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Letter from Representative Burdick to Blair and Jo Ann Smallwood Regarding Reservoir Name, August 17, 1951

Usher Burdick

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August 17, 1951.

Blair and Jo Ann Smallwood,
1018 North Main Street,
Minot, North Dakota.

Dear friends:

I was very happy to receive your letter of August 11, and your very excellent suggestion that the lake to be formed by the Garrison Dam in North Dakota be given an Indian name.

Yours was one of the first letters expressing interest in the designation of the lake. I have investigated and find that Senator Young's bill to designate the water as "Lake Thompson" has already passed the Senate and is now being studied by the House. Congressman Aandahl also has a bill in to designate the lake as "Lake Thompson."

I feel sure you are aware of my deep interest in North Dakota history, as I have published several books on the subject. I agree that naming the lake after the Hidatsa or Arilara tribes would be more fitting and most worthwhile. Nevertheless, at this late date and because the Thompson bill has proceeded so far, I must frankly state that it's going to be a big job to stop the legislation. I will see what can be done.

Sincerely,

Usher L. Burdick, M.C.