

20 P113

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 16 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.

Baran

*Weymouth N.S.
KINGS - see letter inside*

Canaan was in all probability
Named for the Canaan of old
Situated in Palestine

Not named then of course after
any person. I

I do not think it was named after a
natural feature especially if named
for Canaan of old for as I understand
that place was situated on low land
whereas this is on a hill rising up west
between the North and South Mountains
and is bounded on the south by the Gasperaus
River on the north by Newcastle and Highway
on the east by White Mocha on the west by
North & South Alton Newcastle the County town is about 4 miles
west. Probably it never had another name if so I
never heard of it. It is wholly a farming country
settlement, with some little lumbering in the woods
at the south west. With the exception of one church, Hall
and Schoolhouse, the buildings are farm houses. All the
old settlers have passed away. Probably the place was settled some
one or two hundred years ago. I cannot give any more
information at present. Miss Wm. Acty Postmaster of
Canaan N.Y. Co N.S.
March 29 1906