

20 P/12

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.

*Coffincroft
Shelburne Co. N.S.*

The name Coffinscroft was given this place by the Post Office Department, Ottawa, when a Post office was opened here in 1859. Whether it was named after any one person by the name of Coffin or only because Coffins have lived here ever since the place was first settled I do not know. Must refer you to the Post Office Department for information. The only other name by which the place was known was The Town. It is situated on the east side of Barrington Harbour and was at the early settlement of Barrington selected as the site for the Town. It was at one time quite a flourishing place but the older people have died and the younger generation have gone to other places, many of them to the United States so that at the present time there are only a few families left.

A. Coffin
Postmaster