NAMES OF STREETS HONOR MEN ONCE PROMINENT HERE

Project Streets Will Bear Names of Early Citizens

Names for streets in Lambert Park, the new government housing project at the North End have been chosen and sign posts designating them will soon be erected. The names chosen have, for the most part honored men prominent in the early history of this community and the project management is deeply indebted to Col. Henry W. Owen, Jr., who submitted a list of such names with a brief sketch of the personages.

As usually planned in such government housing projects those in charge of naming the streets have, to aid in avoiding confusion, designated but one thoroughfare as a street; one as a road, one as an avenue; one as a drive; one as a lane; and so on.

In the group of permanent type homes the following names were chosen:

Denny road—Runs from High street west to connect with the demountable type houses. Named for Samuel Denny for many years the leading man in Georgetown, and who issued the warrant for the first town meeting of the Second Parish (now Bath) in 1754. Mr. Denny came to Arrowsic in 1719 where he and a Mr. Robinson built a blockhouse and erected a wind grist mill. He was town clerk and treasurer of the town of Georgetown from its organization until his death.

Office drive—A winding highway which enters the project from Meadow way and ends at the junction with Heath lane in the west end of the project. On this drive is located the administration building and recreation and social hall, as well as a large number of homes.

Tower circle—A semi-circle thoroughfare which leaves Denny road on the north, completes half a circle in the vicinity of the water tower now being erected and from which it gets its name, and rejoins Denny road.

Bowman street—A short street extending in a half circle from Denny road south and west to Noble avenue. Named for Andrew Bowman one of the earlier settlers and landowners of Bath.

Heath lane—Extends south from Denny road to a dead end

er settlers and landowners of Bath.

Heath lane—Extends south from Denny road to a dead end near its junction with the western terminal of Office drive. Joseph Heath was a surveyor for the Pejepscot Proprietors, owners of much of the territory in this section at one time and he himself owned 400 acres adjoining the Gutch property which at that time made up much of what is now the City of Bath.

Noble avenue—Runs south from Denny road and named for Arthur Noble who in 1733 was granted a strip of land from the Kennebec to New Meadows which included the upper part of Phippsburg and a tract of land in Bath and West Bath. Noble was a member of the first board of selectmen elected in the town of Georgetown, then Bath.

Adams court—Another semi-circular road in the northwest limits of the project connected with Denny drive by a short stretch of road. Named for Dr. Samuel Adams, a surgeon in the Revolutionary war under Gen. Knox and who settled in Bath at the close of that war. He was the only physician in this section at that time and was said to be the "most intelligent and successful practitioner of medicine in the state."

In the demountable type houses Crawford drive is the principal thoroughfare with other highways branching from it to the south and north. Crawford drive continued west from the end of Denny road in the permanents to Oak Grove avenue. It was named for John Crawford, an old time resident.

Other highways in this part of the project are:

Bernard street, named for Sir John Bernard, a respected merchant in Bath before the Revolution, and probably the only titled citizen in the history of the city.

Clark circle, for Major Thomas Clark, of the firm of Clark & Lake, who were largely responsible for the settlement of this locality, by reason of their commercial activities, including shipbuilding, between 1654 and 1676. Also for Capt. John Clark, an important shipbuilder in Bath just after the Revolution, and a participant in the Boston Tea Party.

Mathews avenue, named for Capt. Abiezer Mathews who was the first host at the old Commercial house built in Bath in 1816 and which is still standing.

Newton road, honoring Lieut. J. B. Newton, in command of the Bath Naval Reserves during the Spanish-American war.

Weymouth lane, named for George Weymouth the first white man to explore this region.

WOULD OMIT WEYMOUTH AND TAKE CHAMPLAIN IN NAMING THE STREET

An Independent reader sends the following letter concerning naming the streets at Lambert Park, the new North End housing project.
Editor the Independent:

The names proposed for the streets of Lambert Park, the new government housing project at the North End, are well chosen with one exception—Weymouth lane. Why Weymouth lane? There is not one iota of evidence that Captain George Weymouth was the first white man to explore this region.

If any explorer is to be honored by having a Bath street named for him, the illustrious Frenchman, Samuel de Champlain, would seem to be the man. "The first known entrance of Europeans to the Sagadahoc," writes Henry O. Thayer, an authority on the history of our river, "was in June, 1605, by the intrepid Champlain, leading the exploring company of De Monts from the St. Croix."

We have Champlain's own story of his exploration of the "Quinibequy." He was at Merrymeeting Bay (he calls it a lake) on July 6, 1605, new style, having come from the Sheepscot by way of Sasanoa. He and his company waited all day for two "captains of savages," one called Marchin, and the other Sasinou, chief of the river Quinibequy," who were expected to come down the Androscoggin River. After waiting all day for the Indians, who did not show up, they weighed anchor and sailed down the river arriving at the mouth before nightfall. "The route by which we descended the river," writes the great explorer, "is much safer and better than that by which we had gone."

It was July 8 before they were able to proceed westward along the coast, being held up by fogs. The map which Champlain drew of the mouth of the river is remarkably accurate considering the circumstances under which it was made.

Champlain's account of his exploration of the Sheepscot, Sasanoa and Kennebec rivers is most interesting and is commended to the attention of all those interested in local history. His Voyages, containing the account, should be in our Public Library.

F. M. S.