

31P/1

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 16 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.

Beusfort

Out.
Northumberland, Co.

Buxford Oct 24/05

Dear Sir

You will please
excuse the delay in
replying to the enclosed
inquiry

I wrote to the first P.M.
that was in this office
for information. He is a
pretty old man now and
lives at Attwood so I
enclose a copy of his reply

Yours

J. H. Armstrong

P.S. The copy is just word for word of
what the old gentleman wrote me and
I also hope it may be satisfactory

Bensfont

We first got up a petition to see if they would grant us a P. Q. Some laughed and said we would not get one. In about two weeks after the petition left the Inspector came and it was granted and J. W. McBain was the 1st P. M. We had not chosen a name and he gave us three names I can only remember one name of the 3 given (Bensfont.)

The Inspector said he would like if we would call it Bensfont as he had friends in Ireland who lived at a place of that name.

We had a meeting and took the name Bensfont (So Bensfont must be Irish) But your Bensfont must be Canadian being in Canada. I hope this may prove satisfactory