

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 28 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.

*Aylmer, West
Elgin Club*

James White Esq
Geographer
Ottawa

Registry Office.
S^r Thomas. April 2. 1906
Place - names

Dear Sir

At the request of Mr. F. C. Crabbagh, Postmaster at Aylmer, I will reply to your circular letter of 27th Melt., by stating that the town of Aylmer, Ontario, was originally laid out in or about the year 1834, when Lord Aylmer was Governor-General, which of course accounts for the name.

Catfish Creek runs through the town. It was called Rivière à la Barbe by the French, and it is probable that the name was originally Indian. The early settlers were fond of telling of the enormous quantities of catfish in the stream, when the fish were running.

Yours truly
James H. Coyne

Aylmer is in the Township of Malahide. Colonel the Honorable Thomas Talbot, founder of the Talbot Settlement, was born in Malahide Castle, near Dublin. His mother was created Baroness Talbot of Malahide in her own right in 1831. Her great grandson is now Lord (Baron) Talbot de Malahide in the peerage of the United Kingdom, the former title having been an Irish one. The Talbots of Malahide have been a well-known family since the days of Strongbow.

The well-known Talbot Road runs east & west through Aylmer. It was ~~built~~ ^{laid out} in 1809 by Colonel Burwell under Col. Talbot's instructions, & ran from Port Talbot to Delhi in the County of Norfolk, but was ^{afterward} extended easterly a long distance.

Aylmer
Elgin Co.
Ont.

The village was first called Troy, but this was the name of an American city, and in those stirring times just before the rebellion of 1837 we may well imagine feelings of strict loyalty on the one side and a desire for reform or independence on the other, were carried to a pitch amounting to bitter contention in nearly all matters. In 1835 a meeting was held in Caswell's wagon shop to decide upon a name for the place. A majority were in favor of Troy, but the name Aylmer, from Lord Aylmer, then Governor General, was in some manner sent to the Post Office Department. It is a good name however, the only inconvenience being that there is in the Dominion a much larger Aylmer, a city in Quebec, and mail matter often finds its way there by mistake. The post office was established in 1837, and Philip Hodgkinson was its keeper from this date until 1875.