

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.

Langvale ✓ Burks Hill
Prospect Pt. Ansid
Man.

2-6-18-W
62 G/5

Langvale • • • the name of a post office in the
Municipality of Riverside in the Province of Manitoba,
in Section 2: Township 6: Range 18. West of First Judicial Division.
The name Langvale, as well as its variant Lang's Valley
is also applied to the vale or valley which runs from the elbow
of the Souris River to Pelican Lake. Locally both names are used.
The name Langvale is also the name of a school district
which was organized in 1883.

Langvale or Lang's Valley was named after
Rev. James Lang, son of the late Captain John Lang,
a veteran of the war of 1812 and a well known Bytown
pioneer. Mr. Lang is a clergyman of the Presbyterian
Church, and, though advancing in years, is at present
(1905) engaged in active Church work in Beachland B.C.
He was the first ^{and turned first furrows} settler in this locality. He pitched his tent
on his homestead on June 1880 and engaged in farming
from that date until 1886. During part of this period
he was Warden of Riverside Municipality. The old
homestead is still occupied by his youngest son
Mr. Grant Lang.

Lang's Valley is 1 1/2 miles wide and about 10 m. long
there is no doubt that the Souris River in past ages
ran down this valley. a glance at the
formation suggests the idea at once to the
most casual observer.

II The term Elbow of the Souris is given to designate the point at which the river turns abruptly from a south-easterly to north-easterly course leaving the old well-washed channel and following a newer one to join the Assiniboine.

III The term Tiger Hills is given to the strip of uneven country north of Lang's Valley and also farther East. Some old settlers say that the name Tiger was suggested by the stripes of colour of various tints produced by the frost in the autumn upon the small groves of trees.

IV The Big Tiger Hill, or the Big Tiger is a name given to the highest of these hills north of the western end of Lang's Valley. From the south it can be seen for 10 miles in ordinary weather, and, in mirage for 30 or more.

V Prospect Point is a prominence at the west end of the valley and near the Elbow of Souris and as its name indicates affords an extensive view of the Country. One can see Bellevue Lake to the East as well as a considerable distance up and down the river.

VI The name Buck's Hill, the obsolete, or at any rate not obsolescent, was at one time known to and employed by the entire neighborhood at the time to designate a certain point on South bank of valley, at which point an accident occurred to an ox of fresh bulls and stobure.

is good and true. The Norwegians who
settled Iceland in the ninth century carried
the name and the story with them where
it has continued to flourish to the present
day. The District here bearing the name
was settled by Icelanders in 1902, and
when they applied for a Post Office they
fixed on this name, although it is a kind
of a misnomer here on the prairie.
Then the original meaning is nearly lost, and
the symbol of truth, honesty, and bravery
has taken its place.

I think this covers all your questions.
If there is anything in it not quite clear
to you I should be happy to be of
further service.

Yours truly
J. Johnson

Sept. 8th 1905.