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Indian Names of Streams and Localities

Henry Fontenelle

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The following Indian names of streams and localities, is furnished by Henry Fontenelle :

Nebraska—Name of the Platte river, meaning flat river.

Nemaha—Name of the Nemaha river, meaning Omaha's river.

Neobrara—Niobrara or Leau qui court river, meaning wide river. Leau qui court is the French name of the running or Niobrara river, meaning the "water that runs."

The letter O was always annexed or prefixed to Mahas, Omahas is proper. The early voyagers, the French, abbreviated the word or name by leaving off the O and calling them "de Maha," instead of des Omaha.

Ohio—Although not in this state is an Omaha word, meaning come along. Ohie, or Ohahe, came by.

I cannot just now think of any more Indian names of streams or localities.

HISTORY OF OMAHA INDIANS.

At request of the editor of this report the following traditional history of the Omaha Indians is furnished by Henry Fontenelle, a reliable, intelligent, educated half-blood of that tribe:

DECATUR, NEB., Aug. 18th, 1884.

Robert W. Furnas, Brownville, Neb.:

DEAR SIR—I send you a brief tradition or history of the Omahas, as you requested, but I fear it is not all you want. Like other persons of limited means I have but little leisure to study or write, and have been away from home most of the time since last spring, and have had to improve what little time I could catch while at home to write it out, as you know my education is limited, and have not as fluent use of the English language as I would wish, and consequently I make a poor out at writing history or anything else. Had I plenty of time to study and write, and make researches I might have made it longer and go more into details, and it might have been more interesting and entertaining.

I once wrote a biography of Logan for the *Burtonian* (our county paper), which you will find in the last and largest history of Nebraska published in Chicago, which should you want you can find.