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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 14 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.

*Duncan Cow  
Halifax Co. N*

Duncan's Cove September 21<sup>st</sup> 1905

Dear Sir

A half mile south west of Chebucto Head west side of Chebucto or Halifax Bay is Duncan's Cove a fishing Village, also a Life Saving Station here -

I have been informed that the name is derived from the first man who lived here about a century and a quarter ago. Also I have been informed that one of the old residents Mr William Smith deceased about 45 years

Piloted into Halifax Harbour the British war ship Shannon that fought and captured the United States war ship Chesapeake. There have been many vessels wrecked and lives lost on outlying rocks south of Duncan's Cove the last half century and many years before that period.

The British Ships North and St. Helena were lost same time. <sup>no date</sup> On the North only one was saved. on the St. Helena only one was lost. It must have been about a century and half ago that the North and the St. Helena were lost.

Also on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1853 1 1/2 miles north of Duncan's Cove the United States Steam Ship Humboldt was lost having on board a valuable cargo from France -

The feature of locality is rocky and <sup>not</sup> much land to cultivate. Should you need anymore information please let me know and I will do the best I can for I have only gone a mile south and a mile half north of Duncan's Cove -

I remain your Obedient servant

Jeremiah Holland