

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... AUG 25 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 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.

"Oakburn"  
*Man*

Oakburn Aug 29  
Maitland 1905

Dear Sir :-

in reply to this letter of  
yours I may say I am sorry that I  
cannot make this of more interest  
to you ~~now~~ yet do I know of any one who  
I could refer to. However I shall be  
pleased to do what little I can  
Now the Oakburn Post office is but a country  
one. I should say ~~Oakburn~~ is not called after  
any one and I cannot say whether it is called after  
any place or not. There is a creek runs through  
the settlement & empty into Shal Lake which is 9  
miles south of Oakburn Station. The station was  
built this summer & there is now a small village  
springing up. I cannot tell how Oakburn  
is called that name for there is not an oak  
tree to be seen.

I am yours respectfully

Thos H. Alliday P.M.