

Ask Dr. Map!

There'll always be an England

Dear Dr. Map,

Q: What happens to old cartographers?

A: There are many possible answers to this question, but Dr. Map will not be tempted toward crudity! He will assume that this question is about the much circulated one liners of the form "Old XXXers never die, they just YYY". Curiously, there are very few untimely fates assigned to those in the mapping profession. A search found:

Old cartographers never die, they just lose their way.

Old cartographers never die, they become legends.

Old cartographers never die, they just delineate.

Surely there are others? Please e-mail them to askdrmap@cox.net if you know of any. Meanwhile, I offer a couple that I hope are original:

Old cartographers newer die, their boundaries just become fuzzy.

Old cartographers never die, they just get more generalized features.

Q: How many places called "London" are there in the United States?

A: Dr. Map's tally is 19, using only an exact match to "London", i.e. New London doesn't count:

London, AL 31° 17' 52" N 087° 05' 16" W

London, AL 32° 16' 24" N 086° 03' 01" W

London, AR 35° 19' 44" N 093° 15' 11" W

London, CA 36° 28' 34" N 119° 26' 35" W

London, IN 39° 37' 32" N 085° 55' 13" W

London, KY 37° 07' 44" N 084° 05' 00" W

London, MI 42° 01' 12" N 083° 36' 48" W

London, MN 43° 31' 34" N 093° 03' 46" W

London, MN 47° 12' 10" N 091° 34' 11" W

London, MO 40° 26' 42" N 095° 14' 06" W

London, OH 39° 53' 11" N 083° 26' 54" W

London, OH 40° 54' 37" N 082° 37' 46" W

London, OR 43° 38' 04" N 123° 05' 34" W

London, PA 41° 08' 37" N 080° 08' 55" W

London, TN 35° 52' 11" N 083° 00' 08" W

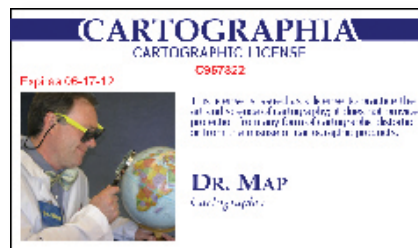
London, TX 30° 40' 37" N 099° 34' 35" W

London, TX 32° 13' 52" N 094° 56' 40" W

London, WI 43° 02' 52" N 089° 00' 46" W

London, WV 38° 11' 40" N 081° 22' 07" W

Dr. Map points out that this could be used to generate the ultimate toponymic challenge question. What do Alabama, Minnesota, Ohio, and Texas have in common? The answer? Londonia. Samuel Johnson would have been exhilarated by the new possibilities!



Q: What happened in April in Broughton, UK?

A: Broughton, UK, a part of the Milton Keynes new town, became notorious last April (no, not on April 1st but close!) when the Google Street View car showed up to add the village into Google Maps popular pictorial coverage. Local resident Paul Jacobs spotted the car, which has a strange looking camera on top, as it approached his home. He roused fellow residents, who quickly became an "angry mob" blocking the car. They accused Google of invading their privacy and "facilitating crime." Google launched the Street View service in May 2007, and coverage of most of the U.S. is already in place, apparently without angry mobs. Google stated that they obeyed UK law by only taking the photographs from public areas, such as streets. After police arrived, the car, a black Opel Astra, made a quick U-turn and left the scene. Twitter users called on Street View followers to protest against the villagers. They have posted pictures of the village online and added spoof 'masterplans' on how to plot robberies. The bottom line is that at least on the web (and apparently on the BBC and several national newspapers), Broughton is now well advertised as a wealthy community, ripe for burglary. According to later reports, this is in fact not true. For those unfamiliar with the locale, see the map from www.openstreetmaps.org, or type "Broughton, Milton Keynes, London Road" into GoogleMaps, and click on the street view icon. It was "grayed out" when Dr. Map tried. As Scott McNally said, "you have zero privacy anyway, get over it." Now, are we sure that this is really the right 'London' Road?



Dr. Map has a PhD and a cartographic license. Send questions to Dr. Map at askdrmap@cox.net or visit him on the web at <http://www.drmap.info>.