

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... AUG 22 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.

"Harmattan"  
Alta

16-32-3-WS

Narmattan

Narmattan is the name given to this township, which is situated T. 32; + 3 W. 5

The settlers could not agree as to a suitable name for the post-office - so accordingly the matter was referred to the Post Master general, who gave it the name of "Narmattan"

As yet there is no village formed it is simply a district. I find upon reference that "Narmattan" is a name given to a hot, dry, noxious wind which blows periodically from the interior of Africa to the Atlantic along the Guinea coast during December, January & February. but I don't think it can possibly have any remote connection with the naming of this locality

W. Levering

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 21 1906

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✓ *Harmattan*  
*Alta.*

Harmatton

March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1906

Dear Sir

Harmatton derived its name from the P. M. General.

at the time of opening the first P. O. here a name could not be agreed upon so the Postmaster General was asked to name the office & he named it Harmatton

There are no particular features just here it is simply a good farming country with a stream running through it call the Soy Pound Creek

Mr Gavin Hamilton is the oldest inhabitant here, he has been here 17 years, he is a well aged 76 occupied his homestead but is away at present. There are no particular formations or historic associations connected with Harmatton. I have been able to learn I have lived here 10 years

Yours Truly

W. Leesley P. M.