

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 20

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.

"Kitawaat"

Comox-Atlin

B. C.

James White, Esq.
Geographer.
Dep^t of Interior.
Ottawa.

Kitamaat, B.C.
April 12th 1906.

Dear Sir: "Kitamaat,"

In answer to your inquiry I should like to state that the name of this place is derived from a natural feature, and was given to it by the Tsimpshian people whose language it is, and during the past generation or two partially adopted by the Indians here. I hardly know the Tsimpshian language well enough to be confident of its derivation, but believe it is as follows:

Kit, (or Git) or Gaet = people, and
madan = falling snow. Or another derivation might be Kit (or Git) as above, and a = of
akw = water. = People of the water.

I incline to the belief and it is shared by the Indians here, that the former is correct.

It is generally thought that at one time some of the Tsimpshian people came here in great numbers to engage in the winter's celebration of the Secret, social & ceremonial functions of the tribe.

These functions commenced some distance from the shore, and, as they were met and

welcomed by the Kitamaats in their Canoes
a heavy fall of snow, which was at the
time in progress gave rise to the name
Kitamadaw (or Kitamaat-) = The people of the
falling snow.

The place has two other names which are
known only to the Indians, and are older than
Kitamaat-. They are not obsolete. One is
Kaysala (or Khaisala) which really means
the people who live outside, or on the Sea Shore
in contrast to the people who live in the interior.
This name is not much used by the rising
generation but chiefly by the old people!

The other is Dsemosa = the place of many logs,
from 'Dsemoko': a log.

There are a lot of logs thrown on to the beach
at the village - which gives rise to this name.
Inserting this information is what is required

I am -

Yours Truly,

Wm. Raley

Missionary