

31 P/10

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 18 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.

Kirkfield
Victoria B.C. *Oct.*

Kirkfield.Oct.24th. 1905.

James White.Esq.

Geographer.

Ottawa.

Dear Sir:- re "Kirkfield"

Some 46 years ago the Villagers petitioned the Government to establish a post office here. They were asked to furnish a name and choose "Novar" but were informed that that name was already in use, and were sent a list of some eight names to choose from, among which was the name "Kirkfield" and that one was selected.

I am not certain as to its origin, but from reading Scottish History I should judge it was originally "Kirk-O-Field" or "Kirk-of-the-field" Mary Queen of Scots we are told endowed Edinburgh University with certain grants of confiscated church property. Her second husband was her cousin Henry Stewart, (Lord Darnley), after they quarrelled he talked of leaving the country, and went as far as Glasgow where he took sick of small-pox and was removed to "Kirk-O-Field" and lodged in a small mansion on which part of the Edinburgh University is now built; and while there the place was blown up with gunpowder. No doubt you remember the story. This I think is the origin of the name "Kirkfield".

Yours truly,

Quasgrove

Township Clerk.

Eldon