



Confusion in Stony . . . err . . . Stoney Creek?

Nestled among the growing subdivisions of Rochester Hills is the quaint 19th century Stony Creek Village. Settled in 1823, Stoney Creek is home to several of Oakland County's oldest and most well preserved homes. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Village is one of the few reminders of the county's pioneer history. Stoney Creek is not without controversy however. The big question in the village is: to E' or not to E'?

While traveling through Northern Oakland and Macomb Counties you may find that the official spelling of Stony Creek Lake in Washington Township does not have the E', while the cemetery in Rochester just a few miles away does. The Schoolhouse and High School both have an E', while the former mill that stood just a few feet away did not. The State of Michigan Historic Marker located in the Village lists Stoney Creek, while the National Register of Historic Places lists it as Stony Creek. The official name of the Stony Creek Metropark does not have an E', but the sign on Rochester and Avon Roads directing you to the park does. And in the most amazing example of the often-silly spelling problem, maps show Stoney Creek Road crossing Stony Creek in Oakland Township.

This E'nigma has often perplexed the staff and volunteers at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Enigma Farm, located in Ston(E)y Creek Village. In fact, the Museum gift shop sells maps of Stoney Creek Village next to a book titled "On the Banks of Stony Creek".

The resulting confusion has led Museum Director Patrick McKay to use the two interchangeably, often in the same sentence. "It's a question we get asked so often, we just make light of it. School kids love it because either way is right."

After hours of research, the Museum staff believes they have the definitive answer: both spellings are historically accurate. This seemingly E'asy problem has been plaguing the area for over 150 years, even the earliest pioneers could not agree on a spelling. Early maps list Stony Creek Village and creek without the E'. However, an 1848 official school document discusses the Stoney Creek Schoolhouse.