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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.

*Colquhoun  
Dundas Co. Ont*

Colquhoun Dundas by Oct 7<sup>th</sup> 1805

Named after

Sir - My Father, John Colquhoun, came here from Scotland, Dumbarton shire, & Leys Parish, about the year 1823 with his wife & three children. He bought a bush Lot 2½ Miles from Neighbours except one who lived in a shack on the next Lot; His friends out in the settlement used to jolly him about his place, & call it the village, and when directing travelers this way, would point the <sup>way</sup> to go and to pass the village; the traveler would enquire what village, the answer would be Colquhouns village; so it became known by that name over these united Counties.

When my Father came here he had to pay \$1.25 postage to send a letter home to Scotland, He died in his village in March 1865. He had to go to Morrisburg twelve miles distant <sup>for mail</sup> for <sup>mail</sup> about twenty three years since we got a Post office here & called it Colquhoun and your humble servant was appointed The Postmaster. yours truly

J. J. Colquhoun P.M.

Colquhoun P.O. Ont