

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 24 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.

"Markerville"  
Hota  
Hecta  
Atto  
Sotheima  
Tindastozz

A.  
This neighbourhood was first settled by people from Iceland. The following names of districts and post offices are taken from the Icelandic language, except Markerville.

I. "Hóla" - school district -

B.. The word "Hólar" is the name of a farmstead and a former seat of learning, and residence of bishops, in the northern part of Iceland. Literally the word means "hills", the farmstead having been named after a natural feature. The sing. noun "höll" in Icelandic and "hill" in English is really the same word. H.

II. "Hecla" - school district -

B.. Named after the well known volcano "Hecla" - or more proper "Hekla" - in the southern part of Iceland. The word "hekla" means a "cape" or "hood", referring to the cloud of smoke on the mountain-top. H.

III. "Markerville" - post office and village -

B.. Named in honour of Carl Marker, Superintendent of north-west creameries, now residing in Calgary, Alta.

IV. "Sólheima" - post office -

B.. Named after a farmstead in Skagafjörð in Iceland. The word literally means the "sun's-home".

B/

V. Tindastöll — post office —

B. — Named after a mountain in northern Iceland. The word Tindastöll in Icelandic, means in English: A chair of mountain crags.

Markerville. Sep 11<sup>th</sup> 1905 —

O. Benedictson P. M.