

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 21 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.

✓ "Spences Bridge"

Yale-Cariboo

B. C.

Dear Sir.

Spences Bridge, B.C.  
4<sup>th</sup> = Mch. 1906

The postmaster here has handed me this sheet for reply.

The name of this place belongs to class (2). — It got its name some time between 1863 and 1866, after a man called Spence who built the bridge here across the Thompson River.

Spence (I think his first name was Thomas) ~~xxx~~ is said to have been a native of Dundee, Scotland, and was a contractor in the building of the Caribou wagon road, which crossed the Thompson here on the bridge built by Spence. The said bridge was washed away by the great high water of 1894, and so far has not been replaced. A government ferry takes its place in the meantime.

(4) Previous to the building of the bridge by Spence and the naming of the place <sup>after</sup> the bridge, this place was known under the name of Cookes ferry, and this name is still used to some extent. Cooke was an American who ran a ferry here during the time of the Caribou gold excitement and up to the time the bridge was completed by Spence.

Cooke & Spence both returned to the States and I have heard they are now dead.

By writing to Thomas G. Kirkpatrick Ashcroft, B.C. <sup>you</sup> ~~who~~ will gain additional information on the subject. He can probably tell you Cooke's & Spence's first names, the birth place of Cooke, & the exact dates when the ferry was run by Cooke & the bridge erected by Spence.

Yours very truly  
J. A. S. E. T.