

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, ..... NOV 9 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 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.

~~Mitchell Station~~ ~~Drummond Bay~~ ~~etc.~~  
Srago Sound etc  
B.C.



#### VIRAGO SOUND.

To the Editor:—The following account of the naming of Virago Sound, Queen Charlotte Islands, will probably be of interest to readers of your paper. I have therefore the pleasure to enclose it.

JOHN T. WALBRAN.

Victoria, B. C., 18th Nov., 1905.

Virago Sound, Moresby Island, Queen Charlotte Islands, Virago Rock, Porlier Pass, named 1853, after H. M. paddle sloop of war Virago, 6 guns, Commander James C. Prevost. This vessel was commissioned 9th August, 1851, and paid off August, 1855. During the commission she had three commanders, William Houston Stewart; James Charles Prevost, who had been commander of the flagship Portland, Rear-Admiral Sir Fairfax Moresby, on this station; and Edward Marshall. George A. Inskip, master of the Virago, made a survey of the Sound and Naden Harbor, and the names to the points, etc., were given by Capt. Prevost and the master. Mary and Jorey Points, on the west side of the Sound, after Miss Mary Jorey, who, in 1855, became Mrs. Inskip. George and Inskip Points, on the east shore, after Captain Inskip. Bain and Isabella Points after Archibald Bain, chief engineer of the Virago, and his wife, and Hassan Bay, on the western shore of the Sound, after a Turkish naval officer who was serving at the time on the Virago. The survey was made in the summer of 1853.

Virago Rock, Porlier Pass, was named on account of the Virago striking on it when passing through this channel to Nanaimo and the North, 13th April, 1853. Not much damage was done, but on arrival at Port Simpson she was beached for repairs to the keel, 17th June to 12th July. The Virago Rock in Porlier Pass dries at a very low tide.

During her commission on this station, 1854, war with Russia was declared by Great Britain, and the Virago was one of the combined British and French fleet that made the unsuccessful attempt to capture Petropaulovski in August of that year. On the 7th September the whole fleet of six vessels made for Esquimalt, having lost in the attack fifty-five officers and men killed and one hundred and ninety-four wounded.