

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

31 E/12

Ottawa, OCT 16 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.

Becebe  
Parry Sound Dist. Ont.  
Becebe Lake

Cecebe Nos. 1/05

Mr James White  
Geographer Ottawa

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 16<sup>th</sup> ult  
I would say concerning the Place "Cecebe"  
that it is a country post office in the Township  
of Byrson Larro Sand Dist. situated on the  
Lake Cecebe, an enlargement of the Maganotawan  
river that runs west and empties into Georgian  
Bay at Bins Inlet. we are 180 miles north  
of Toronto and 40 miles south of Lake Nipissing.  
The name Cecebe as far as I can learn  
originates from the Indian name of the  
Lake which they pronounced Shee Ship being  
"Wild Duck" in Indian. I am an old timer  
here being the second settler on the lake, coming  
here in the year 1874. I was instrumental in getting  
the first post office here which I still keep, and  
as customary with the P.O. Dept I was asked  
to name the office. I suggested the Indian name  
Shee Ship, but the Department boiled it down  
to Cecebe, for what reason I am unable to say.  
The leading features of the place is farming and  
lumbering. There are several sawmills on the lake  
it is also becoming quite a summer resort  
daily Steamers connecting with C.P.R. from  
Toronto, hoping you will be able to place us in this  
fair Dominion and that my future efforts may help you.  
Remain Yours Truly W. A. Cowan, Cecebe Ont