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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.

Blind River
Algoma Dist. Oct

BLIND RIVER, ONT

Dear Sir./

November 6th, 1905.

With reference to the original name of this place, I have seen some of the Indians who have lived here for forty years. I am told that this place was called by the Indians "Penebawabikong" and means "A sloping Rock"

And the sloping rock referred to, is alleged to be the one on which the Mill Dam is erected at the Mill of Dolson & McEwen.

The name Blind River was given it by the French who came here about 1837 when one a Mr Silvy erected a small Saw Mill . The reason for calling it Blind River is alleged, that in coming to the ^{mouth} of the River on Lake Huron, the River itself could not be see, till you came right to it owing to the fact that before the present dam was erected, in times of high water, a little Rapids was formed immediately at the ^{mouth} of the River, When Silvy and his men landed here, they came in a vessel, and as they could not see the River, it is alleged that they named it Blind River.

With reference to the names of the Inland Lakes and Streams etc, I cannot procure information touching on them. The older generations of Indians have passed away, and the younger one cannot tell anything about their old names.

Respectfully,

Mc Hawkins
Asst Postmaster.