

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 26 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.

"Sperling"
Man

(see over)

Sperling • September 16/05

Dear Sir

In answer to your question might say there is not much in connection with Sperling to be said, it was previously called Mariposa after the township of Mariposa in Victoria county Ontario, named that by some farmers who came and settled here on the prairie from that township.

Four years ago the Canadian Northern Railway went through here, and was naming place where the town sprang up, they changed it to Sperling as with a Mariposa Station in Ontario and another of that name ~~at~~ in Manitoba might mean confusion, it was changed to Sperling three years ago in December, the country is very flat (not rolling) water very scarce, and no bush but the very best of soil for growing wheat, the settlers are mostly all English, Scotch & Irish and considerable from Eastern

Canada,

Yours truly

J. H.

Sperling Man

Dear Sir

Is Sperling named after a person or after another town or village? If the latter, where situated.

Yours truly
James White

The Canadian Northern Railway gave all the places along this route the name and I cannot find out what they named it after the station east of us is named Burnhead and west of us Homewood the agent here cannot give any information on it