

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.

"Otto"

Man.

Otto P.O., Man., May 14, '86

Mr. James White, geographer;

Dear Sir:

The name "Otto" was given to this Post-Office twelve years ago and was originated by an Icelandic settler who lived here at that time. His name is Nikulas Snadal and he lives now at Narrows P.O., Manitoba. The Post-Office was named after Otto Wätne (Wätme) a Danish merchant who resided at Seydiöfjord, Iceland. He died four or five years ago. Further information regarding him can be obtained by applying to The Löjberg Printing and Publ. Co., Winnipeg.

South of the post-office is a lake, twenty miles in length, and not more than eight-miles wide at the widest place. It is named Shoal Lake. That name explains itself.

The name of our school district is "Nordur Stjarna" an Icelandic word meaning "North Star."

About 4 or 5 miles west of the north end of Shoal Lake is a small lake, only about three miles in length

It is named "Lake P. Goulet," and is said to be named after a French inspector of the French schools of Manitoba. His full name is Peter Goulet and he resides now in St. Boniface Man., and is I believe connected with the Catholic Normal school in that place.

I do not state this last item as a fact, it is merely on hearsay. The truth of it could in all probability be ascertained by communicating with Mr. Goulet himself.

The foregoing are the only place-names in this district.

Very respectfully yours
Magnus Kristjanson
(Post-master)