

# 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.

*Rapid City*  
*Man*

Post-office  
Rapid City  
Sept - 5<sup>th</sup> / 06

Mr Geo White  
Geographer of Dom. Government -

Dear Sir

In reply to questions on other

side I may say that - previous to the year 1877, it was called "Ralston's colony" from the fact - that one John Ralston who is still living near Rapid City - and who came from Burrills Rapids in near Ottawa obtained colonization privileges from the Dominion Government, and brought in several parties of settlers which formed the nucleus of the <sup>then</sup> present settlement. In the spring of 1877 a number of settlers were gathered together in the only store carried on by Messrs Garratt & Ferguson and the question of a name came up for discussion. And realizing the fact that the little Soshatchewan River passes through the town which is a rapid stream having quite a number of Rapids which are and can be utilized for water power privileges the name Rapid ~~River~~ River was suggested by

on part, and then another suggested  
Rapid City which appeared with one  
accord to meet their approval, and  
was carried unanimously, and  
hence the name as it now stands

Hoping this will meet with your  
approval

I am  
your obedient servant

J. B. Anderson  
Pres

