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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 28 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.

*Collins Bay P.O.
Frontenac Co. Ont
Collins (Bay, creek lake)*

Collins Bay Ont. 3rd. Jan'y 1906. -

Dear Sir -

In 75 - the matter of the information desired on the foregoing sheet handed me by you by Mr Postmaster Lodge here, I beg to submit you the following correct information that is to say: -
"Collins Bay" Village derived its name from the beautiful inland Bay, which was named after Surveyor General Collins who with Deputy Surveyor General Holland were the first Surveyors to run the Base lines of the Townships to enable Captain Michael Grass and his party to locate their lots granted to them by the Crown under George's Rex III about 1784 or 5. - Thus Collins Bay Collins' Creek, and Collins' Lake derived ^{their} names.

Some time in the 1860's Sir Henry Smith M.P. for this County who lived at Kingston, bought some land from one Lewis Grass, here, and had it laid out in Villiage lots, and changed the name to "Collinsby" although not recognized by the Government. and in 1876 Sir Alexr Campbell owning a lot here wrote me as Her. Majesty's Customs Officer the cause of the two names.

and ^{he} objected to Sir Henry Smith's name of Coltney
as it had not been properly recommended nor sanctioned
by the Post Office Department nor the Grand Trunk
Railway Company of Canada. - and thereafter the
name became obsolete.

Hoping this will prove satisfactory

Yours

Yours truly

W. H. Sears