

647.14

Date of decision

April 29, 1937

See work card

Adopted name Maritje Kill

Description a small stream in Hyde Park, Dutchess Co., N.Y.

It rises about 3 miles northeast of Hyde Park village, and enters Hudson River from the east near the upper end of the Lange Rack, 3 miles north of Poughkeepsie. The name, pronounced mar-i-tche, is the old spelling and pronunciation of the modern Dutch name Marietje (pronounced ma-reet-yü), meaning little Mary.

Names

Authorities

Marytie's Kill

1738 - "Survey of ye River" by Henry Livingston (pub. in "Poughkeepsie the Origin and Meaning of the Word", by H.W. Reynolds, pp. 79-81).

Maricha Kill

1797 - Map of the town of Clinton by Jacob Smith (pub. in Year Book Dutchess Co. Hist. Soc. 1926).

Local usage

Maritje Kill

"Maritje Kill runs, as you know, right through our place. We have always called it by that name, but I do not know who the little Mary was" Letter from President Roosevelt to Miss Helen W. Reynolds, dated 1/15/36.

Decision of Executive Committee (over)

Submitted by U.S. Geological Survey

Maritje Kill

Date .....

Card by GCM

*Handwritten initials*

"In view of the fact that the spelling Marytje is not wholly satisfactory from the Dutch point of view and that Marietje is apt to be mispronounced Mār-i-ēt'-je, I think that Maritje might well be adopted as a compromise between the two other forms and as a more or less accurate phonetic rendering of what appears to be the local pronunciation of the name.

"This pronunciation Mār'-ī-tche, with the accent on the first syllable, corresponds very closely to an old pronunciation of the diminutive form of the name Marie or Maria which is occasionally heard in the Netherlands among country folk and which in Dutch literature is represented by the form Maretje, whereas the regular form Marietje is pronounced Ma-reet'-yŭ ("a" as in sofa; "ie" as "i" in machine; "j" as "y" in yet, and final "e" as "ŭ" in up), with the accent on the second syllable." Letter from A. J. F. van Laer, 4/7/37.