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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... OCT 19 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.

*Freeport  
Leeds Co. Ont.  
Watkins*

Freeport - Oct-24<sup>th</sup>/05

James White, Esq.

Dear Sir,

I cannot give you any  
information regarding your inquiry but  
refer you to Mr Henry Lutz of Freeport  
as he is the oldest resident of this place.

Yours truly

F. Latch P. M.

Freeport Nov 13th 1905

Mr. James White Dear Sir-

In reply to your request I beg to say that Freeport P. O did not receive its name from any natural features of our country, neither was it named after ~~any~~ any person. It was named Freeport for the simple reason, that there was no other post office by that name, in Canada, {East or West, as it was then called} In 1840 there was a Toll Bridge built across the Grand River here, and from that time on the place always went by the name of Toll Bridge, until ~~the~~ we received a post office, which was named Freeport, and since that time the place has always ~~to~~ been called Freeport. This office would have received the name of River P. O. owing to its proximity to the Grand River, but in looking over the list of Canadian offices, we found there were River offices in existence already. So we had to choose another name, and Freeport was the choice, as it seemed a very fitting one, as while we had the Toll Bridge every person had to pay their toll, but with its abolishment it was really a Freeport Free-Port for entrance. This I know to be a fact as my brother and myself selected the name. Hoping this information is satisfactory-

I remain - Yours. Sincerely,

H. J. Lutz.