

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.

May 1906

Nanaimo

Mayne B.C. 30th March 1906

Dear Sir

In reply to your Circular of 20th ult. - There is not very much to say on the name Nanaimo. I have been talking with the oldest Indians belonging to the Nanaimo tribe and I have learned from them that at a very remote date they had a great Chief called Nanaimo and for generations the place which was named after him has been called by his name. The name has nothing descriptive about it and don't signify anything but a name. As you are aware the place has been the outlet for coal which industry was first started by the Hudson's Bay Co. Coal Tzee (Chief) first told the late Sir James Douglas then Governor of the Colony about the coal deposits there. Coal Tzee is dead many years since. I have been acquainted around Nanaimo for near 50 years now and as above stated I never could get any other meaning out of the word Nanaimo. Excuse delay. I have been writing up some ancient bombardments that took place in the early sixties

Yours truly
W. Halliwell

any further enquiries will be attended to with pleasure