

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.

"Hamiola"

Man.

Hamilton - Mar. 29th/06

Gas. White Esq
Dear Sir your query re
Hamilton has been handed to me
and would say in reply -

Hamilton was first called Hamilton
from a ^{large} family in the neighborhood of whom
was Postmaster and storekeeper, but as most
of our mail insisted on going to Hamilton Ont.
first and we had only a weekly mail the
the consequence was not pleasant. The Postmaster
wrote in desperation to the P. O. Inspector
to change the name to anything that
would bring his mail direct -

The Inspector reading his letter exclaimed
Hamilton. Ota. or too many Hamiltons.
Hamilton Ota - Hamiltona and
when the R. R. came the office was moved to
the station taking its name with it -

The Municipality was first called Oak River
but as the Oak River P. O. was not in the
Municipality - but in Blanchard - the name was
changed to Hamilton also -

Yours &c
S. S. Traver

Department of the Interior

Office of Geographical Names

Hamilton Olat = Hamiltons plenty or many
or Hamiltons too many

Contracted Harriota -

So. Minnesota = Water plenty -
or Minnesota or much water

Minnesota = Water running

JAMES WHITE

Geographer

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