

314/3

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 3 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.

Macdonald

Out
Forester Island Lennox Co.

Macdonald

Macdonald is merely a post-office, and neighborhood. There is a Methodist church and one school-house but no stores or other buildings than dwellings here.

The neighborhood was given a post office twenty-two years next spring. Before then the people here, went to Napanee - a town about seven miles from here for their mail. At this time it was given the name Macdonald, after Hon. John A. Macdonald, as most of the residents and the post-master at that time was of the same politics. It has retained the name Macdonald, ever since.

Macdonald borders a part of the Bay of Quinte near the mouth of the Napanee River, and just across the bay from Deseronto. This bay is known as Mohawk Bay and is over a mile in width.

A few miles up the river, on this side a battle was once fought between two tribes of Indians - one being the Mohawks. The Mowhawks were victorious and the opposing tribe was all slain. Their corpses and battle-axes are yet to be found in

pits where they were buried after the battle was over.

There are two islands in sight of Macdonald. Forester's Island is situated to the West, near Wesseronto. The former name of this island was "Captain John's Island". Only recently has the name Forester's Island been applied on account of the erection of the Forester's Orphan's Home, on the western part of the island. The other Unger's Island is situated in the mouth of the river to the East of this place.

Yours sincerely
Geo. Spencer

* J.O.F.