

1948 and named for Tom Creighton, who died in 1949 aged 75.

In 1962, on the fiftieth anniversary of the extension of Manitoba to the 60th parallel of latitude (the boundary between the western provinces and the territories), a prominent statue of the adventurous Flintabbatey Flonatin, designed by cartoonist Al Capp in his noted Dogpatch style, was unveiled at the entrance to the city of Flin Flon.

Lake Laberge (Rhymes with Marge) and Other Yukon Names

The harshness of an unforgiving northland combined with frontier hardship and adventure are reflected in the many ballads and poems of Robert Service. Many young Canadians are nurtured on the verses Service wrote during the early years of the twentieth century, and acquire a yearning to discover more about the people who were lured by the spell of the Yukon, as revealed in these lines:

The Northern Lights have seen queer sights,
But the queerest they ever did see
Was the night on the marge of Lake Lebarge
I cremated Sam McGee.

In the 1860s, the Western Union Telegraph Co. engaged American naturalist William H. Dall to explore a route for a line in the Yukon River valley. The first large expansion of the river below Whitehorse Rapids he named for fellow explorer 'Michael Lebarge.' Neither is believed to have seen the lake, but heard of it from local Aboriginal people. The United States Geographic Board adopted the name Lake Lebarge, as well as other names

in the Yukon given by Dall and Lt. Frederick Schwatka, and this, incidentally, was what prompted Canada to set up its own names board in 1898.

The Canadian authorities consulted church officials in 'Lebarge's' home town of Chateauguay, Qué., and received a reply from the explorer himself pointing out that his correct name was Michel Laberge. The lake's name has been officially spelled 'Laberge' since 1898, but its pronunciation still rhymes with 'marge.'

Service's poems broadcast the name Yukon to the world. As a name, it is simply the Gwitch'in word for 'the greatest river.' The river was named Youcon in 1846 by the Hudson's Bay Co. trader John Bell. He reached it in present-day Alaska, where he encountered some Gwitch'in, after travelling from Fort McPherson on the Mackenzie River. The Gwitch'in, who also lived on the lower Mackenzie River, did not occupy lands in the Yukon River's watershed within the Yukon.

In the area of Lake Laberge the river was known in the 1800s as Lewes River, named by Robert Campbell in 1843 for John Lee Lewes, then the Hudson's Bay Company chief factor at Fort Simpson on the Mackenzie River. In 1883, Lt. Schwatka substituted Yukon for Lewes. It was not until 1949, however, that the Canadian names authority dropped the name Lewes which, until then, was the official name for that portion of the Yukon River upstream from its juncture with the Pelly River.

The name Yukon was assigned to a district of the Northwest Territories in 1895; the district became a separate territory in 1898, with its seat of government at Dawson City. The capital was moved to Whitehorse in 1951.

In several of his poems Service included the name Klondike, a name synonymous with gold fever. His ballad 'The Trail of Ninety-Eight' mentions several other Yukon names. It ends with the lines: