

21 P/12

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 13 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.

Digby ✓ Ans'd
Digby Co. Ms.

Town of Digby, Digby County, N.S.

Digby. First named "Conway"

This grant was first made to the Township of Conway. Conway was a general in the British Army. He had command in Germany during the seven years war 1761. He was associated with Lord Grafton as secretary of state in 1765 in the British Administration. In 1766 a party of English from the Brandywine Valley in New England came to Conway and settled on the western shore of the Basin, where the town of Digby now stands

Name altered to "Digby."

The Loyalists settling along the shores of Conway were conveyed by the warship Atalanta, the flagship of Admiral Robert Digby, (son of Edward fifth baron of Digby,) who in Aug 1871 was sent as Commander-in-Chief to North America. It was in honor of Admiral Digby that the Loyalists asked that their new home be called Digby.

Digby Gut. Situate at the entrance to what is now styled Digby Basin, but is charted as "Annapolis Basin. The Gut took its name from the town just about five miles inside.

Ben Lomond. The mountain at the west of Digby Gut, and highest point of land in western Nova Scotia. It is sometimes called "Beaman's mountain" from the Loyalist Beaman, whose farm was just under its southern slope.

"Digby Basin" Formerly styled "Annapolis Basin" and still so charted. This took its name from the county within which it was formerly enclosed. But in 1848 the County of Digby was set off from the County of Annapolis and the "Basin" is now largely contained within the confines of Digby County. Annapolis River flows into the Basin. It is respectfully suggested that the name "Digby Basin", which is in common use, be substituted on the Charts and Maps for the obsolete name

Francis Jameson