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Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 16 1907

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.

Marion Bridge

Cape Breton Co. N.S.

Marion Bridge, C.B.
March 31st 1906

Sir:-

I gather the following information from old residents concerning the origin of the name "Marion Bridge". This bridge after which the Community is named was built in year 1849 and it spans the Mira River. This County was at the time represented in the parliament of Nova Scotia by Mr. William Murray, Murr by whose intercession or advocacy the grant was secured from Parliament for the building of the Bridge. He named the bridge after a favourite daughter named Marion. I am also told the Albert Bridge which spans the same river about ten miles below and which was built about the same time is ~~called~~ named after a son of Mr. Murr's. I cannot find out whether any of the persons named are still living, at any rate there is none of them in Cape Breton.

Mr. Murr and his family lived in the town of Sydney where he was engaged in mercantile business in which he failed.

Yours truly

Neil Ferguson

Postmaster

James White Esq
Geographer
Ottawa

