

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... AUG 24 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.

"Vegreville"

alta

Uegreville a village of some 100 inhabitants, situated 100 miles east of Edmonton and in the Vermilion district in Northern Alberta was so named on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 1895 after Father Uegre, a Roman Catholic missionary who then had his head-quarters at Saint Albert, a few miles north of Edmonton.

Father Uegre was one of the oldest missionaries in the Canadian North West, having come out from Quebec before the North West Rebellion.

Many of those who defended our western dominions in the "eighties" will remember the name of Father Uegre who at that time travelled much over the old Battleford trail between the then Ft. Edmonton and the scene of rebellion.

Much credit is due to Father Uegre for the many missions which he established to the north and east of Edmonton, among (them)

them being Vegreville, which name was given to a new post-office in that settlement consisting chiefly of French settlers from Kansas and originally from the Province of Quebec. The Post Office still retains the name, and a small village has sprung up around it.

My father Vegre died at his home-mission in Saint Albert in the year 1901 and at the age of about 76 years.

Vegreville Alberta  
Apr 5<sup>th</sup> 1905

Arthur B. Ritchie  
Postmaster

town, Victoria,

Vegreville, ~~post~~ village, Alta.

: After the Rev Father Vegre who  
was among the first missionaries  
in the west and established many  
missions in northern Alberta -  
died at St. Albert, Alta., his home  
mission, 1901

GEOGRAPHIC BOARD OF CANADA.

In "Short Sketches of The History  
of the Catholic Churches and Missions  
in Central Alberta" page 106 by  
Emile Legal, published 1915, the  
following is written about Vegreville

"The name was that of Joseph de  
Mazenod but this was not accepted,  
the name of Vegreville being chosen.  
This was the name of one of the old-time  
missionaries of this country. The post  
office was opened early in 1895.

Phone call Father Gordon Cairns  
R. Ledue 24-10-79