

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 27 1905

40 P/2

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.

*Cathead
Brant Co Out*

see gardener

add
first
then

make card for Sydenham

Dear Sir

The name of Cathcart was taken from one General Cathcart at time when the regular soldiers were stationed at Joncton Brantford & Hamilton, and were moved from one place to the other and were marching through here at the time the name was changed from Sydenham to Cathcart there was a Sydenham in Northern Ontario which caused trouble with mail.

There is two ponds one mile west & one north joined by a small passage about wide enough for a boat to go through they are on two farms known as Weirs Thomas Weir & John G Weir's it name is Cooly Pond it got its name from one of the first settlers further Cooly who had a son drowned there I think this all that is all would be of interest to you it took me rather long to get this information as most of the old settlers are dead

Yours

John C Stephenson

Post Master at Cathcart

out

Cathcart Oct 18/55

Dear Sir

Yours of 10 day.

Acknowledging receipt of my letter re the name of Cathcart I was talking to an elder resident last evening he says that ~~he says~~ that General Cathcart was killed at the Brecon was at the battle of Alma at the time that Sydenham was changed to the name of Cathcart) there was trouble with the mail with the Sydenham north of here I am going to see an elder gentleman who is away at present and will let you know perhaps you could find out about Gen Cathcart if you do let me know as I would like to be sure as you would have access to the library and I will let you anything I can find out

Yours. John E. Stephenson

James White Esq. - ans'd
Cathcart Ottawa