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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 4 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.

*Ashworth  
Muskoka Dist. Oct  
Stanleydale*

*Fox L.  
Long L.*

Ashworth Township of Stisted Muskoka Ontario

Named for and by Mr. Stanley Ashworth a native of Lancashire England. Mr. Ashworth was the first settler in this district coming here in 1872. he got the first post office here & called it Stanleydale; by profession Mr Ashworth was a Mechanical Engineer and left here in 1875 (holding here a block of 600 acres of Land which his sons still holds) to engage in his profession in New York; The post office was removed some three miles distant and is still in existence as Stanleydale P.O. Mr Ashworth returned here in 1887 and opened another P.O. named Ashworth. Mr. Ashworth claimed descent from the Barons Stanley of Alderly Eng through his Mother; and on receipt of a Legacy from the Stanleys had to adopt the name of Stanley. his full name being Stanley Ashworth Stanley in Politics he was a Conservative Religion Church of Eng He died 1904, <sup>was</sup> interred at St Johns. Stanleydale age 72 Mr Edmund Stanley Ashworth his eldest son in business in New York holds his property and is improving it with a view of residing here permanently -

This Township is bounded on the east by two large Lakes Fox Lake & Vernon Lake; on the West by two other large Lakes Long Lake & Skeleton Lake. I am well acquainted with these Lakes Fox Lake is so named from its shape same with Long Lake Vernon may have been named by the Surveyors but Skeleton Lake is not so named from its shape. There is no Folk Lore in connection with Muskokas. No Particularly Striking

features and after a residence of nearly thirty years (during which time I have worked as a Lumberman ~~and~~ taken close observation) have I found any traces of occupancy by Indians except along the chains of Lakes. The country is Hilly Uniform as to height and alternating with flats of good land or swamps. clay or sand. the rocks are of hard Granite (no Limestone) but broken

in many places by Volcanic action shown by the beds of Lava. Red + Blue granite White Quartz Ironstone and other stone. This district of Muskoka ~~is~~ or Highlands of Ontario is becoming famous to seekers after health or pleasure or by Hunters

of game or big Fish all the waters on the Eastern side of the Township are black or dark colored and contained no fish except chub perch and smaller fish until stocked by government with salmon + Bass which are multiplying fast. The waters on the ~~the~~ Western side are white + clear and contain naturally

Salmon Whitefish + Herring.

I am Sorry I cannot give you any better information but as this district was one vast unbroken forest and had not to my knowledge ever been inhabited even by Indians. I have always considered that most of the names of Lakes were given by the Surveyors, who preceded the Lumbermen

Yours Respy G. J. Hodge