

H78-76
Mike Dalton
Fairbanks Streets
1973

Mike talks about the origins of the street names in Fairbanks. Older Fairbanks has streets named after historic figures. She reads some of Clara Rust's comments about the street names in Fairbanks. The main artery of Fairbanks running north and south is Cushman Street. It is named after F.H. Cushman who was a member of congress in the state of Washington. He was a friend of Judge James Wickersham. Cushman came to Valdez in 1903 and acted as a lawyer in court proceedings involving the Kennecott Copper holdings. Mike comments that Cushman was named after someone who did not live in Fairbanks.

Wickersham Street was named after Judge James Wickersham. He came to Fairbanks from Eagle to become the first arm of the law in 1903. He was judge and recorder. He was also in Rampart. Wickersham was part of a group that formed to name the town of Fairbanks. The town was named after the vice-president of the United States, Charles W. Fairbanks.

Cleary Street was named after Frank Cleary who was the first full-time recorder in the town. He was one of the first to stake ground on the discoveries made by Felix Pedro. He did extensive mining on Cleary Creek and the town of Cleary was named after him. It is no longer a populated town.

Dunkel was named after Bill Dunkel who was another recorder in the town of Fairbanks. Bonniefield was named after Sam Bonniefield. He was an early-day miner and prospector.

Badger Road was named after Harry Badger who was the fourth town recorder. He was a member of the territorial legislature. He was also involved in agriculture. He raised large fields of strawberries.

Hall Street was named after F.M. Hall who was one of the first doctors in town. His office was located on Turner Street between Second and Third Avenue.

Blanchfield was a small street between First and Second Avenue between Cushman and Lacey. It was also called Blanchfield Alley. The city took the property in the early 1970s for a parking lot. Percy Blanchfield was one of the first men in Fairbanks to be killed in WWI.

Noble Street was named after George Noble. He owned one of the first saloons on First Avenue. He was active in the Eagles organization and the Arctic Brotherhood.

W.K. Wendell was the first to build on the street that bears his name. It is north of First Avenue.

Kellum Street was named after Judge J.C. Kellum. He was an attorney who joined Judge Wickersham to help set up law and order in the town of Fairbanks.

Smythe Street was named after Cap Smythe who was a riverboat captain. His boat ran between Fairbanks and Tanana Crossing on the Tanana River and on other rivers. He had a homestead on Eighth Avenue between Kellum and Bonniefield. He sold lots from Eighth and Ninth Avenue.

Lathrop Street was named after Cap Lathrop.

Cowles Street was also named after a judge. *J. Ted Cowles*

Gaffney Road is named after one of the first military men, Colonel Gaffney, who was in charge of building up Ladd Field.

Eielson Street was named after Carl Ben Eielson. He was a teacher in Fairbanks High School.

Gilliam Way was named for Harold Gilliam. He was an airplane mechanic. He died on the search for Carl Ben Eielson.

Stacia Street is named after Paul Rickert's wife, Stacia. Paul Rickert homesteaded at the junction of Cushman, Gaffney, and Airport Way. He donated and sold land for Weeks Field. It was the main airfield until the early 1950s. Fairview Manor and subdivisions now occupy his property.

Lorraine Avenue was also named after Paul Rickert's wife, Stacia Lorraine Rickert.

Bjerrmark Street was named after August Bjerrmark. He homesteaded at Seventeenth and Cushman. It is now a subdivision.

Jesse and Abigail Streets were named after August Bjerrmark's wife. He hauled water and wood in the early days of Fairbanks. He had barns at Cowles and Fifth Avenue. Jesse was a seamstress and gave many parties.

First Avenue was first called Front Street. All streets running north and south were given names and the streets running parallel to the river were numbered avenues. The Graehl subdivision still uses the name Front Street.

Fairbanks, Charles W. |q (Charles Warren), |d 1852-1918