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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.

Lindsay ✓
Victoria Co. Ont.

Lindsay, Ont., Oct., 4th. 1905.

James White, Esq.,
Geographer,
Department of Interior,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:-Replying to your circular letter of 25th. ulto. The only record I am able to find respecting the derivation of the Town of Lindsay is attached to a map of the Town made in 1891 and is about as follows,-

"The Township of Ops was laid out for settlement and surveyed between the years 1825 and 1833. In the centre of the Township on the banks of the River Scugog a plot of land containing 400 acres was reserved and granted to Mr. Purdy, who erected the first mill in the County of Victoria, around which grew a hamlet called "Purdy's Mills".

The year 1825 marked the advent of the first settler.

As late as 1836 there were only two settlers on the Town plot

During the period of laying out the Town plot the name was changed to Lindsay called so from the fact that a surveyor of that name died and was buried on the plot.

In 1840 Kent Street was cut out from the forest.

On reference to "Smith's Canada" published in 1851 we find the following description of the Village of Lindsay in the Township of Ops, viz:- "The village contains 300 inhabitants, a grist mill with three run of stones, a saw mill, a carding mill, a foundry, a tannery, and ashery, with one (Roman Catholic) Church."

In 1857 the village was tapped by the Port Hope, Lindsay and Beaverton (now the Midland) Railway.

In this year Lindsay was incorporated as a Town with intermediary Village Government.

In 1861 the Town was almost completely wiped out by a disastrous fire, but rapidly sprung up from the ashes.

In the year 1851 as already shown the population of the village was about 300.

In 1891 the population of the Town is 7000 with an assessed value of above \$2,000,000."

Yours Obediently,

F. Knowlson
per *F.C.*

Town Clerk.