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Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

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Ottawa, MAR 30 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.

Campbellford

Northumberland Co. Ont.

Department of the Interior

Office of Reclamation

Form 1

Make sand for
Seymour Bridge.

Campbellford April 11 1906

James White Esq
Ottawa
Ont

I have your communication
of the 30th inst and as I have been a
resident of this place since 1850 I know
only a very few persons who has been
here for such a length of time I will
try and give you the information
asked for to the best of my ability
& what I state I know to be correct
this village or hamlet when in its infancy
say about 1840 was called Seymour
Bridge, Seymour being the name of the
Township and a bridge having been
built across the River Trent it went
by that name until about the year 1852
about that time the name was changed
to Campbellford, about this time and
derived the name from two Army
Officers a Major and a Colonel
Campbell, who either purchased
or came into the possession of
considerable property in Seymour
Township a part being where the village

is now settled, and at the change
of name there was "fording place"
here, when the bridge was worn out
Now this is the way the place was
called Campbell's ford

Colonel Campbell died some
time in the forties & Major Campbell
died in Cobawing about 1852

I do not think either of these
Gentlemen made their home here
but were frequently here looking after
their interests. All the property
here belonging to these gentlemen
was purchased about by Messrs
Kerchaffer & Coakbown two well known
names the former being an influential
resident of Port Hope & the latter
the Hon. Jas Coakbown speaker in
the House of Commons who resided
in Cobawing and his brother Robt
Coakbown who resided here all
of these gentlemen are deceased
in 1850 the village contained about
half doz houses & as many shanties
and about 50 inhabitants
It is now a prosperous village of
nearly 300 and will come out in
its town decorations on 1st July next

I trust this short history
will be the means of
enlightening some person in
after years how this place
was called Campbeeford

Yours truly
W. D. McKee
Postmaster