

The Origin of Tenney Lapham Neighborhood Street Names

Source: The Origins of Some Madison, Wisconsin, Street Names by Burr Angle, Dolores Kester, and Ann Waidelich, 2010.

Part XI - The Origins of Some Madison, Wisconsin, Street Names: Streets from Randall Avenue to the Yahara River

<http://www.historicmadison.org/Madison's%20Past/Street%20Names/PartXI.html>

The City of Madison began as one of several towns planned by James Duane Doty (1799-1865). About 1836 Doty and his associates drew up plats for a town in the Four Lakes area of south-central Wisconsin that he named Madison for James Madison (1751-1836), the father of the U. S. Constitution and U. S. President from 1809-1817. Doty named most of the streets in his proposed town for men who signed the U. S. Constitution. In 1836, Doty persuaded the territorial legislature to choose Madison as the new capital. It became the state capital in 1848.

The 1837-1840 population of Madison was less than 200 but had grown about 1600 when the Village of Madison was incorporated on March 10, 1851. The City of Madison was incorporated on March 4, 1856.

Madison grew rapidly from 1850 to 1900, so new streets were built. Suburban expansion beyond the original city limits began about 1900 both east of the Yahara River and west of Camp Randall when the population was about 19,000.

Many of the streets in the area between Camp Randall and the Yahara River belong to five categories. There are streets named for:

- Signers of the U. S. Constitution
- Madison mayors, Wisconsin governors, and national politicians other than the signers
- Businessmen, civic leaders, and local residents
- Places and things
- Madison businesses

Street Names in the Tenney Lapham Neighborhood

Streets Named for Signers of the U. S. Constitution

Baldwin Street – Abraham Baldwin, Georgia
Blair Street – John Blair, Virginia
Blount Street – William Blount, North Carolina
Brearly Street – David Brearley, New Jersey
Dayton Street – Jonathan Dayton, New Jersey
Dickinson Street – John Dickinson, Delaware
Few Street – William Few, Georgia

Gorham Street – Nathaniel Gorham, Massachusetts
Ingersoll Street – Jared Ingersoll, Pennsylvania
Johnson Street- William Samuel Johnson, Connecticut
Livingston Street – William Livingston, New Jersey
Mifflin Street – Thomas Mifflin, Pennsylvania
Paterson Street – William Paterson, New Jersey
Sherman Avenue – Roger Sherman, Connecticut
Washington Avenue – George Washington, Virginia

Streets Named for Madison mayors, Wisconsin governors, and national politicians other than the signers

Curtis Court – William Dexter Curtis (1857-1935), Madison mayor, 1904-1905
Leitch Court – William T. Leitch (1808-1897), Madison mayor 1862-1865
Washburn Place – Cadwallader Golden Washburn (1818-1882), lumberman, civil war general, Congressman, Wisconsin governor 1872-1874, University of Wisconsin Regent and president of the Wisconsin Historical Society

Streets Named for businessmen, civic leaders, local residents, and others

Elizabeth Street – Unknown but probably the developer's daughter
Jean Street – Unknown but probably the developer's daughter
Marston Avenue – The maiden name of D.K. Tenney's wife
Sidney Street – a local resident or family?
Thornton Avenue – for the land owner

Streets Named for Places and Things

Castle Place – for the subdivision
Norris Court – for the Norris Court Apartments, built about 1928 and the Norris Court Garage that opened in 1931
Prospect Place – for the subdivision and to emphasize a fine view
Wisconsin Avenue – for the state