

Book Reviews

Topographic Terms in the Ohio Valley, 1748-1800. By W. Bruce Finnie.
Publication of the American Dialect Society, no. 53, April 1970.
University: University of Alabama Press, 1972, Pp. vi + 119.

The monograph under review, in its original form a master's essay at Columbia University (1960), is a study of the topographic terms supplied by early travel diarists and journalists in the Ohio Valley, when confronted with topographic features they had not seen before, on reaching this area in the middle of the eighteenth century. A glossary lists, defines, and illustrates the topographic terms found in the source material, and a commentary examines and analyzes the terms so listed from a number of angles, most of them lexical and semantic, although the student of names will, of course, look particularly for ways in which these terms might be usefully studied as potential combining elements in place-names. Quite clearly care must be taken, in this respect, that there is no confusion between local usage and eastern terms brought into the Ohio Valley by the travelers and diarists. Indeed, this is undoubtedly the weakest methodological point of the present study, although the author takes great pains to avoid the pitfalls arising from this predicament and treats neologisms very carefully, with regard to both "Americanisms" and "localisms."

Perhaps one of its most valuable contributions, on the other hand, is the monograph's list of words (pp. 18-19) antedating recorded usage previously indicated by the *Dictionary of Americanisms* and the *Dictionary of American English*, the most spectacular examples being such terms as *brake* (1791), *claybank* (1755), *grass country* (1790), *pine knob* (1773), and *savanna* (1755), for which Finnie provides written records at least half a century earlier than anything previously known. This reviewer has difficulty, however, in evaluating this kind of information in its significance as historical evidence, since Frederic Cassidy's *DARE* project may well have unearthed material which is earlier still.

Whereas, without detailed biographical information regarding the travelers and diarists in question, much of the terminology presented must be doubtful concerning its ascription to Ohio Valley usage, its usefulness as raw material in the structured analysis of the topographical lexicon of American English is nevertheless promising. The data gathered by Finnie may, in precise chronological framework, even afford us a glimpse of what may be regarded as a kind of toponymic "field" in the second half of the eighteenth century, and a contrasting collection of similar dimensions in the nineteen-seventies may well give us an opportunity for a comparative study, tracing developments and changes in such a "field" in the last two hundred years, always provided, of course,

that there is some way of demonstrating that many, or at least some, of these topographical terms have indeed been employed as place-name generics.

For the time being, let us say that we are grateful to Bruce Finnie for giving us some more important pieces for the mosaic which is called the history of American English.

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Nevada Place Names, A Geographical Dictionary. By Helen S. Carlson with Foreword by Charlton Laird. Reno, Nevada: University of Nevada Press, 1974. Pp. xii + 282. \$15.

The publication of a fully documented and comprehensive study of place-names in one of the American states is a memorable event. Only a dozen or so of the 50 states in this nation have such volumes, and the contribution of Helen Carlson to the historical, geographical, and biographical data of Nevada is inestimable. Linguistic periods of Shoshone, Paiute, Washoe, and Mohave Indian groups leave their traces on the land, as do the Spanish, French, and Anglo-American explorers and settlers. Activities of trappers, traders, emigrant religious groups, prospectors, ranchers, pony express riders, railroad builders, and government officials have contributed to give Nevada its place-names. Mrs. Carlson's "Introduction" is a brief history of the state, as illustrated by the naming process. Historians do not fully realize that there are no more accurate clues to civilization than those supplied by onomastic science. This "Introduction" is well written and a model for geographical dictionaries of this type.

The method of presentation in *Nevada Place Names* arranges entries alphabetically, but where a generic term indicates a possible cluster of names, Mrs. Carlson has chosen to use the specific element in the title for listing, as *Tahoe, Lake* rather than *Lake Tahoe* and *Davidson, Mount* rather than *Mount Davidson*. However, when a generic identification has become a part of a name, as in the settlement called *Mount Montgomery*, the entry is placed under *Mount*. She has made use of some clusters, as with "mountain" when she finds it a descriptive term, and "bear," which, too, can be considered descriptive of a place rather than as a generic.

The *Dictionary* locates places by designating a county and directions through landmarks or well known settlements. This is as satisfactory a

way as any for readers unaccustomed to the data of geodetic surveys. A county map of Nevada is provided at the beginning of the book, with county seats and mountain ranges shown for each political subdivision of local government.

After pointing out the occurrence of standard patterns, such as commemorative, incident, and descriptive names, Mrs. Carlson finds instances of innovative practices, like the precise terms *Crested Wheat Ridge*, *Pink Holes Hill*, and *Orange Lichen Creek*, which appear to be semiscientific efforts by the namers. She credits the United States Board on Geographic Names with such identifications as *Specter Range*, *Skeleton Hills*, and *Skull Mountains*, but *Buttonhook Wash*, *Green Monster Canyon*, and *God's Pocket* must draw upon local fantasy as applied to geographical features. *Nevada Place Names* can be recommended for enjoyment and information to those who live in the state and to those who visit from America and elsewhere.

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Names on the Face of Montana. By Roberta Carkeek Cheney. Missoula, Mont.: University of Montana, 1971. Pp. xix + 275. Price \$11.

In this glossary, Mrs. Cheney includes 2,355 entries, plus several hundred without glosses listed in an appendix. It is the first thorough study we have of Montana names, and is also one that will be of great value as a source for material for the Place-Name Survey of the United States. Furthermore, a gradual filling-in of state place-names studies has now occurred for the states bordering the Canadian border from Michigan to Washington. With the publication of *Face of Montana*, only Idaho remains. Professor Lalia Boone has completed her manuscript for the latter.

The pattern of naming follows that commonly used by settlers as they migrated westward; in fact, the book is almost a model for illustrating name-bestowing characteristics. As usual, possessive names account for the majority, in that the local names are taken from that of an early settler, a postmaster, or owner: Heckman, Flesher, Hedgesville, Snyder, and Sipple are examples. Descriptive names include Snowbelt, Plenty Wood, and Pinebelt. Shift names, those taken from a nearby feature: Square Butte, Forks, Electric, and Knobs. Painted Robe, Sleeping Child, Lion City, Sober Up, and Rattlesnake may be designated as incident names.

Some euphemistic names such as Prospect, Golden Valley, Richland, and Goodsoil reflect desires and promotional ideals that were to feed hopes to settlers. Nearby names seem to be more reflective of reality: Zero and Trouble. Mistake names also occurred, usually through clerical errors: Piniele for Pinnacle, and Uebra for Nebr. (Nebraska). Big Horn, Bitterroot, Fourth of July Creek, Blowing Fly Creek, and Musselshell, among many others, were named by members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Commemorative names occur often: Lincoln, Columbus, Blaine, Kootenai, and Sundance.

Although the glossary seems to be thorough, if not exhaustive, origins or reasons for naming are not always given: Kismet, Kinerville, Narve, Parrot, etc. Obtaining such information requires persistent research, and even then the results may be meager or nothing. Dates of the lives of those for whom places were named would be helpful, both for historical purposes and for completeness. Again, such research demands time and frustration and may not be worthwhile in the context of a larger survey. A few examples may be noted: Bozeman, the county seat of Gallatin County, was named for John Bozeman, who was killed by Indians in 1867. Actually, the place was named for John Marion Bozeman, born in Pickens County, Georgia, in 1835, moved to Colorado and laid out the townsite of the present Bozeman. He was reportedly killed by Blackfoot Indians in 1867.

The dates of the life of James Fergus, for whom Fergus County was named, are 1813-1897. Miles City, county seat of Custer County, was named for General Nelso Appleton Miles (1839-1925). Polson, county seat of Lake County was named for David Polson (1826-1902), another adventurous migrant to the west who, by the way, was much in demand as a fiddler for dances and pow-wows. Sidney, county seat of Richland County, was named for Sidney Walters (1803-1888). These are mere quibbles about a text that contributes much to our knowledge of the place-names and the history of Montana.

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What's in a Name? Surnames of America. By La Reina Rule and William K. Hammond. New York: Pyramid Communications, Inc., 1973. Paperbound. Pp. 446. Price \$1.95.

The authors of this dictionary of "over 7,000 surnames, with origins, meanings, and heraldic emblems" have attempted to connect surnames

in America with heraldry. Some 30 pages of front matter offer a short introduction to the two subjects and lists of language abbreviations, heraldic terms, and symbolic meanings for heraldic emblems. Illustrations by Grace J. Kramer are of 65 basic elements and emblems of coats of arms. There is no bibliography.

Names were selected from those most often requested by readers of the authors' newspaper columns on surname origins and most frequently listed in telephone directories. The bases of the selection may account for the inclusion of such names as Flattery, Fluent, and Rainwater and the omission of the better known names, Coolidge, Eisenhower, Lincoln, Rockefeller, Roosevelt, and Vanderbilt, among others. At least one root word from the language, or languages, of origin is given for most surnames, and the accompanying meaning is usually sound; however, contributory sources are sometimes lacking. There is not enough cognizance of the fact that a name may have widely different meanings at different times in different places, as Elsdon C. Smith has stated in *American Surnames*. A single example should suffice. Old German is given as the source language of the root word *wildi-heri* for WILDER, with the meaning "enraged warrior." Although English, as well as German, are given as nationalities, *wildeor*, "wild animal" and *wealdhere*, "powerful army" are not considered, nor is the possibility of the name's being a landscape word meaning "forest."

The nonspecialist, for whom the book is intended, will be less apt than before to give automatically a familiar meaning to a surname spelled as an ordinary English word, after reading this book. Some meanings couched in everyday language, however, may carry unintended overtones. *Kyddere* is the Old English root word cited for KIDDER, with the meaning "traveling salesman," perhaps based on P. H. Reaney's suggested derivation of the name from Middle English *kidde*, "faggot-seller."

Heraldic shield descriptions follow roughly 60 percent of the name meanings. A small number of the fuller entries provide historical data concerning the primary ancestor or an eminent bearer of the name. Because of lack of space, only shields that can be briefly described are included; thus the marshalling of arms is a subject untouched. Utilitarian language of the day often has been wisely employed for these blazons. Certainly the authors would have gained little by calling a tincture *gules* instead of *red* and an emblem a *lozenge* instead of a *diamond*. Nevertheless this simplistic treatment of the intricate art and precise science of heraldry can do more than possibly gratify the vanity of some who seek ancestral coats of arms. The authors have not cautioned the readers against the assumption of the arms of another simply because of similarity of names. Complicating factors not sufficiently pointed up include the practice of some immigrants, while still on the

boat, of taking names exuding high social status; the free and easy changing of names in America; the adoption of English-sounding names by many in America; and the virtually impossible task of tracing most families back to the time when the coat of arms was granted, confirmed, or allowed, or to the time when the surname was first used.

In spite of the hazards involved in trying to combine these two exacting disciplines in the United States, the authors may succeed in realizing their expressed hope of giving their readers (for the price of a paperback) enough information to pique their interest, perhaps stimulate research, in American surnames and heraldry.

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Booklet for Women who Wish to Determine Their Own Names After Marriage. Compiled by The Center for a Woman's Own Name.

Barrington, Illinois, 1974. Pp. 59. Price \$2.

This is a short work encouraging women to use their maiden names after marriage. After outlining the procedure for a change of name it discusses the state statutes and decisions rendered by the various courts in this country concerning names and the use of names by married women. Questions concerning the names of children of women who continue to use their maiden names are briefly discussed. Quotations from editorials on the subject are offered. Experiences of women with their maiden names after marriage are given in some detail. This seems to be an accurate and comprehensive view of the subject.

Elsdon C. Smith

Gale Research Reprints: XII

This survey of reprints by Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan 48226, is the twelfth in the series of notices giving prominence to books of interest to readers of *Names*. Titles and bibliographical information appear below.

Beable, William H. *Epitaphs: Graveyard Humor & Eulogy*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1925. Pp. x + 246. Republished, 1971. \$10.

Bardsley, Charles Wareing. *The Romance of the London Directory*. London: Hand and Heart Publishing Offices, 1879. Pp. 162. Republished, 1971, \$12.50.

Kuhns, Oscar. *The German and Swiss Settlements of Colonial Pennsylvania*. New York: Eaton & Mains, 1901. Pp. vi + 268. Republished, 1971. \$8.75.

Williams, Roger. *A Key Into the Language of America*. 5th ed. London: Gregory Dexter, 1643. Pp. xxviii + 208. Republished, 1971. \$12.50.

Of the four books considered here, only one can be classified as properly belonging to the study of names. It will perforce be discussed last. The others, however, tangentially touch on matters relating to names and have a certain historical importance as well. Perhaps an inquiry into texts that seemingly have nothing to offer a specific discipline can well yield something more than negligible material. Let us begin with Beable's *Epitaphs*.

An epitaph always involves a name, and names were often embedded in the verses or comments engraved on the tombstone. During the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, the practice of composing elaborate epitaphs was common. Some were frivolous; most were serious. Those composed by persons in anticipation of and preparation for death usually have either a humorous, quaint, or self-deprecating tone: "The Body / of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN / printer / (like the cover of an old book, / Its contents torn out, / And stripped of its lettering and gilding) / Lies here food for worms; / Yet the work itself shall not be lost, / For it will, as he believed, appear once more / In a new / And more beautiful edition, / Corrected and amended / by / the Author."

Many rhetorical and poetic devices were used to incorporate the name into the epitaphs, some truly imaginative in their artistic intensity, especially those written by well-known poets of the early seventeenth century; and, I must add, just about all the great poets of the English language tried their hand at the task, including Ben Johnson (perhaps the best), Samuel Johnson, William Wordsworth, and Rudyard Kipling. No doubt, puns were and may still be thought of as artistic, probably witty on occasion, when woven into the texture of a well-turned epitaph. They were used often, though seldom with any malicious intent. On occasion, the pun on a name which has connotative possibilities can become striking, as, for instance, that of a soldier named Child, who gave instructions that, should he be killed in battle, he wanted the words "It is well with the Child" engraved on his tombstone. For a woman named Elizabeth Bedingfield, the pun is made a part of the meter as well as having an integral function in the meaning: "My Names speaks what I was and am, and have, / A Bedding field, a piece of earth, a grave:

. . . .” Names such as More, Lamb, Donne, Shakespeare, Goodyere, Stone, Munday, Hope, and the like, almost inevitably occurred in punning contexts. Sometimes the name will occur within a word in a verse: “She to gain love did AMYable live,” Often names were used in rhymes: Gray/clay; cause/Lawes; and one that is complicated, humorous, yet appropriate for an architect, “Here lies Robert Trollope,/Who made yon stones roll up: /When death took his soul up / His body filled this hole up.” Acrostics are often found, in which the name of the person is spelled out by taking the first letter of each verse. This small survey only hints at a complexity that deserves a more exhaustive treatment.

Williams’ study is apparently the first English book on an Indian language. A curiosity and worthy of publishing, it is, for its time, a scholarly piece of research in the language and of the lives of the Narragansett Indians. Although his belief that the language he observed had affinities with both Hebrew and Greek (a common enough error at the time, and not indictable) has not withstood the research of modern linguists, he did have extraordinary powers of observation and detailed them in the manner of a trained anthropologist. First, he distinguished among the names, separating those properly belonging to the local Indians, in a sense general names, which we would call proper, such as Ninnuock, Ninnimissinnuwock, Eniskeetompawog, denoting men, folk, or people. Second, he noted the particular name used to differentiate the tribes or groups, such as Nanhigganeuck, Massachuseuck, and others. Last, there were specific names given to members of a tribe; but, according to Williams, “obscure and meane persons amongst them have no Names.” Obviously, the findings can be refuted, but this should not detract from the worth of this original attempt to understand the *mores* and naming characteristics as Williams conceived them.

In his book on German and Swiss settlements, Kuhns included an appendix on Pennsylvania-German family names, actually a rather perceptive essay, since he observed that a change in environment can cause names to undergo great variations of form. He divides the names into three classes: those derived from personal names, occupations, and places. In Group 1, he notes such names, some still unchanged, as Albrecht (distinguished), Arnwald (one who rules as an eagle), Trautman (follower of the Walkyrie Thrudr), and Gottschalk (servant of God). In Group 2, he notes Becker (baker), Brenneissen (blacksmith), Baumgartner (orchard-grower), and Ziegler (brick-maker). In Group 3, he lists names from places, such as Haldeman (“village”), Boehm (from Bohemia), and Berger (one who lives on a mountain). The names are those of Germans who came to the continent before the Revolutionary War.

Bardsley’s *Romance* deserves its own review, except that it is a reprint.

Bardsley authored *English Surnames* and other books on names, so it is not surprising to find this excellent text back in print. He proclaims that his hobby is "Nomenclature," and that his bookshelves are filled with city directories to the point that he could be mistaken for a postal official. His particular weakness is the London Directory, "an epitome of all antiquarian knowledge." The book he produced is an analysis of that Directory, with excellent chapters on individualization and localization, the divisions of London surnames, immigration and emigration, Robin Hood and the London Directory, early pet names, the Bible and nomenclature, officership, the employments of our forefathers, and nicknames. It is tempting to quote many of the examples: for instance, there is no Drunkard in the Directory, although older registers give Geoffrey Dringke-dregges, Maurice Druncard, and Arnold Scutel-mouth, but these names are gone, victims of a punctilious age. This is just simply the most delightful book on names I have ever read. Bardsley's name, however, is spelled Bradsley on the spine of the book.

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Literary Onomastics Studies. I (1974). Grace Alvarez-Altman, ed. Conference on Literary Onomastics, State University College of New York at Brockport. Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature, SUNY at Brockport, Brockport, N.Y. 14420. Pp. 117. Price \$3.00.

Love and Wrestling, Butch and O.K. Fred Tarpley, ed. South Central Names Institute Publication 2 (1973). Dept. of Literature and Languages, E. T. Station, Commerce, Texas. 75428. Pp. 126. Price \$1.50.

These two volumes are indeed excellent, well edited, and scholarly. First, Alvarez-Altman's *Proceedings* includes "Onomastic Concepts of 'Bear' in Comparative Myth: Anglo-Saxon and Greek Literature," "English 'Davit'/Old French 'Daviet' and Modern French 'Davier': A Biblical Echo in Medieval Sailors"; "An Onomastic Review of Gilbert-and-Sullivan"; "Allegory and Nominal Identity in Melville's Poem 'Clarel' "; "The name 'Göngu-Hrólf' in the Old Norse Göngu-Hrólf's Sage"; "Chekhov's Humorous Names"; "Onomatology of Male Characters in the *One Hundred Years of Solitude* of Gabriel Garcia Marquez"; "Some Functions of Names in Galdós's Novels"; "Place-Names in Traditional Ballads"; and "Onomastics as a Modern Critical Approach to Literature." The articles reflect a foreign language ap-

proach, which is good, but may require some research on the part of the reader. The last article, by Grace Alvarez-Altman, introduces a critical theory that demands attention by literary critics. These articles certainly add to the knowledge of literary practice as well as to the rather sudden amassing of information concerning the use of names in literature. The performance, in latter-day parlance, is superb.

Love and Wrestling follows the successful *Of Edsels*, both edited by Fred Tarpley. This collection of papers will keep us busy for a long time, sorting out, disagreeing with, laughing with—a humanistic behavior—and envying. The volume is divided into three sections: Miscellany, Literary Names, and Place Names. Without denigrating the others, I find a personal preference for the section on literary names, which includes articles on Edgar Allen Poe, Eudora Welty, and Mark Twain. Nevertheless, the articles on place-names should be of great importance in the work of the Place-Name Survey of the United States. Also, much research had to be expended on such sociological articles as “What Siblings Call Each Other” and “Names Behind the Bars.” In fact, each article provokes attention and reflection. All members of the American Name Society should obtain a copy. The cost is minimal, but the recreative and informational returns will be inestimable.

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West Virginia Surnames: The Pioneers. By William E. Mockler. Parsons, West Virginia, Published for the West Virginia Dialect Society by McClain Printing Company, 1973. Pp. x, 197. Price \$10.

This is the author's doctoral dissertation copyrighted in 1956, parts of the introductory portion of which received the American Name Society's Mary Glide Goethe Prize in 1955.

In the Introduction Professor Mockler discusses the early surnames in that portion of the old land division of West Augusta known as Monongalia now included in present-day West Virginia. The forms of the English, Scotch-Irish, Scottish and other European surnames found with their variations are discussed. It must be remembered that forms or misspellings of European surnames which are not recognized in any other country are found in early America—American Surnames.

The last three-fourths of the book consists of “a dictionary of the surnames of Trans-Allegheny Virginia, 1750-1800.” Here the author has listed them in alphabetical order with nationalities, origins, and

meanings, together with mention of many of the bearers of such names. The book concludes with a bibliography and index of surnames.

This is an authoritative study of the surnames in West Virginia, and the author is to be congratulated upon producing such a scholarly work in his pursuit of the doctorate.

Elsdon C. Smith

Limburgse plaatsnamen, I: Kaulille. By Jos Molemans. Leuven: Instituut voor Naamkunde/Brussel: N.V. Standaard-Boekhandel, 1973. Pp. 115. Price BF 200.

This monograph falls under the series *Toponymica*. With XXII suffixed to *Toponymica* and with I following XXII, we are given to understand that it is the first of similar monographs on Limburg place-names in Flanders (Belgium); XXII is the code number for Limburg place-names (Dutch *Limburgse plaatsnamen*). *Toponymica* is one of six series of publications that the *Instituut voor Naamkunde* issues under the general heading ONOMASTICA NEERLANDICA

Kaulille is a small municipality in the heath region known as the Kempen or Kempenland. It lies little more than four and a half kilometers or so from the Dutch border. Molemans sees his efforts here, and comparable ones to follow, as necessary preliminaries to a proper working-up of all regional material, especially linguistic. The tangible core of said efforts is made up of a descriptive glossary (pp. [15]-104) of Kaulille's names of 1) cultivated land and 2) meadow (grazing and hay-fields); of 3) thoroughfares, footpaths and other passageways on land; of 4) hydronyms or water names (Dutch *watername*) both natural and manmade, and for both still and flowing water(s); of 5) uncultivated land; of 6) clusters of houses or farmsteads (Dutch *gehuchtnamen* "hamlet names"); and lastly 7) house names (see pp. [105]-115). The author (on p. 115) quite rightly seeks a more comprehensive name than "house name" (Dutch *huisnaam*). He seeks one that will broaden the concept to include utilized lands that belong to the house as such and are part of the total agricultural activity of a family.

In his glossary Jos Molemans makes use of archival, published and unpublished sources, maps and a 1969 source on cadastral plans of the community of Kaulille (see pp. 4-10). Toponyms that are still known in the folk idiom are accorded phonetic transcription (see p. 13). Wherever there was no folk etymological or other variable at play in the creation of a toponym, it is listed alphabetically in standard Dutch, cp. *Beemd* [ba:mt] (see pp. 12 and 18). The four large pocket maps correspond to the four cadastral sections, A-D, of Kaulille and represent conditions during the first half of the nineteenth century (see p. 14). Between pp.

[105] and 115 a good systematic survey is given of name elements on the basis of land use, location, vegetation, the nature of the soil or the object named, and so on. The reader is brought up to date on how the use of land has changed and how this is reflected in naming (see pp. 110 and 114).

Molemans' work shows much diligence. It is a microstudy and can present problems to the non-specialist. This reviewer had to turn to Vol. 1 of his copy of Paul Lindemans' *Geschiedenis van de landbouw in België* (Antwerpen: De Sikkel, 1952) in order to make sure of the meaning of the word *vroente* (see p. 110 of the monograph and p. 307 ff. in Lindemans), too specialized to be in *Van Dale*. Missing from Molemans' bibliography and perhaps from the more complete bibliography of his unpublished 1972 doctoral dissertation as well (see pp. 7 and 9), is August Meitzen's classic study of 1896: *Siedlung and Agrarwesen der Germanen, Kelten, Römer, Finnen und Slawen*.

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