

## Names in Brief

*Montana.* — The following copy of an interesting document was sent to *Names* by Richard B. Sealock, Librarian of the Public Library of Kansas City and co-editor of the North American place name bibliography. It is a letter of James M. Ashley to Judge William H. Hunt, dated April 28, 1892, and was first published in *The Montana Magazine of History* (Vol. 2, no. 3, July 1952).

My Dear Sir.

I have read your address with much interest. As chairman of the Committee on Territories I prepared and introduced the bills for the organization of the territories of Montana, Arizona, and Wyoming & selected their names. My purpose was to give to each territory a euphonius name and at the same time use a word that should appropriately describe the topography of the country. I therefore selected the Spanish Mexicanized word Montana [*pronounced Montanya*]. Senators Sumner of Massachusetts and Howard of Michigan, at first sight objected to the name. When the bill reached the Senate they sent for me to come over and give my reasons for selecting it. I answered, "that the country which it was proposed to organize had been described to me, as being *two thirds* or more mountainous, and that the word Montana, was not only appropriate, but a beautiful name for a State". They both declared that they had never seen the word and as they were the recognized scholarly men of the Senate, they assumed that I must be mistaken. I sent to the Library for an old Mexican Dictionary, which I had consulted, and when I showed them the word—they recognized the authority and approved the name. But for that old Dictionary, some objectionable name might have been fastened on your state, such for instance as that of New Mexico, Washington—or Nevada.

I selected the name "Arizona" because it described the arid plains of that territory and because it was appropriate and euphonius.

I gave the name of Wyoming to that Territory, [instead of Laramie or "Jefferson" which the settlers suggested or demanded] because the Indian word in Pennsylvania stood for "large plains."

The western boundary of Montana was fixed by me, where it is, for a purpose. I intended to organize another territory out of the Idaho-pan-handle, with part of western Montana and eastern Washington. At that time, I intended to call the new territory Columbia—and in the act organizing it, expected to change the name of "Washington", to Tacoma, and the name New Mexico, to "Uinta", and at the same time abolish the territory of Utah, by adding two-thirds of the western part to Nevada and the remaining eastern third to Colorado.

In 1865, I visited all the territories and the Pacific States. It was during that trip, that I saw that the State of Nevada was doomed to be a "rotten borough State" if her Comstock mine "petered out". I then saw that I must not attempt to create the new territory of Columbia, that instead of organizing new territories to become rotten borough States—it was my duty to consolidate them whenever I could do so. And this I attempted by taking territory from Arizona and Utah—larger than

all New England and adding it to the State of Nevada. Yet the territory then added to Nevada—did not keep that state from becoming the most undesirable commonwealth and the most hopelessly rotten borough state in the Union.

I send you by this mail an address delivered by me before the "Ohio Society of New York", which will explain what I mean by rotten borough states.

Gov. Edgerton, was not a member of the Committee on Territories—and I never heard of his having anything to do directly or indirectly with the organization of the territory of Montana, or with fixing its western boundary.

Truly yours

J. M. Ashley

This letter is of great interest to students of U. S. place names, giving a direct evidence of how names got on our maps. At the same time it throws a curious side light upon the learning and logic of our legislators of yesterday. The word *montaña* is, of course, the common Spanish word for mountain, hilly country etc., and no "old Mexican Dictionary" would have been necessary if the scholarly gentleman had asked a person who knew the elements of Spanish. That Arizona describes "the arid plains of that territory" is one of the folk-etymological interpretations which was current before Senator Ashley and which still leads a healthy and persistent life.

*Lockwoods Folly, North Carolina.* — A few miles west of Cape Fear and the town of Southport there is a break in the coast known as Lockwoods Folly Inlet, while a stream draining to this inlet is called Lockwoods Folly River (both are decisions of the U. S. Board on Geographic Names). The use of the term "folly" is quite common, and in most instances it is applied to some extraordinary house or building, constructed by some wealthy man in the days before income taxes. There is also some slight usage of the word as a generic term for a topographic feature. In this particular instance, the interest lies in the antiquity of the name, and the uncertainty which surrounds its origin.

The North Carolina Guide (Federal Writer's Project) on page 289 devotes a paragraph to this name, stated to have appeared on maps as early as 1671. Lockwood is said to have probably come from Bermuda. The name recalls his foolhardiness in starting a settlement exposed to both sea and Indians, the latter having promptly destroyed it. This is not, however, the traditional origin of the name known to local residents at present. Many of them stated in 1942 that the original Lockwood is supposed to have built a vessel inside the

inlet which was too large to be able to put to sea across the bar and was left to rot away.

Whatever the original "folly" may have been, an English map dated 1676 has Look Wood Folly applied to the inlet, one dated 1696 has Lockwood Folley, and it is Lockwoods Folly on another dated 1777. In view of the fact that this name applies to a feature of relatively slight importance, and that it goes back to within less than fifty years of the original grant of the area south of Virginia by Charles I, it would seem likely that something out of the ordinary must have happened to attract the attention of the earliest makers of maps of the Carolinas.

Lewis Heck

*Lou Island.* — A river island in Montana has been named Lou Island for Montana's male Land Commissioner, Lou Bretzke, despite Montana custom which provides that all such lands be given a feminine name.

Louise Ackerman

*Alles Sumpf.* — In the December 1955 issue of *Names* the strange book *Namenforschung als Wissenschaft* was reviewed. In the meantime Dr. Hans Bahlow has published a supplement in which he lists cities in western Germany and maintains that their names contain Celtic roots for swamp: Hannover, 'Sumpfwasser'; Detmold, 'Sumpfwasser'; Schaffhausen, 'Wasser und Sumpfort'; Bern, Eichstätt, Borkum, Essen, Elsass, Antwerpen — all come from a Celtic root, swamp. How geographical names could be preserved in a country which was nothing but swamp and how the Celtic dialects could develop so many different roots meaning 'swamp' Dr. Bahlow does not say.

*Chemical Elements* — The article "Naming the Chemical Elements", Vol. I (1953), page 163, has stood in the pages of our journal too long without comment. There can be no objection to the naming of most of the elements, but there are eleven elements that are given names so much at variance with common usage that they must be corrected.

<i>Actual Name</i>	<i>Name in Article</i>
Antimony	Stibium
Copper	Cuprum
Gold	Aurum
Iron	Ferrum
Lead	Plumbum
Mercury	Hydrargyrum
Potassium	Kalium
Silver	Argentum
Sodium	Natrium
Tin	Stannum
Tungsten	Wolframium

Only one argument is necessary to show that the designation of "Chemists' Names" for these elements is incorrect — these "Chemists' Names" are never found in chemical literature.

L. F. Hawley

*Dunkirk's Zoo.* — While driving through Dunkirk, New York, the street signs will certainly come to your attention. Coming into the city limits from the West, on New York state route number 5, the first two signs read innocently enough: Brigham Road and Temple Street. Then comes Mullet Street and it seems appropriate enough for a town on the southeastern shore of Lake Erie to have a street named for a fish. This is followed by Woodrow Street. Next, in rapid succession, you pass streets named "Robin", "Plover," "Dove," "Canary," "Swan," "Pelican," "Eagle," and "Lark." After passing these eight birds you are about in the center of town and at Center Street. Lynx Street raises your expectation but a traditional pattern seems to take over: "Washington," "Park," and "Columbus." But then again: "Deer" and "Leopard." Main Street is the last concession to convention. Then you parade past "Beaver," "Zebra," "Gazelle," and "Antelope." "Beagle" is a passing nod to the domesticates. Then you are off into an exotic realm: "Ermine," "Genet," "Lemming", "Armadillo," "Pangolin," "Jerboa," "Martin" (*Progne subis*), "Ocelot," "Serval," "Margay," "Warsaw," "Caracal," and "Zorilla."

"Warsaw" in this company is of interest: if the zoological pattern applies then this refers to a fish (*Epiuephelus nigritus*). There is however a large Polish population here which is reflected

in street names in the younger parts of town — Stegelski, Pulawski, Kosciuszko — and Warsaw, located in this section, may conceivably belong to that pattern.

Repeated cursory inquiries did not yield any information as to origin or originator of this namepattern. County and town histories were of no help. This pattern seems quite unique and worthy of further inquiry.

Fritz L. Kramer

*Whither Shall My Lady Go?* — A barber shop is a barber shop for a man. Its symbol, a stationary or revolving, red-and-white striped pole, has a long tradition which dates from the time when the barber was also a surgeon, in so far as he did cupping and bleeding. Man wends his way to this symbol, or he betakes himself to a hotel where he knows the same facilities await. What he permits to happen to him in the *shop* depends upon his age, taste, financial circumstances and condition of marital servitude. My Lady, however, will not settle for anything less trite than a beauty shop(pe), parlor or salon. When she is in the mood for fancy selection, she may choose between various locations, all prefaced by beauty: academy, balcony, bar, box, chest, clinic, corner, haven, house, kit, lounge, manor, mart, nook, school, studio, terrace and yacht. In her search, she may come upon glo (sic), hairstyling and maid salons; style and charm houses; glamour (sic) cottages and cosmetic studios. Barbering is a personal matter. The skill and manner of the barber, I mean beautician, is never far from My Lady's mind. She is reminded of beauty artists, counsellors, coiffeurs (actually often a coiffeuse), fashioners, modists, stylists, servicers, and so on. If she is feeling old-worldish, she must go to the Salon de Coiffeurs, Salon or Maison de Beaute (without the accent), or simply to some good Coiffeur's Salon. Upon a particular day Beaute Shangri-La, a Charm Beauty College, or a Glamourette Beauty Chest may serve. Then there is Hercules Gift of Cosmetique, the New Look Brownies, the Powder Box, Beautilities and Beauty Factors to be considered. When in a penny-pinching mood or with a feeling for the masses, Philip the Hairdresser, Jayne's for Beauty, a Wave Shop, or the People's Haircutting Salon might attract. Add them all together, they spell barber shop, but — not for My Lady.

C. Grant Loomis