

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.

"
"Cluelet" rather
Bl
Comox-Albu Dist.

Ucluelit - is named after the Indian Tribe that inhabits its shores, and it means Shallow Water. There is no River running into the Harbour except one small stream called Mill Creek, a saw mill being in its immediate neighbourhood being responsible for its name. A few small Islands adorn but overrounds the small Harbour, their names invariably disappearing with its last tenant and assuming a new one "always his own" with the next occupier.

Shelter Island at the entrance of the Harbour being a protection from the prevailing South East gales is named for obvious reasons.

Toquat - the next nearest Harbour is named after the small Tribe of Indians that call it their Home and means narrow Channel. Maggie Lake and River flowing into it - takes their name from an Indian still living and the credited discoverer although they were well known to the Whites at least fifty years before he was born.

The Western Channel of Barclay Sound of which we form a part - is thickly studded with numerous Islands the most of them being at present nameless, and those that have any, are as fluctuating as the various and wandering tenant who assumes proprietorship for a brief space and mysteriously disappears leaving nothing but the name and that only until the next wanderer files a claim and takes possession. There are a few conspicuous points and Islands named by local Sea Captains for navigating purposes and finally finds their name.

on the charts these are the only
reliable and permanent names at-
present.

Yours truly,

A Ganson

Post Master