

## PLACE NAMES PREFACE

To determine the origin of place names is a very difficult and almost never ending task for several reasons. First of all in regard to the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness many of the features have had their names for over seventy-five years without the source of the name's origin officially recorded. Because many name origins were not initially recorded for posterity, often they were lost. Meantime well meaning pioneers as well as new comers to the area construed plausible theories as to why a feature has a particular name. In time with much repetition by word of mouth certain features have two contradictory name origins which are equally hailed as the gospel truth. What further complicates matters is man's rationale for selecting the correct choice. People often tend to support the version they hear first as the correct version, while others judge the accuracy by the personal character of the teller. Both methods are fallacious in themselves, and as to whether the real origin is selected is coincidental. Both methods do ingrain confusion and continue fallacious cycles.

I have included in this list of Place Names more than one entry for particular features where there is variance in source information, as for example, Friday

Place Names Preface p. 2.

Pass, Lottie and Maud Lakes. Selway/Selwai and Lolo are two extreme examples of names with highly controversial origins. Excluded from this compilation are the name-origins recorded in Sister Alfreda's Pioneer Days in Idaho County. I did this because frequently the source of the name origin was not cited in her text. I have limited my entries to sources from the National Forests' files at the R.O. and S.O. level and at the Federal Record Center in Seattle. Names from personal interviews I conducted are also herein recorded.

Another problem of compiling the origin of place names is of duplication of names for two separate features. For example, one National Forest may have two Indian Hills or Creeks. Therefore, when a name's origin is given for such a feature and the exact location is not given, which of the two features is not known. Therefore, to avoid further confusion through improper assumptions, the reader will note that I have left the location entry blank where it was not given in source compilations.

In contrast where two entries are cited for one feature, but the locations are slightly different, I transcribed the locations as I found them recorded. Archer Mountain is a good example of procedure. It has four entries, two of which have the same location, one slightly different location, and one location not recorded at all. In this case it is obvious that Archer Mountain is the same feature for all four entries for there are

Place Names Preface p. 3.

portion of land outside the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness but within the National Forest on which it lies.

This preface's purpose is not to nullify the accuracy of all the place names within but to acquaint the reader with the inherent problems and the possibility of recording discrepancies. Many features more recently named initially had their origins officially recorded and preserved in National Forest files or by the National Geographic Place Names Board and may be regarded as correct. Koch Mountain is an obvious example.

Sincerely,

*Mary Ellen Ackerman*

Mary Ellen Ackerman  
Writer-Editor

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Place Names)

Part I: (Material which was gleaned from S.O., R.O., and Federal Record Center files and now is collected and organized in the Place Name File.)

### Annual Geographical Place Names Reports

District 1, Bitterroot Forest 2/3/26

Report plus accompanying map for Lynx Creek.

District 1, Bitterroot Forest 1/2/35 Moose Creek District Reports, accompanying letters and maps for: Wahoo Peak (formerly Squaw Peak), Freezeout Mtn., Sponge Mts. Lizard Peak, Doe Point, Long Lake, and California Point.)

Region 1, Bitterroot Forest, 1/18/40

Accompanying letters and map for: Gem Lake

Region 1, Bitterroot Forest 1/3/41

Report and accompanying letters for: Dollar Lake, Painted Rocks Lake, Lake Crystal, Lake Turbid.

Region 1, Bitterroot Forest 4/3/41

Report for Trapper Peak change to Sherman Mtn.

Region 1, Bitterroot Forest, 2/16/55

Report and accompanying letters and newsarticles for Koch Mtn.

Region 1, Moose Creek District, 1/2/35

Reports for Cox Creek (formerly called Goat Creek), Pettibone Creek (Formerly called Indian Creek), Wahoo Creek (formerly called Big Creek), and Larson Creek.

Region 1, Nezperce Forest 1/27/36

Report and accompanying map and letters for Parsons Lake, Reluctant Lake, Legend Lake, and Jesse Lake.

Unpublished Written Manuscripts

Cope, Joshua A. "Memorandum for Geography:(Being a synopsis of a talk given before the Geographical Society of Dist. 1, the 12th of April, 1916, at Missoula, Montana, and herewith set down at the instance of F.E.Bonner") 7/1/16

Manuscript divided into Greek, Latin, French, Indian, English derivatives. Within these divisions the names of interest are Nezperce, Lolo, Clearwater, and Bitterroot.

Cronemiller, F.P. "Meaning of Some of the Spanish Names of Places in and Near the National Forests of Region 5." San Francisco, California, 1/30/41, 3pp.

Little application to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Koch, Elers. "Derivation of Geographic Names in Montana and Idaho" mimeographed copy, 11 pp.

Noticeable absence of place names within today's wilderness boundary because major historical journeys and expeditions did not penetrate the mountain barriers.

Schumaker, O.F. "Place Names" Rough Draft 6/10/68 61pp.

Alphabetical listing of place names written up in paragraph form. Names researched from historical sources( GLO, survey plats, Geographic Place Names Board, historical texts) as well as from local sources. Considerable time spent on project. Because the exact location of each feature is not given, it is difficult to determine whether or not the feature is within the wilderness because of duplication of names in the wilderness and that portion of the Bitterroot Forest which lies without.

Space, Ralph. "With Ralph Space on the Clearwater," 12/1/65. dialogue, 49 pp. (filed under Personal Reminiscences)

Name origin of Grave Peak

"Origin of Geographic Names- Bitterroot National Forest" 1/14/42 41 pp.

Alphabetical listing according to Feature named, origin of name, authority, and recorder. Features are: Archer Mtn., Bailey Mtn., Blodgett Cr., Boulder Crk., Cooper Cr, Cox Cr., CrewCr., Fitting Cr, Freeman

Pk., Fred Burr Cr., Goat Mtn., Isaac Cr., Moe Pk., Pettibone Cr., Pettibone Ridge, Rhoda Cr., Running Cr., Shissler Pk., Sixty-two Ridge, Soda Springs, Sweeney Pk., Tin Cup Cr., Tony Cr., Vance Mtn., Watchtower Cr., and Wylies Pk.

"Origin of Geographical Names-Clearwater National Forest."  
2/9/42, 15 pp.

Alphabetical listing according to feature named, origin of name, authority, and recorder. Because the features do not have legal descriptions, whether or not the features are within the wilderness is unclear.

"Origin of Geographic Names-Lolo National Forest."  
3/30/42, 12 pp.

Alphabetical listing according to feature named, origin of name, authority, and recorder. Because the features do not have legal descriptions, whether or not the features are within the wilderness is unclear.

"Origin of Geographic Names-Nezperce National Forest."  
3/19/42, 14 pp.

Alphabetical listing according to feature named, origin of name, authority, and recorder. Features included within the wilderness are: Jesse Pass, Oldman Creek, Oldman Lake, Pinchot Creek, Selway, and Schwar Creek, Three Links Creek, and Wylies Peak.

Published Manuscripts/ Histories of National Forests

Cochrell, Albert N. The Nezperce Story.  
Rhoda and Boyd Crs. (pp.11-13)

Space, Ralph. The Clearwater Story.  
Maude and Lottie Lakes (p.46); Lochsa, Old Man Lake, Rhoda, and McConnell Mtn. (p.53); and Indian Grave Pk. (pp. 11-12)

Official Correspondence

Carter, E.E. Letter to District Forester, Missoula, Mont.  
1/29/30, 3pp.

Alphabetical listing of names within Montana and Idaho. No source references mentioned. No way of verifying information. Very general. Names of interest: Bitterroot (p.2), Lolo (P. 2), Clearwater (p.3), and Nezperce (p.3.)

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Fenn, Lloyd. A. Letter to K.D.Swan, Asst. Dist. Forester Inspector, Missoula, Montana. 3/8/30 1p.

Origin of Selwai and Lochsa Rivers.

Hanson, P.D, Regional Forester. Letter to Chief. 5/26/54

Origin of Printz Ridge.

Koch, Elers, Asst. Reg. Forester. Letter to Mrs. Alta Fouch, Secretary-Librarian, Historical Society, Boise, Idaho. 3/21/36.

Origin of the Selway River.

Larson, Stanford H., District Forest Ranger. Letter to Brandborg, Forest Supervisor, Hamilton, Montana, 2/24/37, 7pp.

Contains place names obtained through Than Wilkerson: Chaffin Creek, Boulder Creek, Soda Springs, Watchtower Cr.

Lay, Presley E. Letter to Supervisor G.M. Brandborg, Hamilton, Montana, 3/21/55, 2 pp.

Origin of Downing Mtn.

Theime, F.E., Regional Forester. Letter to Forest Supervisor Mr. Simpson, Lolo National Forest, 5/26/30.

Origin of Chute Creek and Hidden Creek Ridge.

York, O.E, Forest Ranger. Letter to Forest Supervisor, Hamilton, Montana, 2/13/36, 2pp.

Origin of Bass Cr.

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Origin of the Selwai and Lochsa Rivers.

(con't page five, Bibliography: Place Names)

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Hovey, Ralph. Origin of Fenn Lakes, Rhoda Cr., Lakes Lottie and Maud, Parsons Lake, Penny Bluffs.

McDonald, Charley. Origin of Bass Lake, Mill Cr.

McPherson, Don. Origin of features which are now renamed:  
Indian Cr/Pettibone, Indian Ridge/Pettibone Ridge,  
Big Creek/WahooCreek, Squaw Peak/ Wahoo Peak, Florence,  
Elizabeth, and Lloyd Lakes/ Stove, Pipe, and Kettle Lakes,  
Chimney Lake/ Lake Louise.

Monroe, B.K. Origin of Curlee Creek and Peak, Kookooskia and Selwai Rivers.

Moore, Bud. Origin of Friday and Saturday Ridges, Graves Peak, Lolo Hot Springs, Fox Park, Savage Ridge, Lochsa, Kookooskia, and Selway Rivers.

Parsell, Jack. Origin of Fay Creek, Stewart Hot Springs, Three Forks.

Renshaw, Elna. Origin of Archer Mtn. and Wylies Peak.

Wilson, Elizabeth. Origin of Sixty-two Ridge, Fish Lake, Bearwallow, Selway River, Rhoda Creek. Squaw Tits changed to Twin Buttes.

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