

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 23 1905

DEAR SIR,

I wish to obtain information respecting the derivation of the place-names of Canada—of the names of the villages, towns, cities and of the natural features, such as rivers, lakes, capes, bays, mountains, etc.—and shall be much obliged if you will give me any information that you may possess or can procure, respecting the below-mentioned name and also respecting the names of any other features in the vicinity of your residence concerning which you have knowledge.

In many localities, the older generation is passing, or has passed away, and unless steps are taken to collect this information, it will, in many instances, be too late. In most communities there are persons who take an interest in things of this nature or that have been connected with the early settlement of the locality. If there are any such in your neighbourhood, will you kindly submit this to them.

Below I have indicated the lines along which I desire information and also the commoner derivatives of place-names in Canada :—

(1.) Whether named after a village, town, or city, or natural feature in any other province or country ; if so, the name of province or country in which the original locality is situated.

(2.) Whether named after a person ; if so, the person's name, occupation, spelling of name as rendered by the person and any details of interest respecting him (or her) such as (a) Whether alive or, if dead, approximate year of death ; (b) Whether at any time a resident of the locality and, if so, whether still living there.

(3.) Whether named after a natural feature ; if so, any details respecting the origin of the name as applied to the feature and the geographical position of the latter.

(4.) Whether the town, village or city ever had any other name or names ; if so, at what dates, approximately, and the origin of these obsolete names.

Any information bearing on the above will be deemed a courtesy.

Yours truly,

JAMES WHITE,
Geographer.

Kindly write your reply on the attached sheet.

To ensure free transmission of your reply I enclose herewith an addressed envelope which will come free of postage.

Bardo ✓
Alta

36-49-19-W4

Bardo, Alta, Sept. 8th '05.

Mr. James White, Geographer,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir: - Replying to yours of Aug. 28th,
would submit the following information regarding
Bardo, Alta:

- (1) "Bardo" is named after a village and
County in the northern part of Norway by
that name.
- (2) The derivation of the word is said to be
as follows: Several hundred years ago, long before
white people settled there, a Swedish baron, a
fugitive from justice, went into one of the most
inaccessible parts of Northern Norway, which was
then inhabited only in summer by nomadic
Laplanders. Here he lived a number of years
on very friendly terms with the Papps, and
the latter, wishing to do him an honor, called
the place "Bardo" from the Swedish and Norwegian
word "Baron". Evidently, the Papps, not having
a word of their own for "baron", in trying to pronounce
the Scandinavian word, corrupted it to Bardo. A century
later when the Norwegians moved into the valley, they
adopted the name "Bardo" for the post office and settlement.

(4) From 1898 to 1904, this post office was called "Northern". This name was a compromise between the Norwegians and English speaking people. The Norwegians wanted as the name, "Norden", a word meaning "The North".

The others objected to this and suggested that it be called "North" which was finally agreed to. But "North" was found to be a very awkward name, and so the Norwegians here, the bulk of them being from Bardu, Norway, agreed on the present name, and there was no serious objection on the part of any others.

This P.O. is situated in the N. E. 1/4, Sec. 36, T. 49. R. 19 West of 4th Principal Meridian. The Beaver Lake is seven miles north east. This is a body of water about 18 miles long and 12 miles wide. - Here are no mountains near by, but the Beaver Hills are six miles west. These cover about 600 square miles and are more or less wooded. They are rather low hills, but some are quite steep. A number of small lakes are scattered through them.

The only stream of any importance near by is Amisk Creek, 1/2 mile north east, flowing into Beaver Lake.

The country about here is quite level. There are poplar and willow thickets scattered all over. The soil as a rule is very fertile producing big crops of all grains and grasses.

Sincerely yours

Andrew Finseth, P.M.