

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 21 1906

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 who 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.

Magrath

Acta

To Geographer  
Ottawa

Magrath, Mar 1<sup>st</sup> 1906

Dear sir -

Magrath is a quiet little village of about 1000 people located on the Irrigation System of The N. West Irrigation Co., of which Co. Charles Alexander Magrath is an Officer & promoter.

The people, who came from the U. States, settled here in the year 1899. The following March the P. O. Department gave us <sup>or them</sup> a P. O. by the same name as the Village in honor of Mr. Magrath.

He still resides in Lethbridge where he has lived for years. It is 22 miles north of here & we are located on sec. 26 - T. 5 - R. 22 - west of 4<sup>th</sup> m.

Pot Hole Creek flows by here, having its source in the Milk river Ridge to the south & emptying into the St. Mary's river which flows by about 10 miles to the north. This district was formerly known by that name - Pot Hole.

Very respectfully A. Mercer P. M.