

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 19 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.

"Jaber"

ack

Alta

Tabor Alta, Can.

Aug. 25th 1905.

Dear Sir,

Yours of Aug 19th at hand. Will say that the village of Tabor was named for the Mountain in Palestine mentioned in the Bible. However, one mile from the Ry. Station here, the name Taber appears; so the Station is called Taber, while the townsite, or village goes by the name Tabor. The blue print, or map (plan) of the village bears the name spelled with an e. The village site is $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the Station. Mr W. F. Russell, Chairman of the Village Committee told me this morning that Supt. Jamieson of the C.P.R. told him that the name should be Tabor named for the Mt mentioned in the Bible. The town, or Village is known as Tabor, & contains about 600 people. The Belly River runs one mile north, & parallel with Tabor. It is a large stream containing many varieties of fish, which the people catch in great numbers.

Am not able to learn the derivation of the name "Belly". Rocky Lake 2 m. south from Tabor, contains but little water; so named because of the many boulders lying about its borders.

5 Coal mines developing here, all within 2 m. from center of Tabor Village. "The Tabor Coal Co." is in the lead, putting out about 10 car loads per day.

No "bad Lands" in, or about our locality; all broad rich prairie land excepting river courses, & coulees.

Tabor is situated on the line of C.P.R. near Lethbridge, & has within easy reach an inexhaustible quantity of red, & brown sandstone rock, excellent for building purposes. No mountains visible from Tabor excepting the tips of the Rockies 80 miles west.

Over

The village has had no other name but Tabor.

Three miles from ^{the village & along} the Belly River, there are many miniature forts in ruins, built years ago by the Indians when vast herds of Buffalo roamed the praries. These little forts were built of small boulders, & were used by the Indians as hiding places, & when the bison gathered at the river, the hunters were able to kill them in great numbers.

Have hastily gathered the above, & trusting that a portion of it will be satisfactory

Yours obedient Servant

Aaron Johnson

Est. pm.

Tabor, Alta.

Aug. 25th 75.