

40 P/16

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, APR 12 1906

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 who 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.

✓ Belwood

Wellington Co. Ont.

Belwood is situate on the banks of the Grand River about 22 miles north of Guelph and 8 miles north of the village of Fergus. The land on which Belwood now stands originally belonged to George Douglas Ferguson of Fergus, & was surveyed by him & his Partner Mr. ^{John} Watt and known still as Ferguson & Watt Survey, the Ferguson family still retain most of the unoccupied lots in the village.

Mr. Ferguson died about ten years ago. In 1856 the village was named Douglas for Mr. Ferguson, & the postoffice was Garafraza Postoffice then, and retained that name until the year 1885. That being the name of the Township Garafraza, Douglas Village & Garafraza Postoffice, there is Douglas in the County of Renfrew and hundreds of letters went there every year. Then in the year 1879 when the Credit Valley Railway was built through here now the C.P.R. Elora Branch, a small Hamlet 6 miles east of us was called Garafraza Station & we had Garafraza Postoffice & Douglas Village matters then became serious.

In Sept-1884 a Court of the Canadian Order of Forristers was started here and named Court-Belwood No 106. This name was proposed by J. G. Mennie M.D. practising here at that time who afterwards moved to Toronto and died there a few years ago Aug 24th 1900. Then it was considered Belwood would be a suitable name to call the village and drop Douglas & Garafraza Postoffice.

In the year 1885 a petition was sent to the Government asking to have the change agreed to. This was done and we have Belwood one l as spelt in the Bible. Garafraza Station was changed to Arton at the same time & since then mistakes are unknown to us.

M. A. Campbell
asst. P.M.

prob. after Belwood seat Edinburghshire Scot.