

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 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.

"Austin"
Man -

Austin P.O. situated on S 29 T 11 R 11 W of 1st P.M.
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This district was known prior to 1882

as Three creeks because the old Saskatchewan trail crossed (1) a small creek [which (drys up in August) flows into Beaver creek] and section 17-11-11 (2) a branch of Squirrel creek (which flows into the White Mud river) on S 18-11-11 and (3) another branch of Squirrel creek on S 24-11-12

The C.P.R. was build through this country in 1881 or 1882 and the station built on S 29-11-11 was the 2nd station built west of Winnipeg (Portage la P was the first) and called Austin after one of the civil engineers on the railway survey staff he was I believe an elderly man at the time & chief of his party. There was a farmer not far south ~~west~~^{east} of this point of the name of Austin about 1880 but I am told that he had nothing to do with the naming of the station.

The Post office established in 1883 was called after the railway station under the care of Erskine Broadfoot. In 1900 ~~erected~~ the Roman Catholic built a small church & dedicated it to St. Augustine Doctor because he is sometimes spoken of as St. Austin whilst St. Augustine 'Bishop & Apostle of England' is never called St. Austin.

Walter Clifford

Postmaster Austin

I came to this settlement in 1883 when the Station & Post office were already named
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