

# Toponymy in Sequent Occupance Geography, Calumet Region, Indiana-Illinois

ALFRED H. MEYER,<sup>1</sup> Valparaiso University

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## Significance of Toponomic Studies

The term toponomy is derived from the Greek "topos," meaning place, and "onoma," meaning name. Thus toponomy has come to signify the science of place names as to origin, meaning, classification, and use.

The archeologist, the anthropologist, the historian, the geographer, and the philologist have long recognized the intrinsic value of the study of place names in their respective fields. Particularly is this true in Europe, where an extensive literature has been published on the subject. Interest in toponomy has more recently spread to America, and a number of American geographers have come to recognize the study of the origin and meaning of place names as a helpful device in regional geographic investigations and interpretations.

## Objective and Technique

There occurred to us the idea that a toponomic study might take on increasing geographic significance if we attempt a partial chronologic-chorographic treatment of place names in addition to merely identifying place nomenclature, thus contributing to our knowledge of the progress of regional settlement and economic development.

Geographers are increasingly recognizing the fact that the mapping and analysis of only the present day occupance forms of an area are far from adequate in interpreting the manner in which the present landscape came to be occupied. Antecedent geographic environments must be pictorially reconstructed. This is often a difficult process. And so it would seem helpful to consider sequent occupance geographic toponomy as another tool to supplement other methodologies or techniques the geographer uses in making a complete areal analysis.

The inclusion of such place name study in the historical geography of an area is for the purpose of presenting as complete a picture as possible of what the occupants of any given period were thinking about concerning the region. What people think of their environment may be as geographically significant as the fact of the environment itself. And

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what the pattern of environmental thinking has been from period to period is a significant part of the geographic history of a region.

Our study is based on the Calumet region of northwest Indiana-northeast Illinois and is pursued with the following principle in mind:

The various classified types of nomenclature motives, as generally recognized by toponomists, are included, but reference in the context is made chiefly to place names of primary interest to the development of our subject matter strictly from the geographic points of view,—systematic and regional. As such, no attempt is made to supply a complete place name nomenclature of the Calumet area, nor does this paper purport to be a critical or professional philological treatise of such place names.

The Calumet toponomy is illustrated cartographically by a map of representative place names for each period of the sequent occupance referred to below. A more complete inventory of place names than is found in the text and maps appears in a geographic classification table (Fig. 5) at the end of this paper.

Included in this paper are several place names which either have not appeared at all on any published maps or have appeared only as "phantom" city plats, or represent places which no longer exist but which have contributed their part to the development of the region.

### The Calumet Region

*Geographic Position.* Few regions in the United States can compare in importance with the strategically situated Calumet area at the head of Lake Michigan (see map). This lake, which both Indiana and Illinois were destined to share, dips down deeper into the heart of the Central Plains than does any other of the Great Lakes. Thus the Calumet, from the earliest days down to the present, has felt the effects of the "cul-de-sac" (Fr., lit. "bottom of a bag") geographic position on travel and traffic,—by the Indian, who founded the old Sac Trail connecting Detroit with Rock Island; by the French explorer, missionary, and fur trader, who discovered the portage connection between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi; by the colonial frontiersman, who sought by this route a new home in the West; and finally by the road and railroad builder, who swung his highways and trunk lines from the East around Lake Michigan to connect Chicago, the metropolis of the Central West.

*Calumet Appellations.* The name Calumet has been applied, at one time or another, to more than a dozen and a half landscape forms—two rivers, a channel, a marsh, a lake, a harbor, a geologic formation, a township, four towns (Roseland, Calumet City, Chesterton, and Calumet), a gun club, a country club, a beach, a grove, two city parks, and multiple streets and industries. A golf course selected "Pipe O' Peace" as a suitable variant.

Calumet was the name also given by pioneers to the region between Wolf Lake and Lake George and Lake Michigan. Later the greater region about the head of Lake Michigan came to be known as the Calumet

region.<sup>2</sup> The multiple use of the term indicates its widespread sentimental and euphonic appeal. Its regional use well expresses a chorographic reality coinciding roughly with the Calumet drainage basin and the essential homogeneity of its historic-geographic cultural development.

*Recognized Stages of Sequent Occupance.* Our toponomic treatment of this nationally famous transit region recognizes roughly four stages of settlement: 1. the occupance by the Indian and the French up to about 1830; 2. the preemption of lands by the squatter-pioneer, 1830-1850; 3. the development of general agriculture, 1850-1900; 4. the strongly competing urban and rural land-use forms, from about 1900 to the present. As is characteristic of all occupance periodization, the dates assigned to the stages here recognized and the toponomy associated therewith represent zonal rather than sharp border line time divisions.

### The Geographic Toponomy of the Pottawatomie-French Occupance

"*Calumet.*" This is a French corruption of an Indian term referred to in early documents and maps by more than a score of different spellings for one or the other of the Grand Calumet and the Little Calumet Rivers.<sup>3</sup>

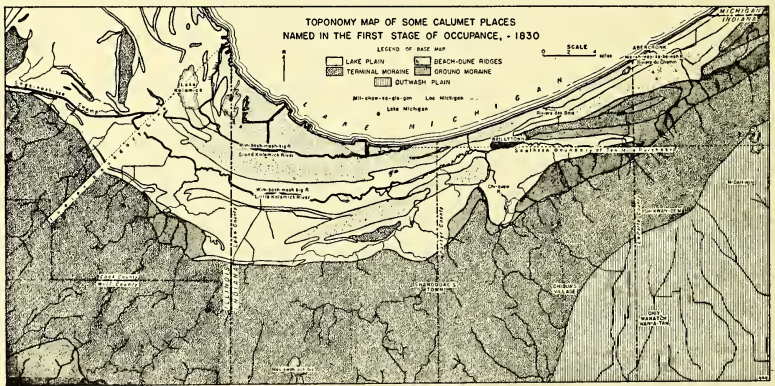


Fig. 1. The geographic toponomy of the Pottawatomie—French occupance. The head-of-Lake Michigan area at one time during this period was known as "Quadoche," also spelled "Quadoche," as reported to the author by Marguerite H. Anderson, of the Indiana State Library.

Base map adapted, with the aid of government maps, after Fryxell's "The Physiography of the Chicago Region," 1927, and Cressey's "The Indiana Sand Dunes and Shore Lines of the Lake Michigan Basin," 1928 (courtesy of the University of Chicago Press).

<sup>2</sup> "That the Calumet Region was once called by cartographers 'Quadoche' is revealed by the early maps of John Mitchell, 1755, and the Jeffery's map, 1761. The Huron Indians were called 'Quadoche' by the Iroquois. Since there was a tribe of Pottawatomi called the Huron Potawatomie, it is possible that this region was at one time the home of this tribe."—Works Progress Administration, *The Calumet Region Historical Guide*, Garman Printing Co., 1939, p. 7.

<sup>3</sup> Calumick, Calumic, Colomique, Kelie-manuk, Calamick, Kenomokonk, Kan-nomokonk, Calomick, Kenomick, Killomick, Kenoumick, Kenmonkyah (Pottawatomie), Gekelemuk (Delaware). The various dialectic spellings indicate the difficulty of translating Indian nomenclature. The spelling shown on the first Federal land survey maps of the area (1827) are "Calumic," and "Kalamick."



Sentimentally, Calumet means "the pipe of peace,"<sup>4</sup> referring to the numerous Indian peace councils reported to have been held on the banks of the Calumet rivers. But the original signification of the term seems to be definitely rooted one way or another in the physical environment. "It is explained that the French observing the Indian custom at ceremonial gatherings of passing a tobacco pipe from one to another as a token of amity, and noting also that the stem of this pipe (invariably decorated with brightly colored pendants, its most striking feature) was made of a reed from which the pith had been removed . . . dubbed the insignia with their word for reed, 'calumet'."<sup>5</sup>

Another supposition is "that the river was called Wimbosh-mash-kig, meaning Hollow Reed River, because of the heavy growth of reeds which fringed the stream. The French simply translated the word into the French, Chalumeau, of which 'Calumet' is a dialectical form. . . ."<sup>6</sup>

These connotations, then, aptly call attention to the reedy vegetation of the Calumet marshes, which fact is substantiated by the first land survey of the area of more than a century ago.

But Calumet is also said to signify "a deep still water."<sup>7</sup> This also aptly characterizes the unique condition of a double-mouthed stream noted primarily for its sluggishness and stagnant waters which meander tortuously through an almost impassable marsh. The name "Calumet," then, is as geographically descriptive as it is euphonic and sentimental.

"*Saga-nash-kee.*" The modern Calumet Sag Channel, popularly known simply as the "Sag," derives from the Indian "Saga-nash-kee" (Rees map of 1851). In a manuscript by M. S. Barge, on file at the Chicago Historical Society, the Sag swamp is also referred to by name "Wabashikisibi,"—"Wabash from wab meaning white, ashk, grass; ike, ground, we have wabashiki, a bog or marsh, and wabashikisibi, 'a bog river'."

"*Mit-chaw-sa-gie-gan.*" The history of the Calmet area is closely associated with Lake Michigan as pointed out above. In fact, the "bay" section of the lake is functionally an integral part of the Calumet.

This lake, the third largest in the United States and the sixth largest in the world, was appropriately characterized by the Indian "Mit-chaw-sa-gie-gan,"<sup>8</sup> interpreted "Great Water."<sup>9</sup>

Some early French cartographers preferred to name the great lake in commemoration of Indian tribes associated with it. Thus, on maps by Hennepin (1698) and Delisle (1703), we find Lac des Illinois and Lac des Poutouatomi.

<sup>4</sup> Gemmill, William Nelson, *Romantic America*, Jordan Publishing Co., Chicago, 1926, p. 60.

<sup>5</sup> Works Progress Administration, *op cit.*, pp. 8-9.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 9.

<sup>7</sup> Dunn, Jacob Piatt, *True Indian Stories*, Sentinel Printing Co., Indianapolis, 1909, p. 256.

<sup>8</sup> Other spellings: Match-i-h-gua-ing and Misch-i-gon-ong.

<sup>9</sup> Beckwith, H. W., "Indian Names of Water Courses in the State of Indiana," *12th Annual Report, Indiana Department of Geology and Natural History*, Indianapolis, 1882, map, opposite p. 42.

The Indian tribe occupying the Calumet area was known as the Pot-a-wat-o-mi,<sup>10</sup> a branch of the Miamis. The name signifies the "People of the place of fire," (Wau Feu-d'sbberille, 1650). The French Jesuits of the 17th century areally distinguished those Pottawatomies who dwelled in the forests from those who dwelled on the prairie, the latter being called the Mascowtens, which signifies "a treeless country,"<sup>11</sup> much of the early Calumet consisting of marsh prairies as again is revealed by the original Federal land survey.

*Other Indian Nomenclature.* Indian place names in the United States generally are not as numerous as a geographer would desire. There are several reasons for this. In the first place, Indians did not have the white man's concept of a region. Nor did his occupancy take the form of organized permanent community settlements. His place names, therefore, are characteristically confined to natural forms of the landscape with which he lived in close adjustment. Of these, streams and lakes seem to hold first place as Indian landmarks of identification.

The Calumet region seems no exception to this. On a map of Indian names in Indiana by Daniel Hough<sup>12</sup> and another by E. Y. Guernsey,<sup>13</sup> there appear only the following Indian names for the Calumet region: villages: A ber cronk, mouth of Trail Creek, Michigan City (The Guernsey map puts the site of this village on the Lake Michigan shoreline farther to the southwest—at about Waverly; however the Michigan City site seems to be favored both authoritatively and environmentally.), Wan-a-tah (Chiy Wanatch), site of modern Wanatah, and Chiqua's Village, mile east of Valparaiso, M-dah-min (maize), vicinity Door Village; water forms: Me-oh-way-se-be-weh (Trail Creek), Chi-qew (Salt Creek), Mes-kwah-ock-bis (Cedar Lake).

Knotts refers to an important Indian town toponomically interesting on a site near what is now Westville—Ish-kwan-dem (the door). "This was a favorite location, being on the boundary of the prairie and at the entrance of the woods or forest. Hence the door, going into or coming out of . . . and from this place, the word LaPorte (the door) was more than likely derived."<sup>14</sup>

*The Town of Bailly.* A place name of this period, Baillytown, never to be forgotten represents hardly a "place" at all but simply a homestead founded in 1822 by Joseph Bailly, which took on the functions of a French-Indian trading post of unrivalled regional importance. Bailly's name and post are linked with those of the historically famous John Jacob Astor and the American Fur Company, the trading connections with which represent practically the only commercial activity of this period.

The intrepid French explorer, the resourceful trader, and the consecrated missionary soon discovered the need for charting and naming

<sup>10</sup> There are numerous spellings.

<sup>11</sup> Smith, Huron H., *Ethnobotany of the Forest Potawatomie Indians*, Milwaukee Public Museum Bulletin, Vol. 7, No. 1, May, 1933, p. 16.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 42-43.

<sup>13</sup> Indiana Department of Conservation, Publication No. 122, 1933.

<sup>14</sup> Knotts, A. F., *Indian Trails, Mounds and Village Sites of LaPorte County, Indiana*, MS, 1932, p. 8.

the unnamed landmarks of the vast French domain in America, which prior to 1763, extended in a great arc from the Gulf of St. Lawrence southwesterly by way of the Great Lakes and the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico.

*The Pre-eminence of Waterway Nomenclature.* To the French voyageur and *coureur du bois*, as well as to the Indian, natural water bodies assumed first place of geographic importance. These were sought out for travel, for trapping, for trading, and for settlement. Consequently, many of the rivers and lakes first explored were destined to receive true French names or French-corrupted Indian names. Besides the term "Calumet," itself, at the head of Lake Michigan area, we note on early maps the Riviere du Chemin (the river by the trail) at the site of Michigan City.

To the student of sequent occupation, Indian trails are of the greatest significance in tracing the subsequent development of lines of communication, since, as we know, many of these aboriginal routes of travel explain the courses of present-day travel. Particularly is this true in the Calumet area. Trail Creek, as this stream is known today, marks a southeasterly course of travel which intersected the Pottawatomie trail along Lake Michigan connecting Chicago with Niles, Michigan.

Riviere des Bois (early French name of the small Sand Creek at Waverly) and its subsequent English equivalent "Stick River" suggest the large piles of driftwood accumulating at the mouth of this stream now practically obliterated.

### The Geographic Toponymy of the Squatter-Pioneer Settlement

As we would expect, place nomenclature of the Indian-French occupation is related almost exclusively to features of the relatively unmodified natural environment—the Fundament. The removal of the Indian by a series of government treaties and the subsequent disposal of the public domain to the incoming settler marked the era of pioneer place-naming. All kinds of names reflective of the early settlers' social, economic, com-

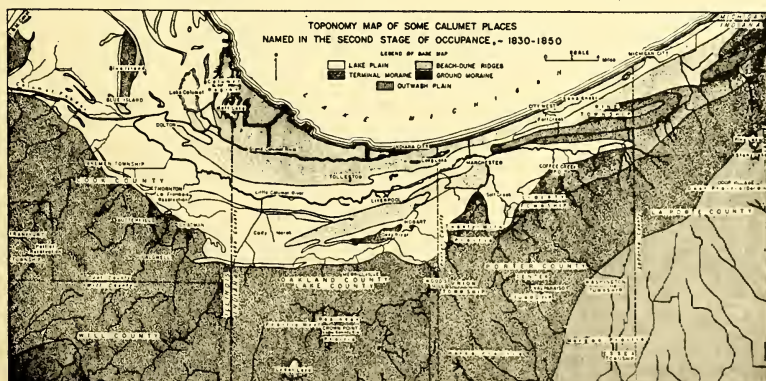


Fig. 2. The geographic toponymy of the squatter—pioneer settlement. Base map the same as in Fig. 1.



mercial, and political adjustments to the new environment now make their appearance. The natural features of the environment do not seem to lose any of their original power or suggestiveness in place-naming but are rather supplemented by additional classification of names growing out of the diversified cultural and commemorative interest of the incoming settler. This is reflected on the original Federal survey plats of 1827-34 and subsequent maps.

*Location Derivation.* Every frontier settlement presents the problem of isolation. Circulation within the local region and contact with established communities on the outside thus are of primary concern to any new settlement. And so it came about that one of the prairies of Porter County was named Twenty-Mile Prairie because "as an old settler facetiously said, it was 'twenty miles from anywhere'—meaning, of course, that it was twenty miles (or some multiple of twenty) from the nearest trading post, being twenty miles from Michigan City and LaPorte, and forty miles from Chicago."<sup>15</sup>

Much greater significance attaches to this characterization of this prairie when we realize that the lake plain between the Valparaiso moraine and the Lake Michigan ports in those days constituted almost an impassable marsh for a large part of the year, requiring more days then than it takes hours today to reach Chicago or Michigan City.

*Water Derivation.* At this early period the site of Michigan City seems to have been thought of as the most strategic place for port development on Lake Michigan. The circumstances of its naming and that of the famous road extended from Indianapolis to the lake suggest this. "Michigan City bears the distinction, almost unique, of having been in existence in design long before it was ever laid out even on paper. It was quite natural that out of the familiar mention among the statesmen of the road to Lake Michigan and the city of Lake Michigan there should grow the names now borne by the city and the road, and that the names should be in use before either came into being. The earliest mention of such a city occurred in the course of the discussion of the boundary question."<sup>16</sup>

Lake County also derives its name from its position on Lake Michigan.

*Biota Derivation.* LaPorte County came to be named after the prairie-timber pattern in the vicinity. "The door" effect consisted of "a natural opening through the timber from one prairie to the other, where 'Door Village' now stands."<sup>17</sup>

The charming "door" village situation on the moraine may be said fairly to characterize the general settlement pattern of the Calumet pioneer who almost always located his cabin on the edge of a beautiful

<sup>15</sup> Goodspeed, W. A., and Blanchard, Charles, *Counties of Porter and Lake*, F. A. Battery and Co., Chicago, 1882, p. 192, quoting Hyde.

<sup>16</sup> Oglesbee, Rollo B., and Hale, Albert, *History of Michigan City, Indiana*, Edward J. Widdell, 1908, p. 69.

<sup>17</sup> *Illustrated Historical Atlas of LaPorte County, Indiana*, Higgins, Belden & Co., Chicago, 1874, p. 3.

grove overlooking the adjacent prairies. These prairies opening onto one another through corridors in the timbered tracts were among the first regional landscapes to be named by the settlers, as, for example, Horse Prairie, Hog Prairie, and Dormin ("maize") Prairie. Others were named for early settlers as indicated below. Groves, the preferred sites of early settlement, similarly came to be named by the pioneer settlers (see classification table, Fig. 5).

What was probably the first political designation of any part of the northwest Indiana region was "Oakland County," a name given by Solon Robinson, the "dean" of Calumet pioneers, as descriptive of most of the timber of the area. A check on the Federal surveyor's contemporary records (1927-34) reveals the accuracy of this observation, oak constituting the dominant genus in the tree consociations of the area. But the name did not survive. On the other hand, Pine Township, in northeast Porter County, may be said to memorialize a one-time dense conifer timber tract in this section of the lake shore dune country. Our field survey of the timber cover of this area today hardly suggests a one-time flourishing pine-lumbering industry in this region. However, the toponym in this case was found to represent a helpful hypothesis of the one-time commercial importance of this type of timber in constructional projects in the Chicago-Calumet area.

*Physiographic Derivation.* In the northwest quarter of the Calumet area, several conspicuous island-like landforms rise above the otherwise relatively featureless plain. The settlement of Blue Island on one of these thus came to be named from its "island" site (high and dry above the marsh lands), and the fact that settlers were impressed by the "blue" appearance of its vegetative cover as seen from a distance.

*Imported Nomenclature.* Certain maps naturally may constitute valuable source material of sequent occupancy toponomic geography. Such a map, for example, is Colton's Map of Indiana which is highly useful in checking on the first urban settlements of the Calumet region, since the date of its publication, 1853, fits well into this period's inventory of place names. Such a map may help to explain a geographic problem. For example, if we look at a present-day map and see the pretentious name "Liverpool" applied to a railroad junction of but a few houses at the confluence of Deep River with the Little Calumet, we may surmise that it represents only a mere whimsical circumstance of no geographic significance other than suggesting that the namer was probably an immigrant from Liverpool, England. But when we see in addition such names as Manchester, Sheffield, City West (site of modern Waverly), and Indiana City (site of the old now obliterated mouth of the Grand Calumet River), we come to realize that these names regionally considered together, suggest the aspirations of an ambitious people which foresaw in the strategic position of the Calumet area the capacity to develop into one of the largest industrial and commercial communities in the nation—as it eventually did.

However, all these "cities," vying with Chicago for mercantile supremacy, and platted and planned by fantastic promotion schemes, hardly advanced beyond the blueprint stage. In fact, all, except Liver-



pool, disappeared entirely from the map. Liverpool, the sole survivor, then, may be regarded as a philological fossil geographically expressive of the dominating speculative spirit of the Calumet resident, which in time attained full fruition in a neighborhood community—the Gary-Chicago region.

Equally historic is the city of Crown Point, originally called Lake County Court House. It was the first town in Lake County to be surveyed and platted (1840), and has served as the county seat of Lake County ever since it was founded. It was named for Crown Point, New York, by Solon Robinson, a Connecticut Yankee, and toponomically suggests one of the chief sources of the early Calumet settlers—the New England-New York area.

*Descriptive and Commemorative Names.* The appearance of names of prairies on the original Federal land survey plats suggests that already at this early period (1827-1834), before the public sale of governmental lands acquired by final treaty in 1832, squatters had settled on the Pottawatomie's Calumet domain. The Twenty-Mile Prairie mentioned on page -- is such an example. The Prairie toponymy thus is geographically significant in several ways: 1. it supplies, as already stated, evidence of squatter settlement, 2. it represents the first step, we might say, in the development of concepts of the regionalization of an area which, in a politically unorganized pioneer society, naturally enough is based on the distinguishing features of the physical landscape more than on anything else.

It is to be expected also that toponymy of this period will feature names derived from the earliest settlers in the region. An example is Morgan Prairie "named for Isaac Morgan who was one of the first settlers upon this beautiful plain, in what is now Washington Township."<sup>18</sup> Another is Robinson Prairie honoring the chief of squatters.

Much of the Calumet prairie in the pioneer days was too wet for settlement, and far-flung marshes on the lake plain, between the east-west ridges of beach-dune sand, made approach to Lake Michigan from the south extremely difficult. This landscape phenomenon doubtless explains in part the failure of the "phantom" river and lake port sites to establish a metropolitan community at the "head" of Lake Michigan in competition with the Fort Dearborn settlement at Chicago. One of these marshes was Cady Marsh, named after Jack Cady who operated a tavern for stagecoach travelers.

In 1832 the United States government concluded the purchase of Pottawatomie lands with the exception of a few Indian reservations. In the succeeding year the government established a land office at LaPorte, and in 1839 offered the land for sale to the squatter and other incoming settlers. The Fort Dearborn-Detroit Trail had been completed in 1833. These events set the stage for organized political settlement and the resulting county, township, and town nomenclature. Most of the political geography toponymy is commemorative in character.

<sup>18</sup> Goodspeed, *op. cit.*, p. 185.

The county names of Cook and Will are patronymics respectively for Daniel P. Cook, a former Illinois statesman, and Dr. Conrad Will, a delegate to the Illinois first constitutional convention.

Porter County was named in honor of Commodore David Porter, who commanded the Essex during a battle near Valparaiso, Chile, in the War of 1812-14. It is interesting to note that the incident of this battle furnished three names in one association: Porter, for the county, Essex for a township, originally by that name, and Valparaiso for the county seat.

Loyalty and patriotism are reflected in such names as Union Township, Washington Township, and Liberty Township—all of Porter County.

Though corporate-town development in the Calumet region is not really a political geography feature of this period, the names of a number of corporate urban communities of the next period were already currently applied to individual or group pioneer settlements started in this period. This early homestead or village settlement toponomy memorializes "seniority" of a settler or preeminent distinction of a local or a national figure. We shall here refer to a few of historic prominence. Tolleston, representing a sort of "fossil" ancestor of our modern steel center of the midwest, Gary, was named after George Tolle, a pioneer who owned extensive tracts of land in the vicinity.<sup>19</sup> Among other pioneer settlements included in the same category of this period belong Dolton, near a strategic toll bridge across the Little Calumet; Hobart, aspiring to become the lumbering headquarters of this area for Chicago; and Merrillville, early site of a prominent Indian village and one of the stopping points of the "forty-niners" on their trek to the gold fields in California. Place names of settlers may also tell us something about the distribution and character of the rural settlement pattern. Such is the service rendered by Rees' map of northeastern Illinois (1851). Here we find, for example, in Bloom Township of Cook County, more than a dozen individual farmsteads whose names, like Butterfield, Caldwell and Chatman, suggest almost an exclusive English or Yankee community.

### The Geographic Toponymy of Primary Commercial Agriculture, Urban Industry, and Earth Science

*Market- and Factory-Town Nomenclature.* By 1850 county organization of the Calumet area had been completed, including a number of township divisions. And so the newly introduced toponomy henceforth is concerned chiefly with the naming of an increasing number of townships and urban communities which sprang up largely in response to improved methods of transportation, marketing, and manufacturing.

In 1848 the first plank road was built into neighboring Chicago. In the same year, trains on the Illinois Central Railroad crossed the west

<sup>19</sup> Lester, J. William, "Pioneer Stories of the Calumet," *Indiana Magazine of History*, Department of History, Indiana University, Vol. 18, No. 2 (June, 1922), p. 169.

end of the Calumet to Chicago. Four years later the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad, now aptly named the Lake Shore, gave east-west passage connecting the eastern Calumet area with Chicago. These were followed rapidly by additional roads. The new transportation facilities in turn opened up new markets for the farmer. Small railroad post offices and passenger stops, elevator sidings, and community produce and trading stations multiply rapidly and are named chiefly after settlers, as is indicated by such names as Clarke Station and Miller Station; Crisman and Hageman (Porter); Merrillville, Schererville, Hessville, and Holmesville.

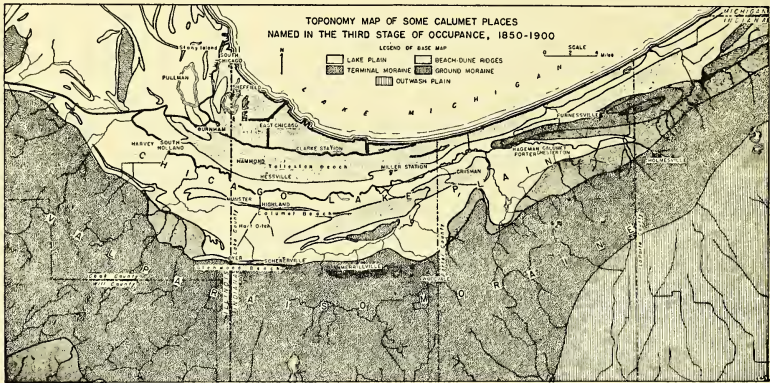


Fig. 3. The geographic toponomy of primary commercial agriculture, urban industry, and earth science. Base map as in previous figures.

Improved transportation also made possible a limited industrialization of the area. This is perhaps best symbolized by the city of Hammond whose name memorializes the first large industry of the area, the former George H. Hammond Packing Company. As one writer notes, "The 'big industry' of the county up to 1884, aside from agriculture and the big trunk line railroads, was the state line slaughter house which was established at Hammond in 1869. It did a big business in the killing of all kinds of meat animals and in shipping meats, with their patented refrigerator process, to eastern United States and to Europe. In 1901 the slaughter house burned and the company then moved its forces to the Union Stock Yards in Chicago."<sup>20</sup> This new site, only a little over fifteen miles distant, has become the greatest meat-packing center of the world.

The name of the town of Pullman, founded in 1880, originated under circumstances similar to that of Hammond. Here George M. Pullman perfected the so-called "Palace" car, or "Pullman," which has revolutionized passenger service the world over.

The names of the neighboring industrial-commercial communities of Burnham and Harvey are likewise patronymic in character.

<sup>20</sup> Woods, Sam, *Still a Pacifist*, 1934, p. 283.



The linked expansion of Chicago south and east finds toponomic expression in new corporate terms derived from Chicago itself, as, for example, South Chicago, Illinois, and East Chicago, Indiana.<sup>21</sup>

*Geology and Associated Town Nomenclature.* We have observed that in the initial occupancy of the fundement, the Indian-French stage, the toponomy reflected man's thinking and acting in forms almost exclusively of single natural elements in the environment. In the succeeding pioneer stage, the introduction of a prairie-marsh nomenclature signified the arrival of an areal geographic concept of environmental elements. But now as a distinguishing feature of the close of this period and continuing into the next, we meet with the origin and first applications of a toponomic nomenclature expressive of both space and time concepts of the Calumet landform features.

Moreover, the region now begins to take on an inter-regional and national significance in scientific literature through the works of Chamberlin, Wooster, Leverett, Blatchley, and others. Monograph 53, by Leverett, of the United States Geological Survey, contains a classical treatment of glacial features and associated phenomena of the area and refers to the origin of some of the leading physiographic place names.

The name "Chicago Lake Plain" well characterizes the area in which lie the master drainage lines of the Calumet rivers. It denotes at once the present geographic location and physiognomy and postulates the ancestral glacial lake "Lake Chicago." The tributaries from the south draining into the Little Calumet descend from the bordering terminal moraine, called the Valparaiso moraine. The moraine was so named by Wooster because the city of Valparaiso is located on a very prominent portion of the moranic system in northwestern Indiana.<sup>22</sup>

Physiographic relicts of the various recessional shoreline stages of Lake Chicago in the form of beach-dune ridges are named in two instances on the basis of town association. Thus the oldest, highest, and outermost beach, the Glenwood Beach, "received its name from the village of Glenwood. . . . The name has been selected (1) because the beach is especially well developed at that village, and (2) because, being near the state line of Indiana and Illinois, the name will be familiar to residents of either state."<sup>23</sup>

The next lower lake level beach, the Calumet Beach, "throughout much of its course in Indiana follows the south border of Calumet River, and because of this close association the name Calumet seems appropriate."<sup>24</sup>

<sup>21</sup> The term Chicago is Indian and is variously held to denote the name of an Indian chief, or a "place of the skunk" or a "place of wild onions" (same Indian stem). Jacob Piatt Dunn in his "True Indian Stories" (Sentinel Printing Co., Indianapolis, Ind., 1909) contends for the correctness of the last mentioned, since, as he points out, the earliest French chroniclers referred to the Chicago River as "Garlick Creek." It appears beyond question that the wild onion once flourished on the Chicago Lake Plain, now the seed bed of the most intensive onion-set culture in the United States.

<sup>22</sup> Leverett, Frank, *Monograph 38*, United States Geological Survey, Washington, D. C., 1899, p. 339.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 428.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 442.

The latest and lowermost of the fossil beaches is called Tolleston Beach after the town of Tolleston (near Gary) where it is exceptionally well developed.

The transportation and demographic significance of the ancient shore line beach-dune ridges parallel that of their geologic history. Before ditching and tiling, the Chicago Lake Plain was almost one continuous marsh except for sandy ridges and islands and a few other slightly elevated tracts. The east-west trend of the main ridges were chosen for the chief routes of travel, and so, from the earliest times down to the present, the arterial travel and settlement patterns for a long time coincided almost one hundred per cent with these "fossil" beaches. These physical-cultural associations are toponomically recognizable in the name "Ridgeroad" for the highway following in the main the Calumet Beach and the name "Highland" for one of the "shoe-string" (*strassendorf*) rural-urban settlements on the same ridge. It is of Dutch origin.

Munster, another one of the "shoe-string" settlements, strung for five miles along Ridgeroad, from Lake County into Cook County, was named for an early settler, Jacob Munster, who, together with other Dutch immigrants, "came to the site in 1855 from Rotterdam, Holland."<sup>25</sup> But the name "Munster" does not simply commemorate an early Dutch family; it stands for a whole colony of Hollander-Americans. In fact, this place name may be said to symbolize an environmentally adjusted economy based on floral and truck farming on low lands not much unlike that of the country from which the Dutch emigrated. This garden culture, whether by the Dutch or other nationalities, is characteristic of the whole west end of the Calumet area, which includes still another Dutch settlement, the South Holland community.

### The Geographic Toponomy of the Modern Calumet Environmental Complex

*Names Associated with Specialized Industries and Farming and Regional Conurbanization.* Though the impetus to modern facilities of transportation and industrial development occurred already near the close of the previous period, it was not until near the opening of the twentieth century that the whole Calumet area became intimately identified with the Chicago metropolitan district. As one writer points out, "Exclusive of Hammond, the total population of the region now occupied by Gary, East Chicago, and Whiting was, in 1888, not more than 800. Not until the latter part of that year, when the Standard Oil Company of Indiana bought a large acreage on the present site of Whiting, did the Calumet begin to change its character."<sup>26</sup>

We now see evidence of chorographic contiguity between the Calumet, as the corridor for the road and rail trunk line traffic Chicago bound, and the Calumet, as the conurbanized head of the Lake Michigan region. The suburban communities south and east of Chicago, once separate urban units like Burnham, Pullman, South Chicago, Whiting, East

<sup>25</sup> Works Progress Administration, *op. cit.*, p. 123.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 25.

Chicago, Calumet City, Hammond, now form a fused metropolitan mosaic. Thus the state line and corporate units have all but lost their geographic distinction (example: Hammond, Indiana, and West Hammond (Calumet City), Illinois).

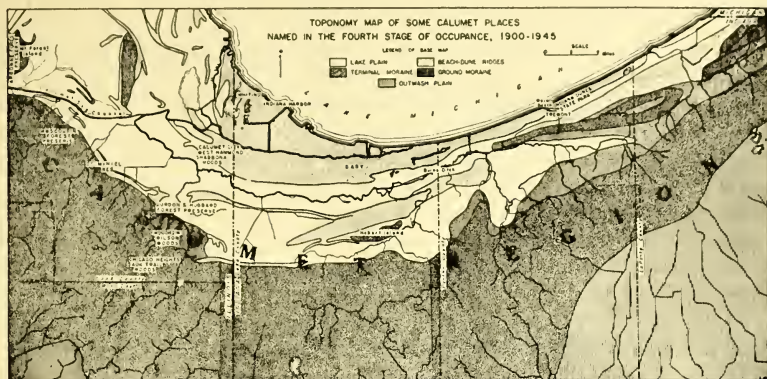


Fig. 4. The geographic toponymy of the modern Calumet environmental complex. Base map as in previous figures.

The name Calumet Region as a suburban area of Chicago now appears in cartographic nomenclature, and a resident most anywhere in the Calumet is a potential commuter of Chicago.

As the cities of Hammond and Pullman in the previous period memorialize founders of the great meat-packing and parlor car industries, so the city of Gary honors the founder of the steel center of the middle west, Judge Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the finance committee of the United States Steel Corporation. The first steel plant had been built at Indiana Harbor (East Chicago) by the Inland Steel Company in 1901. Now in 1906 ground was broken for the first steel mills at Gary. Founded in 1906 with a population of 1,000, the city today claims a population of around 115,000 representing fifty-five different nationalities.

A train wreck was responsible for the name of another spot destined to share the fame of the preceding cities, namely, Whiting's Crossing, named after one of the engineers or conductors involved in the accident. Abbreviated to "Whiting" by the Standard Oil Company, this town, distinguished for its row upon row of gray squat tanks, is as distinctive a Calumet industrial landmark as are the steel mills of Gary and Indiana Harbor.

*Reclamation Nomenclature.* But the phenomenal growth of settlements and expansion of agriculture and industry in the Calumet was made possible only by artificial drainage—canals, ditches, straightened rivers, and tiling. Ordinary drainage ditches often bear the names of the first signers of drainage petitions.

The most prominent Calumet ditch connects the Little Calumet with Lake Michigan and was named after Randall W. Burns, who in 1906



owned 1,200 acres of marshland on the site of Gary and "originated the idea of reclaiming the Pontine-like marshes (20,000 acres) of the region."<sup>27</sup>

The naming of the earlier Hart Ditch, constructed in the vicinity of Dyer in the early nineties, was likewise identified with the owner of 17,000 acres of land in the vicinity, namely A. M. Hart.

*Recreation Nomenclature.* Place nomenclature identifying outdoor recreational features is as reflective of human characteristics and interests as are those of industrial and commercial development. In the early stages of human occupancy little attention is given to a toponomic recognition of recreation landscape units. The need for distinguishing, classifying, and naming such sites and features arises from an increasingly intensified use of restricted areas set aside for this purpose in competition with other land uses. This is particularly true in a region like the Calumet whose lake shore position presents an equally phenomenal attraction to the recreationist and the industrialist. Here, extending eastward from Gary, are the famous Indiana sand dunes,<sup>28</sup> unique alike as a metropolitan playground and a naturalist's laboratory.

Waverly is the site of the Indiana Dunes State Park which preserves the best developed dune topography. Seeking the source of this name leads one to the discovery of a change in the political geography of the area, this beach, now in Porter County, having been once a part of Waverly Township of La Porte County.

Like many of the feature names of other romantic scenic spots in America, Calumet duneland toponomy combines the fantastic and mystical with the descriptive and the commemorative. This is well illustrated in the naming of the loftiest part of the dune country in the Dunes State Park, where the early pioneers personified the contiguous three highest dunes by calling them "The Three Sisters."<sup>29</sup>

In accordance with the tendency of the present age to multiply as well as to romanticize recreation toponomic features, The Three Sisters were topographically classified as mountains, and, from west to east, were separately dubbed Mt. Tom, Mt. Holden, and Mt. Green. The name "Mt. Tom" is based on the tradition "that a sailor whose name was Tom was buried on the top."<sup>30</sup>

Mt. Green was named to memorialize a pioneer who operated a hotel near Tremont, a station whose French name suggests its proximity to the "three mountains" just mentioned. It was later changed to Mt. Jackson in honor of Governor Ed Jackson whose office secured tax legislation for the purchase of the 2,200 acres comprising the modern Indiana Dunes State Park.

<sup>27</sup> Works Progress Administration, *op. cit.*, p. 70.

<sup>28</sup> "Dune" comes from the term 'dun' which is of Celtic origin; 'dun' meaning 'hill.'—E. S. Bailey, *The Sand Dunes of Indiana*, A. C. McClurg and Co., 1917, p. 35.

In earlier days the dunes were known as 'sand knobs.'

<sup>29</sup> Brennan, George A., *The Wonders of the Dunes*, The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Indianapolis, 1923, p. 168.

<sup>30</sup> Bailey, *op. cit.*, p. 159.

It is most fitting that one of the dunes, the middle one, should honor a Mr. Holden, the first president of the Prairie Club in Chicago, which organization is reputed to have made the greatest single contribution to the modern popularization of the Dunes.

Thus the toponomy of the three dominant dunes together with the name "Tremont" may be said dramatically to epitomize a number of the elements of the region's sequent occupance as to tradition, history, topography, and settlement.

The west end of the Calumet region, in close proximity to Chicago, abounds in public "woods" or "forest preserves." Among the varied motives reflected in the place names, several classes stand out. One class is reminiscent of the Indian-fur trader occupance (Ex. Mascoutin, Sauk Trail, Shabbona, Gordon Hubbard); another recalls First World War associations (Ex. Argonne, St. Mihiel, Woodrow Wilson).

### Place Name Changes

Place name changes have their significance as do the names themselves. At times, the meaning of a place name may persist, but its linguistic form may change in accordance with the several sequent occupance stages.

Thus the creek at Michigan City was first called Me-eh-way-se-be-way by the Pottawatomie to signify "a creek along which there was a trail."<sup>31</sup> The subsequent French occupance of the area is revealed by the translation of the Pottawatomie name to "Riviere du Chemin" which appears on early French maps, "as early as the Franquelin map of 1688."<sup>32</sup>

Some toponomists decry the fact that not more Indian place names have been retained in our descriptive or commemorative nomenclature. We can hardly blame the French for changing this one. But the French translation in turn did not fare much better than the Indian name. However otherwise euphonic the new French name "Riviere du Chemin" sounded, this pronunciation also proved too much for the American pioneer who came to refer to the stream phonetically as "Dishmaw, Dismaugh, Dysman, and the like." And so the "river by the trail" eventually was simplified to "Trail Creek."<sup>33</sup>

Change in the name of one of the towns in the Calumet area reveals an interesting example of geographic place association. "Valparaiso, originally called Portersville, was organized in 1836 by the Portersville Land Company to secure the location of the Porter County seat. In 1836 a party of sailors stopped overnight at Hill's Tavern and after entertaining the natives with stories, one suggested that since the county was named for Commodore David Porter, who was in command of the Essex during a battle near Valparaiso, Chile, it would be appropriate to name the county seat after that town. The suggestion was accepted."<sup>34</sup>

<sup>31</sup> Dunn, *op. cit.*, p. 308.

<sup>32</sup> Oglesbee, *op. cit.*, p. 6.

<sup>33</sup> There is additional toponomic evidence that there was a protest against retaining even such a beautiful sounding name as La Porte. When its meaning discovered, someone remarked why not simply call the place, then, "The Door."

<sup>34</sup> Works Progress Administration, *op. cit.*, p. 119.

A change in name indicates a change either requested by the postal authorities, or dictated by a change in toponomic taste, or prompted by some new social, commercial, political, or other motive. Some places have had their names changed several times—Otis, as many as four.

GEOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE CALUMET PLACE NAMES																					
NAMES OF THE NATURAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT						NAMES OF THE CULTURAL ELEMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT															
PLACE NAMES	MOTIVE BASED UPON PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Chiefly Descriptive				MOTIVE BASED UPON HUMAN GEOGRAPHY Chiefly Commemorative		PLACE NAMES	MOTIVE BASED UPON PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Chiefly Descriptive				MOTIVE BASED UPON HUMAN GEOGRAPHY Chiefly Commemorative									
	LOCATION	SIZE & SHAPE	GEOMORPHOLOGY	LITHOLOGY	HYDROGRAPHY	BIOTA		RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT	PLAGE	CULTURE	SENTIMENT	LOCATION	SIZE & SHAPE	GEOMORPHOLOGY	LITHOLOGY	HYDROGRAPHY	BIOTA	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT	PLAGE
<b>LANDFORMS</b>						<b>ETHNOGRAPHIC AREAS</b>															
<b>1. BEACH-DUNE FORMATIONS</b>						<b>INDIAN RESERVATIONS</b>															
Calumet Beach						Mascoutah															
Greenwood Beach						Zellmer															
Tollerton Beach						La Pombas															
						Pulley															
						<b>GEOGRAPHIC AREAS</b>															
						Calumet Region															
						Quincy															
						Ten-Mile Purchase															
<b>2. DUNE FORMATIONS</b>						<b>POLITICAL AREAS</b>															
Parsonsville Blowout						<b>1. COUNTIES</b>															
Round Hills						Cook County															
Mt. Holden						Lake County															
Mt. Jackson						La Porte County															
Mt. Tom						Porter County															
"Sand Knobs"						Will County															
						<b>2. TOWNSHIPS</b>															
						Bremen Township															
						Cass Township															
						Center Township															
						Essex Township															
						Frankfort Township															
						Jackson Township															
						Lafayette Township															
						Marion Township															
						Pike Township															
						Pittsford Township															
						Porter Township															
						Ross Township															
						Springfield Township															
						St. Joseph Township															
						Union Township															
						Washington Township															
						Winfield Township															
<b>3. "GLACIAL" FORMATIONS</b>						<b>RECREATION AREAS</b>															
Chicago Lake Plain						Arapahoe Forest Preserve															
Valparaiso Moraine						Gardner S. Hubbard Forest Preserve															
						Indiana Dunes State Park															
						Mascoutah Forest Preserve															
						Sack Trail Woods															
						Shabbona Woods															
						St. Mineral Forest Preserve															
						Woodrow Wilson Woods															
<b>4. "LAND" ISLANDS</b>						<b>SETTLEMENT FORMS</b>															
Blue Island						<b>1. FRAMESTADS</b>															
Hobart Island						Burrfield															
Mt. Forest Island						Cedwell															
Shore Island						Chester															
						<b>2. VILLAGES, TOWNS, CITIES</b>															
						Aricoma															
						Blue Island															
						Bouillon															
						Bigsaw Mills															
						Burham															
						Calumet City															
						Charleston															
						Chicago Village															
						Chicago															
						Chicago Heights															
						Curtis Station															
						Crisman															
						Crown Point															
						Dillon															
						Dun															
						East Chicago															
						Frankfort															
						Furnessville															
						Gary															
						Hogamon															
						Hammond															
						Harvey															
						Hessville															
						Highland															
						Hobart															
						Holmesville															
						Indiana City															
						Indiana Harbor															
						Jonestown															
						La Porte															
						Lafayette															
						Marionville															
						Merrillville															
						Michigan City															
						Miter Station															
						Nashville															
						New Buffalo															
						Palmer															
						Pulley															
						Rochester															
						Scherville															
						South Chicago															
						South Holland															
						Stamback Station															
						St. Louis															
						Tollerton															
						Union															
						Valparaiso															
						Vanderburgh															
						West Hammond															
						Whisper															
						Winning															
						Woodville															

Fig. 5.



### Summary

Toponymy is the science of place names as to the origin, meaning, classification, and use. Every place name is said to have some significance. To the geographer, many place names may have little or no systematic or regional relationship value, yet nearly every region seems to have some names which reveal a number of characteristics of its physical environment or reflect something about the character of its people.

The systematic study of place names, then, in chorographic association with the physical and cultural elements of a region, may prove very helpful in relating and integrating geographic phenomena. Particularly is this true in a sequent occupation study in which the "philological fossils," as relicts of the landscape, may be instrumental in reconstructing the historical-geographic reality of a region.

As applied to the Calumet region, sequent occupation toponomy reveals a phenomenal diversity and continuity of application of the name "Calumet" in such a way as to indicate a growing consciousness of the integral character of the region designated by this name.

As we would expect in the Pottawatomie-French occupation stage, place naming is identified chiefly with waterways (ex: "Lake Michigan"), the natural means of aboriginal circulation. The place names in nearly all cases are descriptive of hydrographic forms or land features useful in topographic analysis.

The toponomy of the next period reveals the isolation and communication difficulties inherent in squatter pioneer settlement (ex: "Twenty-Mile Prairie"). Natural forms of the environment play an important role in suggesting place names for the newly established settlements, but a rapidly increasing number of commemorative names of both people and places make their appearance (ex. "Porter"; "Valparaiso"). Among these are imported names which impress us with the geographic sources whence the immigrants came, and, what is more important, the ideas that some had brought with them (ex: "Liverpool"; "Manchester").

Names commemorating people and places seem to be in the ascendancy during the next period of pioneer commercial and industrial development. The names of locally distinguished citizens are given to a rapidly growing number of urban settlements ("Hammond"). Certain settlements—Glenwood, Tolleston, and Valparaiso—distinguished themselves to the outside world by transferring their names to historic geologic formations they exhibit to advantage.

The final or present period features a complexly mixed toponomy identifying competing land uses for residence, agriculture, industry, reclamation, and recreation. Names are mostly of the commemorative type, the study of which personages they represent is not entirely without geographic value since such characters often furnish personal clues to conditions of rural and urban development (ex: Burns' Ditch reclamation; Gary steel industries).

Thus the Calumet study illustrates how toponomy may be usefully integrated with the topography for a complete chorographic synthesis.