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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.

Mille Roches, Ont., November 2nd, 1905.

Dear Sir:-

In reply to your letter of the 18th ult., I beg to say that Mille Roches was named by the early navigators of the St. Lawrence River and the name was derived from the rocky formation of the bottom of the river in this locality.

It must have been at an early date. I have an extract from a report made by Captain J. Sherwood of the Loyal Rangers to John Collins, Surveyor General, in 1788. It says Ensign Botham and seven men of the Loyal Rangers left Montreal on the 19th of September, 1783 and proceeded up the river in a boat, reaching the west end of Lake St. Francis on the 23rd. A party was sent back from the river to explore the country, when the boat proceeded up the river eighteen miles, where they were joined by the exploring party and they camped the evening of the 24th at Mille Roches.

Being situated at the foot of the Longue Sault Rapids, it was the natural landing place and for many years all the passengers and freight were landed here for portage. This rendered it a very brisk business place during the early thirties and until the Cornwall Canal was completed,