

41A/10

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 28 1906

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 who 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.

*Meaford*

Grey Co., Ont.

Georgetown  
April 4<sup>th</sup> / 06

The Township of St Vincent was called  
after Lord St Vincent -

The town of Georford after his Country Seat

L. E. Layton  
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Meaford April 21<sup>st</sup> 1906

James White Esq  
Dear Sir

Your Circular re. origin of names in this locality has been handed to me for reply.

The town of Meaford is situated at the mouth of the Big head river in the Township of St. Vincent County of Grey. The Township of St. Vincent is named after the Earl of St. Vincent and the Town after his County seat Meaford.

There is a legend that among the first settlers to arrive at the mouth of Bighead River was a lady, and it being necessary to cross the river she said "find me a ford" hence Meaford. The Bighead River derives its name from the finding at its mouth by a party of Surveyors Comped there of an enormous skull washed up upon the shore.

Yours truly

A. C. Ford

Meaford names