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# Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 30 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.

*Fisherhill  
Haldimand Co.*

## Fisherwick

The Village of Fisherwick Centrally located in the Township of Rainham in the County of Haldimand was so named after one Johann Fischer a shoemaker by trade, who moved to this sparsely settled locality in the year 1852 erecting a small log cabin on the corner of the lot, now the site of the present Eric Hodge ten years later viz 1862 a petition was circulated asking that a Post Office be established, which was granted by the Government of the day, This necessitated the finding of a name to be given; previous to this time it was simply a part of Rainham Township and as there was already a Rainham Post Office in the township, also a Rainham Centre P.O. some other name had to be chosen. A meeting for this purpose was called, and was well attended. The first proposition was that the name be Jacoby Town, as that was a very common name among the residents, An Amendment was moved that it be called Fisherwick, in honor of the old shoemaker Johann Fischer, the first settler, the amendment finally carried unanimously, Johann Fischer was still living, but in another part of the province. It was said the old Gentleman was very proud of the honor conferred upon him by his Rainham friends, He died a number of years ago. The land in the immediate vicinity is comparatively level, with just fall enough for drainage.

purposes. Lake Erie lies to the South a distance of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles  
The Grand River 5 miles to the east, Two Creek pass by it at a  
distance of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the East and West respectively  
The Stony Creek to West taking its name from the  
Hooley Limestone bed, The Hemlock Creek to the East  
deriving its name from a large Hemlock Tree where  
a spring gushed out, the source, being 2 miles north of the  
village. These two streams after passing the village  
gradually draw closer to each other until they  
finally meet and empty ~~immediately~~ into Lake Erie,  
Cayuga the County Town is 8 miles to N.E. Hazenville 9 miles N.W.  
Sellersville 5 miles S.W. Sunnville 18 miles East and Caledonia 16 miles North  
The present population is about 200. with about 40 Residences  
and business places, The soil is a heavy Clay with a  
limestone base at an average depth of 12 feet.

Natural Gas in good paying quantities can be found at an  
average depth of 5000 feet. in the Clinton and Red Medina  
Noelk. At the present time the villagers own two good  
wells, which supply a superabundance of gas for all  
purposes. such as heating, lighting, and power for  
operating several Mills and Factories.

The first letters came into the township about the year  
1836,

Yours Respectfully

James G. Paterson

Post Master. At Fisherville