

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.

Aylton
Grey Co. Ont.

Ayton Oct. 4th 1905.

Dear Sir.

In reply to your attached
enquiries

From best information I can gather
the township of Normanby in which the village
of Ayton is situated was surveyed in 1855
by P L S Quintin Adamstone, who finding
on the south branch of the Sanguan River here
a good water power site, surveyed 200 acres of
land into a town plot, which was named the
Town plot of Ayton, and as such is filed in
the Crown Lands Department Toronto.

It may be that Mr Adamstone came from the town of
Ayton England, as the site may have reminded him
of that town. This however is only surmising. Why
the plot was named Ayton I cannot say.

I have no knowledge of any striking or named features
in this locality.

Yours truly

P.S. It just occurs to me that A Stranger
the late it may be interesting to Post Master Ayton,
some to know that the late Judge
Robertson of Hamilton had a grant from the Government of
the above mentioned water power, including two hundred acres of feeding land
on which was situated the site provided he erected thereon a great mill
for accommodation of the early or first settlers, some years after the original
survey, which he did. He was at that time a lawyer in being in Decade.