

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa,..... AUG 28 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.

"Geysers"

Man

Dear Sir

In answer to your questions on attached page, I beg to state that the name of this post office is the same as it was when the office was established about 15 years ago. The place here has been an Icelandic reserve, and all names therefore are from Iceland. It is not necessary for me to state that Geyser is a well known feature of Iceland, and that there are no features here that the place has earned the name. I believe that the thought in the mind of the man (Mr. Bjorn Martindson) was simply to transfer names from the old country to this new land, which, by the way, is known among its inhabitants as New Iceland.

It might be of some interest to you that every homestead here is named. This is an old custom from Iceland. The Geyser P.O. was here, at Geyser the first two years then a mile and a half n.e. of here and now again it was moved to Geyser again. The name of the other homestead on which it was for about 13 years is called Nordtunga (North point) a surname from Iceland and being adapted to a position it occupies near the Icelandic R. It did not however effect a change in the name of the post office.