

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 18 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.

*✓ Angus*  
*Simco Co. Oct.*

Angus May 5<sup>th</sup> 1876

Rivers with regards to the Village of Angus I will state different things than you make the report from that to suit yourself you will have to rearrange it & you can also get some information at the Parliament at Ottawa I came here in the year 1858 & have been here ever since I am ashamed to state that I know less about the first few years than I should

Angus is in the Township of Essa in the County of Simcoe. out of 30 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> lot & there is 32 lots in this 3<sup>rd</sup> (you will have a map for that) when the northern Railway was surveyed through here. My father Jones Tar Bush bought Lot 30 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Essa which lays to the west of the northern end of the River. It lays right close to the River. He had it surveyed out the whole 200 acres into village lots & streets by Wm E. Garnold P. S. & named Angus after Angus Morrison who was then a member of Parliament for I forget just now where. This must be about 55 years ago since the Railway was built here that you can find out our village & lands (the inhospitable part of it) over the byest part of the 200 acres south & west population

now about - 325 I suppose it was  
800 10 Hundred at ~~the time~~ The Pine River  
runs along the west side of the ~~pine~~  
Village & of course the Nottawasaga is to  
the East Side The Pine River runs into the  
Nottawa about one mile north of Village & about  
one mile west of the Village is the mode River  
which runs into Nottawa about 9 or 10 miles  
north of Cayuga near the old historic  
Willow Creek (1812)

about 25 years ago we had 11 stores & 7  
deppment Mills also 5 Hotels & 17  
Saw Mills shipped their lumber from here & 3  
or four extensive Square timber men Archie  
Thompson, John McAndrews, Joseph Gordon &  
John Davidson as well as others about 50 years  
or more ago my father built a large first  
mill & saw mill on the Nottawasaga River  
here in the village which were among the first  
mills in the Province at the time & removed  
the drift wood from the Nottawasaga River from  
Cayuga to the Georgian Bay I built a large store  
& kept store here (general store) about 50 years  
ago This was quite an extensive grain market before  
the Hamilton & Northwestern Railway was built  
we have Canadian Express & here also the  
G. P. R. Telegraph School & Methodist &  
Presbyterian Church I am giving you

all this to & I know you will not  
need it all & can pick out what you  
want. My father's business was  
a Land Speculator & bought lands quite  
extensive all over the province of Ontario  
He lives here with me now & was 90 years  
old the 6<sup>th</sup> of last Decy. His health is most  
excellent & bids fair to see a 100. He was a  
state of New York. Many came from near  
Albany moving to York about 1840  
& from there where when this part of northern  
Railway was built as aforesaid, all this has  
dropped his memory now as to dates or events  
(decided) & needless for no task me I would  
have to keep the subject before him for a week or  
two pretty regular before his memory would return  
which it would about many things  
as it is he don't want to bother himself trying  
to remember anything but wants to live

Happy quiet & content. Pardon me  
for writing you so much if there  
is any particular <sup>questions</sup> you want answered  
let me know what it is & I will see what  
I can do

Yours truly

H. L. Tarbut

Postmaster General merchant  
Angus Ontario