

20/25

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.

Clarks Harbour ✓
Cape Sable *Ms.*
Shelburne Co.

Clark's Harbour. —

According to tradition, believed to be true by the older inhabitants, the origin of the name was as follows: —

About the middle of the 18th Century, settlers on the New England Coast frequently visited these shores in small vessels for the purpose of fishing. One of these was a certain Capt. Clarke — Christian name not known — who on the course of his voyages, repeatedly made this Harbour his headquarters during the season for fishing. There were no permanent inhabitants at that time, but when the first settlers from Massachusetts came — about 1763 — they seemed to have had some knowledge of Clarke's visits here, and named the place accordingly. The original spelling was "Clarke", but quite recently the final letter has been dropped for the sake of beauty.

Cape Sable. (Two miles from Clark's Harbour. Most southerly point on all the Canadian sea-coast). Received its name "Cap de Sable" (Cape of Sand) from ~~some~~ the expedition led by the Sieur de Mont, who founded Port Royal — now Annapolis, N.S. — in 1604.

The postmaster here having handed me your enquiry sheet, I have answered to the best of my knowledge, as above. Yours truly, M. H. McKesson