of Coquille River, Oregon, and one case of Sow and Pigs in the entrance to Tillamook Bay, Oregon.

Several of these names are quite old. Bishop and Clerks, a shoal in Nantucket Sound, Massachusetts, is shown as "Bosie or Bosje Klerken" on a Dutch map dated 1698 by Johannes Van Keulen, and as Bishops and Clarks on an English chart dated 1790. The Hen and Chickens Shoal in the entrance to Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, is found on an English map dated 1777. The name Sow and Pigs is in close proximity, but the earlier position of this name does not coincide with its application on modern nautical charts. Ship and Barges and Cow and Calf are at least 100 years old, and are in close proximity in the entrance to Blue Hill Bay, Maine. The former feature also has individual names, there being Ship Island and East and West Barges in the group. Another name that should probably be included in this category is Hue and Cry Rocks, off Cape Elizabeth, Maine, now charted as East and West Hue and Cry.

LEWIS HECK

Etolin.—It is not particularly surprising to find an Etolin Street in Sitka, Alaska. Several of the streets there were named for former chief managers, or governors as they were sometimes called, of the Russian-American Company, and Adolph Karlovich Etolin was chief manager 1841–1845. However, Etolin Street in Sitka is relatively new and the name reached it in a roundabout way. Several places along the Alaska coast were named for Etolin, among them

Etolin Island which is not far from the town of Wrangell. After the American occupation, Etolin came into use in Wrangell as a girl's name, and one of the girls so named was Miss Etolin Coulter. In 1940 Miss Coulter was in the employ of the Governor's office at Juneau, in charge of disbursements for the Work Projects Administration. At Sitka a new street was being constructed as a WPA project and the city fathers were advised that the street would have to have a name, for identification purposes. They wrote back, "We'll name it for the girl who writes all the WPA checks." And they did.

R. N. DE ARMOND

The PIA "Benny."—The latest addition to the growing list of "Oscar" type award names is "Benny." Nine "Bennies" will be awarded by Printing Industry of America, Inc. at their convention next October. The "Benny" is a bronze reproduction of an excellently detailed old pewter statuette of Benjamin Franklin, patron saint of American printers. The model was selected by W. T. Clawson after considerable search for a statuette of suitable size, likeness, and workmanship. It is in the collection of the late Arthur Bloch Sr., who was a director of the Poor Richard Club.

R. D. ROBERTS

Sucker and Succor.—A century ago the word sucker was often used in geographical terms in the American West. Its origin may have been the presence of one of the carp-like fish called sucker (*Catostomus*) in the lakes or creeks, or the place may have been settled by people from Illinois, the "Sucker State," or the miners of one camp might have called the denizens of another a "bunch of suckers." When this latter meaning for persons who can easily be taken for a ride gradually gained ground and Western nomenclature tried to become respectable, local residents naturally objected to these sucker-names. A decision of the U. S. Board on Geographical Names (Sixth Report) ruled that Sucker Flat in Placer County, California was to be known as Succor Flat. At the same time, to be sure, a creek in Malheur County, Oregon, was to be known as Sucker (not Succor) Creek. In the same report of the Board three Sucker lakes received nicer names: Nawakiva Lake (Michigan), Oswego Lake (Oregon), Wapogasset Lake (Wisconsin). E. K. G.