

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 18 1905

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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.

'Banfield'
Nanaimo Dist.

Bamfield B.C.

September 26th 1905.

Dear Sir,

With reference to questions contained herein I beg to say that this place is merely the terminus of the Pacific cable. The cable lands at the mouth of Bamfield Creek. When a post office was founded for the convenience of the cable staff and a few widely scattered settlers it was named Bamfield.

The Creek was, originally, named after a Mr Bamfield who was a trader among the Indians of Barkley Sound.

He was drowned many years ago. I believe it is a matter of dispute whether he lost his life by the treachery of the Indians or by accident.

I am not aware of the exact date of his death but believe it was some time in the sixties.

I am,

Yours Faithfully,

R. M. Gachlan,
Supt P.C.B. & Postmr.

see log. Board correspondence

The Government of
THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Place Names File
Marine & Fisheries,

Victoria, March 30th, 1905

Dear Sir,

In making investigations for my book on the origin of the names of places on this Coast, I am finding out more clerical errors on the Charts.

Nanaimo Dist. → Bamfield creek- should read Banfield- the latter being the proper spelling of the name. The creek was named by Captain Richards, R.N. H.M.S. Plumper in 1859 after W. E. Banfield, a man well known on the West Coast, at one time a carpenter in the British Navy, and who after leaving the service in 1854, commenced trading with the Indians on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, where he became well known. Later he had charge of a store (belonging to Messrs Anderson Thomson & Co., to whom the extensive Saw mills at Alberni belonged- 1861, etc) in this creek now bearing his name. Drowned under mysterious circumstances from a canoe in Barkley Sound, about 1868.

As regards the duplication of names, so common on this Coast, I beg to respectfully submit to the Geographic Board the name of Walkem Island^s, for Pender Island^s, Johnstone Strait, there being another island further south named Pender. Pender is also used in many other nomenclatures on this Coast.

The name of Walkem has not heretofore been used on the Coast. G.A. Walkem, Esq., is a retired Judge of the Supreme Court; now resident in Victoria, well known and highly respected in the Province of British Columbia; was also Premier of the Provincial Legislature for some years. Judge Walkem has notified me he would feel honoured by the island^s being named after him.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

William I. Robertson, Esq.,
Secy. Geographic Board Canada,
Provincial Building,
James Bay

John T. Walbran