

40 P/12

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

OCT 2 1905

Ottawa,.....

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.

Dear Sir - Herewith please find particulars

Holmesville

which I can procure.

Huron Co.

Yours

Yours Respectfully,

*a J. Courteau
P.M.*

A family named Holmes of five brothers all grown to manhood, some of whom were married, two married sisters, with their parents, came from near Kilkenny Ireland in 1832, and settled in the unbroken forest of the Huron Tract at a place ^{afterwards} ~~now~~ named from them Holmesville. John Holmes, the eldest and most distinguished member of the family, served the Public for a great number of years as member of the District Township and County Councils, Warden of the united Counties of Huron and Bruce for several years, also member of Parliament for the same united Counties. He died in 1875. His widow in her 100th year still lives on Holmes' hill, the identical spot where their first shanty was constructed 73 years ago. William Holmes, the only other survivor of the party, also near 100 years of age, was the first Postmaster and Merchant in the Village. He now resides in British Columbia. Numerous descendants of the family are scattered over Canada and the United States.

Holmesville is surrounded by a rich agricultural country. It is served by the Grand Trunk Railway ^{with} the beautiful ~~Maitland~~ Maitland river, ["] called by the Indians Menesetung, ["] in the vicinity.