

# Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

31 D/10

Ottawa,                     OCT 18 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.

*Burnt River*  
*Victoria, Co. O.N.*  
*Cameron lake*

*Ans'd*  
*Spent*

Burnt River

October 23<sup>d</sup> 1905

James White Esq

Dear Sir In replying to  
your enquiry re name of "Burnt River"  
Permit me to say that I am very  
much in sympathy with your undertaking  
and that if I can be of any assistance  
in any other way I should be most  
happy. and I hope you will be able  
to get information that will  
be correct as I know that already  
in the case of some places people  
will give you reasons for the names  
which are quite erroneous.

Burnt River was the name given  
to the post office when first  
established here by myself and  
two others each suggested some other  
name but we could not agree on  
any so took the name by which the  
then little settlement was mostly  
known for the reason that it had  
up to that time been reached only  
by canoe or boat up the "Burnt River"  
from Cameron Lake. The Burnt River  
was so named by hunters and  
trappers on account of the ash

color of the water being about the  
color of the water running of swamps  
or beaver meadows after burning

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While writing I may say that a  
great many of the present generation  
imagine that Cameron Lake was  
named after Mr John Cameron who  
for some years represented this  
county in the parliament of old Canada  
(Upper and Lower Canada) but such is  
not the case. it took its name  
from a Mr Cameron. (I think  
he was John also but am not sure)  
who was a fur trader and had  
his head quarters on that lake  
Many years ago I should say near  
100 years and it may be more  
as my father settled near there  
about seventy years ago and it  
was some time before that and  
it was Cameron's Lake then

yours Truly  
Sam Suddaby