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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 25 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.

*Bracebridge*  
*Muskoka, Dist.* *Ott.*

\*right

Receipt

Board for  
North Falls.

James White Esq  
Ottawa.

Grace bridge  
Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> 185

Dear Sir

After extensive enquiries into the origin of the name of this Town I find the information very conflicting but give them as I get them - (1) The best authenticated version seems to be that it was named after Gracebridge in the novel "Gracebridge Hall" which was being much read in this district at the time the post office was first established here the name prior to that being "North Falls" after the falls in the centre of the village over which the Government road crossed. (2) a second version claims the name to have been derived from the first Bridge over the falls which had become very dilapidated & was very much "braced" - (3) while a third attributes it to the name of a surveyor who operated around here in the early days by the name of Brace. I think however the first is altogether the most likely derivation of the name the information coming direct from a resident who was ~~was~~ first settled here 46 years ago & was at a very early date a slave of the 2<sup>d</sup> of

Macaulay, Paper Ryde & M<sup>o</sup>therson - this  
town being then part of Macaulay.  
If there is any further information you  
would like to have I shall be pleased  
to endeavor to obtain it for you.

Yours truly

Alex<sup>r</sup> Salaman.

Town Clerk