

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.

"
White Fish Lake"

Whitefish Lake, derives its name from the Cree word
ah tikah make - whitefish and sah kah he kum - lake
In days gone by the whitefish were very numerous in this
Lake as late as the year 1862 Mr. Peter Erasmus has killed
1000 in one night with a 30-fathom net.

Saddle Lake. From a false interpretation of the Cree word:
co-ue-chik us pah ke win, which means dark objects selling on the ice
The Indians used to sit and fish through holes in the ice
Hence the dark objects selling on the ice.
ass pah he win is the Cree word for Saddle and this word has
been compounded with the one given above.

Floating Stone Lake, a false interpretation of the Cree

As-sue kah uk nah moot, - the stone that is stuck in the water.
from a lone stone. Standing up 12 or 15 feet out of the lake
looks as if it was just stuck into the water.

The country around this Lake is settled up now they have a
post office there called Boyce Lake. But I understand
the settlers are petitioning the Government to have it
changed to "Floating Stone"

"Cache Lake" Interpreted from the Cree, as tach e koon e

Sah kah he kum, meaning the Lake where the cache was made
In old times the Indians wintering at Whitefish Lake used
to go out south on the plains kill buffaloes and haul
the meat to this Lake. Building caches and they would then
haul from here to their winter quarters as they required it
they being safe in the woods from the coming war parties
of the Plain Indians. during the winter.

Duck Lake, a small lake between Cache Lake
and Whitefish. from Pah, kah, mah si pon which means
the place where the ducks were knocked or clubbed

The ducks used to moult at this Lake and the Indians
killed them with sticks, during the moulting season

Beaver Lake a Big Lake South east of Edmonton
This is a correct interpretation of the old Indian name
ah wick sah wah he Kuu. it gets its name from being
close to the Beaver Hills, where Beaver were very
numerous, Edmonton, the Indians call Edmonton
Ah wick. - wah chee - wa, Kach he Kuu Beaver Hill House

Sas Katchewan River from the Cree

Kes sis kah chi wuu. - Swift current. Kes-sis-kah. Swift
And pee-wit-che-wuu. current, (or running water)

Suak Hills a group of hills on the Southern part of the
Sudall Lake Reserve Interpreted from the Cree
Kie a pik o chu kah tuu uow. - Snake hills
There is a spot in those hills where there are millions of
Snakes.

Now Sir If there are any other names of place, which
comes from the Indian's I would be glad to find you
any assistance in tracing them. As regards the
Cree I fluently interpret and my assistant P. Erasmus
is considered the best Cree Interpreter the country
can produce he is an old man and has been
out West here since 1857 living with the Indians
I trust the above information may be of some
use to you. Unstaid your letter came not answering
it sooner

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your obedient servant

Peter Lombard

W. L. Lombard