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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.

Mill Brook
Picton O.N.S.

Mill Brook

Dec 1905

Dear Sir

Enclosed you will find a short account of how this place derived the name. The reason I delayed so long in answering was ~~to~~ I wished to get a copy of the History of Pictou County written by the late Dr George Patterson D.D. having obtained one a few days ago I have given you the information as given in his book.

hoping this will be satisfactory to you I am

Yours Respectfully James Fraser
P M
Mill Brook

The first clearing on Mill Brook was made by Thomas Frasier and John Frasier sons of Kenneth Frasier Middle River in the year 1800 or 1801. They went up the bed of the Brook from Middle River carrying their supplies and implements and erected a camp. The bears were so numerous that they did not venture out of their camp after night. Being in the habit of returning on Saturday to their father's homestead at Middle River they used on leaving to set a Bear trap baited with the remains of their week's provisions and very commonly found one secured on Monday morning. Hence the place was long known as Bear Brook.

Seven or Eight years after settling Thomas Frasier put up a grist mill in the gorge below the fall & he built a dam but introduced the water into the mill directly from the fall by a short race. A few years after the freshet carried the mill away after this he built a mill above the falls where he had not only stones for grinding wheat but had the second Oat mill in the County about the year 1817 or 1818 from which the place derived the name of Mill Brook.