

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.

"Port Essington"

Comox-Atlin

B. C.

Post office

Post Office B.C.

March 16th 1906

Dear Sir:

Place

I am in receipt of your letter of Feb'y 20th in reference to information respecting the derivation of the name of the Town of Post Ewington. I beg to state that the oldest names here current give the information you ask for, and I have forwarded your letter to Cap^t Walbran R. N. of Victoria who has made a special study of the Geography of the Northern B.C. Coast and has records I understand dating back to Cap^t Cook's day. Cap^t Walbran will be pleased to furnish you the information.

Yours truly

R. L. M. D. J. S.

Postmaster

James White Esq
Geographer.

Post Ewington

Alaska

Agency of Department of Marine and Fisheries,

VICTORIA, B. C.

6th April, 1906

Referring to No.

Dear Mr. White:-

I have again been applied to for the origin of a name on this coast for which you have made enquiries, this time from Port Essington, or Essington as it is always called now-a-days by the local people. All this information you are asking for is duly recorded in my work on the origin of names on this coast, which work I hope to see published shortly by the Canadian Government through the Department of Marine and Fisheries.

As a general rule I find that the persons living along this coast are the last to know anything reliable about the origin of the name of the place where they reside, unless the place has been named after a friend or acquaintance which is not very often the case. I have had the origin of names given me as correct by old timers, which records I have since obtained prove were quite erroneous, and as for their dates why they are not to be relied on in any way, therefore I hope you have been very careful in adopting information sent you unless it came in the first place through me.

The postmaster at Essington is honest enough to admit he does not know anything reliable about the origin of the name, and has sent your correspondence to me, requesting me to answer it which I have told him I would do. The knowledge of my book having been written is now well known from one end of this coast to the other and any information of this nature is generally asked for from your humble servant.

I may say that the compiling of my work has cost me count-

Agency of Department of Marine and Fisheries,

VICTORIA, B. C.

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Referring to No.

(2)

but I am looking forward to the work being appreciated by the Department of Marine and Fisheries, and the Geographic Board of Canada; on this coast I know it will be appreciated and many are looking forward to its publication, the local history and the numerous stories making it interesting reading, apart from its value as containing records that cannot very easily be gathered together again. Below I give you the origin of Port Essington as taken from my book under the letter (. E)

ESSINGTON, Skeena river. Sometimes mentioned locally as 'Spok-sut' the old Indian Tsimpsean name. Named Port Essington in 1793 by Captain Vancouver after his friend Captain Essington of the Royal navy. A frigate named the "Sceptre", commanded by Captain Essington, was met by Vancouver at St. Helena when the latter was on his way home from his survey of this coast in 1795, and the Discovery accompanied the Sceptre and her convoy the remainder of the voyage to England. The estuary of the Skeena river was examined by Mr. Whidbey in July, 1793, and through his report, Captain Vancouver was led to understand the river itself was only a small stream of no importance, therefore the Skeena, like the Fraser, was not shewn on his chart. In 1871 what is now the townsite of Essington was pre-empted by Robert Cunningham who established a store there, and later a salmon cannery and saw-mill.

(see Skeena river; and Cunningham passage.)

THE COUNTY OF ...

Know all men by these presents, that I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the ...

*Port Essington
B.E.*

(See page 12: and ...)

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