

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... AUG 21 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.

" Josephburg " by press hills  
Elkwater lake ~~ana~~  
Ross creek Alta.

24-9-3-w4  
Postal Guide has  
Josephsburg

Josephsburg Postal District - was first settled by a colony of Russian Germans and is named after a town in East Russia. It is situated on the "Ross Creek" about six miles from the "Cypress Hills". "Ross Creek" rises at "Elkwater Lake" and flows into the "Saskatchewan River" near Medicine Hat - and is named after one of the early settlers who has moved from here to parts unknown long since. Mr. Ross lived on the banks of this Creek and originally came from "Ireland". The Cypress Hills is a range of hills or might better be termed mountains owing to their magnitude. They are timbered with "Cypress" hence the name of Cypress Hills. From the summit of these hills the Sweet-grass hills in Montana seventy miles distant can easily be seen. "Elkwater Lake" is named after the numerous herds of Elk which came there to water in the early days. It is a stretch of water about two miles long and one wide. Fish (Suckers & pike) are plentiful in this lake.

James Robinson. P. M.  
Josephsburg