

Potential New Barony Names for the current Barony of Skraeling Althing

Compiled by Colyne Stewart

Possible Names

The following names were either submitted to the baronial seneschal during the polling process, or arose during consultation with the Ealdormere College of Heraldry, as well as other heraldic experts and sources both within and without the Society.

Eldinga Alþingi – Old Norse (Icelandic) for *Lightning Althing*

Originally submitted as **Elding Althing**.

According to Wiktionary, in Middle English, "elding" can mean "warmth" or "fuel" but also "rubbish." I have not been able to verify this. (Colyne Stewart)

For the meaning of the name to stay true, "elding" should likely be plural ("eldingar"). "Elding" means a singular bolt of language. (Colyne Stewart)

In ON, "elding" can also refer to "the 'eld' or old age of the night, the last or third part of the night" per Cleasby & Vigfusson. (Colyne Stewart)

I'm guessing that this one really wouldn't work as a placename. The other proposals with Althing were a geographical feature and an adjective (that could possibly be used as a noun). If Althing itself were a placename, this one might work, but it really isn't - it's a name for a gathering of people. Lightning really needs to be accompanied by a geographical feature to possibly work in a placename (and even then, it might not be possible without modification) (Nika Dmitrieva doch' Zvezdina)

"Althing" should be "Alþingi" if you're using ON. (C&V p.18) "Alþing" is the more modern Icelandic version of "Alþingi". (Ragnheithr Thorbjarnardottir)

When you compound "elding" with "Alþing" it would more likely be "EldingaAlþing" as in the C&V examples for "eldingaflug" (flash of lightning) and "eldingamánaðr" (the lightning month). "Elding" is also the third part of the night, where the day begins to rekindle. It's a pretty cool connotation. As you can see from "eldingamánaðr", an abstract concept like "Alþing" can as easily be compounded with "elding" as can a place name. I'd keep it singular as "Alþingi" is a single assembly even though many people gathered at it. That last should be "EldingaAlþingi". My autocorrect is set to modern Icelandic so it keeps dropping the final "i" off Alþingi on me. (Ragnheithr Thorbjarnardottir)

"elding alþing" - This is ok, but I'd suggest "eldþing". (Fridrikr Tomasson)

Caerdydd Newydd - Welsh for *New Cardiff*

Nieuw Brussels Dutch for *New Brussels*

Gullin Alþingi - Old Norse for *Golden Althing*, a reference to Aurelia

Originally submitted as **Gullen Althing**

Althing" should be "Alþingi" if you're using ON. (C&V p.18) "Alþing" is the more modern Icelandic version of "Alþingi". (Ragnheiðr Thorbjarnardóttir)

I like "Gullin Alþingi" (see Cleasby & Vigfússon for many examples of "gullinn" (golden) compounding with the second "n" dropped. P. 221 top left column for me. It would do Enid proud. (Ragnheiðr Thorbjarnardóttir)

would be better formed as "gullenþing". (Fridrik Tomasson)

Gilden Alþingi - Old Norse for *Golden Althing*, a reference to Aurelia

Originally submitted as **Gilden Althing**

Althing" should be "Alþingi" if you're using ON. (C&V p.18) "Alþing" is the more modern Icelandic version of "Alþingi". (Ragnheiðr Thorbjarnardóttir)

Aquae Aureliae - Latin for *Aurelia's waters*

Originally submitted as **Aurellia Surleau**

French for "Aurelia on the Water"

might be a joke based on Lois McMaster Bujold's place names in the Vorkosigan novels... Surleau was mine and really was a joke (Henry of Linlithgow)

So as a placename, sur l'eau is definitely an element in modern French placenames. I'd have to check as to whether it's also possible for pre-17th century ones. Would also need to check on whether Aurelia would work as a locative name. We know that lots of placenames are indeed derived from Latin names, and Aurelius (Aurelia) was a massively popular Roman nomen. It would likely be used adjectivally in Latin in a placename in the form that translates into English as "Aurelian" with some sort of settlement designator (e.g. castrum for camp--root of a lot of English placenames). But French puts a bit of a twist onto it. (Nika Dmitrieva doch' Zvezdina)

A documented Roman naming pattern was to use "Aquae" for "waters" (specifically for a settlement by a river) + a descriptor, which could be derived from a name. Aquae Aureliae might be possible. (Nika Dmitrieva doch' Zvezdina)

Aquæ Aureliæ is cool (Henry of Linlithgow)

Terra Aureliae - Latin for *Aurelia's Land*

Originally submitted as **Terra Aurelia Choreas**
Latin for "the land where Aurelia danced"

This one appears to be Latin, sort of (the final word is of Greek origin). The Terra Aurelia part is easy to put into the correct grammatical construction - Terra Aureliae, "Aurelia's land". Choreas appears to be a reference to either a dance or a chorus (chorea is a Greek word). I'm not sure what the intended meaning is, but the first part would absolutely work on its own. (Nika Dmitrieva doch' Zvezdina)

Nafarroa Berria - Basque for *New Navarre*

Nafarroa is a Basque name--we know it now as Navarre. Berria is Basque for New. So essentially "New Navarre". I know nothing about the Basque language and how the grammar works, but hey, it would be interesting, and this certainly works as a place name. (Nika Dmitrieva doch' Zvezdina)

Gasteiz Beria - Basque for *New Gasteiz*

Gasteiz is a city in the Basque area of Spain; this would be New Gasteiz. (Nika Dmitrieva doch' Zvezdina)

Heragaard - Dutch for *Hare's Gate*

gaard is actually Dutch and does not mean "guard" -- it means gate or yard (think garden!), which is a fine placename element. For Old Norse, the equivalent word to gaard is garðr. Once we confirm the grammar and position of Hera-, I think this one would work as a placename. Old Norse for "Hare's Guard" (Nika Dmitrieva doch' Zvezdina)

Héragarðr – Old Norse for *Hare's Guard*

Originally submitted as **Heragarðr**
See Heragaard.

In ON, "hare" is "héri" not "heri" and goes into the genitive as "héra" so "Hare's guard" would be "Héragarðr". (Ragnheithr Thorbjarnardottir)

"heragarðr" - This is ok, but, to be grammatically correctly, it should be "héragarðr" (Fridrik Tomasson)

Alþingis-straumur - Old Norse for *River/Stream Althing*

A nod to the meaning of the indigenous word Odawa (Ottawa), the name of the major river in the area (the Ottawa/Odawa River).

Originally submitted as **Straumur Althing**

If you compound "Alþingi" with "Straumur" it would be "Alþingis-straumur" and not "Straumur Alþingi". (Ragnheithr Thorbjarnardottir)

„straumr alþing" - straumr denotes a current, rather than a river. River is „á". "Thing River" would be „Þingá" pronounced approximately "Thing-aw". (Fridrikr Tomasson)

Wabozwaaling - Anishinaabemowin, meaning, *Cave of the Rabbit*

Wabozwaanig (Waboz-Waanig), Anishinaabemowin, meaning, "cave of the rabbit".

If there is a strong desire to use Anishinaabemowin, I recommend following traditional place names patterns which typically are geography descriptors, with major features tying into local lore. Following this pattern the lore behind the old Barony name/device could be used with the barony's most prominent geographical feature... Though the old way of pronouncing and thus spelling would make it "Wabozwaaling" (Rua Lupa)

So rabbit spelled using the Fiero double vowel system (which is most common writing system for Anishinaabe) rabbit is spelled "waaboozh"... I'm not sure about cave but place is "endat"... waaboozhendat should do the job...unless you really want cave instead of place. (Þórunn in rauða refr)

According to an online Ojibwe dictionary: Waazh = cave in Ojibwe (one of the three peoples who make up the Anishinaabe) (Colyne Stewart)

Alþingishóll - Old Norse for *Althing Hill*

Originally submitted as **Althingaugr**

Thingvellir is the name of the place in Iceland where the historical Althing took place. You could probably make a case for "Althing-" to be used as an element in similar ON constructions (so in combo with a geographical feature) -- so possibly Althingaugr, for instance (Althing hill). (Nika Dmitrieva doch' Zvezdina)

I am quite taken with Althingaugr, even if it's a direct translation of a very local placename in Ottawa. (Henry of Linlithgow)

I'd tend more toward "hóll" than "haugr" as "hóll" (p. 280 in my Cleasby & Vigfússon ON dictionary) is "hill" whereas "haugr" has more the connotation of a "heap" or a "cairn" than a hill. "Alþingishóll" could translate to either "Assembly Hill for all" or "Assembly Hill above all others (ie Supreme Assembly Hill)". Hóll compounds in the singular in ON for things like "álfhóll" (an elf hill) and "víghóll" (a battle hill) and in plural when the number of hills is plural, as in "sand dunes" as "sjávarhjólar". "Staðarhóll" was a place name in Iceland in the period ON was spoken, so it's a good choice for a place name. (Ragnheithr Thorbjarnardóttir)

Ineligible Names

The following names were submitted but were not usable for the reasons given below.

Ther Hverr Bitha

This was translated as "Those Who Wander" in discussions, which does not fit any established patterns for a locative name. (Dietrich von Sachsen)

Silfur Kah'na Althing

Given that Kah'na is an indigenous word, it is not an acceptable linguistic mix with Old Norse under SENA Appendix C. (Dietrich von Sachsen)

Zibi Althing

As above, Indigenous languages cannot be combined with Old Norse. (Dietrich von Sachsen)

Waboz Althing

Assuming this is what I think it is - namely, the Ojibwe word for the snowshoe hare - then as above. (Dietrich von Sachsen)

Eastern Salient

Whilst Salient *is* a period word, it is a verb (to leap). The noun version - that is, a geographic "bulge" - is a 19th century word. (Dietrich von Sachsen)

Notes

One additional note: When I said "Althing wouldn't be registerable today", what I meant is that it wouldn't be registerable in the format it's in in the current name. As folks may know, Thingvellir is the name of the place in Iceland where the historical Althing took place. You could probably make a case for "Althing-" to be used as an element in similar ON constructions (so in combo with a geographical feature) -- so possibly Althingaugr, for instance (Althing hill). (Nika)

A case **might** be made, given Norse contact in Newfoundland and later settlements in Greenland, that a mix between ON and an East Coast Indigenous language or (even more likely) Inuktitut or Kalaallisut is plausible. (Nika)

You could likely make a case for "Alþingi" to be compounded the same way as "Þing", since it is itself a compound of "All" ("all", "very", "supreme") and "Þing" (assembly or parliament). If you compound it, I think it would be in the genitive, similarly to "Alþingisdómr" which is the name given to the court. (Heithr)

The reason I change „Alþing" to „Þing" is that, in Old Norse, „þing" refers to a general meeting place. There are many "things," but only one „Alþing." I understand that the group will want to retain „Alþing" as part of the name, and they certainly may. But you asked for Old Norse commentary and I'm giving the best I can. By the way, my go-to for an Old Norse Dictionary is <https://old-norse.net/TOC-intro.php>. Hope this helps. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know. (Fridrikr)

The name Ottawa is derived from the Algonquin word "adawe", which means "to trade". (Gov't of Canada).

Also spelled Ottawa, the Odawa name comes from the Algonquian word "Adawe" meaning "to trade", in reference to their well known role as traders long before contact with Europeans. Canada's capital

takes its name from this once highly influential people. The Odawa are an Algonquian-speaking people who call themselves Anishinàbe meaning "original people." They are currently located on Manitoulin Island and along the Bruce Peninsula, which is their original homeland. (Quilt of Belonging)

Resources

Donovan, Brian R., Dr. "Key to Ojibwe Place Names," Bemidji State University (BSU), <https://faculty.bemidjistate.edu/bdonovan/placenames.html>

Garrick, Rick. "Language does mean something," Anishinabek News, Ma4 20, 2017, <https://anishinabeknews.ca/2017/05/20/language-does-mean-something/>

"Elding," Cleasby & Vigfusson Dictionary, <https://cleasby-vigfusson-dictionary.vercel.app/word/elding>

"Origin of the names of Canada's provincial and territorial capitals," Government of Canada, <https://natural-resources.canada.ca/earth-sciences/geography/origins-canadas-geographical-names/origin-names-canadas-provincial-and-territorial-capitals/9188#OTTAWA>

"Odawa," Quilt of Belonging, <https://www.quiltofbelonging.ca/blocks/odawa/>

Livesay, Nora, and Nichols, John D., eds. *The Ojibwe's Peoples Dictionary*, <https://ojibwe.lib.umn.edu/>

Nishnaabemwin: Odawa & Eastern Ojibwe online dictionary, Nishnaabemwin: Odawa & Eastern Ojibwe Language resources, <https://dictionary.nishnaabemwin.atlas-ling.ca>

Gehl, Lynn. "Indigenous Place Names and Akikpautik," lynngehl.com, 12 20 2008, <https://www.lynngehl.com/gehl-blogging/indigenous-place-names-and-akikpautik>