

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa,.....

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.

Comox }
Vanguard bay } B.C.
Broche ledge } Comox-Atlin Dist.

SOME PLACE NAMES.

Sir—I enclose three more of my origin of names on this coast, which may be of local interest:

Brotchie Ledge, Comox and Vanguard Bay, Nelson Island, Jervis Inlet.—Probably many people may not know that Vanguard Bay is named after Nelson's flagship at the Battle of the Nile, and as everything just at present relating to Lord Nelson may be of interest, I have given my account for the bay.

In connection with Lord Nelson's famous signal at Trafalgar, I wish to state that both the Colonist and Times gave the signal incorrectly. The signal as taken down, and yet to be seen in the log books of the repeating frigates Euryalus and Naiad, was given in twelve separate hoists, the word duty having to be spelt, it not being in the signal book—"England expects that every man will do his duty."

This signal as first proposed by Lord Nelson to Mr. Pascoe, the signal lieutenant of the Victory, was, "Nelson confides that every man will do his duty." Pascoe, on consulting the signal book, reported to his Lordship "confides" would have to be spelt, but that "expects" was in the book. Nelson then said, "Make it 'expects'; that will be better." His Lordship himself, after again considering over the signal, altered the word "Nelson" to "England."—(Laughton). The signal correctly shown, flags and number of each word or hoist being given, is in the Illustrated Paper Sphere for October 21, 1905.

JOHN T. WALBRAN.

Marine and Fisheries, Victoria, November 4, 1905.

Brotchie Ledge (off Victoria harbor)—After William Brotchie, commander of the Hudson's Bay Company's vessels Cadboro (1836) and Nereid (1839). Captain Brotchie in 1849 obtained a license from the Admiralty, also a separate license from the Hudson's Bay Company, to cut spars on Vancouver Island, and carried on this business till 1855. The ledge was named after him through the bark Albion, under his command, striking on it in 1856, when bound from Victoria to New Dungeness for a cargo of lumber for San Francisco, at which latter port the bark was ultimately seized for debt and sold. Appointed by Governor Douglas harbor master, Victoria, 1858. The American steamer San Pedro, 3,119 tons register, Captain C. H. Hewitt, while proceeding from Union Bay to San Francisco, coal laden, ran on this reef, November 22, 1891, and not

withstanding all efforts made to float her, remained there for six years, being at last taken to pieces. A steel and concrete beacon was erected on Brotchie Ledge in 1898, and the buoy that had marked the danger for years withdrawn. The beacon is provided with an electric light and electric fog bell.

Comox.—The abbreviated Indian name in the Yucuita (Euclutaw) language for this part of the country. The full name is Comuckway, or Comuckihway, and means, "plenty," "abundance," "riches," the surrounding district having been noted from time immemorial among the Indians for its riches in berries and game. The name was gradually shortened to Comuck, Comax and finally Comox. The tribes residing here are the Puntledge and Slostute, both nearly extinct.—W. R. Robertson.

Comox has been a favorite agricultural district for years; the land level and open, being well adapted for farming purposes. The first settlers arrived, 1862.

Vanguard Bay, Nelson Island, Jervis Inlet.—After H. M. S. Vanguard, 74 guns, flagship of Rear Admiral Sir Horatio Nelson, C. B., at the Battle of the Nile. The battle took place during the evening and night of the 1st August, 1798, when the British fleet, under Nelson, won a glorious victory, completely severing Napoleon and his army in Egypt from Europe. The victory appealed to the hearts of the British people more than any other had done. The coaches ran out of the different towns wreathed with laurel. There was no controversy as to who had won the battle; eleven out of thirteen leaves two, and that was the number of line-of-battle ships left to Napoleon when the engagement closed. The number of ships engaged were twelve British and thirteen French, the heaviest metal being on the side of the latter. The French flagship L'Orient, blown up, had 120 guns, with three 80-gun ships; none of the British more than 74 guns.

In this victory of the Nile, so decisive and overwhelming, congratulations, honors and rewards were showered on Nelson, and he was at once created a peer of the realm with the title of Baron Nelson of the Nile and Burnham Thorpe, Norfolk. Named by Captain Richards, H. M. surveying vessel Plumper, circa 1859.