

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 11 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.

*Belleisle
Annapolis Co Md.*

Belleisle = beautiful isle

Belleisle
Oct 1st 1906 -

Dear Sir -

This should have been answered before, but have been waiting to see a Party - who always knows about such things, so hope you will excuse my seeming neglect - The oldest inhabitant says Belleisle takes it's name from the shape of the ~~nause~~ - bell shaped - another & I think probably the correct story, is that it was named by the early French settlers, after the old French bell was buried here - There are numbers of the old French cellars on the farms - and some very interesting things have been found buried - but so far, no sign of the famous bell - Several of the curious ones have spent much time looking for relics & some have found dishes (partly small) coins &c. Hoping this will not be too late to benefit you &
Am yours
Obedient Servant
(Mrs) R. L. Doage