

# 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.

*St. Paul de Metis  
Alta.*

# St Paul de Metis - Alta

Le nom de St Paul a été choisi pour conserver le nom de la Mission St Paul des Cris fondée autrefois sur la rive de la Rivière Saskatchewan par le R. P. Lacombe pour y réunir les Indiens Cris. Cette mission a dû être abandonnée plus tard quand les sauvages firent leur traité avec le Gouvernement d'Harve et durent se retirer dans leurs réserves respectives.

En 1896, le P. Lacombe fonda non loin de cet ancien St Paul, une nouvelle Colonie entièrement peuplée de Métis. On le nomma St Paul de Metis (est le nom de la Colonne, du Bureau de Poste, et de la mission elle-même). Les deux lieux qui viennent s'étendre tout près, étaient autrefois connus des Indigènes sous le nom de Lacs des Cris. Mais ce nom est si commun dans ces parages, que l'arpenteur général, sur la demande de M<sup>r</sup> Hopkins - R. L. S. les inscrivit sur la carte sous le nom de Lacs Thériens. Le R. P. J. A. Thérien <sup>(1891)</sup> ayant été le premier Directeur de la Colonie de St Paul comme il en a été pour longtemps le principal soutiens.

St Paul de Metis  
Alta

Geo. Thérien  
1896