

Geographical Place Names of Voyageurs National Park
Updated 5/20/08

Place names to remind us of the past use of an area. Place names reveal details about culture, politics, history and geography. The origin and history of place names can be found through the knowledge and memory of area residents, on maps and in historical documents. In researching the names for places in Voyageurs, we find that very few places were named on early maps and the majority of existing place names appeared on maps fairly recently. The U.S. Board on Geographic Names is a Federal body created in 1890 and established in its present form in 1947 to maintain uniform geographic name usage. The Board is the central authority to which name problems, name inquiries, name changes, and new name proposals are directed.

The following represents ongoing research about place names in Voyageurs National Park. Sources for names and earliest map references are provided where known. Places are described by major lake and from west to east, with interior lakes and other geographic features described last. This is a work in progress and updated as new information is found.

KABETOGAMA LAKE

Ga- bi'- to gum- ag' za'- gai- i- gun is an Ojibwe name that translates as “the lake that lies parallel or double with another lake,” meaning Kabetogama lies parallel to Rainy Lake (JA Gilfillan 1911). French fur traders referred to Kabetogama Lake as “Travere” or “Travers” which translates as “abreast or alongside.” Kabetogama has been spelled a variety of ways through the years including Kahpetogamak and Capetogama.

Gold Portage: The portage got its name from the 1890s gold rush to Rainy Lake when it was used as a shortcut for travelers going between Kabetogama Lake and Rainy Lake.

Earliest map reference: ca1895 E.S. Shepard's map

LaBonty's Point: Joseph LaBonty homesteaded on the point in 1927. He lived off the land and trapped. The remains of his log cabin can still be found on the point.

Earliest map reference: 1963 State Lands & Minerals map

Rottenwood Island: The Rottenwoods were an Indian family who lived in the border lakes area. John Rottenwood was believed to have been born in the Gold Portage area in 1849 and died on Rainy Lake in 1939. His son Charlie was born at the gold rush town of Rainy Lake City. Later in life Charlie lived on Dryweed Island on Rainy Lake. Charlie, who was known as a famous wolf trapper, died in 1960. His brother George died in 1977. It is not known if the Rottenwoods ever lived on Rottenwood Island.

Earliest map reference: Rotten Wood Island on 1921 Commercial Club map

Chief Woodenfrog Island: A group of Bois Forte Ojibwe Indians lived on the island (which used to be connected to the mainland) during the early 1900s. The 1881 Indian annuity payment rolls lists Me- ti- go- mah- keence or Jim Woodenfrog as a 30- year old man living in a band of Ojibwe on Kabetogama Lake. The name Me- ti- go- mah- keence translates as “Wood Frog” or “Tree Frog.” Jim Woodenfrog’s son John and family lived on Chief Wooden Frog’s Islands on Kabetogama Lake until about 1930.

Earliest map reference: Chief Wooden Frog's Point on 1921 Commercial Club map

Chief Wooden Frog Point on 1936 W.A. Fisher map

Chief Woodenfrog Point on ca 1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

Chief Wooden Frog's Islands on 1954 W.A. Fisher map

Cemetery Island:

Funeral Island on 1936 Fisher map of Kabetogama

unnamed on 1963 State Lands & Minerals map

Cemetery Island on 1963 Corps of Engineers map

Cemetery Island on 1965 Fisher map of Kabetogama (revised 1975)

Bald Eagle Island: Also known as Eagle Nest Island because of the eagle’s nest that used to be there.

Earliest map reference: 1963 Lands & Minerals map

1963 Corps map

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Wood Duck Island:

Earliest map reference: 1963 Lands & Minerals map

1963 Corps map

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Zollner Island: Ted Zollner was a metallurgist and founder of Zollner Machine Works. In 1931, Zollner moved the plant from his hometown in Duluth to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He was the inventor of the aluminum piston and president of the company that specialized in making heavy duty aluminum pistons. He was also an avid sports fan and was the “silent partner” behind the Zollner Pistons athletic endeavors, which included major participation in professional basketball and amateur fastball. He used to vacation in what is now the park during the 1940s and built two cabins—a summer cabin on Zollner Island and a hunting cabin near Kettle Falls.

Earliest map reference: 1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Bittersweet Island: At one time, bittersweet grew profusely on the island. The island may have been called Jug Island at one time and was locally known as Chute Island after a summer resident on the island.

Earliest map reference: 1936 Fisher map, Kab
1963 State Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps of Engineers map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Tom Cod Bay: Tom Codd was a homesteader and farmer in the Kabetogama area during the early 1900s. His home burned in 1908. A friend of Codd's, Joe Sky, died in the fire. Tom Codd was active in church and public affairs in the town of Ray and died in 1912. The bay was unnamed until 1963, however the creek coming into the bay was named Tom Cod's Creek by 1921.

Tom Cod's Creek named on 1921 Commercial Club map; bay is unnamed
Tom Cod's Creek on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
unnamed on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Echo Island: Named by the owners of the island.

Earliest map reference: 1963 State Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
unnamed on 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Picnic Island

Earliest map reference: Named Crab Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Crab Island on 1936 Fisher map, Kab
Crab Island on 1963 State Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

State Point: Because of all the state lease cabins located on the point.

Earliest map reference: 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
unnamed on 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1965)

Sphunge Island: Harry and Pearl Sphunge (pronounced Spung) built a cabin on the island in the early 1930s. Harry was a guide on the lake. Harry and Pearl lived at Gappa's Landing during the winter and Sphunge Island during the summer. During the Depression, many people from northern Minnesota were relocated to the Manuska Valley in Alaska to become farmers. Harry and Pearl supposedly moved to Alaska under this government resettlement program. (Neil & Edith Watson)

Earliest map reference: Spungs Island on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Stagie Point: Used to be called Sphunge Point until the Stagie's (pronounced Stay- jee) from Chisholm, Minnesota built a cabin on the point in the late 1930s. (Neil and Edith Watson, 1992)

Earliest map reference: 1963 Corps map
Stagles Point (1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975)

Peterson Bay: Possibly named after John Peterson, an early commercial fisherman on Kabetogama.

Earliest map reference: 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Moxie Island: Max "Moxie" Lietzan homesteaded on the island in 1922. Known as one of the colorful characters of Kabetogama Lake, Moxie supposedly had received a head injury working for the Virginia & Rainy Lake Lumber Co., and was never "quite right" after that. His injuries forced him to sleep sitting up. He lived in an earthen hovel, made his own brand of white lightning and died in a fire in the cabin. His neighbors on Kabetogama Lake say he only traveled the lake at night.

Earliest map reference: Moxie's Island on 1951 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
Moxie's Island on 1963 Corps map
Moxie's Island (1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975)

Jug Island: A way station during prohibition for bootleggers to hide their jugs of moonshine to be picked up by buyers later.

Earliest map reference: 1936 Fisher map, Kab
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Blind Ash Bay: Boaters unfamiliar with the lake sometimes mistake Blind Ash Bay for the entrance to Ash River.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Round Bear Island: Another mapmaker's mistake? A round tavern (or a tavern with a round bar) was supposedly constructed on the island during prohibition.

Earliest map reference: Round Bar Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Round Bar Island on 1936 Fisher map, Kab
Round Bar Island on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
unnamed on 1951 Corps map
unnamed on 1963 Corps map
Round Bear Island 1963 Lands & Minerals map
Round Bear Island 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Lost Bay: People trying to find their way into Namakan Lake would be confused by Lost Bay. Look for the "boom rings" on either side of the bay—a rock bolt to hold booms of logs. A 150- man logging camp operated by the Virginia & Rainy Lake lumber company from 1920- 1923 was located at the end of the bay.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1936 Fisher map, Kab
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Lost Lake: Used to be called Jellyfish or North Lake [William Valentine 1990]

unnamed on 1951 Corps map
Lost Lake on 1954 Fisher map, Nam
unnamed on 1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Ek's Bay: (also see Ek Lake) Fur buyer Ed Ek had a shack in the bay.

Earliest map reference: 1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Blue Fin Bay: Supposedly a good place to fish for blue fin, also known as tullibee or cisco. Ciscos are slender, silvery fish with an iridescent green back. They are a cold water fish that spawn in the fall. Renamed Shelter Bay in the 1960s.

unnamed on 1951 Corps map
unnamed on 1963 Corps map
Shelter Bay on 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Duck Bay: Good nesting spot for ducks because wild rice used to grow in the bay.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1936 Fisher map, Kab
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Irwin Bay: Called Irving Bay on early maps. May have been named for Irwin who supposedly was a commercial fisherman who had a camp in the bay. The bay may have also been named for Thomas Irvine who owned land on Kabetogama.

Earliest map reference: Irving Bay on 1921 Commercial Club map
Irvin Bay on 1936 St. Louis County map
Irving Bay on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1936 Fisher map names an Ervin Island, which is now named Little Ritchie Island
Irwin Bay on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Bowman Bay: In 1909, the Bohman brothers, Frank and Mike, started commercial fishing in Brule Narrows on Rainy Lake, then moved the operation to Namakan Lake (the Torry fish camp), and then operating a commercial fishery on Bowman Island on Kabetogama Lake. When commercial fishing was closed on Kabetogama in the mid 1920s, Frank moved the operation back to Rainy Lake and Mike moved to Oregon.

Earliest map reference: 1936 Fisher map, Kab
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Bowman Island:

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1963 Lands & Minerals map

Martin Island: Bill Martin, Joe Kreitzer, and Frank Teasck built a saloon on the island around 1918 to provide refreshments for the many loggers working in the woods at that time. They also rented out a couple of cabins on Martin and Little Martin Islands. Bill Martin was a railroad conductor on the Duluth, Winnipeg and Pacific.

Earliest map reference: Martin's Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Martin's Island on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1936 Fisher map, Kab
1951 Corps map
1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Little Martin Island:

Earliest map reference: 1951 Corps map
1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Cuculus Island: Said to be the Ojibwe name for “crow,” however Ojibwe for crow is “andek” or “ahn dayg.”

Earliest map reference: Cucukus Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Cucukus Island on 1936 Fisher map, Kab
Cucukus Island on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
Cuculus Island on 1951 Corps map
1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Headlight Island: Named by Art Donahue who was a guide on Kabetogama. He guided a salesman who sold Headlight overalls to this favorite fishing spot.

Earliest map reference: 1951 Corps map
Head Light Island on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Little Knox Island

Earliest map reference: 1951 Corps map
1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Chase Island: Several stories—that the island was owned by railroad man Homer Chase or lumberman A.S. Chase or forest ranger Walter Chase.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1936 Fisher map, Kab
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Picnic Island: The Brice family, who built Arrowhead Lodge on Kabetogama, would take guests to this island for shore lunches.

Camel Back Island: Named for its shape? (like a 2- humped camel). May have also been named for a logging term: A “camel back” was a term used by loggers when referring to a steel incline to run logging car wheels back on the track after a derailment.

Earliest map reference: 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Sucker Creek: Suckers are closely related to minnows. They have soft- rayed fins, toothless jaws and thick- lipped mouths. Suckers are food for walleye and northern pike as well as bears who can be found at creeks during the spring spawn. Smoked or pickled suckers are a local delicacy. Art “Gabby” Roessl was a hermit who lived at Sucker Creek. Before he came north, he was a cabdriver in Minneapolis. At first he lived in an earthen dugout, then a treehouse and then friends on the lake built a cabin for him. When the cabin became full of “stuff,” he built an addition. He had an 18’ boat with a 5hp motor—he didn’t want anything larger because life went by too fast as it was.

Clyde Creek: Unknown how the name came about. Jack and Elsie Ellsworth from Chicago lived nearby and between 1944 and 1965 constructed elaborate terraced flower gardens accented with stone statuary. The Ellsworth Rock Gardens became a popular tourist destination during the 1960s when the gardens were in peak bloom.

Deer Creek: Source of name unknown.

Cutover Island: The International Lumber Company operated a camp on the island. The island was supposedly purchased in 1899 and the timber rights sold for \$230,000. The island used to be covered with pine and was logged off to bare rock, hence the name Cutover.

Earliest map references: 1921 Commercial Club map
1936 Fisher map, Kab
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Yewbush Island: Used to be called Juniper Island [LeVerne Oveson]. Yews are low, straggly, evergreen shrubs with flat pointed needles. The juicy red berrylike fruits have a single hard seed. Although the sweet pulp is edible, the seeds contain the heart-depressing alkaloid, called taxine.

Earliest map reference: 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975

Donut Island: It is nearly round...some have suggested it should have been called Muffin Island instead.

Earliest map reference: 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Sheep Islands: John Salmi was a well-known guide on Kabetogama Lake. He and his Dad and a neighbor had sheep on the islands. "We would run them down in relays in the fall, tie their feet and load them in the boat. Then tourists with dogs chased several sheep into the water and we found two of them drowned as the wool made them too heavy."

Earliest map reference: ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
Sheep Island on 1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975

Ram Island

Earliest map reference: 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Harris Island: Possibly named for Daniel C. Harris (a surveyor?) who owned the island as well as other land on Kabetogama and had a hunting cabin on the south shore.

Earliest map reference: 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Sugarbush Island: Called Big Pine Island on 1894 geological map of the area and is the only island on Kabetogama or Namakan that is named on maps at that time. By 1921, it is called Sugar Island and Sugarbush by the 1930s. Sugar maples were tapped by the Indians each spring. Kettles of sap or syrup were boiled down and converted into sugar cakes or sugar wax to be used as a sweetener or a candy. The “bush,” a term still used in Canada, means the woods or the forest.

Earliest map reference: Big Pine Island on 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
Sugar Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Sugarbush Island on 1936 Fisher map, Kab
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Pin Cherry Island: Pin cherry shrubs grows in dry to moist open forests and clearings; it commonly occurs after fire or other disturbances. The red berries are a favorite of many birds.

The Ojibwe Indians depended on several types of berries as fresh fruit but also dried them for winter use and used the fruit and bark of shrubs for a variety of medicines.

Earliest map reference: 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Nashata Point: John Neeshota homesteaded the point in 1904. Neeshota (also spelled Ne sho dain, Neshata, Nashata, Nashota and Ne- zho- dain) translates as “Twin” or “Two Hearts.” Ne- zho- dain was an important Chief of the Kabetogama band of Ojibwe in 1890 and the last Ojibwe survivor of the famous Battle with the Cut Foot Sioux. When Ne- zho- dain died in 1908, it is reported that his wife (known by local residents as Mrs. Nashota and later just Nashota) maintained a vigil at his grave and was “rescued” by commercial fisherman Alex “Squaw” Anderson who took her in and cared for her until she died in 1933.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1936 Fisher map, Kab
Nashota Point on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
unnamed on 1951 Corps map
unnamed on 1963 Corps map
unnamed on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
Noshota Point (1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975)

Grave Island: Also called Bloomer Island.

unnamed on 1951 Corps map
Grave Island on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
unnamed on 1963 Corps map
unnamed on 1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975

Potato Island: Teasck, an early settler, tried raising potatoes here because it was one of the few places on the lake that had enough topsoil. For many years afterwards, the island was covered with poison ivy—evidence the land had been disturbed.

Earliest map reference: 1936 Fisher map, Kab
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Richie Island: Supposedly named after John Richie who owned a saloon in the town of Ray during prohibition and also owned the island [Neil and Edith Watson, 1992]. Until the 1960s, Richie Island was called Ritchie's Island and Little Richie was Little Richie's.

Earliest map reference: Ritchie's Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Ritchie's Island on 1936 Fisher map, Kab
Ritchie's Island on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
Richie's Island on 1951 Corps map
Richie's Island on 1963 Corps map
Richies Island on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
Richie's Island (1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975)

Little Richie Island:

Earliest map reference: Little Richie's Island on 1951 Corps map
Little Richie's Island on 1963 Corps map

Deer Point Islands:

Earliest map reference: Deer Point Island on 1963 Lands & Minerals map

Deer Island (1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975)

Daley Bay: Possibly named for the Daley Brook lumber company which was removing timber in the Kabetogama area in 1898.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
Daley Brook on 1926- 28 INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION map
1936 Fisher map, Kab
Daley Brook on 1951 Corps map
Dailey Brook on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
Daley Brook on 1963 Corps map
Daley Brook (1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975)

Daley Brook: JA Gilfillan in 1911 records an Ojibwe place name called Washushko- zibi, which translates as Muskrat River. Based on the legal description, this is probably Daley Brook. (See also Daley Bay)

Mud Bay: Just as its name suggests, a shallow bay with a muddy bottom.

Earliest map reference: 1951 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Nebraska Bay:

Earliest map reference: 1951 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Pine Island: Called Knox Island until the mid- 1960s for Tom Knox, an early settler on Kabetogama. Tom Knox died in 1910 when a tree fell on him as he was riding through the woods with a wagonload of hay. In 1939, the Clines built a resort on the island. A tornado came through (1960s?) and destroyed many of the large pine trees on the island. It is assumed that the name of the island was changed from Knox to Pine after the tornado came through.

Earliest map reference: Knox Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Knox Island on 1936 Fisher map, Kab
Knox Island on 1951 Corps map
Knox Island on 1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
Knox Island (1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975)

Feedem Island: Apparently the State Conservation Department during the 1930s would put hay out on the island for the deer during years when the weather made it hard for them to find food.

Earliest map reference: 1951 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Blunt Island: Possibly named for Bill Blunt. Called “Old Cheerful” by his friends and neighbors on Kabetogama, he was considered an eccentric character starting out adult life as a Mississippi boatman and then making and quickly losing a fortune in the Rainy Lake gold fields. A 1908 newspaper reported his death and gave this description, “He was law abiding, good natured and slow to anger but once his ire was aroused, someone got hurt. Bill was about 50 years of age, but fast living was the cause of his downfall and early death.”

Earliest map reference: ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Wolf Island: Local residents started to call the island Wolf Island after seeing and hearing wolves howl from the highest spot on the island which was once bare of trees.

Earliest map reference: 1936 Fisher map, Kab
1951 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Yoder Island: Called Yoder Island by 1963, briefly called Root Island for the Root family. Mr. Root supposedly got into some kind of trouble and went to prison and the family never came back. Origin of the name Yoder is unknown.

Earliest map reference: Yoder Island on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
unnamed on 1963 Corps map
Root Island on 1965 Fisher map, Kab, (revised 1975)

Green Island: Green, Twin and Larkin were called Green Islands on 1921 map. By 1951, the island is called Green and Larkin is one of the Twin Islands.

Earliest map reference: Green Islands (Green, Twin and Larkin) on 1921
Commercial Club map
Green Island on 1951 Corps map
1963 Corps map
1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab, (revised 1975)

Twin Islands: According to the current residents (in 2003) on the west Twin Island, their island used to be called Star Island and then Larkin; the east Twin used to be called Priest Island.

unnamed on 1951 Corps map
Twin Islands on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
unnamed on 1963 Corps map
Twin Islands on 1965 Fisher map, Kab, (revised 1975)

Larkin Island: Locally known for many years as Schneider Island for the Schneider family who had a cabin there. Not known how the name Larkin came about. There was a Tom Larkin who was a prospector and lived for awhile at Rainy Lake City. (See Twin Islands).

Earliest map reference: one of the Twin Islands on 1965 Fisher map, Kab,(revised 1975)

Ash River: May be named for early surveyor and timber cruiser George F. Ash.

Earliest map reference: 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
International joint commission map (published 1926- 1928)

Sullivan Bay: Called Sullivan's Bay in the 1930s. Was it named after the Sullivan Lumber Company? During the gold rush, Frank Sullivan had an overnight stopping place in the Moose River area and at Kettle Falls for winter travelers. He also operated the Lake Shore House at Rainy Lake City, one of the last businesses to operate in the gold rush town. Stopping places were essentially rest areas where you could get a meal, fresh horses or stay for the night. In the 1900 census, Frank is listed as a 42- year old steamboat pilot married to Mary and having 4 children.

Earliest map reference: Bay is divided into Sullivan Bay and Ash River on 1921
Commercial Club map
Divided into Sullivan Bay and Ash River Bay on 1936 St. Louis Co. map
Sullivan's Bay on 1936 Fisher map
Sullivan Bay on 1951 Corps map
Sullivan's Bay (1954 Fisher map, Nam)
Sullivan Bay 1963 Corps map

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Footes Island: Ethel and Lionel Foote had a resort in the 1940s on the island.

OTHER PLACE NAMES NOT ON CONTEMPORARY MAPS OF KABETOGAMA LAKE

Hacksaw Pass [west end of Kabetogama]

1963 Lands & Minerals map

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Killiam Island

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Bald Rock Bay

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Moose Bay

1963 Lands & Minerals map

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

School Teacher Island

Marneigweiss Island on 1921 Commercial Club map

Marneigweiss Island on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

School Teacher Island on 1963 Lands & Minerals map

School Teacher Island on 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Kabicwabic Island

Kabicwabic Island on 1921 Commercial Club map

1936 Fisher map, Kab

ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

Blueberry Island on 1963 Lands & Minerals map

Blueberry Island [southeast of LaBonty's Point]

1963 Lands and Minerals map

Etling Island

Limit Island on 1963 Lands & Minerals map

Etling Island on 1965 W.A. Fisher map

Crab Island [near Cutover Island]

1936 W.A. Fisher map

1963 Lands & Minerals map

Limit Island

1963 Lands & Minerals map

Etling Island on 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Pine Island (an island south of Camel Back)

1963 Lands & Minerals

1965 W.A. Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Grass Island

1921 Commercial Club map

1936 Fisher map

ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
 1963 Lands & Minerals map

Grassy Island Group
 1963 Lands & Minerals map (in addition to Grassy Island)
 1963 Corps map
 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Finn Reef
 1921 Commercial Club map
 ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

Park Point
 1963 Lands & Minerals map
 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Long Slew
 1936 Fisher map, Kab
 Long Slough on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Ervin Island [East of Daley Bay]
 1936 W.A. Fisher map

Dead Pine Island [north of Moxie]
 1963 Lands & Minerals map

Indian Bay
 1963 Lands & Minerals map
 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Rudder Bay
 1954 Fisher map, Nam
 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Slatinsky Bay: John Slatinski (also known as “Long John,” “Austrian,” and “Slats”) had a commercial fishing camp near Nashata Point which he later moved near the mouth of Ash River.
 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Slatinski Island
 1936 Fisher map, Kab

Gappa's Landing
 Gappy's Landing on 1921 Commercial Club map
 Gappy's Landing on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
 1936 Fisher map, Kab
 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Three Sisters
 1921 Commercial Club map
 1936 Fisher map, Kab
 1963 Lands & Minerals map

Oak Point (in Tom Cod Bay)
 1921 Commercial Club map
 ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

Pike Island (north of Nashata Point)

1963 Lands & Minerals map

Fish Pole Point [in Blue Fin Bay]

1963 Lands & Minerals map

Round Island [in Lost Bay]

1963 Lands & Minerals map

Cushion Island (in Lost Bay)

1963 Lands & Minerals map

Wild Horse Island [in Lost Bay]

1963 Lands & Minerals map

Dead Indian Island [in Lost Bay]

1963 Lands & Minerals map

Levins Island: Dr. Adolph Levin was a chiropractor from Virginia, Minnesota who built a log cabin in Kabetogama Narrows in the mid- 1930s

1963 Lands & Minerals map

George Island [south of Round Bear Island]

1963 Lands & Minerals map

Snow Island [Kabetogama Narrows]

1963 Lands & Minerals map

Alexander Island [Kabetogama Narrows]

1963 Lands & Minerals map

NAMAKAN LAKE

The name Namakan figures prominently in history. Name' or Nah- mee means sturgeon in the Ojibwe language. Many early explorers and fur traders described Namakan (a variety of spellings) Lake in journals and diaries. Namakan was sometimes called Sturgeon Lake.

Lake Meican (Paul Kane, 1859)

Lake Miccan, (John MacDonnel, 1793)

Lac le Mecan (David Thompson).

Lake Nam- máka- kon or Sturgeon Lake by explorer Stephen Long (Kane, Lucile M., June D. Holmquist and Carolyn Gilman (eds.), The Northern Expeditions of Stephen H. Long: The Journals of 1817 and 1823 and Related Documents, Minnesota Historical Society Press, St. Paul, 1978)

Nammay- ecan (James Anderson, 1850)

Lake Nemucan (George Back, 1825- 1827)

lake La Mecane (G.A. Belcourt 1831)

“In a short time we reached Nameukan Lake in which we were all afternoon. It is a very pretty lake full of islands and in Many places are rocky bluffs overhanging the water in a threatening manner....” (Captain Bell, Red River Expedition, 1870)

We ascended it [River Lacroix] on our return home, entering from a small, quiet bay in Lake Namaycan, full of reeds and water- lilies, its shores lined with long grass and fine young oaks: but when once in the river all is romantic—that is, beautiful and dangerous. (John Bigsby, 1850)

“...entered Lake Namaycan by the Loon's Narrow (Mangshe- pawnac), by Vermillion Lake (so named from a paint found there)... Of Lake Namaycan, I shall only say that it is about twenty miles long in a north- west direction, singularly broken up into bays and inlets.” (John Bigsby, 1850)

“This Channel of about a quarter miles brought us to the Lake Nimicarpan (Namakan or Namenmkan) which we traversed in an Hour and a half and arrived at the Portage Neuf which is 400 Paces when we arrived at a small Channel...After 10 Minutes paddling we came to the second Portage Neuf which is about 300 Paces....At 9 we encamped on a Rock in Rainy Lake.” (from the 1821 diary of Nicholas Garry)

“...we encamped on an island in the centre of the lake [Namakan], and christened it Canvas Island—so named because three of us now slept together, and it required more than the old dog tent to cover us, and we appropriated one of the sails, making with it a tent with sloping roof and one end....” (Sargeant John Emslie, “Journal of Expedition to Fort Garry 1870)

“...brought us to Lake Nimicarpan [Namakan]...and arrived at the Portage Neuf [Bear Portage] which is 400 paces when we arrived at a small Channel of the same character as the last, beautiful white Water Lilies, high Grass, Underwood and wild Rice growing in the water. After 10 minutes paddling we came to the second Portage Neuf which is about 300 Paces.” (From the diary of Nicholas Garry, 1821)

“...continued our way through Lake Nameukan, passing in several places the camp grounds of other crews, where the fires were still burning....At one o'clock we reached Kettle Falls and portaged our cargoes....Lake Nameukan, through which we passed this morning, is literally a rock- bound sheet of water, and I do not know but I would be correct in saying that it is iron- bound, for the walls of almost unbroken rock with which it is surrounded are full of veins of iron, lead and copper. To vary the appearance of this wall of rock, there occasionally appear to view beautiful sandy beaches...while the numerous islands and parts of the shore are clothed with never- ending verdure, altogether forming grand and beautiful scenery, even at this dreary season of the year [November].” (Justus A. Griffin, 2nd Red River Expedition, 1872)

“Crossing Lake Namekan, we came to Portage Nu, the last before Fort Frances. This really consists of two portages, with a narrow sluggish stream between...Bare Portage was found worthy of its name,- - bare and swampy, full of mosquitoes and black flies which annoyed us much: the stream, too, was so full of leeches that it was impossible to bathe in it...” (Captain G.L. Huyshe, Red River Expedition, 1871)

“...we came to another portage or rapids about a mile long. These are the rapids which are called by the Indians Nahmaguun, where the Indians catch sturgeon and white fish in great abundance during the summer season....and seven miles down this river we entered Nahmaguun Lake.” (Journal of Reverend Peter Jacobs, 1852)

“In two hours we passed the Nahmakaun or Sturgeon Lake. When we reached the entrance of the Nahmakaun River, it blew a hurricane...The fall [at the second portage of the Nahmakaun River] is four feet high, and is nearly perpendicular. The surface of the water where it begins to fall is quite smooth. The fall is so large that voyagers dare not shoot over, as they do in smaller falls.” (Journal of Reverend Peter Jacobs, [on return trip in 1852])

Earliest map reference: Spelled Namakan Lake on ca1895 E.S. Shepard's map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Old Dutch Bay: Charles “Dutch” Messenger was a notorious character who first had a cabin in the Bay and later near Round Bear Island. He did some logging, some trapping, a gentleman when he was sober, a great cook (although he supposedly never changed his sourdough starter), and an aficionado of music (he had a windup gramophone in his shack). Once he got into an argument with another local shacker by the name of Mike McGillvary and shot and killed him. It was considered in self- defense and Dutch only served a short sentence. He lived off the land until his eyes gave out and then he went to nursing home with only a packsack to his name. The bay is sometimes called Messenger Bay.

unnamed on 1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Kohler Bay and Kohler Point: Version 1: John Kohler was a linotype operator from Chicago who was hiding out from the law. He built a small log cabin on the point and defended his property by shooting at boats that dared to enter the bay. Version 2: John Kohler was an artist from Chicago. His doctors gave him six months to live so he came to northern Minnesota for his health. He once shot a neighbor on the lake who would taunt him about being so tough. He was sent to prison but eventually returned to Namakan Lake. Version 3: Kohler was a gangster from Chicago—drove a fancy, black, gangster’s car. Named by 1954.

unnamed on 1926- 28 INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION map
unnamed on 1951 Corps map
Kohler's Point, Kohler Bay (1954 Fisher map, Nam)
Kohler's Bay, Kohler's Point (1965 Fisher map, revised 1975)

Lone Squaw Island: Called “Wabosa” on early maps. Possibly from the Ojibwe word Wabos’ or Wah- boos meaning rabbit.

Earliest map reference: Wabasa Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
unnamed on 1926- 28 INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION map
unnamed on 1951 Corps map
unnamed on 1954 Fisher map, Nam
unnamed on 1963 Corps map

Ziski Island: Fred Zieske from California built a log cabin/summer home on the island in the late 1940s. Mapmakers spelled the name wrong.

unnamed on 1951 Corps map
unnamed on 1954 Fisher map, Nam
unnamed on 1963 Corps map

Tar Point: The Lessard brothers, commercial fishermen on Namakan, used to tar their fishing nets and lay them on the rocks to dry on the point. Early nets were made of twine and had to be dipped in tar to keeping them from rotting. Fishermen would also pull their wooden boats up on shore to tar the bottoms. Early maps refer to the point as “Jackpot Point.” The name “Jackpot” is a familiar Indian name in the area.

Earliest map reference: Jackpot Point on 1921 Commercial Club map
unnamed on 1926- 28 INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
unnamed on 1963 Corps map

Big Sky Island: See Blind Indian Narrows. Ke- che- gishig, the blind Indian of Moose River, was also called John Sky. The family of John Sky were members of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe who lived in the Moose River area on Namakan Lake.

Earliest map reference: 1926- 28 INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Cemetery Island:

Earliest map reference: 1926- 28 INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION map
1936 St. Louis County map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Blind Indian Narrows: Ke- che- ge- shig is listed on the 1911 Indian annuity payment rolls as the “Blind Indian from Moose River.” Ke- che- ge- shig had a daughter who was known as Maggie Sky.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map (also Blind Indian Point)
1926- 28 INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION map
Blind Indian Point on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
unnamed on 1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Sweetnose Island: Some local residents believe the name came from the syrup cans that were discarded here. However, an Indian woman by the name of Annie Sweatnose can be found in newspaper references.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map

1926- 28 INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION map
1936 St. Louis County map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Moose Bay and Moose River: Moose River is one of the few landmarks named in Winchell/Grant 1894 geological map but it is called Sturgeon River on E.S. Shepard's 1985 map. Maps from the 1920s name both Moose Bay and Moose River. Moose were once very abundant in northern Minnesota.

Earliest map reference: Moose River on 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
Sturgeon River on ca1895 E.S. Shepard's map
1926- 28 International joint commission map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1936 St. Louis County map
1936 Fisher map, Kab
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Williams Island: There are so many WilliamsesChet Williams, Chester Williams, Jack D. Williams, Herb Williams, Joe Williams... Mr. and Mrs. Chester Williams were from Chicago and vacationed on Kabetogama. Not sure which Williams the island was named for, but it was unnamed on maps until the 1950s.

Earliest map reference: island is unnamed on 1921 Commercial Club map, island (combined with Stevens)
1926- 28 International joint commission map
called (and combined with) Stevens Island on ca1936 RLD Playground map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Hoist Bay: The Virginia & Rainy Lake Co. operated a lumber camp in the bay from 1913- 1929. A railroad line connected the sawmill at Virginia, Minnesota, came down what is now the Ash River Trail and extended over a 1000 feet into the bay on Namakan Lake. Logs were floated from camps scattered over the Kabetogama Peninsula to the hoist and loaded onto waiting flatcars. 224,935,030 board feet of lumber was hauled out through Hoist Bay, 12.3% of the V&RL total production. The V&RL Company logged 2 billion feet of timber in 20 years, employed 2,500- 4,000 men in the woods each year (who ate 56 beef cattle each week), owned 900 head of logging horses, operated 156 miles of railroad spurs each year and built about 115- 120 miles of sleigh roads each year.

Earliest map reference: 1926- 28 International joint commission map
1936 St. Louis County map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Sexton Island: Some say this name came about from a tool used in surveying. It is more likely that the island was named after Charles Sexton, an early resident of the area.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International joint commission map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Wigwam Island: Native Americans occupied the island for thousands of years. The wigwams of the more recent Ojibwe inhabitants were a familiar sight to boaters during the early 1900s.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International joint commission map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Stevens Island: Formerly Hines Island, named after the president of the Virginia & Rainy Lake lumber company. Hines used to entertain buyers from all over the country at the island, which had a very large lodge and 16 tarpaper shacks. Hines ironically did not cut the red pine on the island. Ingvald Walter Stevens, who came from Norway at the age of 19, purchased the island in 1931 after leaving his stressful job as a lady's shoe salesman in Hibbing, Minnesota. "Steve," as he was known to most, lived year 'round by himself on the island for nearly fifty years and became a local celebrity. He lived to be 104 years old.

unnamed on 1926- 28 International joint commission map
1936 St. Louis County map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
unnamed on 1951 Corps map
unnamed on 1954 Fisher map, Nam
unnamed on 1963 Corps map

Namakan Island: Before water levels were raised, Namakan Island and Williams Island were one big island called, "Big Island." It was called Namakan Island by 1936.

Earliest map reference: Big Island on 1921 Commercial Club map

1926- 28 International joint commission map
Big Island on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
Namakan Island on 1936 St. Louis County map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Kubel Island: It is not known how the name came about but the island was named by 1921. It may have been named by Emil and Lydia Torry. Emil was a commercial fisherman who died on the lake in 1954. Lydia came from Finland to New York when she was 17. She married Emil and moved to Kubel Island in 1928. After Emil drowned, Lydia continued to live on the island, rarely going to town. She hunted and trapped, sold her smoked fish and canned blueberries, raised rabbits and vegetables and sewed or crocheted all of her clothes. She left the island in 1980 after becoming ill and died in 1987 at the age of 95.

Earliest map reference: on 1921 Commercial Club map, island is attached to mainland

Kubel Island on 1926- 28 International joint commission map
1936 St. Louis County map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Gehring Point: Possibly named for Charles J. Gehringer who applied for a homestead in 1904 (where the Torry's eventually settled) and relinquished it in 1911.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Bivo Island: A Russian trapper supposedly lived there during the early 1900s and also had a shack in Randolph Bay.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Alden Island: There was a man by the name of E.M. Alden who once operated a commercial fishing camp on the west end of Kabetogama with Jack Peterson. Also a

John Alden who drowned on Namakan Lake in 1938. Story is told that Jimmy “Two-Gun” Hamilton, Moonshine Joe and Jack “Bluefin” Murphy (also known as Spittin’ Jack Murphy) hung out together in a shack on the island. .

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Strawberry Island: Maps from the 1920s call this island Strawberry, but maps from the 1950s through the early 1960s call it Arrowhead Island. Today it is unnamed on maps.

Earliest map reference: Strawberry Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Strawberry Island on 1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
Arrowhead Island on 1951 Corps map
Arrowhead Island on 1954 Fisher map, Nam
Arrowhead Island on 1963 Corps map

Johnson Bay: Called Ed’s Bay in 1921 and was then unnamed until the late 1960s.

Earliest map reference: Ed's Bay on 1921 Commercial Club map
unnamed on 1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
unnamed on 1951 Corps map
unnamed on 1954 Fisher map, Nam
unnamed on 1963 Corps map

Gagnon Island: May have been named for George Gagnon who was a well- respected steamboat engineer in the early 1900s. The Gagnon family is listed on the annuity payment rolls for the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe. In 1911, George Gagnon was denied Indian enrollee status possibly because his official place of residency was in Canada.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Squaw Narrows: Called Squaw Narrows by 1921. Now called Voyageur Narrows.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

1963 Corps map

Mica Bay and Mica Island: Between 1895 and 1896, Walter Miller and partner James Slimay of Ironwood, Michigan mined mica on the island. Mica was used as an electrical insulator and for isinglass such as in lanterns or furnace windows.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Snake Island: The remains of a homesteader's cabin can be found on the island but it is unknown how the island got its name.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Squirrel Narrows: Supposedly named because squirrels migrate (?) across the narrows.....

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Kettle Falls: Called Chaudiere Falls (the falls at International Falls were also called Chaudier Falls) during the fur trade which is French for "great boiling kettle." The portage around the falls was on the original fur trade canoe route, but sometime in the 1780s, about the time of the formation of the North West Company, it was generally abandoned in favor of the short cut via the Portages (Nu, Nouvelle, Bear or Soldier's Portage). Kettle Falls has been a center of activity for thousands of years—as long as people have sought to travel between the upper and lower lakes. As early as the 1890s, accommodations were provided for travelers. The Kettle Falls Hotel was constructed about 1910 to house the workers on the Kettle Falls Dam, which was completed in 1914. The Williams family acquired the hotel in 1918 for \$1,000 and four barrels of whiskey and the operation remained in the family until 1991.

"After passing down the river, we soon came to the Kettle Rapids, so called, I suppose, from the whirlpools in these rapids. Here the Indians catch white fish in great abundance, by scooping them up from the eddies and whirlpools in these rapids. This

they do during the whole summer season.” (from the journal of Reverend Peter Jacobs, 1852)

“After leaving the (*Rainy*) Lake, we observed a water fall (*Kettle Falls*) on our right, at which there is a Portage called the Kettle P. by which canoes usually pass up the river (*Kettle Channel*) in a low stage of water. But in high waters as at present the route we have taken is preferred as being much shorter. By the other route...there is but one Portage, but the great length of the way by that route to Lake Nam- máka- kon (*Namakan*), or Sturgeon Lake, which we entered at the second (*Bear*) portage...” (From *The Northern Expeditions of Stephen H. Long: The Journals of 1817 and 1823*)

“Arriving at ten o’clock at night at Kettle Falls portage, about a quarter of a mile wide, where a large steamer was ready to take us over Rainy Lake.” (From Peter O’Leary, *Travels and Experiences in Canada, the Red River Territory, and the United States*, John B. Day, Printer and Publisher, London, 1876)

“The water of the lake is about seven feet above high- water mark. Kettle Falls is scarcely entitled to that name when the water is so low as at present, though it no doubt deserves it in the spring, for a huge semi- circle in the rock on each side of the rapid presents a kettle- like appearance, in which the water doubtless boils as in a cauldron. In searching for a reason for the name of these falls, I discovered a hole in the rocks very like the inside of a kettle, perfectly smooth, and which would probably hold about five or six gallons.” (Justus A. Griffin, 2nd Red River Expedition, 1872)

Twin Alligator Island: A Canadian invention, the “alligator” or steam warping tug, was a gasoline or steam- powered tug boat used in hauling booms of logs across the lake. It was called an alligator because it could winch itself across land or water. The tugs were equipped with a winch drum on the deck which had up to one mile of 5/8” wire rope. In towing a boom of logs, the ‘gator would move ahead one mile, drop the 900- pound anchor and unreel the cable back to the boom. Then the winch wound up the cable, moving the boom toward itself at about ¼ mph. The alligator could handle up to 3 million feet of 40’ logs in a raft. A twin alligator was a tug with two engines (or twin screws).

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

McManus Island: A logger who became postmaster in Ray?

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map (westernmost of Wolf Packs)

1926- 28 International Joint Commission map (westernmost of Wolf Packs)
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
unnamed on 1963 Corps map

Sheen Island: Unknown where the name came from. Bert Philips (or Phelps?) was a commercial fisherman from 1930- 1943, who had a cabin on the island and a small barn for his two ponies. He would move the ponies from place to place in his 30' fishing boat. He had a reputation for being the dirtiest man on the lake. His cabin had so many bedbugs that visitors preferred to sleep in the barn with the horses. He had a hole in the middle of his cabin that he shoveled garbage into. He had the nickname of "Prunes" because he seemed to live on them. Island may also have been a misspelling of Gheen- - Stephen Gheen had a homestead patent on the island in the early 1900s. The town of Gheen is named for brothers William and Stephen Gheen.

unnamed on 1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map (northernmost island of McManus is called Sheen I.)

Sheen Point:

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map (north end of McManus is called Sheen Point)
1926- 28 International Joint Commission map (north end of what is now McManus)
1951 Corps map (north end of what is now McManus)
1954 Fisher map, Nam (north end of what is now McManus)
1963 Corps map (north end of McManus, including Sheen I.)

Postage Island: Because of its postage stamp size?

Earliest map reference: 1963 Corps map

Hamilton Island: Probably named for Jimmy "Two- Gun" Hamilton who was a tugboat captain and lived in a shack nearby. He was said to be ornery when he drank and would shoot at boats going by or mice in his cabin. His cabin burned and he moved to Moose Bay where he mellowed with age. He was called Two Gun because he carried a luger in his pocket and 30- 30 rifle in his boat.

Earliest map reference: 1963 Corps map

Junction Bay: During the gold rush, this was a midway point for travelers coming from Tower, Minnesota to the Rainy Lake gold fields. A stopping place, or "half- way" house was located in the bay where travelers could get a meal, stay for the night or rest their horses.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1936 St. Louis County map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map

Wolf Pack Islands:

Earliest map reference: Wolf Island (middle and eastern island of the Wolf Packs)
on 1921 Commercial Club map
Wolf Island on 1926- 28 International joint commission map (easternmost of
Wolf Packs)
Wolf Island on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
Wolf Island (1954 Fisher map, Nam)

Fox Island:

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International joint commission map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Gold Island:

Earliest map reference: ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Jug Island: Loggers used to stash their moonshine jugs on the island during prohibition.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International joint commission map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Randolph Bay: The Randolph family came to northern Minnesota during the 1890s gold rush. William G. Randolph homesteaded in the bay in 1904. Like many early settlers, he had a variety of jobs including operating a commercial fishing camp and logging for a timber company. He was also a steamboat captain on the Winifred Hayes, transporting passengers between Crane Lake and Kettle Falls, and operated a stopping place at Kettle Falls. In 1923 he owned and operated Borderland Lodge at Crane Lake. The bay was named on maps sometime after 1954.

unnamed on 1954 Fisher map, Namakan

Deep Slough: Called Cameron Bay in 1921 and then remained unnamed until the 1960s. The point at the east end of Deep Slough was called Fire Point in 1936.

Earliest map reference: Cameron Bay on 1921 Commercial Club map
unnamed on 1954 Fisher map, Nam

Pike Island:

Earliest map reference: 1954 Fisher map, Nam

Juniper Island: Juniper is a flattened shrub with long, sharp needles and hard, blue-black berries covered with a whitish powder. Native peoples used the berries to make a tea that was beneficial in kidney, bladder and urinary problems. The naming history of the island is unknown.

Grassy Portage: This portage was probably used during the fur trade as a short cut between Sand Point Lake and Namakan Lake.

Earliest map reference: 1913 International Joint Commission map
Grassy Portage Bay on 1930 Gilman map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Pat Smith Island: Pat Smith was the foreman for the Rat Portage Lumber Co., one of the earliest logging companies in the area. The island was named for him because he was windbound there for a couple of days. He was scared of boats and rough weather and the loggers kidded him about it and so they named the island after him. He was a soft spoken man with a pleasant Irish brogue and was a chain cigar smoker.

Earliest map reference: 1954 Fisher map, Nam

Hammer Bay:

unnamed on 1954 Fisher map, Nam

My Island and Your Island: During the establishment of the international boundary, there was a disagreement with Canada over the boundary line. The boundary and the ownership of these two islands was not agreed upon until the 1930s.

unnamed on 1954 Fisher map, Nam

Blind Pig Island: During prohibition, illegal saloons were called Blind Pigs. Frequently the “saloon” was a small log shelter covered with canvas.

Earliest map reference: 1926- 28 International Joint Commission map
1930 Gilman map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

OTHER PLACE NAMES NOT ON CONTEMPORARY MAPS OF NAMAKAN LAKE

Indian Point (on Cemetery Island)
1954 Fisher map, Nam
Kettle Island (northeast of Old Dutch Bay)
1921 Commercial Club map
Myrtle Island (west of Bivo I.)
1921 Commercial club map
Red Pine Point (west of Deep Slough)
1921 Commercial club map
Fire Point (Deep Slough)
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

SAND POINT LAKE

Sand Point Lake is located along the Voyageurs route and is described by early explorers and fur traders. It is named for a large, sandy point on the Canadian side of the lake.

“A narrow strait which connects Crane Lake with Sand Points Lake, and called by the Indians Wa- ba´- bi- kon,” in 1852 by David Dale Owen (Owen, David Dale, Report of a Geological Survey of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota; and Incidentally of a Portion of Nebraska Territory, Lippincott, Grambo & Co., Philadelphia, 1852)

On this Lake [Sand Point or Pas- Sau- be- Kong] I saw the first instances of diluvial etchings along the steep faces of rocks. They were in Clay slate on a Slope to the northward, the bearing of the Stria N East & S West & the lines inclined Southerly 300 with the horizon. (Whittlesey, Charles, “Valley of the Rainy Lake [“River” is lined out] transcribed by Tom Thiessen)

Namakan Narrows:

“At a point, called by the Indians Wa- bi- se- gon, near the entrance to Nemakan or Sturgeon Lake, is an exposure of mica slate, with feldspar veins, as shown by the subjoined cut, which, from the resemblance of one of the veins to a serpent, is regarded by the Indians as a Manitou or god, and must be highly esteemed by them, from the quantity of vermilion bestowed on it, and the number of animals depicted on the face of the rock.” (Owen, David Dale, Report of a Geological Survey of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota; and Incidentally of a Portion of Nebraska Territory, Lippincott, Grambo & Co., Philadelphia, 1852 [this also contains “Dr. J.G. Norwood’s Report, “Col.

Whittlesey's Report," and "Dr. B.F. Shumard's Report" ; the accounts appear to be from 1848 p. 318 of Norwood] [transcribed by Tom Thiessen])

Earliest map reference: 1930 Gilman map (locally produced map)

Burnt Island:

Earliest map reference: 1954 Fisher map, Nam

Ingersoll Island: William P. Ingersoll, wealthy and influential philanthropist from Canton, Illinois, and associate of the International Harvester Company, constructed an early pre- fabricated "Hodgson House" on the island in 1927.

Earliest map reference: Ingersoll's Island on 1959 Corps map

Swanson Bay: William J. Swanson homesteaded in Swanson's bay in 1918. He did some commercial fishing, blacksmithing, carpentry, boat repairs, guiding, hunting, and trapping, had a garden, traveled by dogsled during the winter, made his own moonshine, lived in a tidy log cabin. He died in Duluth in 1962.

Earliest map reference: Swanson's Bay on 1954 Fisher map, Nam

Browns Bay: Locally named by 1930. Possibly named for Frank Brown who had a commercial fishery on Sand Point Lake in the 1890s.

Earliest map reference: 1930 Gilman map
Brown's Bay on 1954 Fisher map, Nam

Staege Bay: Probably named for the William Staege family. The bay used to be an isolated lake prior to construction of the dams at Kettle Falls.

Earliest map reference: 1930 Gilman map
Steges Bay on 1959 Corps map

Harrison Narrows: Possibly named for Reginald Harrison who applied for a homestead in 1904 on the north side of Mukooda. The homestead was cancelled in 1906.

Earliest map reference: 1930 Gilman map
1959 Corps map

King Williams Narrows: Reportedly named for the British Aristocracy, however Henry King Williams Begoo (Tay- to- gah- bo) and Joe King Williams Begoo had Indian allotments of land in the Crane Lake area so it is more likely that the name relates to this Ojibwe Indian family.

Earliest map reference: 1930 Gilman map
1959 Corps map

RAINY LAKE

There are many descriptions of Rainy Lake by early explorers and fur traders.

David Thompson's map (1825- 26) shows east end of Rainy Lake as "Wapesskartagar" and the west end as "Koocheche sakahagan." The lake is separated by the Grande Detroit, meaning "Great Strait." In 1688, French Canadian voyageur Jacques de Noyon passed through Rainy Lake and noted that it was called "Ouchichiq" by the Cree Indians. Explorer LeVerendrye called it Tekamamihouenne in 1783. Paul Kane and Alexander Henry called it Lac la Pluie. Michael Angel in his 1986 thesis on the Rainy Lake Methodist Mission, says the Indians called Rainy Lake "Kochejeeng" or Couchiching. Koochiching is supposedly an Indian word that translates as "mist from the falls."

"Rainy Lake, forming part of the boundary between Minnesota and Canada is called Ko- chi- ching or Koo- chi- ching, which is not a true Ojibway word and does not convey any meaning, but the Indians tell me, what is the truth, that it is properly Wen-dji'- chi - wunk' which is a true Ojibway word and means "Whence the current flows" alluding to the gathering of the waters in Rainy Lake, as in a Reservoir, whence they "flow down" to Hudson's Bay and the ocean" (JA Gilfillan 1911)

"The narrows of the lac La Pluie, called by the Indians Wahbahsgahndugaung..." from Peter Jacobs, Journal of the Reverend Peter Jacobs, Indian Wesleyan Missionary, from Rice Lake to the Hudson's Bay Territory, and Returning. Commencing May, 1852 with a Brief Account of His Life, and a Short History of the Wesleyan Mission in that Country, Published for the Author, 200 Mulberry Street, 1857

"Rainy Lake is one of the largest bodies of water on the route, being 46 miles long and 30 to 40 wide, with numerous arms." (Captain Bell, Red River Expedition, 1870)

"Rainy Lake is full of islands some of which are covered with vegetation and some rocky and barren. I noticed one about 2 acres in extent which was just one heap of loose rocks. There was not a scrap of soil or vegetation on it. The shores of the lake are for the most part barren and sterile...." (Captain Bell, Red River Expedition, 1870)

Following from: Bigsby, John J., The Shoe and Canoe, Vol. II, Chapman and Hall, London, 1850

"As neither map nor description of Rainy Lake has been published....We went carefully round it, and found the sum of our courses to be 294 miles, in which measurement small curvatures are not taken into account. We also counted 516 islands, small and great, besides mere rocks, and others which we did not see.

Its length along the south shore from the River Namaycan to the River LaPluie, taken direct by compass from the map we constructed (one inch to one geographical mile) is thirty- eight and a half statute miles...Its breadth varies from three to thirty- one miles, the former occupying the middle of the south shore, and the latter being taken from Black Bay (south shore) to Spawning River in the north- east arm.

The south shore of this lake...is straight. It has one large promontory, and three principal bays—Wapes- kartoo, Cranberry, and Black. Wapes- kartoo is the first on the east; it does not call for any remark. Cranberry Bay takes its name from the delicious fruit which it affords. Rather more than half a mile from its east angle and near the main lies Maypole Island, a favourite sleeping- place of *voyageurs*. It may be distinguished by a tall pine- tree trimmed into a Maypole.

Black Bay is a shallow, swampy water, from three to four miles in diameter, with a narrow entrance, and full of rice, rushes, and water- lilies.

The Grand Détroit on the south shore, called by the Indians Wabash- gaundaga, is formed by a lengthened group of islands and the main. It is nine miles long; its east end being near and east of Black Bay. It is part of the canoe route to the Lake of the Woods. One of these islands, on which we encamped, abounded in wild onions, which, although small and hard, were excellent in the long- boiled soup of our *voyageurs*.

p. 262 The east shore of the lake [Rainy] from the River Namaycan is tolerably straight (for this lake) for eighteen miles, when we meet with a bay seven miles across at its mouth, and nine miles deep, in a north- eastern direction. I have called it Seine Bay, from the name of a large river at its bottom.

p. 263 The main shores [of Rainy Lake] approach very closely in four or five places. One of these, at the foot of an expansion called Otterberry Lake, and about three miles from the entrance, is noted for the passage of bears. The Indians kill many here; but after a time the bears pass by some of the other narrows, having, without doubt, by some means learnt their danger.

p. 267 We have now to speak of the north- west horn [of Rainy Lake]. It is 21 ½ miles deep, and is distinguished by the same extreme irregularity of outline, and the same prolonged and devious curvatures, as the north- east horn; but it is usually broader from main shore to main shore, and therefore of greater area. It runs west of, and behind, Fort and River Lapluie.

The land around is lower than that of the north- east horn, is often naked, or has aspens and willows at the water's edge—the interior showing great wastes of grey granite, over which the desolation of fire has passed. It is full of islands.

p. 268 The islands of Lake Lapluie are counted by thousands—few more than two or three miles long: the mere rough- tracing of their shores would be a great and profitless labour. They do not call for further remark.

It [Rainy Lake] has twelve principal rivers, including Rainy River, besides others, small, and without names. They are, on the east shore, the Namaycan, Wahschusk,

Cormorant (antlers as a guide- post near it), and Seine River (seventy yards wide at the mouth). In the north- east horn, Turtle and Spawning Rivers. In the north- west horn, Manitou- saugee (fine falls), Nah- katchiwon (from near White- fish Lake). On the west shore, Little Peché and LaPluie Rivers; and on the south shore, Wah- chusk- wateep- pear, Wapeskartookow, and Perch Rivers. These are of good size, and navigable by canoes.

Following from Dr. J.J. Bigsby, “On the Geology of Rainy Lake,” The Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London, Vol. 10, Part I, Longman, Brown, Green and Longmans, London, 1854]

“This lake [Rainy], 50 miles long by 38 ½ miles broad, is 294 miles round by canoe- route. Its form, like that of most bodies of water resting on plutonic rocks, is extremely irregular, being in three great troughs (with deep lateral indents), one of these running easterly, and other two in a northerly direction.

The immediate shores are usually low, rarely cliffs or earthy banks; but they rise in shapeless masses of rock, often naked, with broad marshy intervals; or in ridges, which become hills 300- 500 feet high at distances from the lake varying from half a mile to four miles.

The low grounds are well covered with small trees, such as are common in these regions, and the higher abound in *Vaccineae* and other useful fruit- bearing bushes.

...Its water is pure and clear, but seldom deep, and spring- freshets rise to the height of 3 to 5 feet.

We counted 516 islands; but there are more. They are mostly small and marshy; and never exceed four miles in length.”

Places on Rainy Lake (from east to west) that are named in Bigsby’s book on geology: Peche Bay, Otter Point, Manitou Sound, River Nahcatchewan, Cape Jones, Corpse Island, Western Arm, Cape Chamberlain, Hopkins Bay, Indian Bay, Forbes’ Bay, Point Back, Cape Bayfield, Point Bayfield, Bear’s Pass, Otterberry Lake, Porter’s Bay, Spawning River, Manitou Rocks, Parry Strait, Point Dalhousie, Barclay Bay, Point Lyon, Point Franklin, Cormorant River, Wah- chusk River, Point Mackenzie, Stokes Bay, Hale Bay, Perch River, Wapescartoo River, Falls of the Chaudiere River [Kettle Falls], Grand Detroit, Maypole Island, Point Observe, Black Bay, Wapescartoo Bay, Point Logan

“From here he [Jacque de Noyon in 1688] descended to Lac de Mille Lacs, and by the Seine river to Rainy lake, or the Lake of the Christinaux as it was then called.” (From Lawrence J. Burpee, “Highways of the Fur Trade”)

“About the middle of April 1740, he [Joseph LaFrance who was born at Michilimakinac—father was a French trader, and his mother Saulteur] reached Grand Portage and...reached “Du Plus,” or Rainy Lake, about the end of the month.” (from Lawrence J. Burpee, “Search for the Western Sea”)

“Lac La Pluye... This Lake appears to be divided by an isthmus, near the middle, into two parts: the west part is called the Great Rainy Lake, the east, the Little Rainy Lake, as being the least division.... It is in general very shallow in its depth. The broadest part of it is not more than twenty miles, its length, including both, about three hundred miles. In the west part the water is very clear and good; and some excellent fish are taken in it. A great many fowl resort here at the fall of the year. Moose deer are to be found in great plenty, and likewise the caribboo; whose skin for breeches or gloves exceeds by far any other to be met with in North- America. The land on the border of this Lake is esteemed in some places very good, but rather too quickly covered with wood.” (from J. Carter., Travels through the Interior Parts of North America in the Years 1766, 1767, and 1768 by J. Carver, Esq. Captain of a Company of Provincial Troops during the Late War with France)

“The shores of Rainy Lake are generally low, and often consist of naked shapeless masses of rock, with marshy intervals, or they rise in ridges which become hills 300 to 500 feet high, half a mile to four miles from the lake. The timber seems to be very small and thin in the marshes, and on the islands, which exceed 500 in number, the largest growth was observed. Taken as a whole, the general aspect of the shores is forbidding, and furnishes on the ridges and hill flanks a picture of hopeless sterility and desolate waste.” (Henry Youle Hind, Red River exploring expedition 1857- 1858)

“Rainy Lake is an enormous sheet of water...being 50 miles long by 30 to 40 broad. Its shores present a sterile and hopeless aspect; the timber is very poor, and bleached and naked rocks are visible for miles together. It is about 420 feet above the level of Lake Superior...Its waters are clear but warm, and not very deep.” (Captain G.L. Huyshe, Red River Expedition, 1871)

“This evening, at a very late hour, we reached the narrows of the lac La Pluie, called by the Indians Wahbahsgahndugaung, and here we encamped for the night.” (Journal of Reverend Peter Jacobs, 1852)

“Rainy Lake...abounds in islands & is bounded by rocky shores. At its eastern extremity also is a very broad part of the lake destitute of islands and called the Grand Travers. depth below, rendering the navigation hazardous.

...Crossed the Grand Traverse, which has an extent of about 12 miles..” (from The Northern Expeditions of Stephen H. Long: The Journals of 1817 and 1823)

“...its rivers, [p. 164] lakes, and even its portages are indicated as far as the issues of the Rainy River from Rainy Lake (Lac des Cristinaux, Lake of the Crees), where De Noyon had built his post...” (in a joint memoir drawn up on November 12, 1716, by M. de Vaudreuil, Governor, and M. Bégon, Intendant from Arthur S. Morton’s A History of the Canadian West to 1870- 71)

“You now come to a fall and find a portage one acre long reaching Lac des Cris or Christinaux which is about 500 leagues in circumference. Weeping to the left you follow the shore for eight leagues where the lake empties into the Takamaniouen which the Crees also call Ouchichig.” (from Judge L.A. Prud’homme, “Pierre Gaultier de Varennes Sieur de la Verendrye: Captain of Marines, Chevalier of the Military Order of St. Louis, Discoverer of the North- West 1685- 1749,” Bulletin of the Historical Society of St. Boniface, Vol. 5, Part 2, “Le Manitoba Print,” St. Boniface, 1916)

“La Noue...endeavored to induce the Crees of Lake Tekamamiouen (Rainy Lake) to frequent the post the French had erected...(footnote: Another Cree dialect, Taki Kimiwen means “It rains all the time.”) (from Judge L.A. Prud’homme, “Pierre Gaultier de Varennes Sieur de la Verendrye: Captain of Marines, Chevalier of the Military Order of St. Louis, Discoverer of the North- West 1685- 1749,” Bulletin of the Historical Society of St. Boniface, Vol. 5, Part 2, “Le Manitoba Print,” St. Boniface, 1916)

Harrison Bay: Possibly named after Everett Harrison who was an employee of the International Lumber Company and operator of the boat the Mary Mac. Called Tango Bay in 1921 (see Tango Bay).

Earliest map reference: Tango Bay on 1921 Commercial Club map
1936 Corps map

Bushyhead Island: Charles “Bushy Head” Johnson was superintendent of the Bushy Head Mining Company, whose principal owner was from Wisconsin. Gold was discovered on the island in 1895. The Rainy Lake Journal in 1895 reported that the island was, “so named because it rises boldly out of the lake at an altitude considerably above 100’ and is crowned with a luxuriant growth of pine timber, giving it a “bushy” appearance...”

Earliest map reference: Bushy Head Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Bushy Head Island on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1936 Corps map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Black Bay: Also called Rat Root Lake or Wusk- ku- tabe on some early maps.

Earliest map reference: 1880- 1907 Trygg composite map
1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
ca1895 E.S. Shepard's map
1916 International joint commission low water map
1926- 28 International joint commission map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

Powder Island: Dynamite was supposedly stored on the island during the gold rush.

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Dryweed Island: George & Bessie Stoffel had a store on the island where they bought wild rice and blueberries from the Indians and sold or exchanged groceries. Blueberries were measured out in sixteen quart crates and shipped on the freight boat twice a week during blueberry season.

Earliest map reference: 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
1916 International joint commission low water map
Dry Weed Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Dry Weed Island on ca1936 Corps map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Drywood Island: Origins of the name unknown. The channel between Dryweed and Drywood Islands was called Golden Gate and during prohibition, there was a “soft drink” establishment operated by Frank Fostin in the Golden Gate.

Tango Bay: Used to be a log saloon in the bay. Sometimes called Moonshine Bay.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map (what is currently Harrison Bay)
1936 Corps map

Big American Island: Gold was discovered on the island in 1894. George Davis, the discoverer of gold on Rainy Lake, mined Big American between 1894 and 1897. The vertical shaft reached a depth of 45.’

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map

Little American Island: Gold was discovered on the island in August, 1893 by George S. Davis which prompted a “rush” to Rainy Lake and development of the briefly prosperous town of Rainy Lake City on the shores of Black Bay in 1894.

Earliest map reference: 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
1936 Corps map

Dove Bay: Probably named for Hosea Dove, a commercial fisherman in the 1930s. He used to make people mad because he strung his nets all the way across Black Bay.

Earliest map reference: Dove's Bay on 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Olson's Bay: Named for the commercial fishermen Laurence and Eddie Olson.

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Cranberry Bay: Cranberries were plentiful in the bay before water levels were raised.

Earliest map reference: 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
1916 International joint commission low water map
1921 Commercial Club map
1926- 28 International joint commission map
ca1936 Corps map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Arden Island: Named for Arden Erickson Barnes, daughter of early residents John and Gina (pronounced with a hard "G") Erickson of Ranier. John and his brother George had fur trading business, taxidermy shop and general store in Ranier. The general store eventually became Arden's Village Store.

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Steamboat Island: There is supposedly a big ring in the rocks on the island for steamboats to tie up to during bad weather.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Alder Creek:

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Harbor Island:

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Lost Bay: Large bay often mistaken for a channel. Portage trail may date to the fur trade.

Earliest map reference: 1916 International Joint Commission low water investigation (text)
1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Brule Narrows: Explorer David Thompson's boundary map of 1825- 26 calls it Grande Detroit meaning "Great Strait." Commonly used stopping place for voyageur brigades during the fur trade. Strong winds on Rainy Lake frequently forced the brigades to seek shelter.

Earliest map reference: 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
1916 International Joint Commission low water map
1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Gaylord Point:

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Soldier Point: Colonel Garnet Wolseley led a military expedition to Manitoba in 1871 to quell an uprising by Metis leader Louis Riel. The Wolseley Expedition (or Red River Expedition) soldiers stopped overnight on Soldier Point on their way to Winnipeg.

Earliest map reference: Point Observe on 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
Point Observe on 1921 Commercial Club map
Point Observe on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
Soldier Point on 1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Saginaw Bay: To loggers, to "saginaw" or "saint croix" meant to retard the larger or butt end of a log in loading it up to a car.

Earliest map reference: 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
1916 International joint commission low water map
1921 Commercial Club map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1938 Corps map

1941 Corps map

Marion Bay: Supposedly named for an early logging company or logger.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map

1938 Corps map

1941 Corps map

Payson Island: Named for commercial fisherman James Payson, who was licensed to fish on Rainy Lake 1910- 1913.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map

1938 Corps map

1941 Corps map

Duckfoot Island: Named because of the shape of the island?

Earliest map reference: Duck Foot Island on 1921 Commercial Club map

1938 Corps map

1941 Corps map

Finlander Island:

Earliest map reference: Fin Island on 1921 Commercial Club map

1938 Corps map

1941 Corps map

Finlander Bay:

Earliest map reference: Finn Bay on 1921 Commercial Club map

1938 Corps map

1941 Corps map

Nelson Island:

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map

1938 Corps map

1941 Corps map

Hitchcock Bay: (See Hitchcock Island)

Earliest map reference: Clyde's Bay on 1921 Commercial Club map

1938 Corps map

1941 Corps map

Hitchcock Island: The Neely's who used to live on the island knew it as Rookery Island or Neely's Island. Mrs. H.D. Neely from Omaha was president of the Audobon

Society in Omaha. She and her husband spent summers on Rainy Lake. There were a lot of birds on the island so Mrs. Neely named it Rookery Island. There was an Edgar William Hitchcock who died in Ranier in 1929—perhaps the bay and the island were named for him.

Neely's Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Norway Island:

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Three Sisters Islands: These three small islands were called the Pine Islands in 1894 and through the 1930s on some maps.

Earliest map reference: Pine Islands on 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
1921 Commercial Club map
Pine Islands on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Shelland Island:

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Kawawia Island: Perhaps it comes from the Ojibwe word Ka awiia meaning nobody, no, nothing, or none.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Kempton Channel and Bay: John Kempton was a prospector who had several claims in the Brule Narrows, Kempton Bay area. He also had claims in Canada and he and a man by the last name of Crawford sold a piece of property on the Manitou to a Toronto party for \$70,000 in 1897. Kempton was arrested in 1897 for assaulting a deputy Customs collector in the town of Koochiching. He was discharged without a trial because he was confined in Duluth for so long awaiting trial that it was thought he had been punished enough. There was also an L.H. Kempton, who had a homestead on Rainy Lake.

The Virginia & Rainy Lake Co. had a logging camp in the channel during the 1920s. Commercial fisherman and drawbridge operator (in Ranier), Mike Schiesel (pronounced chisel), lived in the abandoned buildings for many years. Lakers remember him for his sense of humor, his pet pig and the broken German he spoke. He also believed that woodpeckers predicted bad weather—the more they drummed, the worse the weather would be. He also told the story about a space ship landing on the lake and the little men inside being scared off by his pet pig.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Emerald Island: Carl Lenander, a wealthy businessman from Minneapolis, built a cabin on the island in 1909. He had a boat called the Emerald Isle and so the island was named after the boat (or the boat after the island).

Earliest map reference: Lenander Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
Emerald Island on 1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Junior Island: Carl Lenander bought the island for his son Carl, Jr.

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

Big Island: Largest island on Rainy Lake.

Earliest map reference: 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
1916 International joint commission low water map
1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Stoffel's Point: Ed Stoffel first homesteaded on Sand Point Lake and later had a fish camp on Big Island between 1926- 1949. During the winter, he and his wife Alice traveled to town by horse and cutter. The Stoffel's housed their horse Maude in the horse barn of a former logging camp in Kempton Channel, where Mike Schisel took care of it. His younger brother George had a blueberry store on Dryweed Island.

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map

1954 Fisher map, Nam

Blueberry Island: Iowa State University civil engineering professor Jack Dodds (see Brown's Bay) built a cabin for his family on the island in 1945.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Lyman Island: Origin of the name is unknown.

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1941 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Idle Hour Island: Perhaps named by the honeymooners who supposedly built a cottage on the island which was destroyed by the forest fire of 1923. Although this story seems to fit better for an island south of the Three Sisters, which was called Honeymoon Island on 1921 maps.

Brown's Bay: Possibly named for E.O. Brown, an early summer resident on Rainy Lake who was a furrier in Minneapolis and built the cabin on Junior Island. Between 1923 and 1940, Iowa State University operated a summer camp in Brown's Bay for civil engineering students. The camp was operated by Professor John "Jack" Dodds who also given credit for the organization of the National Congress on Surveying and Mapping and creation of professional standards for land surveying.

Mose- zag (Ojibwe name for Brown's Bay, JA Gilfillan, 1911)
Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
Brown Bay on 1938 Corps map
Brown Bay on 1954 Fisher map, Nam

Finger Bay: Named for the shape of the bay?

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Windmill Rock: Origin of the name unknown.

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Anderson Bay: May have been named for “Crazy Anderson” who lived in a shack in Anderson Bay. Crazy was supposedly institutionalized at one time and when he was released he was given a certificate saying he was sane. He always carried it with him and told people he was the only person who could prove he was sane. He owned a flat-bottomed green boat with a Model- T engine and a top on the boat. He had a big white beard. Local residents on the lake say that Crazy told them that the rocks in Anderson Bay were the only ones on the lake soft enough to sleep on. He supposedly also had shacks in Anderson Bay and Saginaw Bay.

Earliest map reference: Anderson's Bay on 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Minnitaki Island: Sometimes called Gowdy Island. Origins of either name are unknown.

Earliest map reference: Minnitaki Island on 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Smith Island: Named for Harry Smith who had a commercial fishing camp on the island.

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Sand Bay Island: For the three sandbars on the island??

Earliest map reference: 1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Rabbit Island Adolph Hilke was the first commercial fisherman on the American side of Rainy Lake. He starting fishing in Canada in 1908 and then moved the operation to Rabbit Island in 1912 and fished from there until about 1925 when he moved to Brule Narrows. The island was supposedly named because the Hilke's raised domestic rabbits which got loose and bred with the wild rabbits, however the name Rabbit Island appears on maps as early as 1894.

Earliest map reference: 1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
1921 Commercial Club map
1938 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam

Surveyor's Island: The International Boundary Commission survey team camped on the island in 1914.

Earliest map reference: 1938 Corps map
Surveyors Isle on 1954 Fisher map, Nam

OTHER NAMES NOT ON CONTEMPORARY MAPS OF RAINY LAKE

Golden Gate (between Dryweed and Drywood Is.)
1921 Commercial Club map

Mud Island (in Mud Bay)
1921 Commercial Club map

Mud Bay (one bay east of Dove)
1921 Commercial Club map

Cranberry Island
1921 Commercial Club map

Ainsworth Point (south of McKenzie Island)
1921 Commercial Club map

Sand Beach Ad. (on Soldier Point)
1921 Commercial Club map

Ethel Island (in Saginaw Bay)
1921 Commercial Club map

Round Rock Island
west of Duck Foot Island on 1921 Commercial Club map

Honey Moon Island (northwest of Norway I.)
1921 Commercial Club map

Becky's Bay (southwest of Sand Bay I.)
1921 Commercial Club map

Sand Narrows (between Sand Bay I. and peninsula)
1894 Winchell/Grant geological map
1921 Commercial Club map

Hilke's Point (on Rabbit Island)
1921 Commercial Club map

Lobstick Island/Lobstick Point

1894 Winchell/Grant geological map

island shown on Canadian side on 1921 Commercial Club map

Pederson Island (Garrett's)

1936 Corps map

Frank Island

1938 Corps map

1941 Corps map

INTERIOR LAKES

Johnson Lake: Possibly named for Charlie Johnson who was a resident of Rainy Lake City and one of the owner's of Bushyhead gold mine. The lake used to be on the winter route of the stage road from Tower, Minnesota to Rainy Lake during the 1890s gold rush and Johnson operated a "stopping place" or overnight rest stop there. Gold was discovered near Johnson Lake in the 1890s. Named on Northwest part of St. Louis County map of V&RL Co. holdings.

Earliest map reference: 1930 Gilman map (local map)

1969 state lake survey map

Net Lake: Supposedly from the Indian word "Asubikone" meaning taken or entangled in a net. On 1931- 1934 maps of Kabetogama State Forest, it is called Vang Lake. Sometimes called Peanut Lake. Beaver dam broke in 19__ and about one- half of the water in the lake drained out so level of lake is lower now.

Earliest map reference: Vang Lake on 1931- 1934 Kabetogama State Forest Map

1954 Fisher map, Nam

Net (Peanut) on 1969 state lake survey map

Tooth Lake: Appears on NW part of St. Louis Co. V&RL land holdings map and 1954 map.

Earliest map reference: 1954 Fisher map, Nam

1969 state lake survey map

Spring Lake:

Earliest map reference: 1954 Fisher map, Nam

Mukooda Lake:

Ga- namegosikag- zag (Ojibwe name for Trout Lake, JA Gilfillan, 1911)
Named Trout Lake on NW part of St. Louis Co. V&RL holdings map (date unknown)

Trout Lake on 1930 Gilman map (local map)
1959 Corps map
1969 state lake survey map

Little Trout Lake: Sometimes called Pocket Lake.
Earliest map reference:

Lucille Lake:
Earliest map reference: 1954 Fisher map, Nam
1969 state lake survey map

Wiyapka Lake:
Earliest map reference: unnamed on 1951 Corps map
Wiyapko Lake on 1963 Corps map
1969 state lake survey map

O'Leary Lake: Named for an early settler? Thomas O'Leary is listed as the son of Mah- je- way- we- di- noke or Mrs. Sullivan O'Leary on the 1923 Bois Forte census.
Earliest map reference: Pocket Lake on 1930 Gilman map (local map)
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1969 state lake survey map

Cruiser Lake: Called Big Trout Lake in 1921, Trout Lake on some maps in the 1930s and Beaver Lake on others. Consistently called Cruiser Lake by the 1950s. The V&RL had a logging camp on the lake. During the logging days, a cruiser (or land- looker) was a man who estimated the value of standing timber. When the logging camp closed, Mr. and Mrs. C. Francis Coleman remodeled some of the buildings for a resort. The cabins, which were destroyed in the 1936 Peninsula fire, were lined with birch and cedar bark.

Earliest map reference: Big Trout Lake on 1921 Commercial Club map (Trout Cr.- Little Trout L.)
Trout Lake on 1936 Fisher map, Kab
Beaver Lake, 1936 St. Louis County map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)
1969 state lake survey chart

Jorgen's Lake:

Earliest map reference: unnamed on 1921 Commercial Club map
Jorgen Lake on 1936 Fisher map, Kab
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1951 Corps map
Jorgen Lake (1954 Fisher map, Nam)
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)
1969 state lake survey map

Quarterline Lake: Called Leif Lake until the late 1960s.

Earliest map reference: "pond" on 1951 Corps map
Leif Lake on 1954 Fisher map, Nam
Leif (Quarterline) on 1969 state lake survey map
"pond" on 1963 Corps map

Ek Lake: Also called Leif Lake through the 1930s. By the 1960s it is called "Ek (Leif)"

Earliest map reference: Leif Lake on 1936 Fisher map, Kab
Leif Lake on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1936 St. Louis County map
Leif Lake on 1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam (Ek & Leif are different lakes)
1963 Corps map
Ek (Leif), 1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)
Ek (Leif) on 1969 state lake survey map

Agnes Lake: Origin of name unknown.

Earliest map reference: 1936 St. Louis County map
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1936 Fisher map, Kab
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1963 Corps map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)
(Agnes) Agnus Lake on 1969 state lake survey map

Mud Lake: Called Mukwa Lake in 1936. Makwa is Ojibwe for bear.

Earliest map reference: Mukwa Lake on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
"pond" on 1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
"pond" on 1963 Corps map

Beast Lake: Used to be called Mica Lake or Wilson Lake or Trout Lake.

Earliest map reference: Mica Lake on 1921 Commercial Club map
Trout Lake, 1936 St. Louis County map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
Beast (Wilson) on 1969 state lake survey map

Weir Lake: Some say that this lake used to be called Muck- Wa (Makwa is Ojibwe for bear). Al Weir was a foreman for the Virginia & Rainy Lake Lumber Company so it is more likely named for him.

Earliest map reference: Little Trout Lake on 1921 Commercial Club map
1951 Corps map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1969 state lake survey map

Oslo Lake: Oslo and Brown used to be named Brown Lake. Then Brown was called East Oslo before it was called Brown.

Earliest map reference: Oslo (Brown) on 1969 state lake survey map

Brown Lake: See Oslo Lake.

Earliest map reference: Brown Lake (Oslo & Brown 1 lake) on 1921 Commercial Club map
Brown (East Oslo) on 1969 state lake survey map

Peary Lake: Used to be called Lone Rock Lake in 1921 and then Bald Rock Lake. Called Peary by 1954.

Earliest map reference: Lone Rock Lake on 1921 Commercial Club map
1954 Fisher map, Nam
1969 state lake survey map

Fishmouth Lake:

Earliest map reference: Moose Track Lake on 1921 Commercial Club map
Fishmouth (Moose Track) on 1969 state lake survey map

Shoepack Lake: Used to be called Bootjack Lake until the 1960s. A bootjack was a device made of a crotched limb or board that was used to pull of leather boots. The name could also come from footwear that developed in Maine and Canada. A shoepack is a boot made from a single piece of leather for the sole and with an extra sole, making it more waterproof and providing better protection from roots and rocks.

Earliest map reference unnamed on 1921 Commercial Club map (creek to Kempton called Alder Cr.)

Boot Jack Lake on 1936 St. Louis County map

1936 Fisher map, Kab

ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

1951 Corps map

Bootjack Lake on 1963 Corps map

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Shoe Pack (Boot Jack) on 1969 state lake survey map

Little Shoepack Lake:

Earliest map reference: unnamed on 1921 Commercial Club map

Boot Lake on 1936 St. Louis County map

1936 Fisher map, Kab

unnamed on 1951 Corps map

unnamed on 1963 Corps map

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Little Shoepack (Boot) on 1969 state lake survey map

Loiten Lake: Loiten was called Quill in 1921- - Quill was called War Club- - War Club was part of Cranberry Lake (which is now called Locator). Sometimes Cranberry Lake was called Upper and Lower Cranberry. War Club is called Waulub on some maps.

Earliest map reference: Quill Lake on 1921 Commercial Club map

ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

1936 Fisher map, Kab

1969 state lake survey map

Quill Lake: See Loiten.

Earliest map reference: War Club Lake on 1921 Commercial Club map

unnamed on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

1969 state lake survey map

Cranberry Creek:

Earliest map reference: Cranberry River on 1921 Commercial Club map

Cranberry River on 1926- 28 International joint commission map
Cranberry River on 1938 Corps map

WarClub Lake: See Loiten.

Earliest map reference: part of Cranberry Lake on 1921 Commercial Club map
unnamed on ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)
Warclub (Waulub) on 1969 state lake survey map

Locator Lake: See Loiten.

Earliest map reference: Cranberry Lake on 1921 Commercial Club map
(Cranberry & War Club 1 lake)
ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map
Locator (Cranberry) on 1969 state lake survey map

Lost Lake: Sometimes called North Lake or Jellyfish Lake.

Sucker Creek

Earliest map reference: 1936 Fisher map, Kab
Sucker River on 1963 Lands & Minerals map
1965 Fisher map, Kab (revised 1975)

Clyde Creek

Earliest map reference: Clyde Lake (widened river) on 1963 Lands & Minerals
map
Clyde River (1965 Fisher map, Kab, revised 1975)

Deer Creek

**OTHER NAMES NOT ON CONTEMPORARY MAPS FOR OTHER GEOGRAPHIC
POINTS**

Alder Creek (Shoepack to Kempton)

1921 Commercial Club map

Trout Creek (Big Trout L.- Little Trout L./Cruiser - Mud)

1921 Commercial Club map

ca1936 Rainy Lake District Playground of Minnesota map

Wabigoon Lake (now McDevitt)

1921 Commercial Club map

Duffy's Point (near Burnt Island)

1930 Gilman map
Ryan Lake
1969 state lake survey map
Heart Lake

According to LeVerne Oveson, the small lake west of Wiyapka was called Heart Lake.

Bluebird Lake
According to LeVerne Oveson, the small lake between Tooth and Net was called Bluebird Lake.

Pond Lake
According to LeVerne Oveson, the lake northeast of Agnes was called Pond Lake.