

40 P/8

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 25 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.

Aspeles
Waterloo Co. Ont

Hespeler, Ontario, Oct. 6th, 1905.

The Geographer,
Department of the Interior,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir.-

I am in receipt of your favor of the 25th of September in which you ask for information as to the derivation of the name "Hespeler," Ontario.

I might say that the original name of the Town before Incorporation (1859) was New Hope. The derivation of which name I am unable at present to ascertain. There is an old story about the first resident having his House blown down and all hope of the foundation of the Town here being gone, and some timely assistance coming to hand the building was re-constructed and there was then New Hope. I am unable to verify the accuracy of this.

After Incorporation as a village the name Hespeler was used as Jacob Hespeler who was the (big man) in the Town was the owner of a distillery, grist mill and cotton Mill etc, and employed a very large amount of labor in connection with his mills and on his Farm and about the House. He died some years ago.

I trust this information will be of some use to you, and I will be pleased at any time to give you what information I can get hold of.

Yours truly,

W. Brewster,

Per, *E.D.M.*