

# 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,

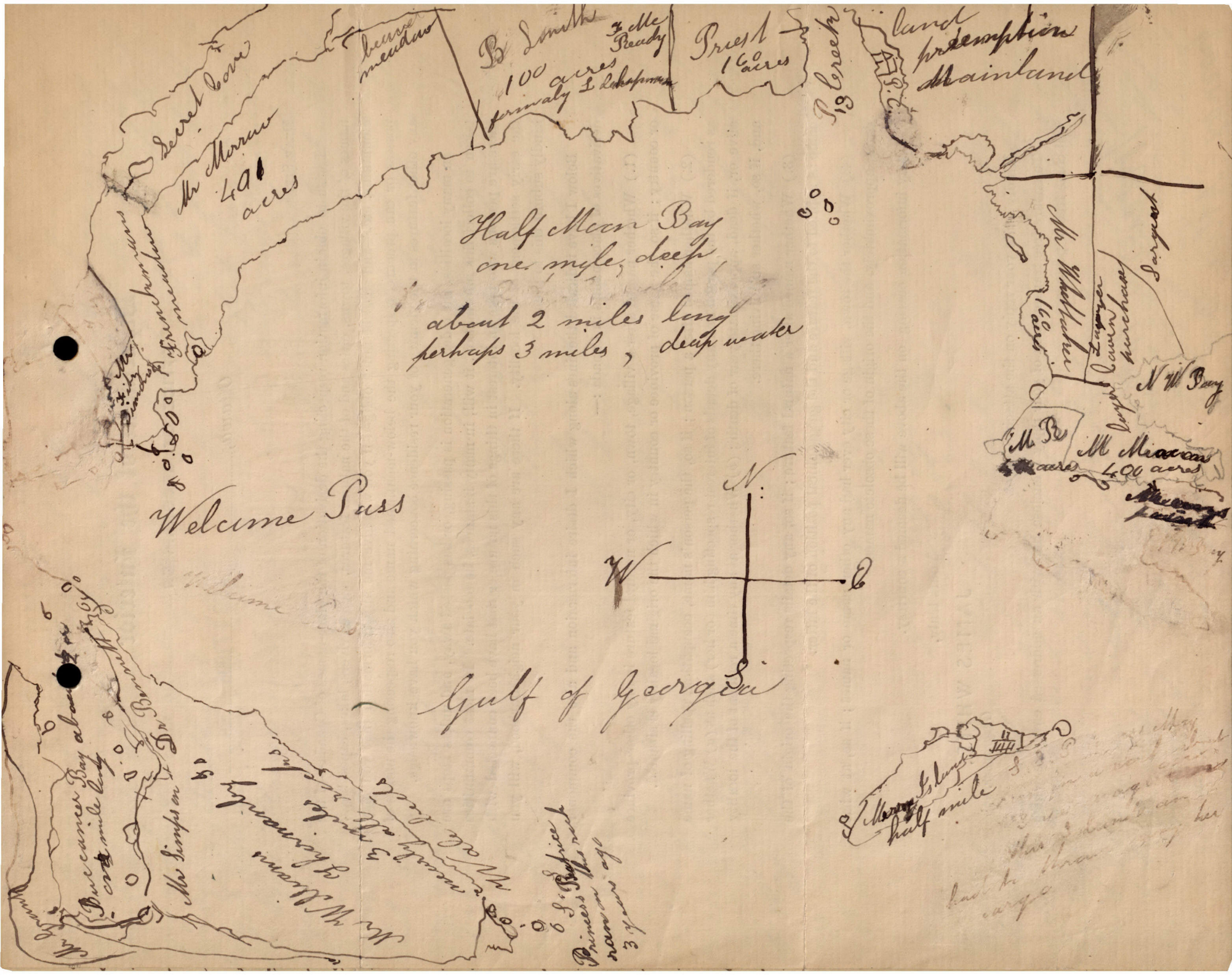
JAMES WHITE,  
*Geographer.*

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.

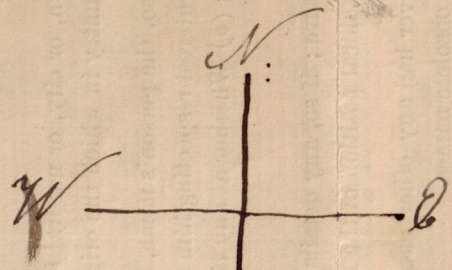
"Welcome Pass"

Comox-Atlin Dist. <sup>136</sup>



Welcome Pass

Half Moon Bay  
one mile deep  
about 2 miles long  
perhaps 3 miles, deep water



Gulf of Georgia

Secret Cove  
Mr Murray  
400 acres

B Smith  
100 acres  
primarily 3 Lakapuma

Prest  
100 acres

land  
prescription  
Mainland

Mr Whitaker  
100 acres  
Sargeant  
Lumber  
purchase

N.W. Bay

Mr B  
100 acres  
Mr Meares  
400 acres

Mr Simpson  
Mr Williams  
of homonymy  
Mr Simpson  
Princes of the rock  
now on the rock  
3 years ago

Mr Simpson's land  
half mile  
back to the  
cove

Welcome Pass is named on account of the many small Islands  
and bays that afford shelter for the small sailing boats, the Pass  
itself, has a swift current according to the tides, running either  
east, or west, and a boat can turn in to the main land  
at any time, Priestland Bay, or what is called by the sailors,  
Half moon Bay, on account of the shape of the bay, it has  
four very small Islands opposite Priestland creek, and at  
night throws a shadow of the half moon, the little Islands  
showing like the marks in the moon, Priestland creek has  
always been a camping ground for the Indians when hunting  
there is a high hill on the right or East side, and I have heard  
that the Siaman Indians used to get on this hill when water  
was scarce, and fight the Fort Rupert <sup>and Cape Mudge</sup> Indians as they came  
in for water, Buccaneer Bay is another camping ground three  
miles from Priestlands creek through the pass a fine shelter  
in summer but rough in winter, it is away from the mainland  
through Thornamby Island, which is three miles long, Secret Cove  
is another shelter for boats on the mainland through the Pass  
the property, from the point, to Secret cove, is owned by a gentleman  
named Mr Marcus, it has a fine shelter as well in Half Moon  
Bay, into what is called the Frenchmans smadaw, a Chinaman  
was left to look after it, 18 years ago and died, and a Frenchman lived  
there for a while, that is why it is called by that name, it is a fine  
hunting ground for wild game and ducks quite a number have tried  
to take it up, but it has been left in my care to sell, Merry Island  
has the Light House at the East End it is nearly half a mile long and  
stands out from the nearest point on the mainland one mile and  
a half, about 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Priestlands creek, it is rough out there  
for small boats, the current, or tide flows three different ways, so  
that small boats should keep in close to shore <sup>along</sup> the main land,  
Half Moon Bay, affords shelter for Lug boats with beams of logs as  
well as Secret Cove, North West Bay is four miles East of Priestland  
Bay, or Half Moon Bay; we preempted 160 acres and called <sup>off</sup> Bay  
after our own name 16 years ago but I think Half Moon Bay  
is better known I will draw a map of the place with the names  
of the property owners only three have changed Dr Bennett having  
bought Mr Edwards place, who died and Mr Chapman lost his for  
non payment hoping this is plain

I remain yours

respectfully Mrs Priestland

Post Mistress Welcome Pass  
B. C.

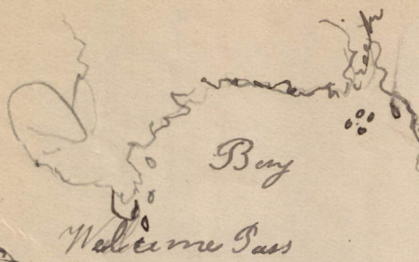
P. 8  
Buccaner Bay is owned by men belonging to Vancouver  
and friends of the Union S. S. Co. there is a fine beach  
and the company is trying to make it a summer  
resort beside the beach there is very little land nearly all  
being rocks, there is quite a few campers taken up by the U. S.  
company, Eastlands creek is a fine place to put bathing  
houses up in there is a wharf about 75 feet long or more,  
the Store House and a cabin along side was burned two  
weeks ago and after me and my friends worked to save  
the wharf for 8 hours, they all gave up, and I stood alone  
in the water from 9 to 12 at night as the tide was up  
and saved the wharf which is all built of logs and was  
very hard to put out, but I saved the house by doing so  
I burnt my feet standing under the fire, and was over  
come with the heat, but I saw if I stopped, the fire would  
have the best of me, so I walked into the water, which  
revived me, and dashed water on, till I got it down,  
and saved the Post Office, the building is a dead loss to  
me, as they dont insure along the coast, it was a frame  
building about 60 by 50 the Store house was about 70 feet  
from the dwelling house and it was very handy for  
people calling for their mail, or putting in for shelter,  
if they had to go through the pass, and the wind  
was not favorable, excuse me for writing about this  
as I am not in the habit of crying over spilt milk

yours respectfully  
Wm. L. Priestland

I forgot to mention that the creek is a large flat at  
low tide with a spring of water running through  
with a beach each side, but is like a small bay when  
the tide is in, and a tug can put a scow in, being  
about 100 yards wide and two hundred <sup>yards</sup> feet long from  
point to point at low tide that is at the lowest tide  
very convenient for pile driving if the Government wished  
to put in a wharf as the bottom is soft and pliable

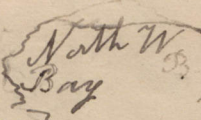
Where I have marked whale beds, is where  
the whales used to be every summer, but the  
steamers have taken the route over them  
lately, scattering them all over the Gulf, one  
day <sup>the people on the Steamer</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> ~~so~~ <sup>so</sup> ~~impressed~~ <sup>impressed</sup>  
in watching a whale on one side, that  
they neither saw me or the other whale  
which was within three feet of me, but  
fortunately running opposite, it swimming from  
the steamer, while I was going to the Pass  
with the mail, as <sup>in a pug boat.</sup> the Captain insists on my  
going away out for the mail, while he comes  
in close to the creek with passengers or freight  
so I prefer to meet him there, instead of the other  
point since I am compelled to go out, Mr.  
Chapman <sup>16 years ago</sup> was ~~sailing~~ sailing along Thernamby Island  
when a whale tipped him over, as he was a  
man weighing 400 lbs, some Indians who  
were near the pass, offered to tow him in for  
\$10, which he accepted, the whale having gone  
straight along, another time two young whales  
came nearly into the creek and it was a  
fine sight to see the mother come and  
swim out with them one on each side  
of her that is why the Steamers used to  
turn in <sup>around</sup> the bay instead of along the  
Islands as they do now over the beds

Main Land



Bay

Wallice Pass

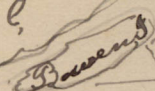


North W Bay

North West Point

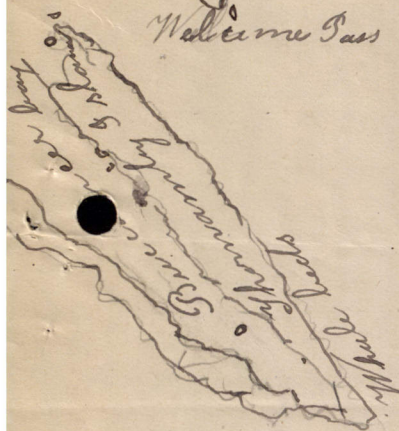
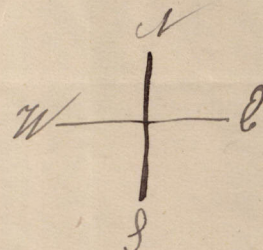
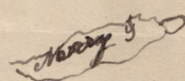
Seeshelt

R. L.



80 trail 3

Gulf of Georgia



The bay that you see marked North West  
is so called because it faces North West  
as you go in, but lately the name has  
been changed to South East bay, then  
the point that you see marked Meccus  
Point, the land is high standing almost  
perpendicular, was named after Mr  
Meccen, who owned 400 acres, but he  
died ten years ago, and I see it is now  
marked Welcome Point, I don't know why  
as it gets the S. E. winds, if Half moon  
Bay had been marked welcome bay, it  
would of been more natural, Buccaneer  
Bay is well patronised in summer but  
small boats keep clear of it in winter,  
the N. W. winds making it very bleak