

40 P/2

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 5 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.

*Golspie
Oxford Co. Ont.*

Nov 4, 1903-

Galspie has been known to the public about nine years. It is situated on the 8th line of West Terra, County Oxford, an old settle place, originally peopled by Highland Scotch almost exclusively. Now a little mixed up. This post office was opened Nov. 1, 1895. Then called Elmsdale from the name of the Sunday school held in the school-house close by. This name conflicted with Elmsdale of Muskoka, Elmsville, Huron Co, and a couple of other Elmsdales in other provinces. So a family named Sutherland whose birth place had been Galspie, Sutherlandshire Scotland, suggested the name of Galspie and it has retained that name ever since.

There are a number of old settlers here but they don't seem to want to do anything like the filling the paper. We came here strangers and built a general store and got the office and so have been the only occupants since its opening.

Hoping this may be satisfactory I am
Respectfully yours, E. J. Smith
assistant
In the absence of postmaster.