

319/9 319/9

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 3 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.

*Harlem  
Leeds Co. Deb*

Harlem, Ont. can certainly bear the name  
of a very picturesque little place - and  
not only picturesque but historic. At  
one time it was a thriving place, consisting  
of saw-mills, grist-mills, carding mills,  
hotels, churches, stores, factories, black-  
smith shop and schools, halls (Forester,  
and Prentice Boys) but by the total destruction  
of fire it now only presents a ruinous  
spot. The village overlooks a never-  
ceasing creek, flowing from Rideau  
Lake and River into the Beverley Lake at  
Delta, the former lake being noted for its  
fisheries of salmon and bass.

Where Harlem derived its name I can  
not tell, but its former name was  
Smith's mills. It now only contains a  
church (M. E.) 2 halls, one store, one  
grocery, school house (public) black-smith  
shop, cheese factory, a beautiful cemetery,  
and numerous dwelling homes. The  
population of Harlem is about 75.

prob after Harlem, Holland