

310/12

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 17 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.

*Gibson
Simeon Co. P.M.*

Gibson Jan 5th 1902

Dear Sir I will write you a history of the country surrounding Gibson P.O. and you can make what you wish of any information I can give on the fall of 1864. My father Amos Dean who was the first settler in this part of the Township of Tully he is still living. came from the Township of Grenelg near what is now the village of Markdale. He and four others came and started clearing and built a log shanty then returned to Markdale. The four never returned but when the sleighing came my father hired teams to move himself and family to the new home in the wilderness but when the teams came to the mouth of the Notawasaga river they were afraid to cross the ice although it was perfectly safe so they dumped their loads off and left us there but a Mr. Vanlack a fisherman living there took us in and cared for us. I was then a boy of ten years old the oldest of the family. From Mr. Vanlack we had to cut a road through the bush a distance of about 10 miles get a yoke of oxen and a jumper and get moved in. So we were settled in the new home in the middle of the winter eight miles from the nearest settler in the township but there was three families living in the north end of town near what is now known as Allanwood named after Mr. Thomas Allan & Wm Wood the first settlers in that part. This was three miles away. Our riches consisted when settled in our new home consisted of three barrels of flour a cow a pair of three year old steers 75 cents in cash 100 lbs of beef and 20 dollars of a debt to pay of hardships we had plenty and I have walked a distance of nine miles to school night and morning to what is the almost town of Elmvale then only boasts a log school house and post office but we were never in want and were always contented and happy but we were not left alone very long alone Mr. Dan

Mr Lean and ^{Daws} ~~Dawes~~ coming in the next year
then several families of Mcraes came in and for
a long time this was known as the Mcrae
settlement but about 10 years after the first
settlement named ^{after} Mr Win Gibson now ~~residing~~ living in
Collingwood got up a petition for a Post office
which was granted and was named Gibson
after the petitioner who was also appointed Postmaster
Gibson is about 16 miles Due East from Collingwood
across the Georgian Bay an $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east from the
Clay Banks the most beautiful place on the Georgian
Bay 9 miles North west from Elmvale Mail or
stage runs ~~to~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ weekly from Gibson via
Allanwood to Elmvale and return Monday Wednesday
& Friday J P Dean Proprietor

Yours Truly

J P Dean

P M Gibson