

[Letterhead]  
Chilson Lake  
Essex Co., N. Y.

My dear Prof. Peck,

We are having a good deal of trouble over the name of our lake and I am going to ask if you will kindly help us by asking Dr. Merrill [George Perkins Merrill, 1854-1929] to keep the name of Chilson on the new geological map. He has expressed his willingness to do so to one of the residents on Chilson Lake. For ten years this lake has been called Chilson Lake, before that Long Pond. A few years ago an effort was made by a Mr. Weed who had bought some unimproved property, to change it to Paragon – after some trouble that name was given up. Now on the Government Forestry and Rail Road maps it is Chilson. Last year this same man formed a company—giving some shares to Congressman Emerson and others, and calling the Eagle Lake Improvement Co., putting up signs along the highway bearing the name Eagle Lake. Through Mr. Emerson's influence, and against the protest of all the residents on the lake except one, a post office was established called "Eagle Cliff." This office we have not used but send our letters as of old to Chilson P.O. The stage, which carries the mail as well as passengers and express matter, brought our bags containing the mail to a point half a mile from the Eagle Cliff office. Now the Eagle Lake Improvement Co., or "Imposition Co." as it had been called, have secured an order from Washington for bidding the stage driver to carry our mail. We shall be obliged to send it by a private carrier. I write all this, Prof. Peck, to explain the situation and to let you see how unjustly we have been treated. Dr. N. L. Britton [Nathaniel Lord Britton, 1859-1934, professor of botany at Columbia and founding director of the New York Botanical Garden] has written strong letters to Washington, insisting that the name of Chilson be retained. He and Mrs. Britton [Elizabeth Gertrude Britton, 1858-1934, eminent bryologist] have done a good deal of collecting here. All the specimens of mosses and lichens I have sent out to the Sullivant Moss chapter have borne the enclosed labels. Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith [1856-1946] has done much work here, and is now getting us an exhaustive list of the flora in the vicinity of Chilson Lake. So you see if the name is changed all this work will be of little value. Hoping you can and will kindly help us all you can, Prof. Peck!

Sincerely yours,  
Carolyn W. Harris  
July 30, 1901