

415/6

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 27 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.

Bellingham - Parkinson Tp., Algoma Dist.  
Algoma Dist. Out  
4625  
8316  
415/6

Bellingham Ont  
Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 1905

To The Geographer,  
Ottawa,

No 2

Sir, In reply to your questions, I would say that this office was called "Bellingham" by the postal authorities, but I think it was named so, on account of my applying for an office, and being appointed P. M. as my name is Donald Bell, there having been no change in Postmasters since the office was opened 15 years last May, by occupation, a farmer, I also have a small mill, & do custom sawing. My farm is situated on the banks of a river, called "The Little White River, a Tributary of Mississauga River. I am living about four miles from the mouth of the stream, at a small fall or chute, commonly called by lumbermen "Bell's Falls". I have been told that the River derives its name from its clear water, one branch comes over

out from White Lake, away to the north east  
from here.

I am also one of the first settlers.

Yours Respectfully

Donald Bell P.M.  
at Bellingham  
Cut.

Per S. Bell, asst.