

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 21 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.

Big Pond ns ✓
Cape Breton Co.
Crack brook

Big Pond

~~The name Big Pond~~

The place is called Big Pond after the larger of two ponds located ^{here} Big Pond and Open Pond.

Through Big Pond there runs a large stream called Prack's Brook.

The first person that settled near this brook was a scotch farmer named Rory MacNeil. He had a very large family, twenty-one children living to a mature age. His descendants still live in Big Pond and form the majority of its inhabitants. Some-time during his career Rory MacNeil took the small-pox and was ever afterwards called "Rory

Brack, Brack being derived from a Gaelic
word meaning spotted or pitted. Hence
the name of the brook. Rory Mac
Neil could neither speak, write
nor read the English Language.

He died more than eighty years
ago. I was unable to find date
of birth or death.

There are no other features of importance
that I could give any information
about.

Hoping that this may of use to

you

I am Sir

Yours respectfully

Postmaster

Big Pond

Per. N. E. et.