

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.

"Hagelmere"
New Westminster Dist B.C.

James White Esq
Geographer
Department of the Interior
Ottawa

Winghamre B.C.
September 18th 1905

Dear Sir

Yours of 18th ultimo received

and contents noted,

In reply as to the name of this place "Winghamre", I might state for your information it was the name I first gave my farm. The name was suggested to me by the Hazel Bush, growing in the neighborhood and a small creek flowing across my place suggested the old Saxon "mere" also somewhat influenced in giving the name by "Winghamre" the English Parish in the County of Surrey, a few miles from my native place, as we already had a Surrey Municipality.

In this same Municipality of Surrey we have "Wersington", named after "Wersington near London City", this is now a thriving settlement and fully developed. In prospecting the place, and writing a description of the land for publication with a view to induce settlers to come in in 1883 I inserted the name "Wersington Prairie", as some sort of an attractive idea, the name has stuck to it ever since. The settlers came in?

I am located about 3/4 miles from the beach, Seniashnoo Bay, for several miles around the shores of the Bay we have a lovely beach, the sand flats are, when the tide is out bare for three quarters of a mile out, are clean and hard, lovely bathing and will be doubtless the future seaside resort of B.C. especially as the beach extends across the boundary line around and into Dayton Harbor on the American side and the town of Blaine, where a few years ago a resort was established I was requested to think up and give the place a name, being at a loss to find anything appropriate locally, I suggested "St Leonards", that name sticks a fine hotel having been built and called the "St Leonards Hotel", this after "St Leonards on the Sea", England, a great bathing resort,

I am happy to afford you this information

I am Sir Yours Truly

Henry J. White, J.P. & P.M.
Winghamre B.C.