

310/3

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.

Greenbank
Ontario Co Ont.

Greenbank Nov 2nd 1905-

To James White Esq

Geographer

in reply to yours of Oct 5th

I would say Greenbank was named after the place my Grandfather emigrated from in 1832 and situated in Lancashire near Lancaster in the Township of Wraydale there was upper and Lower Greenbank there but were only little hamlets of a few houses connected with farms the first p. office established here was about a mile and a half from the present village and through the influence of my Uncle was named Greenbank after their old country home. after some years the p. o was removed to the present village which previously had been called Gumblet Town as a kind of nickname owing to the fact that several of the residents were carpenters or woodworkers there also had been an attempt to call the place Smithtown owing to the fact that one Richard Smith built the first Hotel and had that name printed on his house. But when the post office was moved here that fixed the name of the village by common consent and shortly after there was a plan prepared of the village and Registered in the Registry Office at Whiteby

I cannot give you the exact dates but the
first postoffice must have been established about 30 years
ago a man named VanAllen was the first postmaster
He and the first in the present village was Edward
Bassingthwaite ~~to~~ I remember these facts as
I was born here and am now 60 years old
yours Respectfully
Timothy E Cragg. J. P.

p. s. should there be any other information
you require I will try to get it for you