

# 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.

"Lyonshall"  
Man

Syonshall, Man. Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> 1905

James White Esq.

Geographer, Ottawa

Dear Sir: — At your request I furnish the following particulars as to how this place derived the name of Syonshall. When I came to Manitoba in 1881 I was one of the first settlers and named our new residence after our old parish & Village in England where I owned and farmed my own property. The following sketch may be of some interest for your work:—

"Syonshall (anciently Seneshale) is a large parish and Village in the County of Herefordshire, England. The population in 1871 was 1014. Area of parish 4658 acres. Inhabited houses 205. Annual value £7235. The soil is rich producing wheat, barley, oats, roots, apple & pear orchards, and hop gardens. The English Church was repaired & restored in 1873 at a cost of £3215. The holy table, reredos, chancel stalls, seats in nave, pulpit, and lectern, are all of oak. It contains a peal of six bells. The organ cost £355. The Church is capable of holding 400 persons. The National School-house was erected in 1868 at a cost of £985. and will accommodate 160 children. There are chapels for the Baptists, and Methodists both erected in 1865. Near the Church are the ruins of Syonshall Castle which was built by William Rufus about the year 1090. In the reign of Edward II it was partly demolished; scarcely anything now remains but the grass-grown moat and fragments of the outer walls covered with ivy.

"The very old lords of Seneshale," says Selous, "were the Marburys, whose heir-general conveyed it to the Devereux in marriage. In the beginning of the reign of Henry III Sir Stephen d'Ebrouices was lord of the manor and Castle, and by him the Church was given to the Canons of Leonard of Ryeona. In the reign of Edward I William, Baron Tuchet, was lord here and procured his influence with the monarch, license of free warren for his manor, together with a grant of a market and annual fair both long since disused."

Yours truly

Sam Jones