

Petition 1

Proposed Name: Paige Brook

Current Name: Unnamed Brook

Location: Bakersfield, Vermont

Mouth Latitude: 44.781327

Mouth Longitude: -72.858282

Source Latitude: 44.805258

Source Longitude: -72.802385

Main Petitioner:

Tucker Malone

Representing the Bakersfield Conservation Commission

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Address: 2555 Witchcat Road, Enosburg Falls, VT 05450

Phone: 802-582-6508

All petition requirements met:

All petition requirements met. Received 29 signatures, maps, reason for proposal.

Brief Reason for the Proposed Name:

To maintain consistency with town historical records.

Description of the Region:

The stream in question has potential headwaters for the main stem starting north of the end of Hydes Hill Road and emptying into the Black Creek, South of Whiteland Drive, Fairfield, VT. The Mouth of the stream is located at Latitude 44.781327, Longitude -72.858282, and the source of the stream is located at Latitude 44.80528, Longitude -72.802385.

Notices:

Public Notices distributed 9/3/2019, Notices to the Bakersfield distributed 8/29/2019, Notice to Fairfield distributed 9/23/2019. Fairfield Selectboard response received 9/24/2019, the Selectboard has no opposition to the name.

Areas of Concern:

Meets commemorative naming policies if using Foster Paige as a point of reference (records date to 1797).

Section of the branch discussed during the October 2019 hearing different than the section in the petition presented. Board tabled request and requested the Commission review and decide how they would like to proceed.

Commission responded in September that they would like the petition to move forward as is, and that the name Paige Brook be applied to the section initially presented. They will be submitting two more petitions to name different tributaries.

Historical Research Prepared by April Shaw:

Foster Paige was the first schoolteacher in Bakersfield in the first school that was built within the town lines. This was on or about 1797. There is no further mention of him in the history of Bakersfield in *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, however he is later listed as a pensioner living in Franklin County in 1818.

Additionally, the book *Bakersfield Vermont: the way it was, the way it is* lists him as teaching in the first school in "a log cabin near the Edward Rice place." This source also listed old maps and populations of Bakersfield, and there is an F. Paige and several S. Paige's listed as living along the brook in question.

I checked the historical topographic maps database and noted that the brook in question has never been named. The maps I located dated back to 1920 (the Franklin map), and I checked through 2018 (the Bakersfield map), and there is no name listed for this location. I have attached both maps.

There is currently a Page Brook in Caledonia county, but with the distance between the two and the different spellings, I don't think there would be any confusion. In fact, there are currently no geographic features in Vermont with the spelling of "Paige."

Sources Consulted:

USGS National Geological Map Database – Historical Topographic Map Collection.

<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov>

Wells, Elsie C. (1976). *Bakersfield Vermont: the way it was, the way it is*. Phoenix Publishing.

Hemenway, Abby Maria, ed. (1868). *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer: A Magazine Embracing a History of Each Town, Civil Ecclesiastical, Biographical, and Military, Volume I*. Higginson Book Company.

Historical Research provided by Steve Jackson, member of the Bakersfield Conservation Commission:

My only documentation exists online as a tax plot map for Fairfield at <https://www.axisgis.com/FairfieldVT/>. Zooming in to the area where the brook is it becomes apparent that according to the map the name is (at least unofficially) Paige Brook. I found no reference to that name in Bakersfield and the cursory research I did in Fairfield Town records indicate property owners along the brook named both Paige and Page. The Beers atlas shows property owned by S. Page along the brook. I assumed it was a misspelling. A publication entitled *Bakersfield Vermont, the way it was, the way it is* by Elsie C. Wells (ISBN 13:9781985241626) incorrectly (I believe) names the brook Black Creek. (pg. 117). I did come across a Foster Paige in Bakersfield as first schoolteacher (1797) in the above-mentioned book. I have no idea if there is any connection to the stream in question.

Formal Statement from Primary Petitioner, Tucker Malone:

Historical Records show this stream being referred to as Paige Brook. Records also show a historical farm owned by the Paige family along the stream.

Supplemental Statement from Primary Petitioner:

USGS requested a point of reference for a Paige family member in order to meet the commemorative naming policies (namely the 5-year waiting period). After discussion via email, the petitioner requested that Foster Paige be used as a point of reference for the petition. Foster Paige became the first schoolteacher in Bakersfield, dating 1797, when the first schoolhouse was built. This should satisfy BOL and USGS/USBGN commemorative naming policies.

Additional Documentation Attached Separately:

- Scanned PDF copy of the original petition
- Current Map of the region, taken from the USGS National Geological Map Database – The National Map
- Historical Maps of the region, taken from USGS National Geological Map Database – Historical Topographic Map Collection
- Map with the brook highlighted