

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.

"Kinocota"

Man.

Sir,
In reply to your query of attached
letter, the name Shinootu is not the original
name of this locality. It was originally called
the "Manitowapah" village, and is still the
name given or used by the aboriginal in-
habitants. The word, "Manitowapah," being
an ojibway word, meaning in a literal
sense "the narrows ^{or} straits of the great
spirit." Hence the name of our Province,
"Manitoba," being a corruption of the above
word Manitowapah. The first part of
the word "Manito" means "the great spirit"
or deity of the Indian - and "wapah" the
narrows or straits of any water, such as the
narrows of Lake Manitoba etc. as for the
word "Shinootu" there is no positive meaning
to it. It is a Seant word, referring to water
or Lake. The exact meaning of which I have
not any knowledge of.

At most
Yours,
James White Esq,
Geographer
Dept of the Interior
Ottawa,