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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 18 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.

Midhurst
Sinclair Co. etc.

Ans'd
Good

Midhurst Postoffice in the Township of Vespra Co Lomase, named
named by the P.O. Authorities after a small town of that name in
England, opened in the year 1864, with the present postmaster in charge.
Previous to 1864 the settlement was known as Oliver's Mills.


In the year 1830, one George Oliver received a grant from Government of
a Water power and 200 acres of land on condition of him building a
grist and saw mill which was built and operated by him and his partner
Spo Mairs. Hence the name of "Oliver's Mills".

The surrounding country at that time contained very valuable pine and
and other timber ^{but} which was ^{at that time to the settlers} of no value but considered by the settlers as an
encumbrance of their work, ⁱⁿ clearing the land for crops, and only to be got rid of
by burning. Subsequently however the timber became very valuable and
fortunes were made out of it. Oliver's Mills (now Midhurst) became a busy lumber
village with several saw mills in its vicinity and a distillery making whiskey
and selling it at 25^{cts} per gal. to the settlers who bought it by the bar.

In 1854 Vespra, ~~to~~ ~~the~~ ~~with~~ united for Municipal purposes with Barrie
Flos and Sunnedale, became a separate Municipality built a Township hall
at Midhurst, still used for Council meetings etc, and appointed the present
incumbent of the office, their Clerk and Treasurer.

J. Sneath

P.M. Midhurst

Make  red for
Oliver's Mills.

The sexton of the within parish
now in his 86th year of age
has been a resident of the Town-
ship of Vespra since the year
1842 and is now the oldest living
~~known~~ pioneer settler of the Township.

Any other information of the Township
of Vespra or Medhurst you may require
if in his power, he will be only
too happy to send you.