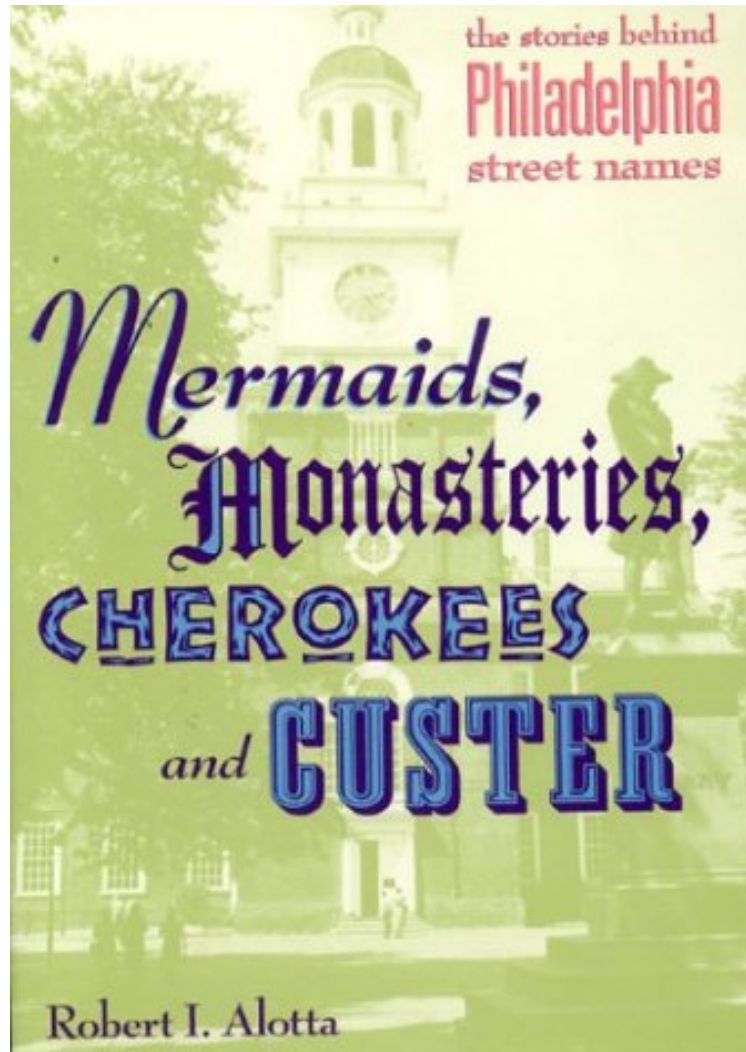


## Mermaids, Monasteries, Cherokees and Custer: The Stories Behind Philadelphia Street Names

Roberta I. Alotta

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**Roberta I. Alotta : Mermaids, Monasteries, Cherokees and Custer: The Stories Behind Philadelphia Street Names** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mermaids, Monasteries, Cherokees and Custer: The Stories Behind Philadelphia Street Names:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. great collection of streets and stories By Robin G. Sowton This is a wonderful collection of anecdotes and historical tidbits about Philadelphia's streets. The street names are listed alphabetically, with a few paragraphs about how each street got its name. Some listings have more content than others. There's also an interesting section on house-numbering, which didn't start until the late 1700s. Another section lists

when specific roads operated as toll roads between 1711 and 1918. In the book's introduction, which I also found interesting, the author explains some of the obstacles in doing this project--particularly the 'lack of cohesive record-keeping by the city' and the misinformation and erroneous data in the 'seemingly authoritative newspaper clippings.' I would've liked to have seen longer descriptions and some street maps included for reference. Overall though, it's an excellent book for anyone interested in Philadelphia. In addition to teachers, I think it would also benefit anyone putting together local tours or a 'historical neighborhood' association.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.  
Unique, Fun, and Interesting Book  
By JWH  
If you have ever wondered how a street got its name, this is the book you!  
Robert I. Alotta did an impressive amount of research and has compiled a fascinating little resource on Philadelphia street names. While most Philadelphians can easily figure out who Ben Franklin Parkway or John F. Kennedy Boulevard is named after, how about some of the more obscure names? Even the streets that aren't named after people have interesting historical facts. Presented in alphabetical encyclopedic style order, this book makes a better reference than an interesting read. However, I found it to be good fun to look up familiar street names and discover the meanings behind them. For the interested, this book is well worth the investment.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.  
excellent book  
Robert b alotta wrote this same book in ...  
By Michael Larthey  
excellent book  
Robert b alotta wrote this same book in 1975 reprint updated 1990  
Robert allottawest Catholic grad 1955

Tracing street name origins in Philadelphia is like following the trail of American history. It winds, it rolls, it leads you to unexpected places.