

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa,..... AUG 25 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.

"Rathwell"
Man

James White Esgy
Geographer &c
Ottawa

Dear Sir

The Village of Rathwell was named after John Rathwell who lives on the N W $\frac{1}{4}$ of 12, 8, 9. West of 1st mer. When the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. built the road which is called the Souris branch, the locators of the townsites called on different parties in this neighborhood, to see what sort of terms could be made with regard to land for a townsite. Mr John Rathwell owned the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of 12, 8, 9 at that time and agreed to give the Co 80 acres of the N E $\frac{1}{4}$ if the Co would put the proposed siding on his land. Afterward he regretted his bargain, and ~~cleared~~ ^{as a homestead} his pre-emption which was entered for by Arthur Macraugh. The Company then placed their siding on the N W $\frac{1}{4}$ 7, 8, 8 W. but as it had been decided to call the siding Rathwell previous to this, the decision was not changed and the name "Rathwell" remained. There was a post-office established at that time on the S E $\frac{1}{4}$ 12, 8, 9, W. which was called Brunton. When the office was moved in to town about the year 1890 the name was changed from Brunton to Rathwell. The name "Brunton" was after some small place in Yorkshire England. Mr John Rathwell is still living on N W $\frac{1}{4}$ 12, 7, 9. He was one of the earliest settlers in this district, coming here in 1882. J. C. Jones