

40 P/16

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 16 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.

Melville Cross
Reel Co. O.W.

Melville Cross, Ont., Oct 23, 1905

Dear Sir:- As requested by you in your circular of the 16th inst., as to the location and derivation of this place.

I might say that this place is situated on a branch of the Credit River at the junction of the Toronto, Grey & Bruce and Credit Valley branches of the Canadian Pacific Railway, at the foot of a range of hills, commonly called here the "Melville Mountains"; but which are said to be a continuation of the same range of hills or mountains near the City of Hamilton, Ont..

It was surveyed by the late Jesse Ketchum of Orangeville, Ont., about fifty years ago. It was named "Melville" by him after the family name of a Mrs. Watson, who lived on a farm adjoining the village, at that time, but who has been dead for thirty years now.

On account of a place in Prince Edward County, Ont., with the same name, and the two aforementioned railways crossing one another, ~~before~~ it was called "Melville Cross", its present name. The two railroads having joined together here ^{since then} and the station called "Melville Junction", there is every likelihood of the name being changed to the same as the railway station.

Yours truly,

Pastmaster,
Melville Cross, P.O.