

31 P/13

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 17 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.

*Lawson*  
*Simcoe Co. Ont.*



Lawson Post Office on Lot 5 Con, 14 Say townships  
Two miles north of the East end of Georgian Bay.  
The Office was ~~after~~ named after the Oldest Living  
Settler of North River Settlement (Walter Lawson)  
who was 31 years in Municipal matters from councillor  
to warden of the county of Simcoe and is living yet  
Coldwater is the nearest village to North River  
Being  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant on the G. S. Railway  
The name of the village was derived from an old  
Indian name meaning cold River (Gissinausebing)  
North River takes its rise from Bass Lake in the  
Township of Oro passes through the townships of  
Orillia Matchedash and Say into Matchedash Bay  
at the Extreme East end of Georgian Bay.  
A G. S. R. Railroad is now under construction  
through North River Settlement who gave  
The name of North River I cannot find out  
But it was known by this name in 1834