

Street Names

**Street names today
have hidden histories
that tell stories
of people and
far away places.**

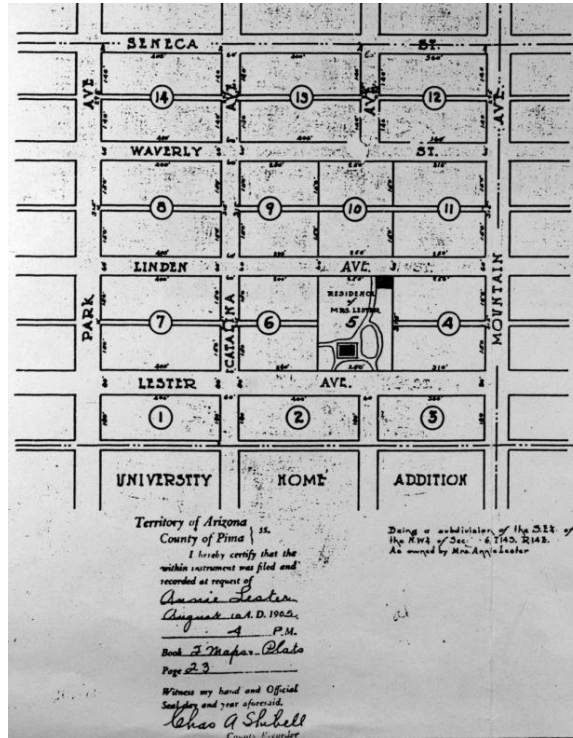
**Streets named by Anna Lester, in the
1900's now stretch miles across
Tucson
and
their stories
are largely unknown.**

***As Lester's granddaughter, Barbara C. Bacon, put it:
"If it is a tree name - she named it."***

Streets that were named at the turn of the century and applied to a small homestead now extend many miles east and west in Tucson. Annie Lester's love of trees has had a significant influence on Tucson's near north side.

In 1905, Anna Lester recorded four street names with the Pima County Recorder's Office.

One was Lester Street, named for herself and her family, and the other three - Seneca, Linden and Waverly - were named for trees she knew from her native Germany.



SENECA STREET

The Seneca tree is a variety of the species *Siebold viburnum*. The species was named for Philipp Franz von Siebold of Germany, who gained prominence for his study of Japanese plant and animal life. The tree is small and multi-trunked with dark green leaves. It is native to Japan. Because they're small, Senecas are often placed in medians or buffer strips around parking lots.

LINDEN STREET

The Linden tree comes in several species. The little-leaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*) is common in Germany, where Anna Lester was born. During the 1600s and early 1700s, the tree was frequently used to form streets in Europe, with trees lining both sides of a path. A well-known example is Unter den Linden Boulevard in Berlin. The tree grows 40 to 50 feet tall and has sweet-smelling yellow flowers that bloom in the summer.

WAVERLY STREET

Waverly is another name for the quaking aspen. There are two species: *Populus tremuloides*, native to North America, and *Populus tremula*, native to Europe and Asia. Because *Populus tremula* is common in Lester's homeland of Germany, the street is probably named after it. It grows 49 to 65 feet high, and its leaves turn yellow in autumn.

Anna Lester also is believed to have given other Tucson streets their tree names. Among them: Elm Street, Walnut Street (now Cherry Avenue), Pine Avenue (now Warren Avenue), Maple Avenue (now Martin Avenue) and Oak Street (now Campbell Avenue).

Source: Streets Smarts, AZ Daily Star, David Leighton

Grant Road – Has had several names: Road #1, Luna, North and finally Grant Road after a rancher. John Breck Grant was born on April 11, 1860, in Nova Scotia. At age 11, he began working on boats that traveled around Newfoundland and along the Eastern United States. He arrived in Boston May 8, 1881 and “took up the hammer and saw.”

On July 18, 1896, he became a naturalized U.S. citizen. He landed work with the Southern Pacific Railroad Co., and in 1897 was sent to Cochise, to build the staircase for the town’s train station. In 1900, he was named bridge and building foreman on the Tucson division, a job he would keep until retirement in 1930.



On Aug. 4, 1919, Abraham C. Grant petitioned the Pima County Board of Supervisors for the dirt road just south of his father’s “ranch,” from North University Farm Road (now the northern part of Campbell Avenue) east to North Swan Road, to be made a public highway. The first signature on the petition was J.B. Grant followed by his eldest son A.C. Grant and then other interested parties (likely landowners) such as Charles Blenman.



Campbell Avenue was named in honor of a judge whose influence reached from a local to a national stage. John H. Campbell was born in Tuscola, Ill., on Sept. 19, 1868. He attended schools there until he was 20 years old. In 1887, he went to Washington, D.C., where he became a clerk in the U.S. Department of Treasury. He studied law at Columbia University and earned his master of law degree in 1891. In 1901 he arrived in Tucson. Campbell was appointed assistant U.S. attorney for the Arizona Territory. In 1905 he was chosen associate justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona, and he served in that role until 1912 with a distinguished record. He was one of the final associate justices in Arizona’s territorial government.



Photo of race between Barney Oldfield and Drachman (in plane)

Speedway - In 1896, it was a dirt road named Wilson Street . Wilson Street ran from the present-day Mountain Avenue to Park Avenue, At the turn of the century, Wilson Street was changed to Feldman Street, in honor of Alther Marcus Feldman, an immigrant from Eastern Europe who had arrived in Tucson in 1878. He was involved in the photography business as well as land development. In February 1903, developer Andrew Olsen recorded his subdivision, Olsen’s Addition and named his section Feldman Street, from present-day Campbell Avenue to Tucson Boulevard, as Jefferson Street. He also named Olsen Avenue. In October 1904, Nate Plumer and Fred J. Steward of the real estate firm.

Plumer & Steward recorded their subdivision, calling Feldman-Jefferson Street “The Speedway”. Plumer would later race cars down this dirt road. “The Speedway” , also known as The Harlem River Speedway, was a dirt road in New York City that was built in 1898 A couple of years later, in February 1906, the street was listed simply as Speedway Boulevard

Source: Streets Smarts, AZ Daily Star, David Leighton