

Chapter 6. Evelyn Briggs Baldwin and the Quereau Glacier²²

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Abstract

On September 20, 1898, during the second Wellman polar expedition, Wellman's second-in-command, Evelyn Briggs Baldwin, gave the name 'Quereau' to a glacier on the west coast of Wilczek Land. There is no direct evidence, as of this writing, that can be found on why he described this feature as a 'Querean' glacier. However, there is indirect evidence supporting the notion that he named the glacier after a geology professor, Edmund Chase Quereau.

Keywords

Franz Josef Land, historic place names, historical geography, Evelyn Briggs Baldwin, Walter Wellman, Edmund Chase Quereau, Quereau Glacier, polar exploration, Oslo NSF workshop

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Fig. 1. Portrait Drawing of Edmund Chase Quereau (from Syracuse *Evening Herald*).

Background

Edmund Chase Quereau was born on March 18, 1868 in Aurora, Illinois. He is listed in the Alumni Record of the College of Liberal Arts by Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, yet there is no actual confirmation on his attendance.

Quereau undertook graduate and doctoral studies in Germany. His field of study and the degrees he received were in Geology and Mineralogy. He lectured and taught at University of

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Chicago, was the head of the geology department at Syracuse University in New York, and was a member of the Geological Society of America since 1898 (Alumni Record of the College of Liberal Arts 1903).

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TOPOGRAPHY AND HISTORY OF JAMESVILLE LAKE, NEW YORK,	
BY EDMUND CHASE QUEREAU	
(<i>Read before the Society December 29, 1897</i>)	
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INTRODUCTION	
<p>While among the lakes of central New York the narrow radiating lakes, known as the "Finger lakes," have received considerable attention at the hands of geographers and geologists, there are other classes of lakes in this region which have not as yet been made to any great extent the subject of serious study.</p> <p>It is the purpose of this paper to call attention to one of a class of lakes which are conspicuously different in nearly all their topographic features from the "Finger" type of lakes, and which, by way of distinction from them, might be called "Round lakes," or, if they had not already a special meaning attached to them, the terms "Kettle" or "Pothole" lake would convey some idea of their most prominent characteristic. These lakes are usually round or broadly elliptical and occupy correspondingly shaped, isolated depressions in the surface topography. They are usually situated along the line of the minor valleys and occupy the less dissected portions of the plateau, between the main north-and-south valleys of this</p>	
XXVI—BULL. Geol. Soc. Am., Vol. 9, 1897	(173)

Fig. 2. Quereau's "Topography and History of Jamesville Lake, New York." (*Bulletin of the Geological Society of America* 9 Dec. (1897): 173-182.)

Quereau published a substantial amount of research on geology and topography. In one article in particular, "Topography and History of Jamesville Lake, New York," he discusses

glacial features that may have caused a lake in this area of the United State to form (Quereau 1897). At the very least, this article testifies to Quereau's professional knowledge of and in publishing in the field of glacial studies. Quereau later retired from Syracuse University due to ill health in 1898 (Syracuse *Evening Herald*).

Quereau and Evelyn Briggs Baldwin

Evelyn Briggs Baldwin was born on July 22, 1862, in Naperville, Illinois. He graduated with a Master of Arts degree from North Central College in Naperville in 1885, and later became a meteorologist and polar explorer (Baldwin 2004).

The close proximity of Quereau and Baldwin to each other, geographically, in the American Midwest, and their involvement with the natural sciences, could suggest that they may have met in an academic or educational setting.

It is also possible that Baldwin and Quereau may have known of each other's work due to their interests in similar scientific fields of study. Baldwin's interest in Arctic exploration may have led him to Quereau's scientific research and knowledge of glaciers. Though Quereau did not reach the heights of fame of other scientific contemporaries, he appears to have been a significant researcher into the nature of glaciers and glacial formations at the turn of the 20th century, and this alone might well have brought him to Baldwin's attention.

Conclusions

The indirect evidence collected around this problem of glacier nomenclature is suggestive of Baldwin naming the glacier after Edmund Chase Quereau. However, since the evidence is not conclusive, research still needs to be conducted to form a more direct hypothesis. There are several other avenues that can be taken in this regard, such as an examination of archives of the Smithsonian Institution, specifically box 103 of 154, ("SIA RU000189, Smithsonian Institution Assistant Secretary in Charge of the United States National Museum, Correspondence and Memoranda, 1860-1908"), where there appears to be correspondence either from or to Quereau from the institution. Other connections may exist between mutual colleagues of Baldwin and Quereau's (for example Ernest de Koven Leffingwell, a geologist who worked at the University of Chicago and served as a cartographer during the Baldwin-Ziegler Polar Expedition of 1901-02).

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Discussion

Forsberg: When we did our article, one of our possibilities was, a Quereau with the Weather Bureau. Did you ever look into that man?

Lanning: Are you talking about Quereau Force?

Forsberg: Yes.

Lanning: Then why wasn't it called the Force Glacier? From what I found, Force died when Baldwin was 13. And it further doesn't seem as if Force did enough work that would have inspired Baldwin to name a glacier after him. He did mainly military journalistic type stuff. I didn't actually see work that he did with the Weather Bureau that would have impacted Baldwin's name.

Capelotti: Well, what Jackie 'forced' me to do, if we can use Quereau 'Force,' is to go back to Baldwin's original diary and see, and try to confirm, that he uses this apparently as an adjective and not as a proper noun. In other words, he calls the

glacier between Storm Bay and Cape Heller a ‘Querean’ glacier, as if it’s a type of glacier. Since I was not looking at Baldwin’s papers for this guy, it may very well be that there is a letter within Baldwin’s papers at the Library of Congress that could settle this question.

- Lanning: What I found in his diary, it seems like he had spoken about it before. I don’t think that was the actual first time that he used the term. That was just the first time he mentioned it in writing, or in that writing.
- Capelotti: The important thing to realize about this glacier is that Baldwin arrived on the south side of it in the middle of August. He doesn’t cross it until almost the end of September. So he wastes five weeks puttering around on the south side of this glacier. He sends the Norwegians by boat up to Cape Heller (visiting what will become Komsomolets Island in the process) and they do what they do and they get trapped at Cape Heller. They eventually cannot make it back by boat so they end up finally saying, ‘Okay. We’ll walk across the glacier.’ They end up walking across the 16 mile glacier in about two hours after Baldwin was sitting on the south side of it for five weeks. He could have gotten to the glacier in mid-August and crossed it in a couple of hours and then gotten much further north. The reason why it’s so important is that it marks really the end of the Wellman expedition right there. When Baldwin fails to cross that glacier in five weeks it’s too late in the season by the time they finally cross it and they’re forced to go to Cape Heller and build Fort McKinley in a rush, and build their winter station far south of where Wellman actually wanted it.
- Wråkberg: I wonder, if any of you have looked into contemporary discussions published by one or other of the people that engaged in this whole issue about the principles of naming in work that I and others have done for example. There are also discussions in the geographical community and other places where you have different opinions about who to honor with a name or who you should give names more generally based on the history of prominent work in science. There have certainly been discussions between Swedish polar cartographers and the German about how this will be done. That would be interesting in this time, I guess, possible to relate to the age of colonialism.
- Capelotti: We were heavily influenced by your work, especially “The Politics of Naming” and your work on Antarctica.²³ They were assigned your articles early in the

²³ See: Wråkberg, Urban. 2002. “The Politics of Naming: Contested Observations and the Shaping of Geographical Knowledge,” in *Narrating the Arctic: Collective Memory, Science, and the Nordic Nations, 1800-1940*, eds. Michael Bravo & Sverker Sörlin (Canton, Mass: Science History Publications, 2002), pp. 155-197; and: Wråkberg, Urban. 2004. “Delineating a Continent of Ice and Snow: Cartographic Claims of Knowledge and

semester, and both of these were hugely influential. The work you did in particular with regard to Kong Karls Land actually creates the first bridge to Franz Josef Island and the naming scheme there, and then the work in Antarctica on how difficult it was to name a feature when you really didn't know where the coastline was. This is pointed out with relation to Quereau Glacier because Quereau Glacier probably won't even exist in 50 years in which case it will be, I don't know, Quereau Bay or something. As we were saying last night, the whole scheme of place naming will change again as the ice disappears. Then all these names will have to be rethought or recast within a totally different environment.

Forsberg: In the case of the place naming in Franz Josef Land is very simple because it's the Russians who have the cards in their hands and decide if a name survives or not. Kersting and Operti did not last, but this Quereau actually did last. Kersting Bay is now Bentsen Bay, having been named by the Russians in 1932.

Capelotti: We should point that Baldwin assigned these names, almost certainly based on his friendship with those two individuals. And those names have not survived.

Wråkberg: The cases of renaming are extremely interesting, because, oh, it could for several reasons: you can't pronounce it, or it was located incorrectly...

Capelotti: Or it's a bunch of American capitalists and you're now a Communist country.

Elzinga: This is an area I am especially interested in: what are the criteria these guys had for a hierarchy of naming. Here we have a name of a scientist, so one could ask: what is the percentage of names assigned to scientists compared to, for example, capitalists, or sponsors, or family members.

Capelotti: It is also interesting that the person who gives the most money doesn't always get the most prominent place.

Forsberg: We have a good example of that with Wellman, where there are several names in Franz Josef Land from his benefactors, but the Vice President of the U.S. (Garret Hobart), who gave Wellman money but died in November of 1899 just as Wellman returned home, never got a name attached to anywhere in Franz Josef Land. Obviously he couldn't help Wellman on another expedition, so he never got a place name. But all others who put in money got a name.

Elzinga: Then there is the next stage, which is what are the politics behind the names, what is the explorer trying to cultivate for the future.

Capelotti: In that sense, we should mention Fort McKinley, as that is named after the ‘godfather’ of American expansion around the globe, who defeats William Jennings Bryan in 1896 and begins this remarkable American experiment, which sees explorers like Wellman and Baldwin carrying Cuban flags from the Spanish-American War, with them to Franz Josef Land in the summer of 1898. I should mention, as well, and as you can see, Jackie actually pointed out a flaw in my work—and thank you very much for that—with this, the glacier that separates Storm Bay on Wilczek Island from Operti Bay. Baldwin in his journal, as Jackie pointed out to me, refers to it as the Querean Glacier. We took that and said it must be named after someone named Quereau. There is a glaciologist, as Jackie told you, by that name. Whether it is named after Quereau or whether this Quereau actually came up with some glacial phenomenon that other people applied to glaciers called the ‘Querean Glacier,’ we don’t know.