

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... AUG 22 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.

*Ans* ✓  
"Saddle Lake" *Alta* Snake hills  
Leach lake  
Floating-stone lake

Saddle Lake, Alta - 20/Sept '08.

Saddle Lake.

"Nee-chee-kus-puk-pee-in" - The Cree Indian name of the lake, from which the place derives its - The correct translation of the word is "A dark object kneeling upon the ice, seen from a distance" supposed to be people kneeling on the ice fishing. In former days the word was probably translated by a poor interpreter to read "Saddle Lake."

Snake Hills - situated three miles south-east of Saddle Lake and is a translation of the Cree Indian word for these hills - "Gunapeekoochacutiuow." So called on account of the numerous snakes there -

Cache Lake - Twelve miles north-west of Saddle Lake - This is also a translation of the Cree Indian word for this lake - "Ah-stachee-kowin Sakiagun" - and derived its name from the fact that in the early days Indians put a large cache there -

Floating Stone Lake - is twenty-five miles north of Saddle Lake and is derived from the Cree Indian name of this lake "Ah-sinee kah kum oli" - correctly translated would read "Stone in the lake" - There is a large visible stone in this lake and hence it is so called -

Geo. G. Mann.

G.M.

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

I wish to obtain information regarding the location of the person or persons of the name... and shall be most obliged if you will give the way in which you may be reached... the only settlement in the locality. If there are any such in your neighborhood, will you kindly contact this to them.

Below I have indicated the line along which I desire information and also the counties... (1) Whether the locality is a village, town, or city, or natural feature in any other part of the county; if so, the name of the locality in which the original locality is situated.

(2) Whether named after a person; if so, the person's name, occupation, spelling of name, and any details of interest regarding him (or her), such as (a) Whether or not it had approximately year of birth; (b) Whether or not it is a residence of the locality; (c) Whether or not it is a natural feature; if so, the name of the feature, the nature of the feature, and the geographical position of the feature.

*Handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly reading "James White".*

JAMES WHITE

Kindly return this card on the attached sheet. To receive the transmission of your reply I enclose herewith an addressed envelope which will receive the reply.

*Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including "James White" and other illegible text.*