

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa,.....SEP 29 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.

*Auman*

*Gray*

*Out*

*Ober*

James White, Esq.,

Ottawa,

Annan, Ont. Feb. 1. 1886.

Dear Sir, - This was handed me some time ago by the Postmaster here and I have only today been in a position to give you the information for which you have asked.

Annan was first called Speedie. The place had no name till a post office was opened about the year 1857 or 8, when it was called after the first Postmaster, who had been a teacher in the place but was keeping a small general store when the post office was established. There was much discussion over the name, but Speedie was the choice, and continued to be the name for about fifteen years when a movement was made to change it, and

Dunedin

Dunedin was substituted for a short time, but was found unsatisfactory, as there was an office of the same name in Lincoln Co., and it led to confusion. The next name chosen was Annan. The choice was determined by the fact that the leading settlers in this district were from a place of that name in Scotland.

(May I add that the name is not altogether satisfactory as much of our carelessly addressed mail matter goes to Annora and Annorw. There is no move, however, for a change.)

There is no place near here with a name of any interest except an apology for a village about 1 1/2 miles away on shore of Georgian Bay, with what used to be a wharf, called Leith, after the Sea Port of Edinburgh. It is hard to conceive of anything quite as absurd or pathetic as some of the attempts to perpetuate the names of places in the old lands, here.

Yours truly,  
J. B. Fraser

Address Rev. J. B. Fraser,  
Annan, Ont.