

41 J/5

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 27 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.

Isbester
Algoma Dist, Ochr

There are thriving settlements on
4 sides of this station

Post. after late James Isbester, contractor?
(J. White, 1905)

Isbester

Sept 30th 05

James White Esq
Ottawa

Dear Sir

Yours of 27th to hand & in reply would say
I was the first settler here & have been here 4 years.
The C.P.R. Co had a section house here for some
years previous to my arrival, I cannot find any one
who knows why this station was named "Isbester", but
probably the C.P.R. Co can inform you.

There are so many "Post Offices" with names similar to
"Isbester" that Postal Matter is constantly going astray
(such as "Asbestos", "Lybster") & therefore I think it
would be judicious to have the name changed to some
other more appropriate. I would propose the name
"Hematite", as that mineral is found on 4 sides
of this Valley: As I own the Townsite (621 ac)
Stone & Saw Mills, I don't think any person would
object to the change of name & it would be much more
satisfying for the Postal Authorities. However I
do not know the necessary steps to take to have the
name changed, truly yours Louis Garnett
(Postmaster)