

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 26 1906

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 who 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.

"Gresna"

Man.

James White Esq.
Geographer - Ottawa.

Gretna April 17/06

Dear Sir

In the Spring of 1883, the Canadian Pacific Railway
Co. connected their railway system in Manitoba with the Great Northern
Railroad of the United States, at Gretna, Manitoba, the point of
intersection on the 49th parallel of Latitude which divides, here, Canada
from the United States, and forms the International Boundary Line,
between the two countries. Town sites were laid out. One a
little to the south of the Boundary Line in United States Territory
was called Keebe, an Indian word signifying "friend". The other
right on the border in British possessions was named by the
C.P.R. officials Gretna. Both towns are now prosperous business
centres for their respective districts. Gretna was surveyed and
laid out on a virgin section of rich, green prairie, meadow lands,
and from the similarity of its location, and surroundings
to the historical "Gretna Green", on the Scottish border
in Great Britain, famed in legend and story for its
many marriages of inn-away-couples, the name was
suggested and accepted.

Reference to the name of Gretna Manitoba
is to be found in one of Agnes Lamont's works
viz "Lords of the North".

Yours truly
J. T. Stewart.

Gretna. Manitoba.