

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 22 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.

*Murray Valley  
acta.*

## Murray Valley P.O.

The name of the above mentioned P.O. was taken from the fact the inhabitants of the district are nearly all Murrays. The pioneer & leader of these is James Murray who came from Newcastle England and after many doings and few ups & downs in the recently now known as Murray Valley in year 1891, together with his family & grandchildren

Here by hard work and strict economy he has managed to establish a thriving cattle ranch, beginning with a debt of some five or six hundred dollars, to a nice bunch of some two hundred head.

It worth of note that when the chief figure of this family James Murray came here he was well on to sixty years of age being now about seventy four years of age, and it must have been required a considerable amount of pluck and energy at that period of life to start life afresh and retrieve lost fortunes in a new & unknown country, but such is the case.

As might be expected he is a man of strong will, independent thought and is quite a character in the neighborhood where he resides.

He still at his advanced age holds Sabbath services being a local preacher, and at political meetings is fearless & outspoken in addressing free trade, He runs not for Senator or member of parliament he has a ticket at them whenever opportunity occurs. Such is a brief history of Murray Valley P.O.

H. B. Adstead

Secy Treas. S.O. 409

Box 7, Olds

Rebate

P.S. Any other information regarding surrounding localities will be cheerfully given. HWA.