

31 E/4

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... OCT 4 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.

*Gregory*  
*Muskoka Dist.*

W. White Esq  
Ottawa Dear Sir;

Gregor Out  
12<sup>th</sup> Oct 1903-

Re 'Gregory Out'

As requested I give you some information regarding the above place Gregory

Some 35 years ago I came out from England with my wife & took up land on Joseph River, Lake Rosseau, Muskoka. At that time there was no direct communication between this place & the front. The nearest Railway Station being Belle Ewart - from thence we went by Steamer (Emily May) to Orillia & thence by Steamer (Carriella) to Washago - from which place we had to take stage to Gravenhurst & then by Steamer up Muskoka Lake to Bracebridge & on to Port Carling, which at that time was end of navigation on Muskoka Lakes. Afterwards we had to go on in canoes. There were only one or two portboats on lakes at <sup>the</sup> time. Originally the outlet of Lake Joseph to Lake Rosseau was Joseph River but soon a cut was made at Port Sandfield which brought the lakes to same level. After some years the rocks at head of Joseph River were blasted out & now Steamers of moderate size such a private launches to go up & down

Re name

Twenty five years ago I was given a post office (before that Port Carling was the nearest office) - The Post Office Department named it after me - "Gregory". I have been postmaster <sup>ever</sup> since the office was established & it still retains the same name although I had to take the name of Allen as well having inherited an estate in the old country. I have seen

considerable changes in this part of the country  
since I came here but probably they would be  
of little interest to you. If however I can give  
you any further information I shall be pleased  
to do so. -

Yours truly

W Gregory - Allen