

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 18 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.

"Happy Valley"
Nanaimo Dist - B.C.

● Happy Valley B ●

Sept 4th 1905.

James White - Esq.,
Geographer

Dear Sir

In reply to yours of the 18th ult - I give you below all the facts, with which I have been conversant for some time, and others that I have been able to collect from the proverbial oldest inhabitant as to the name of this district - "The Happy Valley".

"The name was originally given by a negro slave from North Carolina, known by the name of Isaac Mull.

long ago, when the first gold was discovered in California - the son of Mull's master thought he would go - and by his luck in the mine - he took Mull and other slaves along with him - and kept them at work for a considerable time - after he had made his pile, or had of it. Report says not - he gave the slaves their liberty aware that in American Territory, they were not

safe. They struck out at once for British Columbia
and Mull and another succeeded in reaching it
safely. After a while he took out land from the
Government - and occupied. I suppose - that he was
at last a farmer, under the protecting arms of the
British flag - he gave the district in which he
settled - the emphonic and best sounding title
of the "Happy Valley"

I have often met the late Isaac Mull. - he was
a general provider of, a very farmer, and
obedient disposition - he died 10 years ago.
according to his own account in his 105th
year - he remembered well, when Jackson was
president of the United States.

I remain
yours truly
I J Warner.

P M Happy Valley