

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG. 24 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.

"Vir deui"
Man

Re Vinder, Manitoba

The plain hunters and Indians
named this locality Gopher
Creek. The reason why I do not know
but I presume that the banks of the
Creek was an ideal place for the
little gopher of the prairie
When the C.P.R. was constructed
to this point, ¹⁸⁸² it for a time ^{was} still called
Gopher Creek, and the Post Office the
same name. Afterward the Canadian
Pacific Company name the town Man-
chester, after the Duke of Manchester
who at the time was a prominent
director of the C.P.R. Co.
It was found however that a syndicate
of exploiters registered a townsite of
the same name in Whiteshell Lull
or nearly so, and the C.P.R. had to change
the name of this place to Vinder, after
one of the Old Country seats of the Duke of

Manchester.

This is the information which
I think you want
If not sufficient please let me
know

Yours truly
D. McDonald

10/5/01

9. 27

E & S.W. 23

unmiped.

all of 15

150 acs new breaking sandy & stable

" " 8

NE 35

SW 27

10

3203

1060

McDONALD, SIMPSON CO.

FARM LANDS FOR SALE

Virden, Man., *Aug 31st* 190*5*

James White Esq
Dom. Government, Geographer
Ottawa

Sir the enclosed enquiries were handed to me by the Postmaster for reply. As I am one of the old timers, and know of what speaks I have had the honor to be Mayor of Virden for 8 years. This is the second time I have given your department information.

Yours truly
D. McDonald