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# Department of the Interior,

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 28 1906

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 who 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.

*Desborough now Desboro.*

Grey Co. Ont.



Desboro. 3 April 1906

Dear Sir

Have consulted the oldest settler conversant with history &c of this township of Sullivan (Mr. A. Stephen) the township clerk.

Desboro was the name given by the Post Office Dept to this office upon its establishment in 1867 or 8 & he knows of no significance to the name.

There is Desborough in England I believe & the title Lord Desborough

Yours truly

S. Palmer Postmaster

P.S. George Smith was the first Postmaster 14 years (about)  
Andrew Lindsay Henry second 3 1/2 years (about)  
Myself Samuel Palmer 3<sup>rd</sup> appointed 1885

I can give you <sup>Keward</sup> a post office established in the north end of the township about 6 years ago. It is named from a suburb of the City of Wells in Somersetshire England.

SP