

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 27 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 who 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.

Waskada
Waskada Man.

Waskada, Manitoba

29th May 1906

To the Geographer

Department of the Interior

Ottawa

Dear Sir

The postmaster here gave me this letter sometime ago and asked me to reply to it, various things have intervened to prevent me doing so till now.

You ask for information as to the name "Waskada" and also of places of interest in the locality. There is not much to tell.

Waskada owes its name to the Post office department ~~at~~ in this wise. In the year 1883 the settlers in the district petitioned for a post office and sent a name they thought suitable, this however could not be accepted by the department, it being a duplicate of some other place, thereupon the department named the posted district "Waskada". The local office was opened on or about April 1884 on Section 2 Township 2 Range 26 at the house of Mr James Reid who conducted it until removed to what is now called the town or village of Waskada. The local office originally served a very large, but thinly settled district, which has since been reduced by the establishment of other offices to meet the demand of the fast increasing population.

When the C.P.R. opened a branch line to Waskada in 1899 houses and stores soon sprang up and a demand for Postal Accommodation resulted in the establishment of an office ^{in the village} in 1900 and the removal of the business from Mr Reid's there to. That is to say it was removed from 2.226 in the Municipality of Arthur to 5.2.25 in the Municipality of Brenda. Roughly speaking the office now serves Townships 1 and 2 Range 25 and Townships 1 & 2 Range 26 bounded on the west by the Souris River and on south by the International line.

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I am informed "Waskada" is an Indian name signifying
"The best of everything" This may or may not have been the
Indian meaning of the word. The Postal Department will
probably be able to inform you on this point as they caused the
name to be adopted here.

I really do not know of any other matter in this
locality that would interest you but will have pleasure
in answering any inquiries

Yours truly
John Davis.

JAMES WHITE

Waskada