

U.S. Board on Geographic NamesDomestic Names CommitteeSix Hundred Fifty-Sixth MeetingLibrary of Virginia in RichmondMay 14, 2004, 10:30 a.m.Members and Deputy Members in Attendance

Michael Fournier	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Ronald Grim	Library of Congress
Ed Harne	Department of the Interior (Bureau of Land Management)
Robert Hiatt	Library of Congress
Curtis Loy	Department of Commerce (Office of Coast Survey)
Joseph Marinucci	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Douglas Vandegraft	Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

Executive Secretary Roger L. Payne

<u>Staff</u>	Lesley Levi	BGN Administrative Assistant
	Lou Yost	
	Jennifer Runyon	

Guests

Conley Edwards	Library of Virginia
Jan Hothcock	Library of Virginia
Tim Klinker	Virginia Department of Transportation
Kathy Marinucci	Guest
Marianne McKee	Library of Virginia
Michael Ratcliffe	Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census)
Gary Robertson	Richmond Times Dispatch
Lindy Rodman	Richmond Times Dispatch

1. Opening

Curtis Loy, acting as Chairman DNC, opened the 656th meeting at 10:30 a.m. Loy thanked Mr. Edwards of the Library of Virginia for hosting the meeting and asked the Board members, staff, and guests to introduce themselves. He also informed the Board that he has decided to vote at today's meeting, since he has the option of doing so in his role as acting Chairman.

Mr. Edwards welcomed the Board to the Library of Virginia. He provided some background information regarding the Alan M. Voorhees Collection, a historical map exhibit currently on display at the Library, and invited everyone to view the exhibit following the meeting.

2. Minutes of the 655th Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Communications and Reports

3.1 BGN Chairman's Report (Loy)

Loy reported that he attended the first part of the biennial meeting of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), held April 20-29 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Payne (BGN Executive Secretary) served as head of the U.S. delegation, which also included Loy (Commerce Department), Dillon (State Department), Gallahan (Interior Department), Flynn (Executive Secretary for Foreign Names), and Palmer (Secretary for Undersea Features). Several of the staff of the Foreign Names Committee also attended at various times. Loy noted that a formal United Nations Conference takes place once every five years, however, the Group of Experts and its working groups meet every two years in a less formal setting and that more specific work is accomplished. Loy mentioned that at the meeting he participated in the signing of a cooperative agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom regarding geographic names issues.

3.2 BGN Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

The number of comments regarding the proposal to change the name of Lake Powell to Glen Canyon Reservoir has subsided considerably in recent weeks. It was noted that the issue is scheduled for a vote by the Board at its October meeting, which will be held at the next Annual Conference of the Council of Geographic Names Authorities (COGNA).

The Board was informed that the geographic names course sanctioned by the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) will take place the first two weeks in August in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

3.3 Report of the Publicity Committee (Wood not present)

No report.

3.4 Executive Secretary's Report (Payne)

The Vermont State Geographic Names Board has declined to make a recommendation on a particular proposal because the proponent did not file a separate proposal directly with the State Board, "as required by State law." After discussion and analysis of the State legislation, the State Board determined it could not accept the proposal as forwarded from the U.S. Board and that the proponent must file separately. It is hoped that a compromise to this procedural impasse can be found.

It was noted that all the remaining issues regarding the revision of *Principles, Policies, and Procedures: Domestic Geographic Names* (PPP) have been completed except for the rewording of a portion of the policy on Derogatory Names to be submitted by the USDA Forest Service.

A bill has been introduced into the Oklahoma Legislature to name the seven-mile portion of the Canadian River that flows within the corporate boundaries of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma River. The original intent of the legislation was to rename the entire Canadian River, which would have created a contentious situation. However, this new version is not to change a name, but to apply an additional name to a portion of an already-named feature, which is an acceptable toponymic practice.

The next Annual Conference of COGNA will be held October 19-23, 2004, in Jacksonville, Florida, and will be hosted by the Florida State Board on Geographic Names.

3.5 BGN Staff Report (Yost)

It was noted that the Geographic Names Office and staff hosted five members of the delegation of Indonesia to the UNGEGN Conference. They were briefed on the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) and its relationship to *The National Map*, along with the structure and procedures of the Board. Payne thanked Yost and Runyon for doing such a fine job, on very short notice, to prepare and give the presentation.

The following is a statistical report of the BGN/DNC staff activities since the April 8 meeting:

0	cases written
53	inquiries received and answered
176	letters written (answered and initiated)
77	e-mail messages

3.6 GNIS and Data Compilation Program (Yost)

Yost attended and gave a presentation at the West Virginia GIS Conference in Morgantown, West Virginia on May 11. Also, he met with members of the West Virginia Board on Geographic Names, and discussed the relationship between GNIS and *The National Map* with the partnership team, which is providing support to GNIS.

4. Docket Review List

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

Change Powell Creek, North Fork Powell Creek, and South Fork Powell Creek to Powells Creek, North Fork Powells Creek, and South Fork Powells Creek, Pennsylvania (Undocketed)

This proposal was submitted by the Roadmaster for Halifax Township in Dauphin County, to change the names of Powell Creek and its two primary tributaries to the plural form (see Attachment A, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Rickgoover Spring to Rickgauer Spring, South Dakota (Black Hills National Forest) (Docket 378)

This proposal is to change the spelling of the name of a spring located in the Black Hills National Forest in Lawrence County (see Attachment A, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against

0 abstentions

Change **Phinney Lake** to **Footprints Lake**, Texas (Docket 380)

This proposal, to change officially the name of Phinney Lake to Footprints Lake, was submitted by the president of an investment company in Houston (see Attachment A, #3). There was some concern that other residents living around the lake should have been notified of the proposal, so a motion was made to defer a decision.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

II. **Disagreement on Docketed Names**

Deception Pass, **Mystery Meadow Pass**, **Slot-Cut Pass**, Alaska (Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve) (Docket 384)

These new names were submitted by an individual who recently hiked the area and determined the features were unnamed on Federal maps. The name Deception Pass would apply to a gap that seems easy to cross, but is in fact quite treacherous. The name Mystery Meadow Pass is proposed for a gap that overlooks a meadow and contains a stream. The presence of piles of glacial moraine reportedly cause an optical illusion, which made it seem as if the stream was flowing uphill. The name Slot-Cut Pass is proposed as a descriptive name, because the feature is a narrow slot within a steep knife-like ridge (see Attachment B, #1). A motion was made not to approve the names, citing the recommendation of the Alaska State Board, which did not believe an exception to the Wilderness Policy was warranted.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Tributary** to **Burroughs Creek**, Kansas (Docket 385)

This proposal is to change officially the name of Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Tributary, a tributary of the Kansas River in the City of Lawrence, to Burroughs Creek. The name would honor the author William S. Burroughs, who lived for many years in Lawrence (see Attachment B, #2). It was noted that although there was some local and vehement opposition to the name, neither the County Commissioners nor the State Names Authority wished to issue a formal recommendation, so the only written statements from local authorities indicated support. A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change **Mon Island** to **Buckle Island** (Docket 378) or **Porpoise Island** (Undocketed) North Carolina and Virginia

Manns Island (Docket 378) vs. **Mauns Island** (Undocketed), North Carolina

Change **Buckle Island** to **North Buckle Island**, Virginia (Docket 384)

These proposals were submitted to address the names of various marsh islands located along the coastal boundary of North Carolina and Virginia, in the area of Back Bay and Knotts Island. The original proposal was submitted by a resident of Knotts Island to correct the application of one name (Buckle Island) and to change the spelling and application of another (Mon Island). The City of Virginia Beach submitted a subsequent proposal to change the name of “the existing Buckle Island” to North Buckle Island. Finally, Currituck Island submitted a proposal to change the name of Manns Island to Mauns Island and to rename the existing Mon Island, Porpoise Island. The Board’s representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that because at least one of the islands lies within a National Wildlife Refuge, he would like to confer further first with the Refuge Manager. A motion was made and seconded to defer all action pending input from that office (see Attachment B, #3).

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

The Board’s staff thanked the staff at the Library of Virginia for its assistance in researching this complicated issue.

III. New Commemorative Names agreed to by all interested parties – none.

IV. Revised Decisions

Change Lost Palms Oasis (BGN 1987) to Chiriaco Lost Palms Oasis, California (Joshua Tree National Park) (Docket 378)

This proposal is to change officially the name of Lost Palms Oasis, a spring in Joshua Tree National Park, to Chiriaco Lost Palms Oasis to recognize the many years of association between the Chiriaco family and the area (see Attachment C , #1). A motion was made and seconded not to approve this change, citing the negative recommendation of the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names. It was noted that there are already several features in the area named “Chiriaco”, and there was a lack of evidence that the family was associated directly with the feature in question.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

Change Rhode Island (BGN 1964 1930) to Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island (Docket 374)

This proposal, submitted by a resident of Middletown, is to change officially the name of the island in Newport County named Rhode Island to Aquidneck Island, to recognize the name reported to be in widespread local usage (see Attachment C, # 2). A motion was made and seconded to approve the change.

Vote: 3 in favor
3 against
1 abstentions

Those voting against the proposal cited the predominance of negative recommendations from local and State officials. Also, those voting against expressed hope that a recommendation will yet be forthcoming from the

Governor's Office. Because of the tie vote, the issue was deferred by required procedure until the next meeting.

V. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

Castle Brook, Massachusetts (Docket 384)

This new name was proposed by a resident of North Dartmouth, who recently acquired the property through which the stream flows. He selected the name because "every man's home is his castle" and because some nearby stone ruins resemble a castle (see Attachment D, #1). A motion was made and seconded to approve the new name.

Vote: 6 in favor
1 against
0 abstentions

The negative vote was cast in the belief that because the proponent's business is named "Castle Brook", the name could be seen to be serving as a commercial endorsement.

Grey Rocks, Massachusetts (Docket 385)

This proposal was submitted by the Massachusetts Geographic Names Authority to make official a descriptive name that has been used in scientific literature and ornithological reports since the 1920's (see Attachment D, #2). A motion was made and seconded to approve the name.

Vote: 7 in favor
0 against
0 abstentions

5. Location and Time of Next Meeting

5.1 The next meeting of the Domestic Names Committee will be held June 10, 2004, at 9:30 a.m., at the Main Interior Building, Conference Room 3004.

5.2 Loy thanked Mr. Edwards for hosting the Board meeting at the Library of Virginia. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

(signed) Roger L. Payne

Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary

APPROVED

(signed) *Chick Fagan*

Chick Fagan, Chairman
Domestic Names Committee

ATTACHMENT A

U.S. BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DOMESTIC NAMES COMMITTEE
DOCKET REVIEW LIST
May 2004

I. Staff-Processed New Names, and Name and Application Changes agreed to by all interested parties

#1 Change Powell Creek, North Fork Powell Creek, and South Fork Powell Creek to Powells Creek, North Fork Powells Creek, and South Fork Powells Creek, Pennsylvania

(Undocketed)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=18&n=4475196.00006752&e=331622.999980443&datum=nad83&u=6>

This proposal was submitted by the Roadmaster for Halifax Township in Dauphin County, to change the names of Powell Creek and its two primary tributaries to the plural form. The Township has requested a grant from the Pennsylvania Organization of Watersheds and Rivers to erect new signs on roads that cross several streams in the area, and has learned that the names in local use differ from those considered official for Federal use. The Dauphin County Board of Commissioners and the governments of Jefferson Township and Wayne Township have endorsed the change, while the Pennsylvania State Board on Geographic Names has no objection.

#2 Change Rickgover Spring to Rickgauer Spring, South Dakota

(Black Hills National Forest)

(Docket 378)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=13&n=4889914.00014015&e=591631.000000447&datum=nad83&u=6>

This proposal is to change the spelling of the name of a spring located in the Black Hills National Forest in Lawrence County. The feature is not shown on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps, but does appear as Rickgover Spring on the 1972 edition of the USDA Forest Service visitors' map. The natural spring, which flows year round, lies at the head of an unnamed tributary of South Fork Rapid Creek, approximately 1.7 km (1.3 mi) north of the Pennington County line.

The proponent of the change is the grandson of Henry Rickgauer (1872-1936), a rancher who lived for most of his life in a one-room cabin near the spring. At the time of his death, Mr. Rickgauer was employed in the harvesting of timber in the Rochford area. He was killed in an accident involving his horse and wagon. Only a few traces of the Rickgauer cabin remain, but the spring continues to be maintained by the Forest Service. A sign posted at the feature identifies it as "Rickgover Spring", but a nearby concrete casement is inscribed "Rickgauer Spring". The government of Lawrence County indicates it is in support of the change, as are the South Dakota State Board on Geographic Names and the Forest Service. A letter seeking input was sent to the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Reservation, which is Federally-recognized, but no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

#3

Change **Phinney Lake** to **Footprints Lake**, Texas
(Docket 380)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=14&n=3374018&e=695915&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

This proposal, to change officially the name of Phinney Lake to Footprints Lake, was submitted by the president of an investment company in Houston. The reservoir in question is approximately 1.6 km (1 mi) long and 0.5 km (0.3 mi) wide, and is located in northern Lee County, approximately 80 km (50 mi) east-northeast of Austin. The proponent reports that his family's organization, the Gracely Footprints Foundation, recently acquired property surrounding the reservoir, where it plans to establish retreats for “disadvantaged adolescents, terminally ill children, etc.” The reservoir is described as “a focal point of the Footprints Family Ranch”, and so the proponent would like to name it Footprints Lake.

When this proposal was submitted, the proponent was unaware that the reservoir was already named. Although no name appears on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) records the reservoir's name as Phinney Lake. This name was obtained from a list of dams and reservoirs compiled in 1979 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The official Lee County highway map, published in 2000, labels the feature, Lake Robert L Phinney. When informed that the reservoir was already named, the proponent indicated that he wished to pursue his request and modified his proposal accordingly. The dam that forms the reservoir is named Lake Phinney Dam; this name is not affected by the proposal.

Although it has not been determined when the reservoir received its current name, research indicates that Robert L. Phinney served as the Director of Internal Revenue in the First District of Texas during the 1950's. The County Judge of Lee County was unable to find any information regarding the naming of Phinney Lake, and after considering the issue, the Commissioners' Court recommended approval of the change to Footprints Lake. The Texas Board on Geographic Names also is in support of the proposal. There are no tribal groups having a current or historical interest within 50 miles of the feature.

15 years of his life, Burroughs lived in a house located near the head of the stream. During this period, he completed three more novels and other works in film, audio performance, and the stage, and he also took up painting.

The current name, Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Tributary, is known by several local residents and appeared on a floodplain insurance map published in 2001 by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Lawrence City Commission passed a resolution in support of the proposal for Burroughs Creek, and the City's Parks and Recreation Department and the Mayor of Lawrence also endorse the name. The proponent included with his application a letter of support from James Grauerholz, who was Burroughs' companion and manager for the last 20 years of the author's life and who is now the executor of Burroughs' estate. Burroughs' home has been submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The City's Parks and Recreation Department is initiating efforts to designate a portion of the trail that runs alongside the stream as a recreational path to be named the Burroughs Creek Trail.

The Douglas County Commission has indicated it will not take a position on the proposal. Several e-mail messages have been submitted to the Board, both in support of and opposed to the name change. The Kansas State Names Authority has also indicated it does not wish to provide a recommendation on the proposal. Letters seeking input were sent to the Prairie Band of the Potawatomi Nation and to the Osage Tribe, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

#3 Change **Mon Island** to **Buckle Island** (Docket 378) or **Porpoise Island** (Undocketed), North Carolina and Virginia

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=18&n=4044864.25282558%20&e=419004.051278283&u=6&datum=nad83>

Manns Island (Docket 378) vs. **Mauns Island** (Undocketed), North Carolina

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=18&n=4044529&e=419512&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

Change **Buckle Island** to **North Buckle Island**, Virginia
(Docket 384)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?z=18&n=4046038&e=418669&s=50&size=1&u=6&datum=nad83&layer=DRG25>

These proposals were submitted to address the names of various marsh islands located along the coastal boundary of North Carolina and Virginia, in the area of Back Bay and Knotts Island.

The original proposal was submitted by a resident of Knotts Island, who wished to correct the application of one name, and to change the spelling and application of another. Current Federal maps apply the names Buckle Island and Mon Island to two islands, the former at the southern end of Back Bay in Virginia Beach City, Virginia, and the other at the north end of Knotts Island Channel in Currituck County, North Carolina. The existing names have appeared on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps since 1943. The proponent reports that the island named currently Mon Island should in fact be named Buckle Island, while the name Manns Island should be applied collectively to the two islands located immediately to the east. He provided a photocopy of a map of Currituck Sound prepared in 1923 for the Currituck Sound Shooting Club by surveyor David Cox. On Cox's map, the name Buckle Island is applied to what is currently Mon Island, while the two islands to the east are labeled Manns Island. This map also labeled the channel to the east of "Manns Island", Manns Channel, and the bay between the two islands, Manns Cove. Neither of these names appears on any available Federal or State maps. The proponent reports that he has spoken with an 85-year-old

lifelong resident of Knotts Island, who agrees that the 1923 map is correct and who suggests that the name Manns, when spoken locally, sounds like “Mons”, hence the “incorrect” name on Federal maps. Neither this individual nor the proponent knew of a name for the island in Virginia that is labeled currently Buckle Island.

The Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), the nation’s official geographic names repository, lists Buckle Island as a variant of the name Mon Island.

The City of Virginia Beach was then asked to comment on the proposal to change the name of Mon Island to Buckle Island. The City’s Planning Department responded that it would support the proposed names, on the condition that the Board also consider changing the name of “the existing Buckle Island” to North Buckle Island. The City indicated it wished to “avoid any confusion concerning two islands in such close proximity to one another.” A separate case brief for North Buckle Island was prepared and placed on the Board’s docket.

The government of Currituck County, in researching the issue, consulted with several long-time residents of the area, two of whom reported they did not support the proposals as submitted. They suggested the 1923 map was inaccurate and not reflective of current or historical local usage. They did agree, however, that the name and application of the name Mon Island were incorrect, but that the correct name for the two marsh islands should be “Mauns Island”. They also reported that the island labeled currently Mon Island is known locally as Porpoise Island, and suggested that the Board contact the island’s present-day owner for input. Finally, they agreed that the name Buckle Island is definitely applied to the island in Virginia. The Currituck County Manager corroborated the statements of the local residents, and asked that proposals be initiated for Mauns Island and Porpoise Island.

The Geographic Names Authorities for the Commonwealth of Virginia and the State of North Carolina have both indicated they do not support the proposal to change the name of Mon Island to Buckle Island, because this would result in there being two islands named “Buckle” in close proximity. The Virginia Geographic Names Authority also does not support the proposed change from Buckle Island to North Buckle Island because of long-term documented usage of the existing name. The staff at the Library of Virginia also provided a copy of an undated map (circa 1820-1830) that labeled the existing Mon Island and the adjoining channel, Maunds Island and Maunds Channel.

The Board’s staff then spoke to the present-day owner of the island that is named currently Mon Island. He confirmed that that name and application are incorrect, and that the island has always been known by him and his family as Buckle Island and the two adjacent islands as Mauns Island. However, he did offer that the spelling “Manns” should be used, both to avoid confusion and because “Mauns” is antiquated and not well known. Even though Porpoise Slough lies adjacent to the island, he indicated he was unfamiliar with the name Porpoise Island. Although local residents do not have a name for the island in Virginia, he agreed that Buckle Island in that State should be renamed North Buckle Island. He suggested the 1923 map is accurate and that several land title deeds refer to that map as the definitive source for names in the area. He did not know the origin of the name “Mauns”.

The State-approved Meherrin Indian Tribe was contacted for an opinion on the two original proposals, but responded that they had “no connection with the islands, and thus should not give any input on the naming”.

III. New Commemorative Names agreed to by all interested parties – none.

ATTACHMENT C

IV. Revised Decisions

- #1 Change Lost Palms Oasis (BGN 1987) to Chiriaco Lost Palms Oasis, California
(Joshua Tree National Park)
(Docket 378)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=33.71111&lon=-115.76111>

This proposal is to change officially the name of Lost Palms Oasis, a spring in Joshua Tree National Park, to Chiriaco Lost Palms Oasis. The name change was submitted by a member of the Chiriaco family who resides in the nearby community of Chiriaco Summit and who would like to honor her parents, Joseph and Ruth Chiriaco. In 1925, when both were 20 years old, the Chiriacos traveled west from Alabama, and shortly thereafter, Joseph became a surveyor with the Los Angeles Bureau of Water and Power. Following one of Joseph's visits to the desert in 1930 as part of a surveying and mapping team, he and Ruth decided to settle in an area known then as Shaver Summit, and in August 1933, they opened a gas station and general store along U.S. Route 60, which was to open for traffic on the same day. During World War II, the highway and the Chiriacos' business served Camp Young and the nearby desert training center, and in 1959, when the new rural post office opened, the small community of Shaver Summit was renamed Chiriaco Summit. The nearby airport continued to be named Shaver Summit Airport until 1977, when to avoid confusion, it was renamed Chiriaco Summit Airport.

The spring named currently Lost Palms Oasis is located approximately 6.4 km (4 mi) to the northwest of Chiriaco Summit, at the base of the Eagle Mountains. The current name was reportedly given to the feature in 1930 by Philip Johnston, a writer for the Automobile Club of Southern California. According to *Riverside County Place Names* (Gunther, 1984), the feature is described as "one of the most beautiful native fan palm oases in California." Approximately 110 palm trees exist at the spring, having been planted there by early prospectors. The proponent suggests that the spring should be renamed for her parents, who both died in 1996, because of their longtime association with the area and their development of the "now famous Chiriaco Summit travel center on Interstate 10". She further states that the oasis was for many years a source of water for the community and for the "hot and weary travelers as well as their autos and trucks".

A resident of Joshua Tree has written a letter of opposition to the proposed change to Chiriaco Lost Palms Oasis, citing a lack of evidence to support the proponent's claim that the name Chiriaco has been attached to the existing name "for 68 years". He further cites the existence of a community already named for the family, as well as a lack of a direct association between them and the spring. In 1987, the U.S. Board considered and approved a request by the U.S. Geological Survey to correct the application of the name Lost Palms Oasis on Federal maps, thus moving the name approximately 1.6 km (1 mi) to the southwest of its previous location.

The Supervisors of Riverside County have indicated they have no objection to the proposal. However, the California Advisory Committee on Geographic Names and the National Park Service do not recommend approval of the change, citing a lack of evidence that the name is in local usage, as claimed by the proponent. Letters seeking input were sent to the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians and the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians, both of which are Federally-recognized. No response was received, so it is presumed that these organizations do not have an opinion on the issue.

- #2 Change Rhode Island (BGN 1964 1930) to Aquidneck Island, Rhode Island
(Docket 374)

This proposal, submitted by a resident of Middletown, is to change officially the name of the island in Newport County named Rhode Island to Aquidneck Island, to recognize the name reported to be in widespread

local usage. The island in question is 25 km (16 mi) long and 7.2 km (4.5 mi) wide, and is bounded on the east by Sakonnet River and on the west by Narragansett Bay and East Passage. The name Aquidneck Island, which has numerous variant spellings, is of indigenous origin, and reportedly translates loosely as “on the island”. The origin of the name Rhode Island is unclear, although there are several theories. Italian navigator Giovanni da Verrazzano, reportedly compared nearby Block Island to the Greek island named Rhodes, and the name may have later been transferred to the island in question. Dutch explorers also reported seeing a “red island”. Another theory is that the waters of Narragansett Bay and Sakonnet River were referred to as “ship roads”, which may have led to the name “Road Island”.

The name of the island has been the subject of two decisions by the BGN, in 1930 and 1964. In what is believed to be the only documented departure from established policy, both names, Aquidneck Island and Rhode Island, were approved for official use in 1930, with no preference given to either name. In 1962, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (USC&GS) submitted a proposal to make official one name, specifically Rhode Island, for the feature. The reasons provided for this proposal were that the dual usage on Federal maps and publications served only to continue the confusion regarding the feature's name, and that the name Aquidneck Island was not in local use. Because the name Rhode Island is part of the official name of the State (“Rhode Island and Providence Plantations”), the USC&GS considered that to be the historical name for the feature. The decision for Rhode Island was rendered by the BGN in 1964.

In 1971, research uncovered a law in the Colonial Records, dated 1644, which stated, “It is ordered by this court, that the island commonly called Aquithneck, shall be from henceforth called the Isle of Rhodes or RHODE ISLAND”. Further research conducted at that time by the Rhode Island Secretary of State, the State Archives, and the Newport Historical Society indicated that the 1644 law had never been repealed, amended, or terminated, and was thus presumed to still be in effect. A representative of the State Library indicated that laws passed by the Colonial Legislatures (or General Courts) are known as the “Records of the Colony of Rhode Island”, and “are as applicable today as when originally enacted”.

In 1979, the proponent, who at the time was the Head of the Ocean Science Branch for the Naval Underwater Systems Center of the U.S. Department of the Navy, contacted the BGN with a request to revisit the issue and reconsider its 1964 decision. Although a case brief was prepared and preliminary investigation determined that the name Aquidneck Island was in widespread local use, the issue was never placed on a BGN docket and no decision was rendered.

Twenty years later, the same proponent, having received no further communication from the BGN, contacted the BGN member from the National Ocean Service with a request to reopen the case. A case brief was prepared for the change from Rhode Island to Aquidneck Island, and letters seeking input were sent to the appropriate local town and city governments, historical organizations, and two local American Indian groups. There is no official County government in Rhode Island.

Federal maps and publications dating from 1892 refer to the feature almost exclusively as Rhode Island. However, other sources published throughout the twentieth century show mixed usage, with many maps and documents acknowledging both names. Current local usage appears to favor Aquidneck Island, with many websites referring to the island as such, including those of the following: the Newport Historical Society, the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center, the Town of Middletown, the Town of Portsmouth, the City of Newport, the Aquidneck Island Land Trust, the Rhode Island Department of Transportation, and several tourist-oriented websites. The proponent also provided a copy of a publication prepared by the Rhode Island Sea Grant Communications Office in 2002 entitled *Shaping A Future: Aquidneck Island Achievements 1997-2002*. Websites that refer to the feature as Rhode Island include those of the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Statutes and Regulations, and several tourist-oriented and history-oriented sites.

Despite the apparent widespread usage of the name Aquidneck Island on many “official” websites, the Portsmouth Town Council indicated it was “strongly opposed” to the proposed change, and the Town Council of Middletown stated, “While Aquidneck Island is commonly used here, it was the unanimous vote of the Council that the official name of our island remain Rhode Island in recognition of its historical significance.” The Manager of the City of Newport also recommended that the name Rhode Island be retained as the official name. Other letters of support for retaining the name Rhode Island were submitted by the Aquidneck Island Planning Commission and the East Bay Tourism Council. The U.S. Naval Station at Newport declined to issue an opinion, while the Environment Council of Rhode Island endorsed the change. Citing the opposition of the local governments, and after consultation with the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, the Rhode Island State Names Authority recommended against the proposed change.

The President of the Aquidneck Indian Council, when asked to comment on the proposal, wrote a letter strongly endorsing official recognition of the name Aquidneck Island. He cited local usage of that name, as well as a 1978 Smithsonian Institution publication entitled *Handbook of North American Indians*, in which the island is labeled Aquidneck Island. He stated that this is “one of the few references accepted by the Federal Government (DOI) in matters relating to the historic legitimacy of Indian Tribes”. He also suggested that the Town governments do not represent the true opinion of the people and that in order to determine local and regional usage, letters should be sent to all native groups throughout New England. Twenty-one such letters were sent, but only two responses were received. The President of the Nipmuc Indian Association of Connecticut stated “Aquidneck Island has another name?! We did not know that. When speaking of “Rhode Island”, local people mean the State – not Aquidneck.” She also suggested that the one-word name Aquidneck (Algonquian for “at the island”) was more appropriate than Aquidneck Island (“at the island Island”). It should be noted that this phenomenon is an accepted and well-documented practice; that is, applying a generic term that is readily understandable to the wider user community when such a term is embedded in the one-word form from another language.

The Cowasuck Band of the Pennacook/Abenaki People also recommended approval of the change to Aquidneck Island, stating that “the proper proto-Algonquin spelling for this island is *Akwitanek*”, and that “the over whelming weight of Euro-American history should not be used to extinguish the place name that was used for thousands of years by the local inhabitants”.

A copy of the proposal was also sent to several elected officials and various other State organizations, but no response was received. The Office of the Governor of Rhode Island has been asked on several occasions to comment on the proposal, but to date, no written response has been received. When contacted by telephone, the Governor’s staff indicated a letter was forthcoming and that the recommendation would likely be to retain the name Rhode Island but to recommend strongly that the variant name Aquidneck Island be shown on maps in parentheses.

There are currently two geographic features listed in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), a school and a shopping center, named “Aquidneck”.

ATTACHMENT D

VI. New Names agreed to by all interested parties

#1 **Castle Brook**, Massachusetts
(Docket 384)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?lat=41.6691666666667&lon=-71.0266666666667&datum=nad83&u=6>

This new name was proposed by a resident of North Dartmouth, who acquired the property through which the stream flows three years ago. He suggests the feature needs to be named “for management of ecological activities in [the] town and [the] Westport River watershed”. The name Castle Brook was selected because “The stream and nearby wetlands nearly surround my house, forming a “moat”, and everyman's home is his “castle”. The ruins of an old stone barn foundation lie nearby, adding to the image of a castle”. The stream is approximately 1.3 km (0.6 mi) long and flows from a wetlands area generally east-southeastward into the Shingle Island River.

The proponent reports that he discussed the idea of naming the stream with the Environmental Affairs Coordinator for the Town of Dartmouth Conservation Commission, who “supports my idea”. His also reports that his wife works for the Westport River Watershed Alliance, which helps to protect the watershed in which this stream is located, and that “we discovered that it is difficult to describe protection activities for streams that have no name”. He and his wife have started to refer to the stream as Castle Brook, and he has also named his newly-established engineering consulting business after the stream. There are no other streams in Bristol County known to be named “Castle”. The government of Bristol County has no objection to the proposal, while the Town of Dartmouth and the Massachusetts Geographic Names Authority are both in support. Letters seeking input were sent to the Narragansett Indian Tribe of Rhode Island and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) of Massachusetts, both of which are Federally-recognized, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue.

#2 **Grey Rocks**, Massachusetts
(Docket 385)

<http://www.topozone.com/map.asp?latd=42&latm=21&lats=44&lond=-72&lonm=27&lons=38&datum=NAD83&u=6>

This proposal was submitted by the Massachusetts Geographic Names Authority to make official a name that has been used in scientific literature since the 1920's. The name Grey Rocks appears in several ornithological and nesting studies published by Margaret Morse Nice (1883-1974). The Archivist for the Town of Pelham reports that the name is well known and in local use, and recommends approval of the name. Additionally, the Pelham Historical Society supports the proposal. Hampshire County does not have an official county government. The former director of the Massachusetts Department of Forestry reports that he is familiar with the area and concurs that the name is in local use.

The 218 m (715 ft) summit is not named on any USGS publications, and is located 1.1 km (0.7 mi) southwest of Butter Hill and 6.8 km (4.2 mi) northwest of Metacomet Lake. No other geographic features in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are known to apply the name Grey Rocks. A letter seeking input was sent to the Hassanamisco Nipmuc Tribal Council, a State-recognized group, but no response was received, which is presumed to indicate a lack of an opinion on the issue. The Massachusetts Geographic Names Authority also endorses the proposal.