

# 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.

*"Thoruhill"*

*Man*

Thornhill Mass

Aug 31/04

fr

I heard that Mr Bradshaw  
was the owner of this place  
& applied to him for the  
information you wish  
Enclose his reply

Yours truly  
Herbert  
SM

Aug 31<sup>st</sup> 05

Dear Sir - I understand from Charley that you wished me as the oldest settler in this district, to inform you how it was that this locality came to be called Thornhill -

About 29 years ago looking over some pamphlets in the Land Office at Concord I saw a list of Settlements at the foot of a page there were among them The Boyne Settlement and Belmont Settlement - I asked the Agent Mr. Newcomb why could not ~~we~~ <sup>our</sup> call our settlements have a name (2 Shanties one on sec<sup>E</sup> 17. 3. 6 (mine) and one on E 1/2 16. 3. 6 (Bonney)) Mr. Newcomb said name it by all means so I said we will call it Thornhill He said why Thornhill is it on a hill - why not name it Thornton after the British minister at Washington as England and Canada were engaged in a Fishery dispute with the U.S. and Canada came out ahead - I answered him that I knew nothing of Mr. Thornton and a good deal about Thornhill as Thornhill was our country place 1/2 mi. out of Quebec just opposite the <sup>then</sup> Governor General's Residence. Spencers house on the St. Louis road -

Then in 1878 he had our first post-office and the dies were sent Thornhill Then the C. P. R. gave us a Station and they call it Thornhill - so that is the

and please to  
people Cne  
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JAMES WHITE