

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... AUG. 19 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.

"Gillingham"  
*Alta*

The Post office called Gillingham, Alta was named after the gentleman who was appointed the first Post Master when the office was opened. At that time (seven or eight years ago) Mr. Gillingham was running a saw mill & store at the mouth of the North Fork of the Old Mans River but "went busted" and is now I believe in Laramosa -

There is no village at this Post office but it is situated on a Ranch. A small coal mining town named Lumbreck is being started about two miles from here on the Middle Fork of the Old Mans River. About a mile & a half above Lumbreck are the Falls, where a splendid water power could be had for manufacturing purposes.

R. H. BENTON

P.M.

GILLINGHAM, ALTA. 4-A-5  
GILLINGHAM, ALTA.

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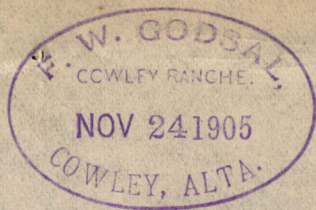
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*Gillingham & other names  
Alta*

*Ans'd  
35-7-2-65*



to James White Esq  
Geographer

Dear Sir

I have been unable to complete the list of names for you before this, and when I come to look at the maps, I do not find many more besides what I sent you before.

The reason for "Waterloo" Lake & "Waterloo" River has always puzzled me: it is the name given on all the oldest maps & is correct though locally they are called "Hootenay" Lake & River, causing a confusion with the genuine Hootenay Lake & river just across the mountains. Waterloo must have been some old explorer or traveller, possibly with Palliser's expedition, as there is a "Palliser's" or Observation Butte near there.

I have enjoyed Vol 1. of The Selkirk's much, and think that I must get Vol II, if it has been published.

I expect to leave for England in 2 or 3 weeks, and shall endeavour to call on you as I pass through Ottawa

Yrs Truly

F. W. Godsall

about 12 mi SE of Archer

Fishburn, called after A. W. Fish, who had a ranch close by; he came in as an American cowboy & worked for the Coalbrook Co, Waldron Co. & other ranches, & is now near Nelson B.C. Olin Creek, about running into N. Fork of Old Man's river, after W. Olin, and all settlers who died in 1904

Gillingham P.O. not at junction of North & Middle Forks of Old Man river, as marked on <sup>some</sup> maps, but on Connelly Creek, about 5 miles west of that point, after Gillingham who had a saw mill at the above Forks, but has now left the country.

Gladstone Creek (Gladson on maps) West of Pincher Creek village, after W. S. Gladstone, an old timer and carpenter, formerly in the Hudson's Bay Co's service in the north, now living near Pincher Creek. Connelly Creek, running into Middle Fork of Old Man's river, from the Connelly brothers living thereon.

Heath Creek, just north of Olin Creek, after Heath an old settler now left the country.

Pearce a siding on Cross West Grand C.P.R. East of Macleod, after Wm Pearce, of Calgary, formerly Superintendent of Mexico

High after an old timer of that name.

Stavelley & Macleod to Calgary line C.P.R. after Stavelley Hill, a prominent Englishman, one of the founders of the Oxyley Ranch Co, now dead

Oxyley called after Stavelley Hill's place in England - Oxyley Manor.

Ware Creek, running into High River, after John Ware, a negro, once cowboy then rancher on his own account: now dead.

Lynx P.O. after Mr. Lynx, rancher & the postmaster.

Leavings a town just north of Macleod or near it.

In old days, the last point where a trail left a stream was called the "Leavings" of that stream, an important matter where water was necessary for camp. This spot was the "Leavings of Willow Creek", on the Macleod to Calgary trail.