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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 29 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.

*Hauptden  
Grey Co. Osh*

Allan Park P.O. Oct 16<sup>th</sup> 1905

Mr James Whyte - Geographer

Sir The Hampden Post Master handed this paper to me, saying that I could perhaps give the information asked for. So I proceed to do so as well as I can.

Hampden P.O. was so named by the Post Office Department, probably after the Hampden of English History who opposed the tyranny of Charles 1st. It is a Sub Office kept in a farm house, there being no village or hamlet there yet. The mail is carried in from Allan Park twice a week, a distance of about three miles directly south.

Allan Park and Hampden lie between the Big Saugene and Beaty Saugene rivers; Hampden being a little south of the height of land or watershed between the two rivers, and nearly half a mile north of the Beaty Saugene. Hampden is in Normanby Township and Allan Park in Bentinck. The Beaty Saugene runs into the Big Saugene a little below Hanover which is five miles west of Allan Park, which may be called a hamlet. The country between Allan Park and Hampden is very hilly and rough and rolling,

with several fine spring creeks of extra good water. The range of hills run North West just here, or North of West, and is said to be a part of the range that <sup>runs</sup> up through old Ontario from South to North. The high land has much gravel and limestone, and dips into swamp here and there. Yet there is some very good farming land in the district.

Allan Park takes its name from a Scotch family by the name of Allan; three brothers and a sister. They were well educated, and quite above the common run of settlers. They had a pretty good farm, with the first store and Post Office in the district; the whole called Allan Park, and situated about half a mile West of the present Allan Park. They were said to be dear storekeepers, but strictly honest. They struggled on for many years against bad times and low prices, and at length left for Milwaukee not long before times and prices began to improve. They would be among the earliest settlers, something like fifty years ago, and cut the lumber for their house with a whip saw, I think. They were called Thomas, George and Robert Allan. The lady's name I don't know. An old Scotch wisacre said it was a pity to see them going away, and the riff raff left behind.

Speaking again of Hampden, before the P O was established that vicinity was called the Scotch Block, and its denizens were somewhat noted for honesty and persevering industry. It is mostly Scotch or Scotch Canadian yet, though many of the old settlers are gone, and the Germans are encroaching a little on it. Some of the old settlers were liable to be the worse of liquor now and again, but the community is very sober now. A Presbyterian Church stands across from the P O.

Yours Truly James C. White.

Your name sake with you