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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 16 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.

*Golden Valley
Parry Sound Dist. Ont.*

Golden Valley, Oct 23, 1905.

The Geographer
Department of the Interior

Ottawa
Dear Sir, -

Your letter asking for information regarding the origin of the name, Golden Valley; was duly received. The Postmaster has asked me to answer.

In the fall of 1778 three farmers from Huron County, Mr Nesfield Mainprize, Mr Jas. Dobbs, Mr Barnard Fagan came up to Parry Sound District with the idea of taking up land. They came by steamboat from Collingwood to Parry Sound. From there they came through McKella and Dunchurch and pushed their way farther north. When a few miles south of this place, they got on the top of a high hill, from which they had

a good view of the surrounding country. Mr Fagan climbed a tree, from which he could see this valley, clothed with trees in all the beautiful colors of autumn. He cried out to his companions, "I see the Golden Valley." Since then it has always borne that name. Mr Manspitz took up a farm in Golden Valley on which he is still living with his wife and family. Before he came here, he was a farmer in Auburn, Huron Co.

Mr Fagan took up a farm here, but after staying about a year, he moved to Loring a place twelve miles west of this. Here, he married. After staying a few years he sold out and went to Parry Sound. He died there, but the exact date of his death, is not known.

Mr Jas. Dobbs lived on a farm here with his family until his death in March, 1789. He was born in Lincolnshire, England and came to Canada with his parents and brothers and sisters when a small boy. He was raised in Blanchert township, Huron County. At the age of 22 yrs. he took up a farm in Wanash township

Huron County; on which he lived four years before he came to Parry Sound District.

By the spring of 1779 his father, mother and all his brothers and sisters came to Golden Valley. Two of his brothers, George and William are still living here on farms, also his sister Annie,

Mrs Nesfield Mainprize.

All this information is willingly given by

Your obedient servant
Grace Gibmour
(Teacher).