

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, ..... MAR 16 1908

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.

" K/11  
" K/10

Black Brook

Cape Breton  
H. S.



Black Brook April 9<sup>th</sup> 1906

James White Esqr

Dear Sir as I have filled out  
one of those papers for you within  
the last year and send it in the  
Envelope you sent I am not sure that  
I can give a better description now

the Black Brook from which the place  
is named is a deep gulch about 250 feet  
deep and in some places the banks are near  
Perpendicular so that the trees on the sides  
entwine their branches at the top it is quite a  
Large brook and drains several miles of the  
surrounding Country as far as I ever could learn  
from the first settlers of the place it always was  
Black Brook the district is a farming Country  
Settlement have no history at its back yours truly  
Hugh Livingston P.M.



Black Brook P.O.

Little Bras d'Or N.S.

Sept 28 1905

Dear Sir

In answer to your enquiry about the origin of the name "Black Brook" I may state that I have been a resident of this locality since the year 1852. At that date a number of the first settlers of the place were living, and they always called it Black Brook from the natural features of the place. It is quite a large brook emptying into the Bras d'Or lake and running at right angles with the same. The banks on each side rise about 200 feet, and so abrupt, that the branches of large trees that have their roots firmly planted in the fissures of the rocks, entwine together overhead which makes it appear quite gloomy the brightest days. Near the shore the width between the cliffs is about 300 feet, making a funnel shaped flat a few feet above the sea level "over"

your obt servant

Hugh Livingstone P.M.  
Cape Breton Co.

Ans'd

To  
The Department of the Interior

Black Brook

NS



over  
strangers seeing this brook for the first  
time admire the scenery

Hence the name Blacki Brook