

# 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.

"Macewan"  
Alta



Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 1906-

Maccewan  
Alberta

" Maccewan. South East Quarter of Section 10. Township 15. Range 29. West of the 4<sup>th</sup> 15. Situated about the north end of the Pacuipine Hills. Close to the head of a small creek called Cray Creek on the map. Very hilly. principally a ranching country. It is scattered with settlers & has no stores of any description. This is just a ranch house where the Post-office is kept. I have kept the Post-office for two years - it only then having been started.

The post-office authorities chose the name "Maccewan" the name submitted by myself was not taken. I suppose it was taken from my own name "McEwan" being altered to "Maccewan". I came from Rawdon, Province of Quebec to the north West in 1884 & have lived here <sup>(on the Ranch)</sup> nearly 12 years.

Yours obediently  
John H. McEwan  
Postmaster