

40 J/16

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 2 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.

*Crowar*  
*Laubton Co. Ont*

*Yord ✓*

Gromar Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 05

James White Esq  
Dear Sir

In reply to the enclosed Circular I beg to state that the name Gromar was given by my father, after a district in Aberdeenshire Scotland, which the enclosed type written sheets show, and the enclosed Memoriam at page 13 gives a sketch of his birthplace written by himself in 1896, and at page 9 is a sketch of his life.

Hoping you will get the information you desire from the within enclosure.

I have the honor to be

Your Obedt Servant

John S Watson

Gromar.

Co of Lambton,

Ont

C R O M A R   A L I A S   C O R N M A R .

Those interested in the names of places and the study of philology in this locality, may naturally wish to know something of the etymology of the name of our new post office, "Cromar." In the view of the Diocese of Aberdeen, as reported in the Spalding Club Publications, it is stated that "Mar" is so named from "Martach" one of Fergus the First's captains, to whom that prince gave it for possession for his services in the year A.D. 300. Those familiar with celtic will see the analogy between "Martach" and "Caennteigh", the leader, or chief, of a Sept, or Highland Clan, whose castle was their fortress, his approbation his pride, who acted as their captain in the day of battle, their judge in time of peace, and was at all times their friend.

Scottish history frequently alludes to "The Brave Bowman of Mar," the forefathers of the "Gordon Highlanders," from whom two regiments were raised in defense of their country. The first of these, the old 81st, by Colonel Gordon, son of the Earl of Aberdeen, in the

year 1777: and the second, the present regiment of "Gordon Highlander," by the Marquis of Huntley in 1794, and who have since distinguished themselves for high valor in every hard fought battlefield in which engaged, and nowhere more than in South Africa where, side by side with our own brave Canadians, they so nobly vindicated the prowess of British arms, so that the children in our schools can still proudly sing "Rule Britannia."

Mar is subdivided into districts of Braemar Cromar, ( corrupted by usage to Cornmar,) Midmar and Logiemar. Cromar is one of the best grain districts in Aberdeenshire where all varieties of grain are called corn, but in America confined to maize or Indian corn. Thus to circumstances and events we are indebted for many words in our language, and also Cromar.