

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 31 1906

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.

*Alton*

Peel Co. Ont.



Mr White Em  
Geographer

Dept Interior

Ottawa

Alton ap. 8. 1906

Dear Sir

In reply to your circular asking for information concerning origin of name of this place would say that so far as I have been able to learn from enquiry of old residents would say that when a post office was first talked of here a few of the settlers met and the question of a name came up. Several names were proposed but for one reason and another were not accepted some were too long and others not to their liking till one man Mr John S. Meek hunted up an old map of the United States and brought it to the meeting. In looking over the map the name Alton was noticed in Illinois state and its brevity and euphony appealed to them at once so the name Alton was adapted then and there. This occurred about 60<sup>or</sup> years ago. Thus Russell and John S. Meek are the only names of those present that I can get any track of. Hoping this meagre account may be of use to you I am

Yours truly

John Davis  
Postmaster