Name Change for Haines Creek

The following is an outline for a case to changes the name of Haines Creek in Lake County to Haynes Creek. This case was heard by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names. On September 8, 2005 the Board rendered its decision to make the change in agreement with the recommendations of all interested parties. Effective that date the name was changed.

**Haynes Creek:** stream, 9.5 km (5.9 mi) long; heads on the W shore of Lake Eustis at 28°53'24"N, 81°49'45"W, flows NW through the community of Lisbon to the E shore of Lake Griffin; named for Captain Melton Haynes (d. 1883), statesman, civil engineer, surveyor, citrus industry pioneer and Civil War cavalry officer; Lake County, Florida; Secs 12,1&2, T19S, R25E and Secs 35-32&29, T18S, R25E, Tallahassee Mer.; 28°51'09"N, 81°45'29"W; Map – Leesburg East 1:24,000 (mouth of feature); Not: Haines Creek.

Proposal: spelling change to recognize a family name
Topographic Map: Leesburg East 1:24,000 (mouth of feature)
Proponent: Robert A. Grenier; Tavares, FL
Administrative area: None
Previous BGN Action: None
Names associated with feature:
GNIS: Haines Creek (ID 12007593/FID 305779)
Local Usage: Haynes Creek (local residents)
Published: Haines Creek (USGS 1965/1980, 1979), Haynes Creek (EPA, 2002; History of Lake County, 1929; Lake County: A Pictorial History, 1994)

Case Summary: This proposal was submitted by the President of the Lake County Historical Society to change officially the spelling of the name Haines Creek to Haynes Creek. The stream is approximately 9.5 km (5.9 mi) long and connects Lake Griffin and Lake Eustis. The existing name has appeared on U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps since 1965, but all evidence suggests the stream was named for Captain Melton Haynes (d. 1883), widely regarded as one of Lake County’s most prominent early citizens. Haynes’ biography describes him as “a statesmen, civil engineer, surveyor, distinguished citizen, citrus industry pioneer, and Civil War cavalry officer, who commanded the 5th Battalion, Company H, attached to the command of Florida’s famous “Swamp Fox”, Captain J.J. Dickison.”

Shortly after his arrival in the area in 1845, Capt. Haynes homesteaded on property along the stream in question, and the house he constructed in 1871 is still standing. He was commissioned as a militia captain in 1849, and in 1854, was elected to serve in the Florida House of Representatives. Following his Civil War service, Haynes became a State Senator. According to the proponent, “his many business adventures included citrus groves, a general store, post office, dredging, real estate, surveying for the county, and a large shipping depot at Lake Griffin and Haynes Creek.” He also introduced the “sweet orange” to the region. When Capt. Haynes died in 1883, his funeral was reported to be the largest ever seen in South Florida.

The proponent included with his proposal letters of support for the change from Haines Creek to Haynes Creek from the Lake County Board of Commissioners; the Lake County Water Authority; the mayors of the cities of Tavares, Leesburg, Eustis, and Mount Dora; Florida Senator Carey Baker; the Superintendent of Lake County Schools; the Lake County Sheriff; the Lake County Department of Growth Management; the Lake County Historical Museum; Historic Mount Dora; the Leesburg Heritage Museum; the Rotary Club of Tavares; the Rotary Club of Leesburg; the Leesburg Heritage Society; the Tavares Historical Museum; Leesburg Lodge No. 58 and Umatilla Lodge No.
65 (Capt. Haynes served as the first master of both lodges when they opened in 1868 and 1873, respectively); and numerous descendants of Melton Haynes. Several other local genealogical and historical organizations in the area submitted petitions in support of the change. The name Haynes Creek was listed in an EPA listing of Lake County waterbodies, and was also mentioned in two histories of Lake County published in 1929 and 1994. Another volume, About Some Lakes and More in Lake County (Sime, 1995), included a reference to Haines Creek, but suggested the name was derived from that of Melton Haynes. The Florida Board on Geographic Names, citing the overwhelming historical evidence and local support, recommends approval of the change to Haynes Creek.