

31 F/14

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 17 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.

Davis Mills
Renfrew Co. Ont.

Davis' Mills, Nov. 3rd /05

The Geographer

Department of the Interior

Ottawa -

This place i.e. Davis Mills, was first named so, in the year 1856, when W. J. Leech started to keep a Post Office. Until this time it ^{had been} ~~was~~ known as "Indian River" on account of the Indian River flowing through this part. In the year 1857 W. J. Leech moved away & the office passed into the hands of Richard Davis, for whom it was named, because of him owning a mill on the river. Richard Davis built this mill in the year 1868. He ran this mill and also had a farm & while not sawing engaged in farming. He continued to keep the Post Office until ~~the year of~~ his death in 1899, when it passed into the hands of his son Richard E. Davis. who is the present Postmaster & who runs the mill & farm. The mill is run by water power.

Card for Indian River