

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 18 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.

"Salt Spring Island" Ans'd
B.C.
Nanaimo Dist.
Copy clippings



Salt Spring Island

Nov. 22. 05

James White, Esq
Ottawa. Canada

Dear Sir,-

Replying to enclosed enquiry.

"Salt Spring Island" is so named from the numerous salt springs situated on the north end of the Island.

enclosed I send you a couple of clippings re the naming of the Island and other names on the Island.

As I value these clippings would you kindly return them to me after leaving me a copy of them.

yours truly
Percy Purvis
P.M.

Salt Spring Island

Naming Salt Spring Island

(From "Colonist" April 21, 1905)

Sir,

In connection with the interesting letter of "Beaver" in the Colonist of October 2nd last, respecting the name of Salt Spring Island, I think that there can be no doubt that Salt Spring was the name in local use for some years at least before that of Admiral was applied to it.

Captain G.H.Richards, R.N. of H.M. surveying ship Plumper, surveyed that vicinity in 1859, and evidently wished to associate the island now under discussion with Sir Robert Lambert Baynes K.C.B., the naval commander-in-chief of the Pacific station at that time. He therefore called (1) The Island; Admiral, (2) one of the highest elevations on the Island, Mount Baynes, (3) Ganges Harbor, after Admiral Baynes' flagship H.M.S. Ganges, (4) Fulford Harbour, after Captain John Fulford of the Ganges, (5) Burgoyne Bay, after Commander Butgoyne, of the Ganges, (6) Southey Point, the northern extreme of the Island, after Admiral Baynes secretary, James L. Southey, R.N.

It is quite possible that other names on the island are also connected with the Ganges, but these are all that I can trace the origin of, at present.

I think the above facts are conclusive enough to prove that the name Admiral was first applied to the Island by Captain Richards in 1859.

"Beavers" evidence as clearly proves that the name Salt Springs was used in publications as early as 1856, and that the alternative name of Admiral did not commence to appeal in any form until 1860.

The rendering of Admiralty island, which "Beaver" states two authorities used, may, I think, be considered merely as a mistake for Admiral.

I am convinced that Captain Richards was unaware of the Island being locally called Salt Springs, as the rules regarding nomenclature by naval surveyors have always been most stringent; and names in current use are always adopted if possible.

Possibly some of your readers may be able to supply further information as to the origin of names given to other localities on the Island.

J.F.PARRY

COMMANDER R.N.

H.M.S. EGERIA, at Chemainus, B.C. April 20, 1905

GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Sir, In your paper for August 20th and 21st appeared interesting letters from Captains Walbran and Lewis regarding Active (Plumper) Pass, and the former gentleman inquired regarding the origin of the name of Salt Spring or Admiral (also formerly called Admiralty) Island, and the proper application of the name Cordova Bay. In partial answer to these inquiries I have collected the following early references:

As to Salt Spring or Admiral Island- In the map dated 1856, to accompany Capt. W. Colquhoun Grant's "Description of Vancouver Island"- in Royal Geog. Soc. Journal for 1857- it is named "Saltspring Island".

On the map in W. C. Hazlitt's "British Columbia and Vancouver Island," London, 1858, it is named "Salrspring Island" and also in the revised map of the second edition of the same work in 1862.

On Arrowsmith's map in 1859, to accompany the Parliamentary Return of that year, "Papers Relative to the Affairs of British Columbia", Part II, it is named "Saltspring Island".

On the map to face the title page of Mr. J.D. Pemberton's valuable book, "Facts and Figures Relating to Vancouver Island and British Columbia," London, 1860, it is named "Saltspring Island" but on the map to face p. 56 of the same volume, it is called "Admiralty Island". And at p. 159 reference is made to a sample of water "taken from Salt Spring Island (Admiral Island)."

In his prize essay on Vancouver Island, Victoria 1862, Dr. Charles Forbes, R.N., says that the "Admiral or Salt

Spring Island has two good ports, Fulford Harbour on its S.E. and Ganges Harbour on its Eastern side. This Island is for the most part thickly wooded, but there is a considerable extent of partially cleared land, both at the northern end and at the head of Fulford Harbour, which is now rapidly becoming peopled by settlers under the name of Salt Spring Island District, a name derived from several salt springs on the Island." On the map to accompany the same author's paper, dated March 1864, in the Rot. Geog. Soc. Journal for that year, entitled "Notes on the Physical Geography of Vancouver Island" it is called "Admiral I.", with "Salt Spring Settlement" marked at the northern end.

On the map in Mr. D. C. F. Macdonald's "British Columbia and Vancouver Island" London, 1862, it is marked "Salt Spring Island", and it so called at p. 356.

Capt. Mayne marks it "Admiral Island" on the map to face p. 139 in his excellent book, "Four Years in B.C. and Vancouver Island," London, 1862, and says, p.152, "On this Island are salt springs."

In Mr. Matthew Macfie's "Vancouver Island and British Columbia" London, 1865, it is marked "Salt Spring Island" on the map, and is so spoken of at p. 48, though at p. 169 it is styled "Admiralty Island".

In the scarce and interesting "First Victoria Directory," 1869, by Edward Mallandaine, Architect, it is called "Saltspring Island," and a list of settlers is given at p. 62.

On the map at the back of Lord Milton's "History of the San Juan Boundary Question", London, 1869, it is named "Saltspring Island".

In Mr. A. C. Anderson's "Brief Description of British Columbia" Victoria, 1872, p. 50, it is called "Salt-spring Island" quoting from Mr. James Richardson's Report in the Geological Survey, but at p. 9 it is written "Saltspring (or Admiralty) Island".

In the Supplement (1899) to the Admiralty "British Columbia Pilot" it is stated, p.9, that "Admiral Island is also called locally Salt Spring Island."

As to Cordova Bay- On Wylé's (James) map of the Colony of New Caledonia, July 16, 1858, what is now locally and indefinitely generally styled Cordova Bay is clearly shown as Cormorant Bay in the enlarged scale inset map of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, but Cormorant Bay is apparently intended to form part of the larger sheet of water marked on the general map as Cordova Bay, i.e. beginning at Cowitchin Head and ending at Gordon Head.

On Arrowsmith's map of 1859, to accompany the Parliamentary Return of that year in "Papers Relative to the Affairs of British Columbia," Part II, it is named "Cordova Bay

On the map by Arrowsmith in D.G.F. Macdonald's book above mentioned, the locality in question is called "Cordova Bay."

In Capt. Mayne's above quoted work the map to
face

face p. 139 shows the locality as "Cormorant Bay"- no mention of Cordova. At p. 153 the author says, "Outside the Saanich Peninsula is Cordova Channel, extending to Discovery Island, seven miles from Victoria."

In Dr. Forbes map of 1864 it is called "Cormorant Bay"- no mention of Cordova.

On the map above mentioned in Lord Milton's book, the area in question is named Cordova Bay only.

It is worth noting that the pass now properly (since the recent decision of the Geographical Board) called Active Pass, was, so early as 1860, marked "Plummer Pass" on the map to face p. 56 of Mr. J. D. Pemberton's book above quoted, and this significant because the author was then surveyor-general of Vancouver Island. And I see that in the Admiralty Supplement of 1899, above quoted, the long local usage is recognized, for it is stated that "Active Pass is almost invariably named Plumper Pass locally."

BEAVER

"Colonist"

Victoria, October 1, 1904