

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 20 1906

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.

Mount Lohmie
Nanaimo

B. C.

1. Mount Solmie a rocky mount or Hill near Victoria B.C.
2. named after the late Dr W. Fraser Solmie who came out from Scotland in 1832 as surgeon to the Hudson's Bay company on the Pacific coast station.

A. died in 1886. at his late residence Cloverdale farm near Victoria B.C.

B The late Dr Solmie owned property across the valley from Mount Solmie. His family is still living at Cloverdale Victoria B.C.

Tradition of family name. Originally Gypsies from Egypt. Name traced from Egypt through Greece to Denmark and to the neighborhood of Swerness Scotland. Some branches of the family still spell their name Ptolemy. others Tolme, these use the Greek ΤΟΛΜΕ, "I dare" for their motto. another branch the motto "I trust and confide". These I believe consider themselves the leading branch of the name. they spell it Solmie. while our branch through my father's mother being connected with the Frasers of Donat use the motto "Je suis prest" as you know when Alexander invaded Asia one of his generals was Ptolemy Alexander who I believe succeeded him. and it is a seeming strange coincidence that in each family of Solmies that we have heard of there has always been an Alexander Solmie. There is no clan Solmie, it is simply an old family with perhaps an older name.

The last person who considered himself the chief of the family was an Alexander Solmie who died a few years ago and weighed nearly 200 lbs. and he was at least a man of weight if nothing else.

3. Mount Solmie, so named either by officers of H.M. Navy or of the Hudson's Bay Co. in the early days of the colony of Vancouver Island, situated on what was the property of my grandfather the late Hon John Wark, a brother of the late Senator David Wark.

4. No other name known. original Indian name unknown. The above is I believe all the light that can be thrown on the origin of the name.
John Wark Solmie.