

# 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.

"Rivers Inlet" *Ans'd*  
*B.C.*  
*Bonnox-Atlin Dist.*  
*Good* ✓

Rivers Inlet - named by Capt. Vancouver, if I mistake not, after  
a Lord Rivers, England.

Captain Walbran, Hydrographer to the Dept. of Marine  
and Fisheries, Victoria, B.C., has made a chart of  
Rivers Inlet -

Oweekayno Lake, connected to Rivers Inlet by the "Wannuck"  
River has been charted by Henry Bell-Irving Esq.  
of Messrs. H. Bell-Irving & Co. Vancouver, B.C. - I  
have a copy, but no doubt he will be pleased to  
furnish you with one on request, if he has not done  
so already.

named of British  
Indians

The Indian name of this Lake is "Kowas," meaning  
Lake simply, in their language. It is locally called  
O-wee-Kay-no Lake after the name of the tribe of  
Indians who reside in its vicinity. Steep high  
mountains surround this body of water. The river system  
is shown on Mr. Bell-Irving's map.

The word "O-wee-Kay-no" has no significance beyond  
being a name, so the Indians inform me. The tribe  
comprises about 100 men, women and children and  
is decreasing, thro' disease and want of proper care for  
themselves.

"Wannuck" River is the correct Indian name for what  
is now often called the Oweekayno River, and means  
Poison River. The Indians say that long ago when a  
hostile Indian came from another tribe and viewed the  
River, on returning to his own land he died. The inference  
would seem to be that the Oweekayno's poisoned their  
enemies. -

There are several Inlets, diverging from the main, or  
are Bays 3

Revis Inlet - on the North side, taking position from the head  
of Revis Inlet are "Kill-della" a small Bay with two  
rivers entering into it. "Kill-della" River gives its name  
to the Bay, and means in Owekago language the "Long  
River" - The other river is called "Chuck-walla" or the  
"Short" river - Farther down comes "Moses" Inlet with  
a sub Inlet named "Grants" Inlet - I am making inquiry  
about these two names and will let you know later.

Wannuck Bay, a very small one, on which stands the Wannuck  
Canney was named by Alexander McNeil its owner from  
the Indian word "Wannuck" -

False Inlet is so called locally from its appearance - It looks  
from the entrance as if it were a large Inlet, but on turning  
a corner it ends abruptly - Brunswick Canney is built  
on the West side - "Brunswick" from New Brunswick -

Green's Canney is built on a small Bay, no name, just below  
Brunswick Canney, and is not in operation - <sup>Called after the Rev</sup>  
A. E. Green, Vancouver B.C.

Schooner's Passage: A small cove has been named "Beaver  
Cove" by Messrs. J. H. Dodd & Sons Victoria B.C. who are erecting  
a canney there at present.

Just where the Passage widens out is a small piece of ground  
with a sandy beach, which can be seen from passing steamers  
using the passage - It forms part of the Owekago reserve  
and is called "Cuck-mi" in their language. On this beach  
a number of Owekagos were massacred by the Bella Bella  
Indians about 40 years ago - An old Indian died this summer  
who first detected the Bella Bella canots, but whose warning  
to his friends was unheeded.

South side - From the head. McLaughlin Bay, a small one at the  
mouth of Wannuck River called after a white man who staked  
a piece of ground thereon. McLaughlin's Undertand is still

alive— Three miles farther down the Inlet is Shotbolt Bay, named after Thomas Shotbolt, a miner, Victoria who is still alive and in business. — A small Bay, known locally as the "Saltery" was located by Hans Helgeson, now of Metchoin, (outside Victoria B.C.) who erected a salting fish Plant, called the Scandinavian Fishery— abandoned as such for 16 or 14 years.

Good Hope Cannery is on a small Bay, which has no name Wadhams Cannery is below Good Hope, about three miles "Kookern Chuck" — "Strong Water" in Chinook, leads into Draney Inlet. — Draney's Inlet is called after Mr. Robert Draney, now of Kamow B.C. who if applied to could give you fuller information than I have customarily given, as he was one of the pioneers on Rivers Inlet and should know its local history. — Captain Walbrans Chart would elucidate much of the foregoing and I am sure he would be pleased to give the information.

Rivers Inlet is formed by high mountains and there is practically no land for cultivation. — It is even difficult to find sufficient ground on which to erect cannery buildings. — Outside salmon canneries and a small mill there are no industries.

I am at your service should you desire further information.

A. M. Davis

# BRITISH COLUMBIA CANNING COMPANY

LIMITED

FINDLAY, DURHAM & BRODIE  
AGENTS  
VICTORIA, B. C., AND LONDON, ENG.

Rivers Inlet, B. C.

13<sup>th</sup> October

1905

James White Esq.  
Geographer  
Ottawa

Dear Sir

The following information may be of use to you.

Captain John Walbran, resides in Victoria B.C.

Mr. H. Bell-Irving's address is Vancouver B.C.

Mr. Thomas Shotbolt, Chemist, Victoria was interested in the first canneries built on Rivers Inlet, but his partner Mr. Robert Draney, address, same B.C. can give you the best information.

"Wadhams" Canner, was named after its owner Mr. G. A. Wadhams, who died two or three years ago. His son Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Wadhams, Port Essington B.C. can tell you year of building.

"Good Hope" Canner was built by the A. B. C. <sup>ngls. rebed. canning</sup> Co, Mr. H. Bell Irving, being the Agent. It was built with the "Good Hope" for success, and so named.

"Greens" Canner, now in possession of the B. C. Packers Assn. Vancouver, was owned by the Rev. A. E. Green and called after him.

"Brunswick" Cannery was built by Messrs Butcher and Dawson, who have named their other canneries as Brunswick No. 1, 2, and 3. Mr. George Butcher, B.C. Packers Assn.

Vancouver could give you data.

"Wannuck" Cannery, owned and operated by Mr. Alexander McNeil - died 1903 - and buried at Bella Bella, is now the property of the B.C. Packers Assn. Vancouver.

"Rivers Inlet" Cannery, belongs to the B.C. Canning Co England, with agency in Victoria. They purchased from Messrs. Shotbolt and Draney.

"Victoria" Cannery was owned by Mr. Henry Saunders of Victoria B.C. who sold to the B.C. Canning Co. Henry Saunders died two years ago.

"Victoria" Sawmill - adjoining Victoria Cannery is now the property of the B.C. Canning Co.

"Bearer" Cannery is in course of erection by Messrs. J. H. Todd & Sons, Victoria B.C.

A Hatchery has been built by the Dominion Government on McTavish Creek, near the outlet of Oweekayno Lake. The names Grant, Knox and McLaughlin could I am sure be explained by Mr. Robert Draney.

Yours faithfully  
A. M. Draney