

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... AUG 17 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.

41  
Hocoser "  
Duncan river B6 Kootenay Dist.

Howser B6 Sept 27<sup>th</sup> 1905

James White Esq  
Geographer  
Ottawa

Dear Sir

In reply to inquiry regarding the name Howser named after an old prospector - Hauser, who report has it, found placer gold on Hauser Creek, brought out one summer several hundred dollars worth of gold dust, and the following summer, going back with a partner, neither of them were heard of again.

The creek which flows into the Duncan river, from the east, about three miles from the north end of this lake, and this lake were named after him. Until 1900 this place was called Duncan City, after the Duncan river & valley. When the Post Office was established here in 1899 the mail for this office & Duncan's station on Vancouver Island was always getting mixed, so the Department, as this was the latest established office insisted on a change of name, so Hauser was selected, the then postmaster in writing the Department spelled it Howser so it remains to this day.

The Duncan River was named after old Jack Duncan an old time prospector in this section he has been dead some years now.

Yours Truly  
W. W. Simpson P.M.