

Minnesota Place Names: A Geographical Encyclopedia; Third Edition. By Warren Upham, Revised and Enlarged. St. Paul, MN: Minnesota Historical Society Press. 2001. Pp. xii + 718. \$49.95 hardcover.

At the 2004 Council of Geographic Names Authorities Conference held in Jacksonville, Florida, Thomas Gasque described Warren Upham's *Minnesota Geographic Names* (first edition) as one of the oldest and best works of its kind in America. While the reviewer is in agreement with that statement, the subtitle of the third edition, "A Geographical Encyclopedia," perhaps more accurately describes the content of the book, which has been expanded from its original 15,000 entries (1920) to over 20,000 (2001). "Online" is another significant advancement, as the full text is available in a searchable database at the Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) web site: <http://mnplaces.mnhs.org/upham>.

Warren Upham (1850-1934) was born on a farm near Amherst, New Hampshire, and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1871. After working for several years assisting with a geological survey of New Hampshire, he took a similar position in Minnesota from 1879 to 1894, a period of time coinciding with settlement by significant numbers of European immigrants. This provided Upham with a unique opportunity to capture "new" names and their histories as they were applied by homesteaders. Native American Indian names, including their translations and histories, were gathered from the writings of Professor Andrew W. Williamson (Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois) and the Reverend Joseph A. Gillfillan (White Earth, Minnesota), along with those of many early explorers of Minnesota and surrounding territory.

Described as a "compulsive collector of minutiae," Upham gathered geographic information during his geological survey years, visited all 86 (now 87) counties and conducted research in the MHS library and at other libraries in

Minneapolis and St. Paul. Many of the entries in his book provided existing as well as historical (alternate) community names and included mini-histories of those communities. Much of the work in the third edition was to buttress the narrative portions of these entries.

Thereafter, he continued his research and compiled a list of additions, corrections, clarifications and peripheral information that was added to the second edition (1969, reprinted in 1979). Two other lists were included in the second edition, one containing the names of communities incorporated since 1920 and another containing name and name-change decisions made by state and federal geographic names authorities.

In planning for the third edition in the early 1990s, MHS staff concluded that Upham's work deserved to be thoroughly revised and updated. This enormous task was undertaken over the course of approximately six years by Patricia C. Harpole, MHS reference librarian (retired). Like Upham before her, Harpole was perhaps uniquely qualified for the project, as she was the person most familiar with the contents of the MHS research library. Her references included local, state and federal authorities, local histories and a variety of "little known sources."

All of Upham's original work is included in the third edition, except (unfortunately) the chapter on the history of major street names in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth. Features new to this edition include the names of post offices, a few suburbs and names gleaned from the writings of local and county historical societies, as well as the results of many queries of the USGS geographic names information system. The names of lakes that were permanently drained to accommodate agricultural activities were deleted, while the names of townships that no longer exist were retained for historical purposes (but are described as "unorganized"). Circumlocution, along with inappropriate words and phrases, have been eliminated to make the work more readable,

although Upham's distinctive nineteenth-century tone is substantially retained. The reader will find the index in the back of the book to be particularly detailed and useful.

Revised reprints of the introductions from previous editions are included in the third edition. Acknowledging the dynamic nature of naming and renaming cultural features and natural geographic features, the introduction to the third edition proclaims that the volume will not remain accurate for long. Among the examples cited is the 1995 Minnesota law that required the names of 19 natural features containing the word "squaw" to be changed, due to the derogatory interpretation of the word by local Native American Indian tribes.

The book continues to be arranged in the same fashion as previous editions, beginning with a "general features" chapter that describes the major topographic regions, lakes and streams in Minnesota. A separate chapter for each county follows (in alphabetical order), starting with a short history of the name and the date of organization, including the people and references that Upham consulted. Next is a listing of townships, cities and post offices (in alphabetical order), then lakes, streams and other topographic features, including (in some counties) Indian reservations, iron ore ranges, parks and forests.

Users of the online version will find both a search box and several sub-directories on the home page for *Minnesota Place Names*. The search box will, in typical unforgiving computer fashion, search the text for a name **exactly** as it is entered. Some names, however, can be accessed only by entering Upham's original spelling, which may not be the current spelling (largely due to geographic names board decisions). In these instances, users are advised to select an appropriate sub-directory ("all lakes and streams," for example), then select a letter of the alphabet. A list of names that begin with the selected letter will appear in alphabetical

order; users can scroll down and select the name of interest, recognizing that the spelling of the name may be a variant.

Warren Upham served as both superintendent and librarian for the Minnesota Historical Society from 1896 to 1914, then as the state archaeologist until his death in 1934. As a geologist, archaeologist, librarian and writer, he published more than 300 books, papers, articles and addresses during his lifetime. *Minnesota History* remembered him as a man who "left to all Minnesotans his great work on place names, which continues to contribute to the understanding of the state's history." The third edition of his work successfully continues that tradition; in Upham's own words, "the value and utility [of such research] can hardly be overestimated."

—Glen Yakel, *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

The British 19th century surname atlas. Archer Software: 90 St. Albans Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1TY, England (www.archersoftware.co.uk). ISBN 0-9545622-0-8. £12 (\$22.38). 1 computer CD; 4 ¾ in. + 1 sheetlet.

Those who have used the work of Gabriel Lasker, George Redmonds, Colin Rogers, and others who have worked on surname distribution in the United Kingdom will probably welcome this contribution to the reference arsenal on CD brought out by Archer Software.

The CD covers surnames and also first names used in England, Scotland, and Wales (the Irish data have been lost) in the 1881 census. The CD loads itself and presents an initial choice of whether a first name or a surname is to be examined. For example, a search for the surname Dance yields 2396 entries, and a check with the map shows the greatest concentration to be in Surrey. It is possible to show the actual numbers in each county along with the proportion to 100,000. Thus, the top three locations shown by the map and the table are:

County	Actual	per 100,000
Surrey	328	23
Middlesex	275	10
Berkshire	227	104
Gloucestershire	183	32

It is possible to increase the magnification of the map from 100% to 3000%, along with county labels. It is also possible to print the maps in color with various sizes.

As a second example, the surname Dunkling, much less common, reveals a total frequency of 82 or .27 per 100,000. The analysis shows:

County	Actual	per 100,000
Cambridgeshire	21	11
Middlesex	19	1
Lancashire	13	0
Huntingdonshire	12	21

It is even possible to contrast maps of four different names at once. For example, the maps can be manipulated to compare North (frequency of 9929), South (2823), East (4653), and West (28,819) to show where each is concentrated.

First names can be evaluated in a similar way. A comparison between Colin and Collin demonstrates just a few of the many ways that first names can be examined. The total frequency for Colin is 4261; for Collin, just a tenth of that, 477. While both names are found in many counties, it is interesting to note that the more popular, Colin, is in Scotland; the less popular, Collin, in Yorkshire West Riding.

The Surname Atlas provides a wealth of detail on both first names and surnames. It contains more detailed information than other sources on this period and fits in with the work of other investigators on the spread of names in the United Kingdom. We can look forward to similar atlases for

subsequent census years. It will be interesting to see what changes there are.

This new electronic atlas is recommended for onomastics collections, especially those dealing with British names and the origins of American names. Genealogists will have some further help in tracing family origins.

—*Edwin D. Lawson, State University of New York at Fredonia*