

31 E/5

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

APR 12 1906

Ottawa,.....

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.

*Fetherston*

Parry Sound Dist. Ont.

P.S. - Should you desire to write  
to the parties mentioned on  
other sheet, their addresses are:

Mrs. E. A. Scott,

Parry Sound  
Ont.

and

Mr. Stephen D. Richmond,

Port Arthur,  
Ont.

? after John P. Featherston,  
County Registrar & Clerk, Ottawa

M.A.P.

?  
↑ Part on card with  
a question-mark

Fetherston, Ont.

Mr. Jas. White,

July 15, '06.

Geographer Dept. of Interior,

Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I have done my best to obtain the information requested by you on the attached sheet, but so far have not been able to learn anything. I know of only two persons living who ~~have~~ attended the meeting of residents of the neighborhood called to ask the P.O. department to establish a postoffice here. One of them, Mrs. Edith Scott was the wife of the first postmaster (now dead), at whose house the meeting was held and she does not know how the name came to be given to the place, but thinks it was given it by the P.O. department. The other, Mr. Stephen B. Richardson, of Port Arthur, Ont., was one of those at the meeting mentioned, and though I

have written him asking for the information, as to whether the name was suggested by anyone at that meeting or not and all other information about it that he could give me, I am sorry to say that I have had no reply to my enquiry.

There was no one of that name living here or in this neighborhood at that time, nor ~~before~~ before or since, of the name of Fatherston. This I know, as I have lived here for nearly forty years and the oldest pioneers of the place never knew or heard of any one of that name residing here or near. I think the name was really suggested by some one at Ottawa, and the department adopted the suggested name to please some friend there. Mrs. Scott was in the room while the meeting was in progress, and if the name was suggested by anyone she would certainly have known. The name was spelled "Fatherston" from the first, and never had any other name before or since, but I have been unable to find out the date when the office was established, but it must be pretty close on thirty years ago, sometime about 1873, or 1874, or 1876. I remain, very faithfully,  
Mrs. M. A. Peake, postmistress

31<sup>E</sup>/5

Queenan

Fetherston, Ont.

June 11, '86

Mr. Jas. White, (Geographer),

Dept. of Interior

Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

In response to your request of April 12<sup>th</sup> last, I have been trying to learn origin of the word "Fetherston", the name of this postoffice, but so far, unsuccessfully. The first and second postmasters are dead, and of the parties attending the first, and, I think the only, meeting to ask for the establishment of a postoffice here all are dead or have left the locality. I have only learned of the whereabouts of two of the latter and have written them to see if they can give the information desired, but have not heard from them yet. I will try to find out where any of the rest are, if alive, and write them also. My mother, who is postmistress here, has requested me to do this work for her, as she has been in ill health for some months past.

I remain, Sir, respectfully,

J. J. Peake

Parry Sound Ont