

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SFP 25 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.

Ailsa Craig ✓
Middlesex. Ont.

AILSA CRAIG.- At the time of the building of the Grand Trunk Railway thro this Village, one of the first settlers, and the man from whom the G.T.R. Company purchased the ground for Station and Yards, and also ~~xxx~~¹⁶⁰ rods of the right-of-way, and with whom the Surveyors and Foremen boarded was David Craig (now dead) who then owned Lots 25 & 26 in the Fifth Concession, East of the Centre Road, in the Township of McGillivray, both Lots now forming part of the Incorporated Village of Ailsa Craig.

David Craig was very urgent to have the Station named as "Craig's Station" to perpetuate the name, expecting that for all time the lands then owned by him would remain in the family, the parties having the charge of selecting names for the new Stations compromised upon "Ailsa Craig," the name of a Rock or Island off the coast of Scotland, the meaning of which is (I believe) "The Witches' Rock" and from which we now get our "red hone" and "blue hone" Curling Blocks. This compromise half satisfied Craig, as the name was, like himself "Scotch" The particular Craig family are all away from here and three Village Lots are all the property now owned here by any of the name.

Yours truly,

B. Smith

Wm. Clerk

(Resident here 35 years)