

# 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.

"Nesley"

Kootenay Dist. B.C.

see over



Westley, B.C. October 28th, 1905.

The Geographer,  
Ottawa, Can.

Dear Sir:-

Westley is situate on South bank of Columbia River, three miles from West Robson, and on the line of the Columbia & Western railway; Post-Office name "Westley", Railroad name "Material Yard", htc latter name on account of material for railroad - West Robson to Midway- having been brought down the Arrow Lakes and stored here. Six years ago West Robson was a florishing little town & point of transfer for passengers from main line C.P.R.(Revelstoke) bound for Rossland. When C.M.P.R. bridged over the Columbia, West Robson died out, and is now entirely deserted.

Mountainous country all around; climate very healthy though there is no sunshine from about 15th, November to end next February.

Only industry lumber, one of the splendid mills of the Yale-Columbia Co. is situate here- Head Office at Nakusp -and gives employment during the season to some 50 or 60 men. During the summer months there are about one hundred people here.

Yours truly,

James A. Ellis.

*Why called Westley*  
"Sorry this has been overlooked so long"



Ottawa, November 7th, 1905

Dear Sir,

Was your P. O. so named, after a Mr. Westley?  
If so, kindly give initials, occupation and whether alive  
or dead. Or was it named after another locality? If so,  
where?

Thanking you in advance for your courtesy.  
Yours truly,

*James White*  
Geographer

James White, Esq.

Ottawa, Can.

Dear Sir:-

In answer to enquiry above, would say that "Westley"  
is a remote corruption of West Robson, at which place there was a  
post-office until a few years ago. When the Robson office was closed  
and this one opened, the post-office department wished to give this  
place a name somewhat similiar to West Robson, but not so long, and  
chose Westley.

Yours truly,

*James H. Ellis*