

31 F/4

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP. 30 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.

*Baucroft  
Hastings Co. Ont*

*✓ Eagles Nest ✓ Bird Creek  
✓ Baptiste  
Bronson  
Wood*



To Jas White Esq



Geographer Ottawa - Ont

Dear Sir I will try & grant your request, & give you  
what information about this place as far as I can.  
I have been settled here, forty one years last July. I believe I  
have filled the position of P.M. about thirty eight years. Before  
this place was incorporated into a village, the P.O. was called  
York River from the River running through this district of that name  
we received a mail one time per week by foot through Madoc to  
Glenora to York River, Mr Jas Clark was the P.M. your humble servant,  
the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Honble Rilla Flint objected to the name of the P.O. & had it  
changed to Bancroft - about 20 years ago. after some relatives of his, he also  
started the village, built a store, a stopping place, took the flour & saw  
mills over & rebuilt & enlarged both buildings (the mills were first put  
up by Mr Jas Clark - now deceased). Mr Flint started a Woollen Mill  
& did all he could to make the little place a success. The York River  
at Bancroft has good water privilege is a tributary of the Madoc & the  
Mrs Bronson & Weston drove the River with saw logs about 30 years  
there is big mountain about a mile north of this village, called the  
Eagles nest. Eagles built their nests on top of the Rock which is about  
in the highest part about 250 feet above the Road going north.  
Baptiste is a Railway Station on the I.B. & O. Rly 8 or nine miles westerly  
from here. named after an old Indian Chief, Baptiste before  
he had a silver medal given him by the British Government for  
some services rendered.  
The Bronson P.O. about five miles east from here was named after  
Mr Bronson one of the partners of the firm of Bronson & Weston  
Lumber Merchants of Ottawa. The Smith is now owned by the Rathbun  
Co of Detroit, who drive their timber & logs by Rly.  
The P.O. Wood was named after a late Member of the Legislature Assembly  
& is about 9 miles south west of here. A.F. Wood  
Birds Creek P.O. about five miles north of here was named after a person  
called Bird who I believe built part of the Hastings Road going north  
I trust this will satisfy you, but if I note any more I might  
not give the other P.O.s chance of doing better than I have done  
Yours Sir

Your Obedient Servant J.C. Gossett, Jr