

92 B4

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 21 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.

✓ "Chillcoteu"

Yale-Cariboo

B. C.

April 14/06

Chilcoteau. B-6

J. White Esq

Dear Sir

Enclosed you will find a letter from a
Priest here explaining the derivation
of "Chilcoteau"

I remain

Yours truly

J. M. Decher

P. M. Chilcoteau

William's Lake Mission;
April, 4th 1906

F. M. Becher Esq.

Dear Sir

On my coming back from
a long excursion I found
your good letter regarding
the derivation of the
name "Chilcoten".

It is named after both
a white man's name
viz Chilcat or Chilco
and after the name of
the tribe of the actual
Chilcoten Indians. In
studying their ethnography

and philology they belong
to the Denes or Tene family,
including the Carer in
Dians, also called Denes
or Tones between themselves
& the Montagnans across
the Rocky Mountains.
Now about the history
of their actual name,
they settled in the valley
of the Chilco Lake a
river; then joined with
Chilco, the word Tene
or Tene makes Chilcote
or inhabitants of Chilcot,
lake or Chilco, afterwards
called by the whites
Chilcote river.
Formerly, called Tene or
Tene, they were also
called "nki Tene"; it means

3

"men from here below or men
of from this earth." This
might be the intrinsic
reason why they always
have been supposed to
be more material in their
ideas than other Indians.
- They are a branch of
the great Dene family
at the Chilcoten came to
their country, now called
Chilcoten country, from
the coast. Then the
neighbouring tribe, the
Shushwaps, lands of mine
as well as the Chilcoten
since 9 years, the Shushwaps
call them "Shere rhonem"
a weed growing in the
salt water. Shushwaps
& Chilcotens are altogether

4
D. Forents.

So glad of being able
to help you that much
as well as the Department
of the Interior, Ottawa

I remain

Yours faithfully

Father Thomas

O. M. I.

P.S. - Excuse my improvisation.