

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.

"
Sion" *see page 2+3 for other names*
Alta

Choir Alberta N.W.T

October 2nd 1905

To Mr. James White, Geographer

Dear Sir

Having lost the attached sheet of your letter. I will answer it on this paper. I pray you to excuse me.
Choir, so named by the R^{td} Bishop of Alberta and R^{td} Father Simonin. (Biblical)

Lac la Poudre: Forty seven or forty eight years passed three nuns of the Charity order went there to establish a convent.

Lac Mazeau: first called (Lac des ilex) changed by the Surveyor, as there is too many lakes of that name in Alberta, Mr. Mazeau is the first white man, who settled at Choir he lives near Lac la Poudre he is farmer and rancher on

Pembina River; so named on account of the great quantity of high bush cranberry growing on its shore and in French called Pembina Onion prairie, there was a little patch of wild onions, on it.

Lac au long: so called on account of its length
but I believe this lake is also called Makammon
which they told me means Knife, on account
of its features.

Deadman's lake: first called, Lac a Berlan, by the
name of man that established himself there to
trade in furs with the Indians; could not learn
if he is yet living or dead, and could not learn
why the name was changed to Deadman's.
Seventeen years passed this part of Alberta was
all covered with wood mostly spruce, tamarack's
poplar, birch, and another kind tree but I don't
know the English name for it, ~~but~~ ^{it} is commonly
called (liard) in French, a big fire that lasted
over a year changed it into prairie leaving
a few patches of big wood here and there.
I believe that the Rev Father Oblats the Roman
Catholic Priests of Alberta can tell you much
more exactly concerning this part of the country
it was some of them who accompanied the
men 48 years ago.

Respectfully yours
Mrs Henriette B. Langlois
Postmaster assistant
Stion, Alberta