

Imprints in the Landscape: Serbian Toponyms in North America

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Complementing an earlier article that identified Serbian place-names throughout the world, this composition concentrates upon commemorative appellations in the United States and Canada.¹ It examines the historical circumstances by which existing, mistaken, altered, and apparent place-names arose; it also attempts to establish a naming pattern. North American geographical nomenclature includes numerous foreign designations that were not randomly chosen. Representing the intersection of geography and history, place-names preserve various aspects of a country's national and cultural heritage that might otherwise be overlooked or forgotten by successive generations. Bestowed by early immigrants or offered by postal authorities and entrepreneurs, toponyms of a definite Serbian origin reflect prevailing attitudes towards Serbia and Montenegro at the time of their designation.

Existing Toponyms

An investigation of contemporary nomenclature inevitably involves historical anecdotes and a recounting of the personalities and events that produced them. Reasons for the naming of most places were determined. Some historical sources provide incomplete, speculative, and possibly incorrect information regarding place-name origins due to omissions, digressive explanations, and/or an absence of detailed documentation. Locally invented and recounted *ex post facto* explanations of probable origins should not be considered as definitive accounts. Extensive correspondence was maintained with several historical societies in an effort to ensure factual accuracy when exceedingly limited published data was available. Records related to the founding of some

¹ Marinel Mandreš, "Serbian Place Names Around the World," *Serbian Studies* 9, nos. 1–2 (1995): 151–59; Olga B. Markovich, "Serbs Leave Imprint on USA 100 Years Ago," *American Srbobran*, 30 June 1976, 2.

communities are elusive or no longer exist. In the absence of other reliable information, post office opening and closing dates provided clues as to when a settlement was established, active, and declined. It was impossible to investigate “paper towns” created by land speculators during the 1800s. Presented in alphabetical order, the following entries provide information about existing place-names:

Balkan, Kentucky. A coal mining town located near Toms Creek (Bell County). Established on 20 December 1920, the post office name acknowledges that almost all of the initial mineworkers were of “Slavic” origin.² The Louisville and Nashville Railway developed a large freight yard to handle coal extracted from the nearby fields. The local graveyard is registered as *Balkan Cemetery*.

Balkan Lake, Minnesota. A hydrographic feature situated in Balkan Township (St. Louis County).

Balkan Mine, Michigan. Situated in Iron County (Mastodon Township, Alpha Mining District) along the Chicago and North Western Railway line, this ore mine was opened in 1915 and operated by the Balkan Mining Company until 31 December 1935 when the lease expired and operations ceased.³ Operations coincided with the Menominee Iron Range’s mining boom (1900–1929).

Balkan Mine, Montana. Encountered in the vicinity of Anaconda (Deer Lodge County). The name may have been derived from the presence of numerous Serb settlers from Lika, Herzegovina, and Montenegro who arrived in this area during the early 1900s and were employed by companies engaged in the extraction of iron ore deposits. It is also possible that one of these mining enterprises applied its name, which contained the term ‘Balkan,’ to the site.

Balkan Township, Minnesota. Located in the Iron Range, this administrative area was established on 6 March 1912, after St. Louis County commis-

² Robert M. Rennick, *Kentucky Place Names* (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1984), 12.

³ Graydon M. Meints, *Along the Tracks: A Dictionary of Named Places on Michigan Railroads* (Kalamazoo, MI: Clarke Historical Society Library, 1987), 274; Marcia A. Bernhardt, ed., *Iron County Historical Sites and Landmarks, 1885–1985* (Caspian, MI: Iron County Museum, 1985), 7; Correspondence from Harold Bernhardt, Director, Iron County Historical and Museum Society, 10 February 1999.

sioners approved a petition, initiated by William Cooper, which requested the formation of a new township. The name was supposed to be changed to New Balkan following territorial reorganization in May 1912.⁴ Many Serbs from Lika, Herzegovina, and Montenegro settled here throughout the late 1890s and early 1900s.⁵ Although one source acknowledges that the township takes its name from the Balkan mountain range, the immigrants' presence and First Balkan War may also have been a possible source.⁶

Belgrade, Colorado. Unfortunately, historical resources do not mention this community's origin or that of its name. The name may have been arbitrarily chosen from a list of otherwise unused European post office names.

Belgrade, Illinois. Formerly known as Bellgrade or Bell Grade (originally in Pope County, now in Massac County), this community's post office was established as Belgrade by authorities on 16 October 1822 and discontinued on 30 September 1823. By 1823, the small community consisted of 12 to 20 dwellings that were often deserted due to the Ohio River's flooding.⁷ The name may have been changed to avoid confusion with Bellgrade, Kansas, and/or recognize the First Serbian Uprising of 1815. Alternatively, the name may have been selected because of the community's location at the confluence to two rivers. Belgrade was also called *Belgrade Landing* because ferryboats running along the Little Wabash River stopped for passengers bound for Paducah, Kentucky, and Metropolis, Illinois.⁸ Belgrade appeared in atlases until 1956.

⁴ Walter Van Brunt, ed., *Duluth and St. Louis County, Minnesota: Their Story and People*, vol. 2 (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1921), 668.

⁵ June D. Holmquist, Joseph Stipanovich, and Kenneth B. Moss, "The South Slavs: Bulgarians, Croatians, Montenegrins, Serbs, and Slovenes," in June D. Holmquist et al. eds., *They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1981), 381–404; Branko M. Čolaković, "Croats and Serbs on Minnesota's Iron Range," in *Entrepreneurs and Immigrants: Life on the Industrial Frontier of Northeastern Minnesota* (Duluth: Iron Range Research Center, 1991), 85–92.

⁶ Warren Upham, *Minnesota Geographic Names: Their Origins and Historical Significance* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1920), 478.

⁷ Lewis C. Beck, *A Gazetteer of the States of Illinois and Missouri* (Albany, NY: Charles R. and George Webster, 1823), 91; James N. Adams, *Illinois Place Names* (Springfield: Illinois State Historical Society, 1969), 289. A depot named Belle Grade was established in 1703 near the mouth of Massac Creek as noted by George W. May, *History of Massac County, Illinois* (Galesburg, IL: Wagoner Printing Company, 1955), 29.

⁸ Correspondence from Paul E. Fellows, Secretary, Massac County Historical Society, 1 July 1999.

Belgrade, Maine. Initially settled in 1774 as Washington (Plantation) and incorporated as Belgrade on 3 February 1796 (then in Lincoln County, Massachusetts), this town evolved from a rural farming community into a premier inland resort area, the Belgrade Lakes Region, renowned for its chain of seven lakes.⁹ It lies within *Belgrade Township* (Kennebec County) and was designated by John V. Davis in honor of its namesake, the Serbian capital, which he visited, as a representative of the East India Company, according to some historians.¹⁰ Others write that the name was chosen by Washington's inhabitants "because of [their] interest in the plight of Serbians," whose capital was repeatedly attacked during the Austro-Turkish Wars.¹¹ Linking these assertions, is a third variant which states that:

The relationship between [the] Serbian Belgrade and the one in Maine came about because of the European travels of John V. Davis, during the late-1700s. While in Europe, he had either visited Belgrade or (more likely) had simply heard of the return of Christianity to the city, in 1774, after an absence of several hundred years, under Moslem rule. This was considered a great event in Europe, since it marked the first weakening of Turkish domination over eastern Europe...Undoubtedly, also, the Austrian capture of the European city from the Turks (1789) was still very strong on his mind.¹²

⁹ Town of Belgrade, *1995 Annual Report* (Belgrade, ME: R.N. Haskins, 1996), 6; Federal Writer's Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of Maine, *Maine: A Guide Down East* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin and Company, 1937), 351; William D. Williamson, *The History of the State of Maine*, vol. 2 (Hallowell, ME: Glazier, Masters and Company, 1832); 572. Topographic maps suggest that the designation sequence was: Prescotts, Washington, Snows, Prescott and Carrs, Bellgrade, and finally Belgrade. See Stanley B. Attwood, *The Length and Breadth of Maine* (Augusta, ME: Kennebec Journal Print Shop, 1946), 106.

¹⁰ J. Clair Minot, "Town of Belgrade," in *Illustrated History of Kennebec County, Maine*, ed. Henry D. Kingsbury and Simon L. Dayo, vol. 2 (New York: H.W. Blake and Company, 1829), 977; Phillip R. Rutherford, *The Dictionary of Maine Place-Names* (Freeport, ME: Bond Wheelwright and Company, 1970), 91; Robert A. Guptil, Carol F. Nye, and H. Pauline Plourde, *Past and Present: Pictures and People of Belgrade, Maine, 1774–1976* (Belgrade, ME: Belgrade Bicentennial Observance, 1976), 5; Frank R. Abate, ed., *American Places Dictionary: A Guide to 45,000 Populated Places, Natural Features, and Other Places in the United States*, vol. 1 (Detroit: Omnigraphics Incorporated, 1994), 55; "Belgrade" (<http://www.mint.net/mmcc/cities/belgrade.html>), 1999.

¹¹ Ava H. Chadbourne, *Maine Place Names and the Peopling of Its Towns* (Portland, ME: Bond Wheelwright Company, 1955), 144. The Battle of Belgrade occurred in 1717.

¹² Carl Yeaton, *Town of Belgrade: Past and Present—Pictures, Places, People, 1796–1996* (n.p.: 1995), 8. Also see the Town of Belgrade web-site (<http://www.belgrademaine.com/history/history.html>) for the same text.

Interestingly, local explanations, which contend that Davis never traveled to Europe, specify that the appellation is derived from a contraction of the French words *bel* (fair, fine, beautiful) and *grade* (step in preferment).¹³ This reinterpretation disassociates the locality's name from its actual source and attempts to make it more meaningful. Figures 1 and 2 (p. 197), respectively, illustrate the seal and bicentennial emblem of Belgrade, Maine. Figure 3 (p. 197) shows a Second World War patriotic event cover which ties Belgrade, Maine, to Yugoslavia.

Belgrade Stream flows through the town while adjacent village names include *North Belgrade*, *Belgrade Depot*, *Belgrade Lakes*, and *Belgrade Mills*. These names represent a pattern of independent adoption and subsequent local duplication. The building of the Maine Central Railroad through Belgrade between 1848 and 1849 resulted in the establishment of two stations: Belgrade and North Belgrade (formerly Tilton Mills near *Belgrade Hill*). To distinguish the settlement that began to grow around Belgrade station from the town of Belgrade, its name was changed to Belgrade Depot during the early 1850s. Regular passenger service to Belgrade Depot ceased in 1959; the buildings were gone by 1962. Belgrade Mills, formerly Chandler's Mills and Locke's Mills before that, was made a post office in 1829, then renamed Belgrade Lakes in 1901.¹⁴ The Belgrade and North Belgrade post offices were respectively opened in 1821 and 1840 with the latter having been originally called Dearborn since 1818.

Belgrade, Minnesota. An agricultural village developed by the Soo Line railway during 1881 within the western section of Crow River Township (Stearns County). Toponym registers indicate that this place was incorporated in 1888 and most likely named by a Serbian railroad surveyor. Local records explain that Belgrade was founded in 1886 and plated in 1887 by William Washburn.¹⁵ An administrative area called the *City of Belgrade* also exists within Biwabik Township (Stearns County). The *Belgrade-Glenwood Outwash Plain*, a geomorphic region in the Minnesota River Basin, spans Stearns and Pope counties. Another community named *Belgrade* is located in Balkan Township (St. Louis County) where *Belgrade Cave* and *Belgrade*

¹³ *Town of Belgrade*, 2. Also see the Belgrade, Maine web-site (<http://www.mint.net/~belgrade/history.htm>).

¹⁴ Minot, 1892, 1012–13 and 1016–17; Guptil, Nye, and Plourde 1976, 17.

¹⁵ Irene Sievert, "Belgrade, Minnesota," (Belgrade, MN: The Readers Club of Belgrade, 1972), article received from the author via Olga B. Markovich (Toronto, Ontario); Belgrade Centennial Committee, *Belgrade, Minnesota, 1888–1988: Tracts Through Time* (Belgrade, MN: Belgrade Centennial Committee, 1988), 11; Upham, 1920, 523.

Cave Lake exist. The emblem of Belgrade, Minnesota, is shown in Figure 4 (p. 200).

Belgrade, Missouri. Established in 1876 in *Belgrade Township* (Washington County) and named after Serbia's capital city by the post office, which rejected Bryanville. Although nothing is mentioned about why Belgrade was chosen, Serbia was very much in the public mind during 1876 due to its successful war against the Ottomans.¹⁶ A *Belgrade Dam* was constructed nearby on the Big River.

Belgrade, Montana. A milling center located in Gallatin County characterized by towering grain elevators and numerous flouring mills. Founded in 1882 by Thomas B. Quaw, it was named by a Serbian capitalist from Belgrade who accompanied the Northern Pacific Railway's president to Gold Creek where the last spike was driven.¹⁷ Local historians maintain that the designation is "a complimentary notice of appreciation of the Serbian investors" who financed the rail line.¹⁸ Another version suggests that the Serb who named Belgrade was a railway employee who owned land near the town site. The post office was established in 1887 while the town was incorporated in 1906. Belgrade Junction is encountered a short distance away. Figures 5 and 6 (p. 200), respectively, show Belgrade's emblem and a Second World War patriotic event cover that ties Belgrade, Montana, to Yugoslavia.

Belgrade, Nebraska. Situated in Nance County and founded as Myrna, this town was renamed by James Main on 7 May 1883 because its hilltop site

¹⁶ Robert L. Ramsay, *Our Storehouse of Missouri Place Names* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1985), 33; Gertrude M. Zimmer, "Place Names of Five Southeast Counties of Missouri," M.A. thesis, University of Missouri, 1944, 16.

¹⁷ Roberta Carkeek Cheney, "Montana Place Names," *Montana* 10, no. 1 (January 1970): 52; Federal Writer's Project of the Work Projects Administration for the State of Montana, *Montana: A State Guide Book*, Reprint Edition. (New York: Viking Press, 1973); Abate, 1994, vol. 4, 347.

¹⁸ Belgrade Chamber of Commerce (<http://www.belgradechamber.avicom.net/area.html>); "Belgrade: The Princess of the Prairies Takes Pride in its Past as it Looks to the Future," *Bozeman Chronicle*, 4 April 1993; Belgrade Centennial Committee, *Belgrade, Montana: The First One Hundred Years, 1886–1986* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing, 1986), 7; Ronald J. Iverson, *The Princess of the Prairie: A History of Belgrade, Montana* (Helena: Montana State University, 1965), 11–14; Thomas B. Quaw, "Town Named for Servian Capital by N. P. Railway: Belgrade's Earliest Booster Tells the Story of the Town's Surprising Growth," *Belgrade Journal*, 3 December 1914.

at the confluence of two rivers resembles that of its namesake in Serbia.¹⁹ Locally, this explanation is thought to be highly questionable. Thus, three other versions of the name's source exist.²⁰ The first yet unverifiable account suggests that Myrna was changed to Belgrade in 1883 by W.J. Hayford, the postmaster, after his hometown of Belgrade, Maine. The second version proposes that Hayford, a surveyor, designated the town in 1888 after Belgrade, Maine, from whence he came. Mentioned in a 1900 booklet, this interpretation is locally accepted. The third yet erroneous variant advocates that an engineer known as Bell constructed a railway track grade near the present town site circa 1889. As such, the area was called Bell's grade but the official designation was revised to Belgrade when the post office opened. In any case, Belgrade was incorporated in 1900, reached its population peak in 1920, and began to decline during the 1930s.

Belgrade, North Carolina. A small community along the White Oak River's south bank in White Oak Township (Onslow County). It was named by Fredric C. Henderson, a teacher and principal, during the 1890s. In addition to being the postmaster until 1902, Henderson wrote and published the *Belgrade Courier*, the county's first newspaper, for a short time in 1901. Aside from the fact that limestone marl was once mined here, no further toponymic information is available. Members of the Bell family contend that Belgrade was once known as Bells Grade.²¹ It is possible that the name was based upon a plantation built in 1797 by the Pettigrew family between Lake Phelp and the Scuppernong River (originally in Tyrell County, now in Washington County). The plantation itself was named after an earlier house owned by the family along the Perquimans River, at Harveys Neck, in nearby

¹⁹ George R. Stewart, *American Place-Names: A Concise and Selective Dictionary for the Continental United States of America* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1970); Abate, 1994, vol. 4, 419; Lillian L. Fitzpatrick, *Nebraska Place-Names* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1960), 9 and 105; Elton Perkey, *Perkey's Nebraska Place-Names* (Lincoln: Nebraska State Historical Society, 1982), 139.

²⁰ O.M. Mayfield, "Belgrade, Nebraska: Brief History of a Live Business Town, 1902," undated manuscript; Ruthie Imus, "Belgrade—Nance County" (<http://www.casde.unl.edu/history/counties/nance/belgrade/belgrade.htm>).

²¹ Joseph P. Brown, *The Commonwealth of Onslow: A History* (New Bern, NC: Owen G. Dunn Company, 1960), 358–59; William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 37; Onslow County Historical Society, *The Heritage of Onslow County, 1983* (Winston-Salem, NC: Hunter Publishing Company, 1983), 197 and 202; Correspondence from Albert Potts, Director, Onslow County Museum, 23 July 1996; Correspondence from Roger L. Payne, Director, U.S. Board on Geographical Names, 11 August 1998, suggested the Bell family variant.

Perquimans County.²² In 1978, the designation *Belgrade Formation* was assigned by the U.S. Geological Survey to represent the local marl formations.

Belgrade, Texas. Surveyed in 1837 and established on 15 April 1838 by Thomas S. McFarland on a high bluff at the confluence of two rivers in Newton County. McFarland chose the name “to honor the Serbian capital, also a river port and much in the news during the 1830s.”²³ Serbia obtained its frontier in 1833. Another source suggests that Belgrade was founded by Frank Wilson.²⁴ This once thriving agricultural and trade center began to decline in the 1850s, when railroads ended the river transport era. Much of the original town site caved into the Sabine River before its channel shifted. The town and its buildings were respectively abandoned and dismantled after the river changed its course.²⁵ Opened on 17 December 1847 as Biloxi and renamed Belgrade on 1 September 1860, the post office closed during the 1866–1879 and 1906–1910 intervals and was permanently discontinued on 13 January 1936.²⁶ Excluding the cemetery, post office, and a historical marker, no other physical signs of the former steamboat port remain. A few individuals continue to reside in the adjacent locales named *Upper Belgrade* and *Lower Belgrade*. Lower Belgrade is also known as Liveoak and Sandjack (a type of oak tree).

Belgrade, Virginia. Situated in Shenandoah County, this populated place was noted in a 1895 atlas of the United States. No other historical details are available aside from the fact that it had a post office. A mansion named Belle

²² Powell 1968, 57–58; Sarah McCulloh Lemmon, *Parson Pettigrew of the “Old Church”:* 1744–1807 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1970), 39, 55, 81, 140–41.

²³ Walter P. Webb, ed., *The Handbook of Texas*, vol. 1 (Austin: Texas State Historical Society, 1952), 139.

²⁴ Fred I. Massengill, *Texas Towns* (Terrell, TX: n.p., 1936).

²⁵ Ralph Ramos, “Town No More: Buildings were Dismantled, Post Office was Closed, Even the River Moved Away, Changing its Course,” *Beaumont Enterprise-Journal*, 12 August 1973, D1; Madeline Martin, “Ghost Towns of the Lower Sabine,” *Texas Gulf Historical and Bibliographical Record* 2 (1966); Newton County Historical Commission, *Glimpses of Newton County History* (Burnet, TX: Nortex, 1982).

²⁶ Fred Tarpley, *1001 Texas Place Names* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1985), 22; Robert Wooster, “Belgrade, Texas,” in the *New Handbook of Texas*, vol. 1, ed. Ron Tyler (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996), 4678. Wooster’s article is also available online at the On-line Texas Handbook (<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/hadbook/online/articles/view/BB/hrb17.html>).

Grove was built in 1794 between Strasburg and Middletown.²⁷ It is not known whether the post office designation was originally submitted as Belle Grove and changed to Belgrade by federal authorities, hence the possible Serbian connection. The association with the Bellgrade Plantation, built in 1824 by Anthony T. Robious, whose name has been informally applied to the area around Richmond (Chesterfield County) is also unknown.

Belgrade Mine, Minnesota. Situated in Biwabik Township (St. Louis County), this mine was explored in 1906 and opened in 1908. The property was owed by the Picklands Mather Company and leased to the New York State Steel Company. The name is likely derived from the nearby town of Belgrade in Balkan Township (St. Louis County).²⁸

Belgrade Series, Massachusetts. Silt loam soils formed in a glaciolacustrine material. This soil series was established in Hartford County, Connecticut, during 1959, but its location type was transferred to the area around Amesbury (Essex County), Massachusetts, in 1978.²⁹ Soil series are traditionally named after the site in which they were found. As such, it is likely that some locality or topographic feature known as Belgrade once existed in Hartford County.

Belgrade Township, Minnesota. Initially settled in 1854 and organized on 27 April 1858 in the southeastern corner of Nicollet County. The township is named after the Serbian capital.³⁰ There is a *Belgrade Hill* in North Mankato (Belgrade Township).

Bosna, Kansas. A historical locale in Trego County whose post office was opened on 24 May 1880 and closed on 15 August 1921.³¹ This small settlement was located along the Union Pacific Railway track. Its population

²⁷ John W. Wayland, *A History of Shenandoah County* (Strasburg, VA: Shenandoah Publishing House, 1927), 451; Alvin Dohme, *Shenandoah: The Valley Story* (Washington: Potomac Books, 1973), 136137.

²⁸ Van Brunt, 1921, vol. 1, 453.

²⁹ National Cooperative Soil Survey (<http://www.statlab.iastate.edu/soils/osd/dat/B/BELGRADE.html>).

³⁰ Upham, 1920, 372; William Gresham, *History of Nicollet and Le Sueur Counties*, vol. 1 (n.p.: n.p., 1910), 148–50.

³¹ Robert W. Baughman, *Kansas Post Offices: May 29, 1828–August 3, 1921*, 2nd ed. (Topeka: Kansas Postal Historical Society, 1977), 15.

included “Slavonic peoples.”³² The name might have been selected in recognition of the Austro-Turkish Convention (1879) which defined the nature of Austrian control over Bosnia and Herzegovina. The unofficial designation for the local school was Bosna School.

Chiatovich Creek, Nevada. Flowing from the White Mountains into Fish Lake Valley (Esmerelda County), this creek was named after John Chiatovich (1829-1907), a native of Boka Kotorska and pioneer of Virginia City, who established a ranch near the creek circa 1880.³³ Chiatovich Ranch is also known as the Arlemont Post Office.

Chiatovich Flats, California. Located close to White Mountain Peak (Mono County), this area’s name is associated with nearby Chiatovich Creek.

Chiatovich Mine, Nevada. John Chiatovich was involved in several mining ventures during the 1880s. Among them was one near Ryan Canyon (Mineral County).

Dalmatia, Pennsylvania. Established along the Susquehanna River in Lower Mahoney Township (Northumberland County) in 1798 as Georgetown, the community’s post office and railway station respectively received their present name on 9 February 1818 and 25 June 1908. Three enduring variations of the post office’s name origin exist.³⁴ The first maintains that a Dalmatian-born surveyor, possibly hired by William Penn, took notice of the shoreline’s resemblance to that of its European counterpart and recorded this on his chart (near the town site). To this end, an entrance marker, erected in the early 1930s, says: “Dalmatia, formerly ‘Georgetown,’ renamed for

³² W.H. Carruth, “Foreign Settlements in Kansas,” *Kansas University Quarterly* 3, no. 2 (October 1894): 160.

³³ Helen S. Carson, *Nevada Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1974), 75; Effie M. Mack, *Our State: Nevada* (Caldwell, ID: Caxton Printers, 1946), 178; Adam S. Eterovich, *Yugoslavs in Nevada, 1859–1900* (San Francisco: R and E Research Associates, 1973), 112–14.

³⁴ Richard J. Martz, *Dalmatia, Pennsylvania—The First Two Hundred Years: A Bicentennial History, 1798–1998* (Dalmatia, PA: Mahantongo and Mahoney Historical Preservation Society, 1998), 39 and 96; Herbert C. Bell, ed., *History of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania* (Chicago: Brown, Runk and Company, 1891), 711–12; Northumberland County Historical Society, *Proceedings and Addresses*, vol. 26 (Lewisburg, PA: Fooht Printing, 1974), 112; Correspondence from the Northumberland County Historical Society, 26 July 1996; Correspondence from Richard J. Martz, Mahantongo and Mahoney Historical Preservation Society, 18 April 1999.

shoreline resemblance to Dalmatian Coast of Europe.” Although this account was recalled during the 1930s, state archive documents, used to verify entrance marker content, do not contain any reference to Dalmatia (Croatia). The second variant suggests that the town’s surveyor, William Grey, could have visited Dalmatia. However, the final map (1844) excludes remarks about the Adriatic coast. The third, and more plausible, interpretation states that the first postmaster, Martin A. Stock, selected a unique name in 1818 to avoid confusion with other post offices already designated as Georgetown. It is also possible that federal postal authorities imposed that name. The railway station was renamed to distinguish it from another one named Georgetown in Beaver County. Thus, only the post office has been known as Dalmatia since its establishment. There is also a *Dalmatia Creek* nearby.

Haiduk, Alberta. This designation was applied in 1928 to a creek, lake, and mountain peak located in Banff National Park. Speculative explanations consistently advanced by different authors indicate that this toponym was transferred from either a Hungarian district or a Romanian village.³⁵ A recent interpretation suggests that Arthur O. Wheeler applied this name “from what he believed to be the Polish word for ‘lively’ or ‘vigorous’.”³⁶ The term ‘haiduk’ exists in Polish but it refers to a noble household. Given these features’ proximity to Mount Putnik, the area’s common military naming theme, and the fact that Wheeler personally designated Serb Creek, British Columbia, and Mount Putnik, Alberta, it is quite possible that Haiduk is an Anglicized version of ‘hajduk.’ Hence, the definite Serbian connection.

Lac Banat, Quebec. Located in the Champredon Canton, this lake’s designation was approved on 21 October 1973 after the “provinces adjacent to Hungary and Turkey.”³⁷

³⁵ Eric J. Holmgren and Patricia M. Holmgren, *Over 2,000 Place-Names of Alberta*, 3rd ed. (Saskatoon: Western Producer Book Service, 1976), 120; Aphrodite Karamitsanis, *Mountains, Mountain Peaks, and Foothills* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 1991), 107.

³⁶ Mike Potter, *Central Rockies Placenames* (Banff: Luminous Compositions, 1997), 55; Don Beers, *Banff-Assiniboine—A Beautiful World: Scenes, Tales, Trails* (Calgary: Highline Publishing, 1993), 99.

³⁷ Correspondence from Guylaine Pichette, Toponymy Commission, Government of Quebec, 27 January 1998.

Mirich Dam and Mirich Reservoir, Wyoming. Steven Mirich, a Serb immigrant from Krbavica, owned a ranch located between Upton and Moorcroft (Weston County), where the dam and reservoir exist.³⁸

Montenegro Spring, California. A spring situated in the Inyo National Forest (Inyo County) near Westgard Pass, Marble Canyon, and Black Mountain. While no details exist about the name's origin, it is known that many Montenegrin immigrants, especially from Boka Kotorska, once lived and worked in Tonopah, Nevada, which is not all that far away. It is possible that many of them were attracted to the nearby mining camps during the 1860s. Named in 1962, after local geological formation exposures, the *Montenegro Member* designation extends into Esmerelda County, Nevada, where Popovich Hill exists.³⁹

Mount Putnik, Alberta. In 1916, Arthur O. Wheeler, a British Columbia representative to the Canadian Geographical Board, suggested that mountains along a segment of the jurisdictional boundary between Alberta and British Columbia be dedicated in honor of distinguished Allied military figures associated with World War One.⁴⁰ The Board decided in early 1917 to name various mountain peaks west of Kananaskis Lake in Banff National Park, Alberta, in accordance with the proposed theme. Mount Putnik was dedicated in 1918 after Vojvoda Radomir Putnik (1847–1917), Chief of Staff of the Serbian Army during the war.⁴¹ It was in the vicinity of Mount Putnik that alpine ski events were held during the 1988 Winter Olympics at Calgary. The previous winter games were held in Sarajevo in 1984.

Popovich Hill, Nevada. Eureka County attracted many Slavic miners during the 1870s and 1880s. Among them was Lazar Popovich of Kotor who arrived from Virginia City in search of silver during the early 1870s.⁴²

³⁸ Correspondence from Liz Barritt, Weston County Historical Society, 4 and 11 February 1998. Neither of the features were named after George W. Mirich, recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in the Attu Campaign (1943).

³⁹ Grace C. Keroher, *Lexicon of Geologic Names of the United States for 1961–1967*, Geological Survey Bulletin 1350 (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1970), 499.

⁴⁰ Donald B. Smith, "The Great Wars in the Rockies: Towering Monuments," *The Beaver* 70, no. 1 (February-March 1990), 46–49.

⁴¹ Holmgren and Holmgren, 1976, 266; Karamitsanis, 1991, 200; Correspondence from Karen McEwan, Toponymist, Geomatics Canada, Geographical Names Secretariat, 7 January 1997.

⁴² Eterovich, 1973, 235.

Sedimentary outcroppings in the Carlin gold mine area (Eureka County, Lynn District) were named the *Popovich Unit* in 1966.⁴³

Popovitch Creek, Alaska. A stream flowing into Lignite Creek, northeast of Healey (Denali County). The name's local variant was reported as Popovich Creek in 1916, yet its origin remains unknown.⁴⁴ Neither versions of the surname are listed in sources dealing with Russian America. *Little Popovich Creek* is located nearby.

Serb Creek, British Columbia. A tributary of the Zymoetz (formerly Copper) River, which flows into McDonnell Lake, that was designated by Arthur O. Wheeler in 1915 "after our gallant allies" in the First World War.⁴⁵ Although Serb Creek appears in the provincial gazetteer of 1930, it was officially approved by the Canadian Geographic Board on 6 October 1936.⁴⁶ The Serb Creek watershed is a regionally significant fish spawning area and contains considerable reserves of low grade copper and molybdenum. *Serb Creek Meadows* is a starting and finishing point for nordic skiing trails.

Servia, Indiana. Originally established as New Madison in Chester Township (Miami County) on 8 December 1856. The first post office was opened on 17 July 1866.⁴⁷ Due to the presence of another similar sounding town name, the official designation was changed to Servia on 21 November 1883 by Christian Stellar, then postmaster, who is documented as having migrated from Serbia.⁴⁸ This quiet rural site was the center of area dairy trade with Chicago throughout the 1920s. The municipal airport in neighboring Wabash County is also named Servia.

Servia, Washington. A small community located along the Lind Couleau River near Providence (Adams County). The name, conferred by Chicago,

⁴³ Keroher, 1970, 592.

⁴⁴ Donald J. Orth, *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1967), 768.

⁴⁵ Correspondence from Janet Mason, Research Officer, British Columbia Geographical Names Office, Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, 21 February 1997.

⁴⁶ McEwan, 7 January 1997.

⁴⁷ Ronald L. Baker, *From Needmore to Prosperity: Hoosier Place Names in Folk History* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1995), 298; Stewart, 1970, 435; Loonie Lutz, "Servia has Rich Heritage," in *Wabash County History* (Wabash, IN: Wabash County Historical Society, 1976), no pagination.

⁴⁸ Lutz, 1976.

Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway Company administrators for the Kingdom of Serbia, was applied to the local station and adopted by the town.⁴⁹

Servia, West Virginia. Situated in the Birch District (Braxton County) and named after the former European kingdom rather than the presence of early Serbian immigrants who gravitated to West Virginia's northern coal mines and steel mills. No other particulars are available since this locale never had its own post office.⁵⁰

Slavonia, Colorado. Located on the Continental Divide near Hahns Peak on Mount Zirkel (Slavonia Mining District, Routt County) at the confluence of the Gold and Gilpin Creeks. This small gold mining settlement's history is obscure with little else known beyond the fact that its name is taken from the residents' origin and past existence of the Upper and Lower Slavonia Mines. The settlement was likely built in the late 1800s prospecting rush and functioned on a seasonal basis in 1922.⁵¹ Remaining ruins are now hidden among the trees. Although no prospecting or production records exist, the discovery of placer gold and "Slavonia ore" in the Lower Slavonia Mining District triggered a considerable amount of claim staking and prospecting circa 1905. The Upper Slavonia Mine (originally the Slavonia Mine) was established and primarily operated in 1910. Production was terminated due to marginal profit and resource potential. The number of Serbs, often identified as Slavonians until about 1918, who worked here is not known.

Slavonia, Mississippi. An historic settlement near Bendale (George County). While additional information is unavailable, it is known that many

⁴⁹ Henry Landes, *A Geographic Dictionary of Washington* (Olympia, WA: Frank M. Lamborn Public Printer, 1917), 251; Edmond S. Meany, *Origin of Washington Geographic Names* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1923), 267; Robert Hitchman, *Place Names of Washington* (Tacoma: Washington State Historical Society, 1985), 269.

⁵⁰ Stewart, 1970, 435.

⁵¹ Jim Stanko, Sureva Towler, and Judy Seligon, *The Historical Guide to Routt County* (Denver: Frederic Printing, 1979), 96; Richard W. Murphy, "Geology of the Slavonia-Diamond Park Area, Routt County, Colorado," M.A. thesis, University of Wyoming, 1958; Perry Eberhart, *Guide to the Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps* (Denver: Sage Books, 1959), 176; Lowell L. Patten, "Mine Appraisal," in *Mineral Resources of the Mount Zirkel Wilderness and Northern Park Range Vicinity, Jackson and Routt Counties, Colorado*, U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1544, eds. George L. Snyder, Lowell L. Patten, and Jeffrey J. Daniels (Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1987), 63 and 8389; L.C. Boyd and H.G. Carson, *Atlas of Colorado Ghost Towns* (Deming, NM: Carson Enterprises, 1984), 99; Correspondence from Holly Bright, Visitor Information Specialist, U.S. Forestry Service, Routt National Forest-Hahans Peak District, 11 September 1998.

immigrants from Dalmatia, known as Slavonians, established themselves nearby in Harrison County between the 1880s and 1918.⁵² It is possible that some Dalmatian Serbs who were engaged in the fishing industry at Mobile and Biloxi might have migrated inland during the 1850s.

Slavonia Lode, Wyoming. Claimed by the Mount Bridger Mining Company in August of 1907 in Carbon County (Township 14 North, Range 86 West). This claim was situated in the Battle Lake Mining District between Rowins and Dillion. The name may have been selected due to the claim's relative proximity to Slavonia, Colorado.⁵³

Slavonia Mine, Nevada. An active mine during the early 1870s in the Delano Mining District (Elko County), which came under the Chicago Gold and Silver Mining Company's control in 1872. The Serbia and Slavonia Mining Company, incorporated by Montenegrin and Dalmatian Serbs during 1876 in San Francisco, planned to operate this mine and develop several others, including the Serbia and Slavonia Mine.⁵⁴ Operations never materialized and the new firm quietly disappeared within a few years.

Slavonia Mine, South Dakota. This formerly active mine (circa 1900) is located close to Pluma (Lawrence County). Local archival resources fail to mention the mine's origin and that of its name. It is acknowledged that there were Slavonian social organizations in Lead where many of its present inhabitants claim Slavonian ancestry although they are descendants of miners from Serbia, Herzegovina, and Montenegro.⁵⁵ It is possible that the mine was operated by the Serbian and Slavonian Gold and Silver Mining Company. Glover has also been used as an unofficial variant.

Tesla, California. A once thriving mining town situated southwest of Midway in Corral Hollow Canyon (Alameda County) that was named by John

⁵² Emily Germanis, "They're Known as Slavonians," *Daily Herald* (Biloxi-Gulfport), 22 February 1969, 15; Kat Bergeron, "Slavonians Celebrate Their Coastal Heritage," *Sun-Herald* (Biloxi), 20 November 1988.

⁵³ T. Russell Countryman, "Plat of the Claim of the Mount Bridger Mining Company Known as the Marmoth, Copper Saddle, Slavonia, Whalen and Lamb Lodes in Battle Lake Mining District, Carbon County, Wyoming" (Cheyenne: U.S. Surveyors General's Office for Wyoming, 1907). This is a map (scale 1:4800).

⁵⁴ Shawn Hall, *Old Heart of Nevada: Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Elko County* (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1998), 155; Eterovich, 1973, 207.

⁵⁵ Correspondence from Terry Davis, Director of the Deadwood Public Library, 28 August 1996.

Tredwell in December 1897 in honor of Nikola Tesla (1857–1943), a renowned American-Serb electrical inventor.⁵⁶ Previous informal designations were Eureka Mines, Corral Hollow, and Coal Mines. Plans were developed in February 1895 by the Pacific Transmission Company to construct a coal-powered generating station that would use Tesla's alternating current system to supply energy to Oakland. Unable to compete with the new Blue Lake hydroelectric plant, the station was never constructed. The post office was opened in July 1896 as Ann, after Tredwell's mother, and renamed Tesla on 11 February 1898. It permanently closed on 31 May 1915. Mining operations included coal (1856–1907), manganese (1867–1922), gravel (1896–1910), brick (1903–1910), and sand (1906). Tesla was California's largest coal producer between 1898 and 1905. Its abandonment is attributed to a March 1911 flood whose damage forced the termination of all mining activities.

Tesla, West Virginia. Although the name Kittsville was proposed, after the first postmaster, a post office was established in Holly District (Braxton County) on 19 September 1900 and designated after Nikola Tesla. The hamlet itself was named in 1898. The post office was closed following the last postmaster's retirement in 1985.⁵⁷

Mistake Toponyms

Some transferred place-names are altered through erroneous spelling, faulty translation, and clerical error. They are often accepted without complaint, commonly used, and prove extremely difficult to correct. Their origin and significance are rarely questioned. Two cases involving a corruption of Belgrade are noted in Kansas: *Bellegarde* (Blue Township, Pottawatomie

⁵⁶ Edwin G. Gudde, *California Place Names: A Geographical Dictionary* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1949), 360; David L. Durham, *California's Geographic Names: A Gazetteer of Historic and Modern Names of the State* (Clovis, CA: Quill Driver Books/Word Dancer Press, 1998), 712; Sheldon Davis, "Tesla, A Coast Range Ghost Town from which Even the Ghost Has Fled," *Stockton Record*, 7 February 1931, 25–28; Virginia Dennison, "Tesla: County Ghost Town Once Thriving Coal Center," *Oakland Tribune*, 3 February 1937; "Old Tesla and Carnegie," *Oakland Tribune*, 27 June 1943; Dan L. Mosier, "The Forgotten Town of Tesla," *Far-Westerners* 21, no. 2 (April 1980); Page Mosier and Dan L. Mosier, *Alameda County Place Names* (Freemont, CA: Mines Road Books, 1986), 87; Dan L. Mosier and Earle E. Williams, *History of Tesla: A California Coal Mining Town* (Freemont, CA: Mines Road Books, 1998).

⁵⁷ Correspondence from Zelda Rhodes, 19 September 1996; Stewart, 1970, 479; Kenny Hamill, *West Virginia Place Names: Their Origins and Meanings, Including the Nomenclature of the Streams and Mountains* (Piedmont, WV: Place Names Press, 1945), 623.

County) and *Bellgrade* (Coffey County).⁵⁸ The former version may have been intentionally adopted to maintain a distinction from the latter as well as other post offices and communities named Belgrade. Bellgrade is situated along the Missouri Pacific Railway track in southeastern Kansas, which itself has been informally called *Little Balkans* because many of the coal miners recruited during the early 1900s came from the Balkans. Its post office operated between 7 December 1883 and 10 July 1886.⁵⁹ Bellgrade's continued existence was noted in the early 1890s.⁶⁰

Altered Toponyms

Community names are occasionally replaced for various, and sometimes unspecified, reasons. Origins may be little known and considered to be of trivial significance among locals. The original designations no longer appear on maps and have fallen out of public verbal discourse. Nevertheless, they remain an integral component of local history. The five changed Serbian toponyms include the following:

Balkan, Alberta. Founded in 1912 as Minehead in the Coal Branch's Coalspur section, the post office was named Robb in 1912, then Balkan in September 1922 when the thriving Minehead Coal Company was sold to the Balkan Coal Company. The post office either changed its name, or more likely its location, in March 1913, when a hamlet sprung up around it.⁶¹ While the ethnic origin of the firm's founder is unspecified, this person and the principal shareholders are documented as immigrant entrepreneurs of Balkan extraction who entered Canada before 1914 via the United States.⁶² Other historians suggest that the place-name can be traced back to the fact that

⁵⁸ John Rydjord, *Kansas Place-Names* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972), 194; Correspondence from Elna H. Moore, 19 February 1999, indicates that Bellegarde was settled by Swedish immigrants in the mid-1850s.

⁵⁹ Baughman, 1977, 11; Sondra Van Meter McCoy and Jan Hulst, *1001 Kansas Place Names* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 1989), 117.

⁶⁰ Carruth, 1894.

⁶¹ Ernest G. Mardon, *Community Names of Alberta* (Lethbridge, AB: University of Lethbridge Press, 1973); Ernest G. Mardon and Austin A. Mardon, *Community Names of Alberta*, 2nd ed. (Edmonton: Golden Meteor Press, 1998), 292; Holmgren and Holmgren, 1976; Karamitsanis, 1991, 208; Correspondence from Merrily K. Aubery, Geographical Names Program Coordinator, Historical Sites and Services, Alberta Community Development, Cultural Facilities and Historical Resources, 21 January 1997.

⁶² Anthony W. Rasporich, *For a Better Life: A History of the Croatians in Canada* (Ottawa: Department of the Secretary of State, Multiculturalism Directorate, 1982), 66.

“many early miners came from Balkan countries.”⁶³ A 1918 survey and 1925 census confirmed that Serbs formed a substantial component of Balkan’s Slavic population.⁶⁴ In 1929, upon the Depression’s commencement, the operation was liquidated to the Lakeside Coal Company while the town’s name reverted to Robb. Excluding a few retired miners, most residents relocated elsewhere following the mine’s permanent closure in 1957. It is now virtually a ghost town.⁶⁵

Belgrade, Michigan. Registered near Fort Wayne (Wayne County) on 10 September 1836 and incorporated as a village in 1897, Belgrade was renamed Delray on 14 October 1851 after its Mexican namesake (Del Rey).⁶⁶ The City of Detroit annexed Delray in 1906, by which time it became a reception area for immigrants from Hungary. Neither Belgrade nor Delray have been preserved as either street or neighborhood names.

Belgrade, Washington. In 1910, Dan M. Radovich, a native of Montenegro living in Seattle, read an advertisement about land for sale along the Hood Canal in Kitsap County. Thinking that the location was ideal for a future home, he traveled to the town site designated as Hood Canal City. Some other Serbs followed but many more came after the real estate firm reduced land tract prices as part of a law suit compromise to compensate for a port and store which were promised but never provided.⁶⁷ Most settlers were involved in poultry farming. Although the community came to be known as Belgrade because of its Serbian population, the new name was never used to any extent such that it was supplanted by Olympic View.

⁶³ Aubery, 1997.

⁶⁴ Andy A. den Otter, “Social Life in a Mining Community: The Coal Branch,” *Alberta Historical Review* 14, no. 4 (Autumn 1969): 2–3.

⁶⁵ Harold Fryer, *Ghost Towns of Alberta* (Langley, BC: Stagecoach Publishing, 1976), 157.

⁶⁶ Walter Romig, *Michigan Place Names: The Story of the Founding and the Naming of More Than Five Thousand Past and Present Michigan Names* (Grosse Pointe: Walter Romig Publishing, 1973), 152.

⁶⁷ Smiljka Radulović, “Sjećanje na Crnogorsko Selo u Hud Kanal, Vašington,” *American Srbobran*, 14 September 1938, 3; E.E. Riddell, “Belgrade and Hood Canal City: Olympic View,” in *Kitsap County History: A Short Story of Kitsap County and Its Pioneers*, Book 5, ed. Evelyn T. Brown (Silverdale, WA: Kitsap County Historical Society Book Committee, 1977); Correspondence from Pamela Kruse-Buckingham, Kitsap County Museum Administrator, 1 April 1998.

Serbin, Texas. Located southeast of Austin (Lee County) and settled in 1854 by 500 Lusatian Serbs who are often described as Sorbs or Wends.⁶⁸ Presently a one-store locale, Serbin was absorbed by Giddings sometime after 1950 following the post office's closure a decade earlier. Its decline began once Giddings was established in 1872 with the extension of the Houston and Texas Central Railroad.

Slavonia, Nebraska. A post office bearing this name was opened in Morse Bluff Precinct (Saunders County) on 12 December 1872 and discontinued on 10 March 1888. It was named by Fredric F. Doubrva, the first postmaster. The appellation was changed to Cedar Hill on 13 May 1874 in an effort to eliminate confusion with another Slavonia in Howard County which was established by Czech immigrants during the late 1800s.⁶⁹

Apparent Toponyms

One must be especially sensitive to the phenomenon of homophony and thus avoid being led astray by the coincidental linguistic similarity (i.e., sound and orthographic form) of place-names. Many topographical and hydrological features initially interpreted as being Serbian have been determined to be of either Native Indian or other Slavic origin upon further investigation.⁷⁰ Similarly, the state of Nevada did not take its name from a village in Herzegovina. Accidental similarity between words also arises in the case of manufactured toponyms devised from acronyms or by abbreviating two or

⁶⁸ Webb, 1952, 593; Lusatia is situated in southeast Germany within a triangle running from Dresden to Frankfurt-on-the-Oder to Berlin. Inhabitants of Upper Lusatia are culturally close to the Czech and Slovaks while those of Lower Lusatia are closer to the Poles. Many scholars argue that the Avars' arrival in the Pannonian Plain scattered and divided the Serbs into a small northern stream (i.e., Lusatian Serbs or Sorbs) and a relatively larger southern counterpart (i.e., Balkan Serbs). Ancestral affinities are believed to have gradually eroded away such that their linguistic development advanced along different lines. Lusatian Serbs are thought to inhabit an earlier Serb homeland. Incidentally, Austrians refer to Slovenes as Wends, an alternate term for the Sorbs. For additional information, see Olga Milanovic, "The Lusatian Serbs: The Smallest and Oldest Slav Nation," *Politika*, 13–19 October 1990. Detailed accounts of Serbin's establishment, development, and decline are recounted by Anne Blasig, *The Wends of Texas* (San Antonio: Naylor, 1954).

⁶⁹ Perkey, 1982, 172 and 106.

⁷⁰ Examples of Native Indian place-names include: *Ahmic Lake*, Ontario; *Majenica*, Indiana; *Nicola Creek* and *Nicola Ridge*, Montana; and *Ile Ikodjic*, *Baie Kovic*, and *Lac Ombilic*, Quebec. Croatian examples from Louisiana include: *Bilich Bay*, *Cuselich Bay*, *Fucich Bayou*, *Jurjevich Canal*, *Marco*, *Morovich Canal*, and *Yuratic Bayou*. Russian examples include *Stepan Lake*, Alaska.

more names (e.g., *Beljica Peak*, Washington, and *Zajac Lake*, Ontario). The origins and significance of some names, such as *Mount Bor* and *Momich River*, British Columbia, and *Zora*, Pennsylvania, remain elusive and obscure even though their time of designation is documented. The following toponyms have been established as being derived from non-Serbian sources:

Banat, Michigan. An agricultural village in Holmes Township (Menominee County) settled during 1909 by Hungarian and German families from St. Louis, Missouri.⁷¹ The village's morphology is typical of that which exists in the Banat region.⁷² Many residents abandoned the area after spending five years trying to clear stumps from the cut-over land. For all intents and purposes, this locale is essentially extinct.⁷³ The presence of Serbs was not noted.

Beljica Peak, Washington. Taken from the first name initials of some individuals who trekked through the Glacier View wilderness area (Pierce County) in 1897.⁷⁴ Nearby *Beljica Meadows* and *Beljica Meadows Lake* derive their name from the same source.

Illyria and Illyria Township, Iowa. An unincorporated community, post office, and township situated near the Volga River (Fayette County) were named during 1852 by Joshua Cousins after Elyria, Ohio, where he once lived. The post office operated between 22 July 1851 and 31 December 1900.⁷⁵ As such, none of these entities were named after the Illyrian Gold and Silver Mining Company which was established by Nikola Bieladenovich, a Montenegrin Serb, and two Dalmatian partners in 1863.

Krajina Ecological Reserve, British Columbia. Named after Dr. Vladimir Krajina, a Czech botanist and ecologist, rather than the Serb exclave.

⁷¹ Romig, 1973, 41.

⁷² "Banat Patterned After Hungarian Village," *Menominee Herald-Leader*, 3 July 1984 (reprint of a 9 November 1909 article).

⁷³ Correspondence from Elizabeth L.E. Brown, Research Librarian and Archivist, Menominee County Historical Society, 3 September 1996.

⁷⁴ Stewart, 1970, 11.

⁷⁵ George Fitch, *Past and Present of Fayette County, Iowa*, vol. 1 (Indianapolis: B.F. Brown and Company, 1910), 405; Alan H. Patera and John S. Gallagher, *Iowa Post Offices, 1833–1986* (Lake Oswego, OR: Raven Press, 1986), no pagination. Elyria (Lorain County), Ohio was founded by and named after Henry Ely in 1817.

Pavlovic Corner, Michigan. Located in Grant Township (Grand Traverse County) and named after Joe M. Pavlovic, a Bohemian (Czech) immigrant, who previously owned the crossroads property.⁷⁶

Slavia, Florida. A hamlet established north of Orlando (Seminole County) by the Slavia Colony Company in 1915 to settle, according to some accounts, “Yugoslavian” immigrants.⁷⁷ It was actually founded by some members of the Holy Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church of Cleveland who wanted to relocate to a more rural area.⁷⁸ There is a *Slavia Cemetery* nearby.

Tara, Ontario. Established in Arran Township (Bruce County) during the early 1850s and given its present designation in 1881 after the site where Irish kings were crowned, rather than the Montenegrin River.⁷⁹

Tesla, British Columbia. A lake, creek and mountain in the Tweedsmuir Provincial Park (Coastal District). Approved on 13 March 1947, the lake was first mentioned in 1919 yet appeared as Tazella Lake on a 1871 map. The creek was denoted either as White Creek or *Tesla Creek* on early cartographic renderings, designated as a river in 1930, and recognized in its present form on 7 September 1950. *Tesla Mountain* was also approved on the aforementioned date yet noted in a 1923 manuscript.⁸⁰ The origin and significance of these features are classified as unknown.

Zajac Lake, Ontario. Also known as Lac de Zajac and situated in Maness Township (Algoma District). The name is based upon the initials of three surveyors.⁸¹

⁷⁶ Correspondence from Linda K. Forwerck, Planning Assistant, Grand Traverse County Planning Commission, 28 January 1998.

⁷⁷ Stewart, 1970, 448; Bertha E. Bloodworth, *Places in the Sun: The History and Romance of Florida Place-Names* (Gainesville: University Presses of Florida, 1978), 176.

⁷⁸ Harrison J. Lanley, “Slavia: A Cultural Pocket in Florida,” M.S. thesis, University of Florida, 1937, 4; Paul W. Wehr, *Like a Mustard Seed: The Settlement of Slavia* (Chuluota, FL: Mickler House Publishers, 1982), 1.

⁷⁹ David E. Scott, *Ontario Place Names: The Historical, Offbeat or Humorous Origins of Close to 1,000 Communities* (Vancouver: Whitecap Books, 1993), 214.

⁸⁰ McEwan, 7 January 1997; Manson, 1997.

⁸¹ McEwan, 5 February 1997.

Zeta, Missouri. A former community named during 1910 in Stoddard County by a railway worker after the sixth letter of the Greek alphabet.⁸² The post office operated during the 1895–1896 and 1907–1936 periods.

Zeta, Ontario. A dispersed rural community located near Englehart in Robillard Township (Timiskaming District) whose designation was approved on 2 March 1960.⁸³ The post office, which operated between 5 August 1912 and 15 March 1952, was named by the first postmaster after his daughter, Zetta Gregory.⁸⁴ The participation of Zeta (Montenegro) in the First Balkan War and the presence of Montenegrins in the neighboring mining town of Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec, when the post office was opened, are coincidental circumstances which had no bearing upon the selection process.

Zeta Island, Northwest Territories. The name was approved on 5 May 1960, but no origin data is available.⁸⁵

Zeta Lake, Alberta. Situated west of Drayton Valley, this lake's name has been official since 1958. It is thought to have been derived from the sixth letter of the Greek alphabet, but this association remains unproven.⁸⁶

Zeta Lake, Minnesota. One of six small lakes in Lake County named in 1886 sequentially after the Greek alphabet's first six letters.⁸⁷

Zeta Lake, Northwest Territories. Approved on 6 January 1966 and named due to a supposed likeness to the Greek letter.⁸⁸

Zeta Pass, New Hampshire. Located in the Carter Range, between the peaks of Carter Dome and South Carter Mountain (Coos County). Although

⁸² Stewart, 1970, 549; Margot F. McMillan, *Paris, Tightwad, and Peculiar: Missouri Place Names* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1994), 82.

⁸³ Carter, 1984, 1349–50; McEwan, 5 February 1997.

⁸⁴ Carter, 1984, 1350; Correspondence from Susan Noakes, Englehart and Area Historical Museum, 1 July 1997; Correspondence from J. Morgan Goadsby, Provincial Georeferencing Coordinator, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, 5 February 1998.

⁸⁵ Correspondence from Jackie St-Clair, Toponymist, Geomatics Canada, Geographical Names Secretariat, 22 January 1998.

⁸⁶ Tracey Harrison, *Place Names of Alberta: Central Alberta* (Calgary: University of Calgary Press, 1991).

⁸⁷ Upham, 1920, 297.

⁸⁸ St-Clair, 1998.

the name first appeared in 1928, no further information exists. It is believed to be derived from the Greek alphabet.

Zeta Township, Ontario. Part of Victoria County that was surveyed and named in 1822. The designation was allegedly altered to Eldon Township in 1825, yet no explanations are provided as to why this township's identity was divested.⁸⁹ Crown documents, on the other hand, indicate that the present name was used in the 1822 survey, approved on 31 December 1822, and never changed to or from Zeta.⁹⁰

Zora, Missouri. An abandoned post office and town in Benton County that were named after a prominent local resident's daughter, Zora Frisch.⁹¹ Little else is known about the locale.

The surnames of Canadians killed during World War Two were applied during 1975 to several geographic features throughout Manitoba. Among these are *Drascovich Lake*, *Illasevich Lake*, and *Kolomic Lake* that are respectively named after Robert A. Drascovich, Harry Illasevich, and Johnny P. Kolomic. Nothing is mentioned about their ethnicity. As such, these surnames might very well be Ukrainian given this group's pronounced presence in Manitoba. Limited biographical information is also given about Albert Dudzic whom *Mount Dudzic*, British Columbia, is named after.

Conclusion

Names identify landscapes, express national identity and cultural heritage, create a framework for orientation, and promote awareness. They also recognize early settlers who made recognizable contributions to the area where the community or feature is located. The influx of Serb immigrants to North America had a limited affect upon place naming. Given the admiration for foreign names in the United States, most existing and altered Serbian toponyms can be traced to their post offices or railway stations. The acceptability of Serbian names was enhanced by geopolitical conflicts that enlisted much American and Canadian popular sympathy. Successive eras have

⁸⁹ Rayburn, 1997, 108; Carter, 1984, vol. 1, 357.

⁹⁰ Goadsby, 1998; Herbert F. Gardiner, *Nothing but Names: An Inquiry into the Origins of the Names of the Counties and Townships of Ontario* (Toronto: George N. Morang and Company, 1899), 202–03.

⁹¹ Correspondence from Lewis Smith, President, Benton County Historical Society, 14 February 1998.

brought their own distinctive layers of place-names and their sources. The element of historical stratigraphy is also evident when Serbian toponyms are considered within the North American context. Significant geopolitical events influencing the naming process include the delineation of Serbia's borders (1833), the First Serbo-Turkish War (1876), and the First World War (1914). Environmental similarity, especially elevated sites at or near the confluence of two rivers, and mine ownership also influenced the nomenclature designation decision. In some cases, there are several accounts and variations thereof, including popular misleading ones, based on selective interpretation.

Belgrade is the most commonly used toponym. Eighteen communities, three townships, and nine natural features are named after Serbia's capital city. Two other existing communities were once called Belgrade. This name occurs in eleven states, twelve in the past, which are mainly located in the northern half of the United States. The close proximity of toponyms whose origins are known and unknown suggests that the naming of the unknown ones may somehow be related to that of their known counterparts. Table 1 specifies the known locations of past and present Serbian place-names mentioned in this article.

In light of current events in the Balkans, there is an increasing probability of reinterpreting some of the aforementioned place-names as being of temporary significance and an impulsive reaction to overseas events. Efforts may yet be undertaken to question their contemporary relevance, incite a falsification of historical records, and replace some geographic designations with those deemed more dignified and appropriate. Indeed, some places named Belgrade are being assessed as victims of misunderstanding, while some revised atlases have deleted communities named Belgrade and Servia although there is enough space to include them. The removal of places called Belgrade may have saved them from accidental NATO bombing based on the use of "outdated" maps. As past wars and sympathies recede into memory, names affixed to communities and physical features serve as a fitting reminder of earlier American and Canadian sentiments towards Serbia, Montenegro, and their people.



Figure 1. Seal of Belgrade, Maine



Figure 2. Bicentennial Emblem of Belgrade Lakes, Maine



Figure 3. Second World War Patriotic Cover from Belgrade, Maine Dated 28 Oct. 1944 and inscribed "In commemoration of a heroic and courageous people. We salute YUGOSALAVIA." Produced by Grandy.



Figure 4. Emblem of Belgrade, Minnesota



Figure 5. Emblem of Belgrade, Montana



Figure 6. Second World War Patriotic Cover from Belgrade, Montana Dated 10 Nov. 1944 and inscribed "Freedom from Fear of Invasion and the Right to Live in Peace for Jugoslavia". Produced by Poppinger.

Table 1. Place-Name Locations

Toponym	County	State/Prov.	Longitude	Latitude	Named
Balkan (renamed Robb)	Coal Branch District	AB	053°13'N	116°58'W	1922
Balkan	Bell	KY	036°54'N	083°45'W	1920
Balkan Lake	St. Louis	MN	047°36'N	090°25'W	1912
Balkan Mine	Iron	MI	042°xx'N	088°xx'W	1915
Balkan Mine	Deer Lodge	MT	046°09'N	113°05'W	
Balkan Township	St. Louis	MN	047°33'N	092°51'W	1912
Banat	Menominee	MI	045°31'N	087°41'W	1909
Belgrade		CO			
Belgrade (historical)	Massac	IL	037°08'N	088°43'W	1822
Belgrade	Kennebec	ME	044°26'N	069°49'W	1796
Belgrade (renamed Delray)	Wayne	MI	044°17'N	083°07'W	1836
Belgrade	St. Louis	MN	047°31'N	092°22'W	
Belgrade	Stearns	MN	045°27'N	095°00'W	1886
Belgrade	Washington	MO	037°47'N	090°50'W	1876
Belgrade	Gallatin	MT	045°46'N	111°10'W	1889
Belgrade	Nance	NE	041°28'N	098°04'W	1883
Belgrade	Onslow	NC	034°52'N	077°14'W	189?
Belgrade (or Upper + Lower Belgrade)	Newton	TX	030°41'N	093°39'W	1838
Belgrade	Shenandoan	VA	038°10'N	077°11'W	
Belgrade (renamed Olympic View)	Kitsap	WA	047°41'N	122°44'W	191?
Belgrade Cave + Belgrade Cave Lake	St. Louis	MN	047°31'N	092°22'W	
Belgrade Dam	Washington	MO	037°50'N	090°47'W	
Belgrade Junction	Gallatin	MT	045°46'N	111°16'W	
Belgrade Lakes	Kennebec	ME	044°31'N	069°53'W	1901
Belgrade Mills	Kennebec	ME	044°xx'N	069°xx'W	1829
Belgrade Mine	St. Louis	MN			1906
Belgrade Series*	Essex	MA	042°49'N	070°58'W	1978
Belgrade Stream	Kennebec	ME	044°27'N	069°49'W	
Belgrade Township	Kennebec	ME	044°xx'N	069°xx'W	
Belgrade Township	Nicollet	MN	044°13'N	094°04'W	1858
Belgrade Township	Washington	MO	037°47'N	090°51'W	1876
Bellegarde	Pottawatomie	KS			
Bellgrade (historical)	Coffey	KS	038°08'N	095°33'W	1883

Toponym	County	State/Prov.	Longitude	Latitude	Named
Bosna (historical)	Trego	KS	038°59'N	100°01'W	1880
Chiatovich Creek	Esmerelda	NV	037°49'N	118°00'W	188?
Chiatovich Flats	Mono	CA	037°42'N	118°15'W	
Chiatovich Mine	Mineral	NV	038°38'N	118°35'W	
Dalmatia + Dalmatia Creek	Northumberland	PA	040°39'N	076°54'W	1908
Haiduk Creek	Banff	AB	051°09'N	115°58'W	1928
Haiduk Lake	Banff	AB	051°07'N	115°57'W	1928
Haiduk Peak	Banff	AB	051°06'N	115°57'W	1928
Lac Banat (Banat Lake)	Champreton Canton	QC	047°43'N	076°54'W	1973
Lower Slavonia Mine	Routt	CO	040°47'N	106°42'W	1905
Mirich Dam + Mirich Reservoir	Weston	WY	044°09'N	104°45'W	
Montenegro Spring	Inyo	CA	037°17'N	118°11'W	
Mount Putnik	Kananaskis	AB	050°39'N	115°14'W	1918
North Belgrade	Kennebec	ME	044°31'N	069°47'W	1840
Popovich Hill	Eureka	NV	040°54'N	116°18'W	187?
Popovitch Creek (or Popovich Creek)	Denali	AK	063°55'N	148°49'W	191?
Serb Creek	Coast District	BC	054°47'N	127°39'W	1915
Serbin	Lee	TX	030°07'N	069°59'W	1854
Servia	Miami	IN	040°57'N	085°44'W	1883
Servia	Adams	WA	046°55'N	118°45'W	
Servia	Braxton	WV	038°37'N	080°57'W	
Slavia	Seminole	FL	028°38'N	081°13'W	1915
Slavonia	Routt	CO	040°47'N	106°42'W	188?
Slavonia (historical)	George	MS	030°46'N	088°47'W	
Slavonia	Howard	NE			188?
Slavonia (renamed Cedar Hill)	Saunders	NE			1872
Slavonia Ditch	Fresno	CA	036°51'N	119°45'W	
Slavonia Mine	Jackson	CO	040°48'N	106°39'W	18??
Slavonia Mine	Elko	NV			187?
Slavonian Mine	Lawrence	SD	044°21'N	103°44'W	189?
Tesla (historical)	Alameda	CA	037°38'N	121°36'W	1897
Tesla	Braxton	WV	038°35'N	080°42'W	1898
Upper Slavonia Mine	Routt	CO	040°48'N	106°39'N	1910

*The soil series was established in 1959 in Hartford County, Connecticut and transferred to Amesbury (Essex County) in 1978.