Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa.	AUG	26	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 localties, 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.

"Ar den" Man POSTMASTER SEC.-TREAS. LANSDOWNE MUNICIPALITY COMMISSIONER IN B.R. REAL ESTATE, LOANS AND INSURANCE

ARDEN, MANITOBA

Sept 9th 1905 .

James White Eso Geographer

Dear Sir- ARDEN (Manitoba)

With respect to the place-name etc .

The writer has lived in this township from the earliest settlement of it, locating here in 1878 and eventually purchasing the mounted police barracks that served in 1877 and earlier, both for two policemen and as a base of supplies for surveyors. I enclose a reproduction which I issued as a supplies for surveyors back.

1 ARDEN is, it is understood, named after the country residence of Mr Stobart (father of Mr Fred W Stobart Wholesale Dry Goods Winnipeg) in Yorkshire England. Mr Stobart was a prominent man in the organisation of The Manitoba and North Western Railway.

Mr. Walter Reginald Baker of Montreal, now assistant to The President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was at the time of the naming of Arden, the General Manager of the railway and is doubtless responsible for the name.

But since Arden is on the crest of the main ridge (Lake Agassiz) and bot sides of the ridge at this point are covered with woods the name is of itself very fitting and was probably suggested in that connection.

I believe it is a very common name in English French and German at least.

Originally this Ridge and the district west of it was known as Beautiful Plains. When the first post office was established here we made an effort

M. E. BOUGHTON

POSTMASTER
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to get the Indian name for the Post Office but as it was intolerably long the idea was abandoned.

Yours truly.

M.E. Boughton