

Romance is Revealed in Geographic Names

Golden Jubilee
Edition of the Monitor

Sources of geographic names in Swift county given here are mainly from a history of the Minnesota valley published in 1882 and information obtained in 1916 by the late Warren Upham, Minnesota historian, from J. N. Edwards and H. C. Odney, then judge of probate and register of deeds, respectively, and Ernest A. Aldrich, Benson. The latter's information was obtained on visits by him to St. Paul after 1916.

The first name on the list alphabetically is Appleton. We learn that the township, organized in 1870, first was called Phelps in honor of its first settler, Addison Phelps, who came to the county in the fall of 1868. Appleton village, named for the city of Appleton, Wisconsin, was founded in 1871-72; the railroad was built to the village in 1879, and it was incorporated in the spring of 1881. The township was christened Appleton at the request of Phelps, who was one of the county commissioners when the change was made, Sept. 4, 1872. It may interest readers to know that the Wisconsin city of this name was christened in honor of Samuel Appleton, founder of Lawrence university, located there.

Benson's naming is dealt with elsewhere in this issue.

Camp Lake township, first settled in 1866, was named from its lake, beside which the camp of the government surveyors of that and adjoining townships was located.

Casbel township, settled in 1873, and organized March 23, 1878, received its name from the ancient city of Cashel in Tipperary county, southern Ireland. We are not told who did the christening of the Swift county township however.

Named By Bishop

Clontarf township has an intriguing name for those not familiar with Ireland. Those who have visited Dublin know that a village and a "watering place", or resort, which form a suburb of Dublin, bear that name. Foote & Warner's history of the Minnesota Valley, the 1882 work referred to, says, "The town was named by Bishop Ireland. The inhabitants are mostly Irish, a colony having settled here in 1878." The first settlement in the township was made in June, 1876, and organization was effected Jan. 16, 1877.

Danvers, in the east edge of Marysland, bears the name of a township and village in Massachusetts and of a village in Illinois. But there is no authentic information to show any of these was honored in the christening of the Marysland township village.

DeGraff, a railway village in Kildare township, was named in honor of Andrew DeGraff of St. Paul. He was born near Amsterdam, N. Y., Oct. 21, 1811; came to Minnesota in 1857 and built many railroads in this state, including the Great Northern line through Swift county. He died in St. Paul Nov. 7, 1894. It is understood that railroad officials were instrumental in the choosing of the name. The village was founded in 1875 and incorporated Feb. 18, 1881.

Dublin township's name source is an easy one. Beautiful Dublin in old Erin, that country's capital and largest city, was honored.

Edison township, founded in 1872 and organized March 23, 1878, was originally called New Posen, for a Polish city and province then in Prussia, but was renamed in honor of the late Thomas A. Edison, the great inventor. He was born in Mi-

lan, O., Feb. 11, 1847; began his business career as a newsboy, later becoming a telegraph operator. He removed to New York City in 1871, to Menlo Park, N. J., in 1876 and later to West Orange, N. J. Among his outstanding inventions are the duplex telegraph, the phonograph and the incandescent light.

Fairfield township, settled in 1867, organized April 16, 1872, has a name borne by counties in Connecticut, O., and South Carolina and by townships and villages or cities in 29 states. Obviously, the name is generally descriptive of the locality christened. Since no other political division or no person was honored, the circumstances of the naming have apparently not been preserved in memory or record.

Bears President's Name

Hayes township, settled in 1868 and organized in 1877, is directly linked to a stormy period in American history, the campaign of Rutherford B. Hayes for the presidency. Older residents will recall that the Hayes-Tilden contest was bitterly fought and so close that a special board was named to recount the votes and determine the winner. There was scandal as well as the customary political mudslinging involved. But the Hayes township organizers evidently favored the winner, although not necessarily, of course, for that reason. Hayes was a colorful figure. Born in Delaware, O., Oct. 4, 1882, he served in the Union army in the Civil war, being brevetted major general of volunteers in 1865. He was a member of Congress in 1865-67 and governor of Ohio in 1868-72 and 1876-77. As he was elected president in the fall of 1876 and assumed office March 4, 1877, the choice of his name for the township was timely.

Hegbert township was first settled by Ole Hegstad in 1869 and was organized at a meeting at his house April 8, 1876. There appears to be no existing documentary evidence that the township was named for this pioneer, but this evidently is the inference associated with the preserved facts. Such changes often were made in the names of pioneers in the state for euphony, to meet postoffice department requirements or for other reasons.

The data on Holloway village are not complete. We learn simply that this village in Moyer township was named by officers of the Great Northern railway in honor of an adjacent pioneer farmer. Here also there may have been a change in the name.

Kerkhoven is a name well known beyond the borders of Swift county. Founded in 1870, the village lay on the route followed by the homeseekers who crossed the state headed for the western and northern sections and the Red river valley. It happened that its position geographically made Kerkhoven a convenient stopping place. That is why the name often is mentioned in old-timers' tales of their prairie schooner treks. Kerkhoven township was settled in 1865. As sometimes happens, the village does not lie within the borders of its namesake township, but is in Pillsbury township. The village, incorporated in January, 1881, was christened in honor of a prominent Great Northern stockholder (it was then the St. Paul & Pacific), who was a Scotchman.

Has Historic Title

Kildare township was settled in 1868 and organized April 20, 1875. It was named for a county and a town in Ireland. Marysland township, organized March 11, 1879, was settled a few years earlier by Catholic immigrants from Ireland. Moyer township was first settled in June, 1869, by William Moyer, in whose honor it received its name at its organization Jan. 25, 1879.

Murdock, a village in Dublin township, was platted by S. S. Murdock in 1878 and was incorporated in 1879. Murdock later removed to Phoenix, Ariz. Pillsbury township,

settled in 1869, was organized Jan. 29, 1876, and was named in honor of John Sargent Pillsbury, who was born in Sutton, N. H., July 29, 1827, and died in Minneapolis Oct. 18, 1901. He came to Minnesota in 1855, settling in St. Anthony, now the east part of Minneapolis, engaged in the hardware business until 1875 and afterward in lumbering and flour milling; was a state senator, 1864-68 and 1871-75 and governor, 1876-82. He was greatly interested in the upbuilding of the state university; one of its chief buildings was donated by him and is named in his honor; and he was a member of the board of regents from 1863 until his death.

Shible township, organized July 8, 1876, was named for Albert Shible, its earliest settler, who arrived in August, 1869, but left in 1870. Six Mile Grove township, settled in April, 1866, and organized Nov. 1, 1877, is named for its grove, six miles distant from Benson. The district first was called Six Mile Timber.

Swenoda township, first settled in the spring of 1869, organized April 7, 1873, has a composite name in compliment to its Swedish, Norwegian and Danish settlers. The same name is borne by a lake about 25 miles to the northeast of the township in Pope county. Swift Falls is

a hamlet on the east branch of the Chippewa river in Camp Lake township.

Tara township, settled in the spring of 1877, was organized Dec. 21, 1878. It was named for a hill in County Meath, Ireland, about 20 miles northwest of Dublin. It was in antiquity a chief seat of the Irish monarch and is regarded with patriotic veneration by the Irish people, an authority says. It was here evidently that Tara castle, famed in the words, "the harp that once through Tara's halls", in the well known Irish song, stood.

Torning Danish?

Torning township is said by the historian Upham to have been named for a village in Denmark, but there are authorities who say the township was christened for a settler within its borders, whose name was altered somewhat in the application. Tornring was founded when Benson and its vicinity were settled. Benson lies in the northwest corner of Tornring. It was organized April 5, 1879. West Bank township, settled in 1868 and organized March 11, 1879, lies along the west side of the Chippewa river, hence its name. It was settled when the first venturesome homesteaders located along the streams.

Sioux Uprising Toll Reached 10 In County

The first settlements in Swift county were ill-omened. Anders Peter Broberg and Daniel Peter Broberg, brothers, and their families, who had settled on Monson lake in Hayes township in 1861, were victims of the Sioux in the outbreak of the next year. Not all were killed but the death toll in the two families was ten.

It was Aug. 17, 1862, that renegade Sioux killed several whites in Acton township, Meeker county, precipitating the Sioux outbreak led by the chief, Little Crow, which swept through the Minnesota valley and adjacent areas, claiming more than 1,000 lives before it was checked in the fall of that year.

The only recorded Swift county deaths in the uprising were those in the Broberg families. The Brobergs had nearly completed their harvesting Aug. 20, 1862, and took the day off to attend church services at the home of Andreas Lundborg over the line in Kandiyohi county, about two miles from the Broberg homes.

Near the close of the services Peter Broberg, seven-year-old son of Daniel, appeared and reported Indians were molesting children left at the Daniel Broberg home. The minister, Rev. Andrew Jackson, then called the men aside and told them Indians had killed whites in Meeker county the preceding Sunday.

Anders Broberg hurried to his brother's home and was followed by Anders, Gustav, Lars and Samuel, sons of Andreas Lundborg, armed with guns. Lundborg and Sven Aman followed them. Daniel Broberg hitched up the oxen and started home with the women and children who had been at the meeting. The road led around a slough between the two Broberg farms.

Indians Open Fire

The Indians did not act hostile when the whites, who had gone on foot, reached the Daniel Broberg cabin. But suddenly they fired, killing Anders Broberg and Gustav and Anders Lundborg. Samuel Lundborg, 11 years old, was wounded but survived. Lars Lundborg was killed while running toward a patch of woods, Johannes Broberg, a half-brother of Mrs. Anders Broberg, was killed in the cabin. Two of Anders' children, Johannes, 13, and Andreas, 10 and one of Daniel's — Alfred, four-and-a-half years old, were killed by bullets and tomahawk.

The wagon party was attacked and Daniel Broberg, his wife and their 10 months old baby, John Albert, Mrs. Ander Broberg and her daughter, Christina, seven years old, were slaughtered. Anna Stinna, daughter of Anders Broberg, and Peter, the son of Daniel, who had given the warning, escaped. Peter joined other members of the Aman family in the cellar of their home. Anna fled to Norway lake in Kandiyohi county.

Andreas Lundborg, in flight, met Ole Swenson and both hid in a slough to which the Indians tracked them. Lundborg cocked his gun to return the fire of the savages but water had rendered his gun useless.

He pointed it at the Indians anyway and they retreated, permitting the pair to escape. Many of the survivors of the neighborhood, including most of the Brobergs and Lundborgs, assembled on the Isle of Refuge in Norway lake. Mrs. Lundborg fled with others to Paynesville. Friday, August 22, a burial party from Paynesville placed the bodies of the 13 victims (three being residents of Kandiyohi county) in one grave.

Within three days after the massacre began, the whole of Kandiyohi county and, of course, Swift county (then a part of Chippewa county) were depopulated.