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# 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.

*Quart*  
Kent-Co. *Quart*

James White Esq  
Geographer

Make card  
for Drumeden

Dear Sir - Re other side :

The original name for the village, now known as Duart, was Drumeden, named by Thos Caswell who owned the property on which village site stands. The Cunninghams purchasing the lands on the west half of the site changed the name of that portion to Kilmarnock, thus giving the place two names. Both the above names were taken from places in Scotland, nearly all the settlers in the village and vicinity being Scotch. In 1863 Thomas McLean interviewed the post office authorities, and had an office established in the village under the name of Duart. The strife between the two factions, as to what the name of the place should be, being very keen, Mr McLean in order to settle the dispute had the office named <sup>by Mr McLean</sup> after his native place in Scotland. Mr McLean was one of the principal men of the village owning and operating a large saw mill. A few years later he left Duart, and subsequently died in Manitoba. The word, Duart, is taken from the Gaelic, duh - darte, and iarth or art - tigh, no doubt the reference is to the castle in Scotland perched high upon a rock.

Duart, 5 Oct, 1905.

Yours truly  
R Currie  
P.M.