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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 5 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.

Reubarton
River Rouge *Ont. Ontario Co*

make card for



DUNBARTON — not Dumbarton as sometimes spelled

after the town on the Clyde in Scotland. —

received its name from William Dunbar, a Scottish wheelwright, from Largo, Fifeshire, who in 1832, purchased the west half of Lot 25 in 1st concession of the Township of Pickering, County of Ontario. After clearing away the bush he laid out part of his farm in village lots and gave it the name of Dunbarton — He worked his farm, served as Township Treasurer, Justice of the Peace, Treasurer of Pickering Harbor Co., lived many years retired in the village till his death in 1869, in his 84th year.

Dunbarton lies immediately to the north of Frenchman's Bay, or Pickering Harbor as it is sometimes called.

The name Frenchman's Bay is much older than Dunbarton and Dunbarton Station of the G.T.R. was for many years called Frenchman's Bay Station.

Of the name Frenchman's Bay, the only local tradition is that at some time in the past a Frenchman had found a watery grave there.

The late Principal Grant in his work Picturesque Canada, tells us that in 1669, the Sulpician had a mission at a Seneca village on the shore of Frenchman's Bay, called Gandatsetiagoni.

Abbe' Feuilou first of all Europeans explored the lake shore, and reached the Seneca village that overlooked Pickering Harbour. What Indian name was then borne by that quiet mead we know not, but thence forward for two centuries it was Frenchman's Bay. There Feuilou spent the last months of 1669 and the early months of 1670. He was undoubtedly the first teacher of languages in the county of Ontario.

"A little to the west of the Seneca village was a stream that gave kindly shelter to distressed canoes, and so by the Indians of the next century and of a different race it was named Kataboko Konkor. The river of easy entrance in making its way to the lake it pierced a hill of red tenacious clay which sufficiently colored its waters to justify the old French name of Riviere Rouge. It is still the Rouge and the name is interesting as the sole trace now remaining on this N.W. shore of the old Sulpician mission."

The writer of the above is a grand son of the above mentioned

St. J. Dunbar

Ed. P. Bell