

Bearss Marsh PO

A PO established on July 15, 1878, with Wallace L. Scott as postmaster, in NE sec. 9, T21N, R4E (Cranmoor Township) (Gayn. 1878); discontinued on Oct. 11, 1881. The name is spelled "Bear's Marsh PO" in WPO. Synder's *Historical Atlas of Wisconsin* (1878) calls J. T. Bearss a "cranberry culturist" (310). Apparently, the PO was named for his cranberry marsh. The PO was reestablished on Dec. 21, 1889, as Bears PO with Michael O. Donovan as postmaster. The name was changed to Bearss Marsh PO on April 13, 1893, and finally to Cranmoor PO on May 28, 1898, just before the name Bearss Marsh Station was changed to *Cranmoor*. The name of the PO is spelled "Bearss' Marsh PO" on Gayn. 1878.

Beaver Creek

A tributary of the Yellow R. Its two major branches, one rising in sec. 13, Lincoln Township, and the other rising in sec. 34, T25N, R3E (Cameron Township), join in sec. 5, Richfield Township, and the creek flows SW to join the Yellow R. in N sec. 7, Richfield Township. The name was used as early as 1878 (Gayn.). For the animal.

Belle Island

A Wisconsin R. island in sec. 18, T22N, R6E, in the city of Wisconsin Rapids, close to the E bank. Originally called Neeve's Is. and then Mead Is. for its successive owners, George Neeves and George Mead, it was named Belle Is. by Mead, who established a residence there (Braz.). Subjectively descriptive.

Bell School

A school (No. 2) in SW sec. 27, T21N, R6E (Saratoga Township), on a N-S township road S of state highway 73. Named by the children of the school in honor of the inventor Alexander Graham Bell (Amund.).

Ben Hansen Park

A park along the W bank of the Wisconsin R. in Wisconsin Rapids, in NE sec. 24, T22N, R5E. Named for Benjamin Hansen, who was instrumental in the movement to clear the river banks in the city, previously used as a dumping ground, and to make them into parks like the one named in his honor (Jones, 361). Formerly called *Tourist Park* (Pomain.).

Bethel

A former settlement which grew up around the Bethel Industrial Academy, in sec. 25, Richfield Township. Although by the first decade of the century Bethel had a general store and two sawmills (State Gaz., 1901-2 and 1905-6), the name, which probably comes from *Bethel PO*, now denotes only the rural community in the vicinity of Bethel Church in NW sec. 25, Richfield Township, on co. trunk N.

Bethel Creek

Another name for the part of *Otter Cr.* near Bethel in Richfield Township. So called only on Mara. 1949 and 1957. Named for *Bethel*.

Bethel Industrial Academy

A former school in sec. 25, Richfield Township; since 1949 it has been located in Columbus, Wis. (Cent., sec. 1, pp. 22). Established in 1899 by Elder T. B. Snow of the Seventh-Day Adventist faith on land donated by the Lyman Lumber Co., and originally called Woodland Industrial School. Named for *Bethel PO*.

Bethel PO

A PO established on Feb. 20, 1900, with Jorjen C. Mikkelsen, a minister in the Seventh-Day Adventist faith, as postmaster (State Gaz., 1901-2). The name first proposed for the PO was "Woodland," after the Woodland Industrial School where the PO was to be kept. However, postal authorities rejected this name since it conflicted with the name of an already established Wisconsin PO. "Bethel" was then proposed and accepted by authorities, and the school's name was changed to Bethel Industrial Academy (Jones, 242-3). Although Bethel is famous from the Biblical account of Jacob's vision of a ladder ascending to heaven (Gen. 28:18-19), it is not known whether the PO name was taken directly from the Bible. Hence, the origin of the name must be considered uncertain.

Big Bull Falls

A former falls on the Yellow R. in SE sec. 17, Richfield Township. The name appears on Gayn. 1878, Snyder. 1878, and Page 1881. Cp. *Little Bull Falls*. "Bull" is an anglicization of Canadian-French *bulles*, "rapids" (Derl. *b*, 176), which is in turn derived from French *la bulle*, "the bubble produced by water in motion." Thus, the name is partly French and partly descriptive in origin.

Big Island

An island in the Wisconsin R. just N of the Wisconsin Rapids city limits, extending NE-SW from sec. 33, T23N, R6E, to sec. 8, T22N, R6E. The name has been used at least since 1874 (County Rep., March 26). Descriptive.

Big Marsh

A marsh W of the city of Wisconsin Rapids, extending from S secs. 31 and 32, Rudolph Township, to N sec. 5, T22N, R6E, and including all of sec. 6, T22N, R6E, within the city limits. The name was used as early as 1874 (County Rep., August 6). It was descriptive but is no longer used.

Big Swamp

A marshy area of the north central pineries of Wisconsin,

including Clark and Jackson counties and the SW part of Wood Co. (Rogers). Descriptive.

Birch Bluff

An elevation on the boundary between secs. 18 and 19, T21N, R2E (Remington Township) (Gayn. 1878). Apparently named for the birch tree, which grows in large numbers throughout swampy Remington Township. The name appears on Gayn. 1878, and was taken up by the Birch Bluff Cranberry Co. (Mara. 1957).

Biron ['bɪr ən]

An incorporated village in sec. 34, T23N, R6E, on the E bank of the Wisconsin R., which grew up around Biron's Mills. The plat of the village was taken out by the Grand Rapids Pulp and Paper Co., and was recorded on Nov. 13, 1896. Named for Francis Biron.

Biron Dam

A dam on the Wisconsin R. in sec. 34, T23N, R6E, at the paper mill of Consolidated Papers, Inc., in Biron. Named for *Biron*.

Biron's Mill

A sawmill on the Wisconsin R. in NW sec. 34, T23N, R6E (Gayn. 1878), on the site now occupied by the paper mill of Consolidated Papers, Inc. Named for Francis Biron, who bought it in 1846 from Faye and Draper, the original owners (Jones, 261). The spelling "Beron's Mill" appears on P & L 1858 (?).

Biron's Rapids

A former rapids on the Wisconsin R. near Biron's Mill in NW sec. 34, T23N, R6E, named for Francis Biron. The name is used in accounts of Wood County's history such as Wall. 1876 (12); however, it is not known locally. Area residents called the rapids near Biron *Crooked Reef Rapids* (Braz.).

Black Rocky Run

See *Rocky Run (1)*.

Blenker

A village around the intersection of US highway 10 and co. trunk F in S sec. 28 and N sec. 33, Milladore Township, along the tracks of the Soo Line. It grew up in the 1800s in the vicinity of *Sherry Station* (Jones, 270). Named after *Blenker PO*.

A PO established on Sept. 23, 1886, with John Blenker, for whom it was named, as postmaster, and probably kept in his general store at Blenker. (He is listed as the owner of such a store and of a steam sawmill in State Gaz. 1888-9.)

Blenker School

A school in NE sec. 33, Milladore Township, on US highway 10, 1/2 mile E of Blenker. Named for *Blenkner*.

Blodgett Heights

A subdivision of Marshfield. The plat's survey was certified on July 17, 1918. The plat, which was recorded on July 29, 1918, was taken out under the names Daniel C. and Carrie R. Clarke, the owners of the land. However, the resolution of the city's common council permitting the area to be platted speaks of the Louisville Real Estate and Development Co. as the agent responsible for the plat.

Named in honor of Charles Blodgett, a prominent Marshfield resident (Smith). "Heights" refers to the elevated area around 5th St. and Wisconsin Ave., included in the plat.

Bloody Run Creek

A source of Nepco L. It rises in Portage Co., flows W into Wood Co. at sec. 36, T22N, R6E (Grand Rapids Township), and across the township to join Nepco L. in sec. 33. Until the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Co. formed Nepco L. in 1925-6 by damming Fourmile Cr., Bloody Run Cr. joined Fourmile in W sec. 32 (Whit. 1918). "Bloody Run" was in use as early as 1876 (Wall.). Subsequently, the significance of the term "run" was forgotten, and it was assimilated into the specific part of the name, "creek" being added as a more familiar generic term. "Bloody" describes the reddish color of the stream when in times of high water a material filled with iron particles and lying on the bottom of the creek bed is stirred up (Bueh.).

Bloomer's Mill

A sawmill on the Wisconsin R., built by Bloomer and Strong, in sec. 4, T22N, R6E, on the E bank of the river (Laph. 1848), at the site of Wisconsin Rapids. The name appears in several forms: Bloomer & Co. (Cram 1839); Bloomers Mills (Morse 1845); Blumers (Chap. 1855); Bloomer's (Desil. 1857). Desil. 1857 is the latest record of the name.

Blueberry Ridge (also Blueberry Hill)

A low ridge extending through secs. 8, 9, and 10, T22N, R5E (Seneca Township) (Bueh.). Named for the blueberries growing there, the sale of which at one time provided a livelihood for the Indians who lived nearby (Schereck).

Bluffs, the

A common shortening for *Cary Bluffs*.

Boles Creek

A former tributary of the Wisconsin R., and now a small slough in sec. 24, T22N, R5E, on the W bank of the river. So called because the creek's former course lay entirely across land owned by S. Boles in secs. 13 and 24, T22N, R5E (Gayn. 1878). Since then, the upper end of the creek has partially dried up, and the mouth of the creek has now become the slough designated as "Boles Cr." (Bueh.).

Briggs' Switch

The original name of *Sherry Station*. So called after Charles S. Briggs of the firm Sherry and Briggs, which owned a sawmill and a general store in Sherry (Jones, 269). However, in the earliest official record of the name of the station it is called *Sherry* (Wisc. Rep., 1884, 18).

Buck Horn River

See *Horn River PO*.

Buena Vista Creek [ˌbjunə ˈvɪstə]

See *Fourmile Creek*.

Bull's-Eye Bluff

A high bank on the E side of the Wisconsin R. in SE sec. 24, T22N, R5E, in Wisconsin Rapids. Pilots of lumber rafts judged their position in the river by a knoll on the top of this bank as they navigated the bend in the river here between Edwards Is. and the river bank (Braz.). Subjectively descriptive.

Bull's-Eye Bluff Country Club

A golf club in SE sec. 24, T22N, R5E, and SW sec. 19, T22N, R6E, on the top of and named for *Bull's-Eye Bluff*. In existence since the early 1920s (Farr.). Its main social building is situated on the knoll by which river pilots judged their course.

Bun-gah-je-wim (also *Bon-gah-je-wung*)

The Chippewa name for *the Whitney Rapids*. It is thought to mean "end of the rapids" (Jones, 31). According to an authoritative source (Bara.), Chippewa *bon* or *boni* in compound words signifies "the end of something." Also, an element spelled *-djiwan* (possibly corresponding to *je-wim* or *je-wung*) appears in the Chippewa words *kijidjiwan*, "there is a rapids," and *nawadjiwan*, "a rapids in the middle of a river." Hence, the traditional interpretation, "end of the rapids," is probably accurate.

Burnt Ground Camp Site

An Indian camp site in SE sec. 28, Rudolph Township. In early Wood Co. days this was the only cleared space along the Wisconsin R. for many miles and hence became a rendezvous for Indians engaged in fur trading. Also called the Burnt Grounds (Jones, 29).

Burnt Grounds

See *Burnt Ground Camp Site*.

C. S. Vedder's Addition

A subdivision of Marshfield. The plat's survey was certified on Sept. 29, 1887; the plat, which was recorded on Nov. 9, 1887, was taken out by C. S. and N. J. Vedder, apparently local residents.

Cameron Park

A public park in Vesper. In the late nineteenth century James W. Cameron was an important person in Wood Co. For a time he was part of the Vesper lumbering firm, Sherry-Cameron Co. He was also president of the First National Bank of Grand Rapids and served two terms as chairman of the county board (Jones, 672). The park was evidently named in honor of this man.

Cameron's Pride School

A school in NE sec. 31, T25N, R3E (Cameron Township). The name was apparently given for its inspirational quality and for the school's location in *Cameron Township*.

Cameron Township

A township organized on Nov. 18, 1903 (Jones, 66), including secs. 19-21 and 28-33, T25N, R3E. Apparently named in honor of James W. Cameron, a prominent Vesper lumberman and a banker in Wood Co., who died on Sept. 29, 1902.

Carey PO

A PO established on Jan. 12, 1880, with Robert A. Havenor, a farmer (Census, 1880), as postmaster, and located in sec. 16, Hansen Township (State Gaz., 1882). Origin unknown. It is clearly not related to *Cary*.

Carroll's Addition

See *J. R. Carroll's Addition*.

Cary

A former shipping point on the Milwaukee, Dexterville, and Northern Ry (later the Milwaukee Road) at the line between secs. 10 and 11, Cary Township (Jones, 280-1), established by George Hiles near his granite quarry (Times, May 6, 1887). Officially discontinued in 1933 when the Milwaukee Road canceled this branch line. The name is spelled "Carey" in State Gaz., 1888-9, and Pilot, May 16, 1902. Origin unknown.

Cary Bluffs (also Cary Bluff)

An elevation in N secs. 1-3, Cary Township, and secs. 25, 35, and 36, Rock Township. Apparently the name of nearby *Cary* became applied to this elevation.

The neighboring rural community was and still is known as Cary Bluff or Cary Bluffs (see Pilot, 1904, passim; Cent., sec. 3, p. 16).

Cary Bluff School

A school (Joint Dist. No. 3 for Cary, Rock, and Wood townships) in NE sec. 11, Cary Township, at the intersection of co. trunks B and CC. Named for the nearby *Cary Bluffs*.

Cary Township

A township organized on Feb. 13, 1901 (effective in April,

1901), including all of T23N, R2E (Jones, 65-6). Named for *Cary*.

Cat Creek

A tributary of the Yellow R. It rises in sec. 24, Wood Township, and flows W and S through the township and the city of Pittsville to join the river in SE sec. 27. The name appears on Snyder 1878. Possibly named for the catfish.

Catherine

A former shipping point on the Milwaukee, Dexterville, and Northern Ry (later the Milwaukee Road) in SE sec. 36, Cary Township. Discontinued by 1906 (Officers, 23), though it appears on Ogle 1909 and Brock 1928. Named in honor of George Hiles's granddaughter, Catherine, daughter of James K. P. Hiles (Farr.). (The Milwaukee, Dexterville, and Northern Ry was a *Hiles RR*.)

Cattanach's Corners

The intersection of the road between Lincoln and Rock townships with the road between Wood and Clark counties. The name appears in Times, Jan. 27, 1893. So called for the Cattanach family, members of which owned land in SW sec. 31, Lincoln Township, and NW sec. 6, Rock Township, at the corners (Ogle 1909).

Centralia

The original name of the W side of *Wisconsin Rapids*. The community sprang up at first around the lumber mill established by George Kline, Sr., in 1839 or 1840 (Jones, 138). The plat of the original village included W sec. 8 and NE sec. 18, T22N, R6E, along the river from Fremont St. S to just below West Grand Ave.; it was surveyed in July, 1856, by C. B. Jackson (not Henry W. Jackson as in Jones, 138), was recorded Feb. 14, 1868, and was taken out by Orestes Garrison, Henry W. Jackson, Ralph C. Worthington, L. Eugene Soquel, H. L. Fontaine, and Sophie Dutruit. Tradition maintains that the name Centralia was suggested by Henry W. Jackson, the first postmaster of Centralia PO (Jones, 138). Although it may be conjectured that Jackson took the name from the US Postal Guide (in the 1855 edition of which postoffices for Centralia, Illinois, and Centralia, Iowa, are listed for the first time), his source is not actually known.

Centralia was incorporated as a city in 1874, but in 1900 it combined with the city of *Grand Rapids* to form a new city under the name Grand Rapids (Jones, 126). "Centralia" now denotes *the South Side* (Bueh.).

Centralia Dam

A dam on the Wisconsin R. at sec. 24, T22N, R5E, in Wisconsin Rapids, built in three sections in the latter part of

1887 by the Centralia Pulp and Water Power Co.; it extends from either bank of the river to two islands, *Long Is.* and *Middle Is.*, and across the center of the river between these islands (Garr.). At one time called South Side Dam (Giese, 5). Named for *Centralia*.

Centralia PO

A PO established on May 18, 1858, with Henry W. Jackson as postmaster, and discontinued on May 31, 1904. Apparently named for *Centralia*.

Centralia Pulp and Water Power Company's Addition

A subdivision of Wisconsin Rapids at *South Centralia*. The plat's survey was certified on June 17, 1903; the plat, which was recorded on June 18, 1903, was taken out by the Centralia Pulp and Water Power Co.

Centralia Township

A township organized on Jan. 9, 1857, including most of Wood Co. W of the Wisconsin R. The first township in that part of the county; other townships were separated from it. It ceased to exist about 1875 when the formation of new townships absorbed all of the land within its original boundaries (Jones, 66). Named for the original *Centralia*.

Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad

See *Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad*.
Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific Railroad

A railroad in Wood Co. with tracks running N to Babcock, E from Babcock to Port Edwards, and N through Wisconsin Rapids and Rudolph. As the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul RR, it purchased most of this trackage (as well as a now abandoned section which ran SW from Babcock) from the *Wisconsin Valley RR* on Oct. 19, 1880. It acquired the section running N to Babcock from the *Lisbon, Necedah, and Lake Superior Ry* on June 30, 1891. On the same day it obtained tracks from Babcock to Arpin and Pittsville and through Dexterville to Lindsey in the purchase of the *Wisconsin, Pittsville, and Superior Ry* and the *Milwaukee, Dexterville, and Northern Ry*. However, the tracks to Pittsville and Arpin were abandoned above Pittsville Jct. in 1918, and those through Dexterville to Lindsey were abandoned between 1931 and 1933. The tracks running SW from Babcock were abandoned in 1934.

On March 31, 1927, the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul RR became the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific RR (Kays., 21, 22, 23, 30-32). The line is commonly called the Milwaukee Road. Named for its terminus points and for major cities along its route.

Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railway

A subsidiary line of the *Chicago and North Western RR*,