

31D/5

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.

*Missing
Simcoe Co out*

Minising. Oct. 30. 1905.

Jas. White.
Geographer.
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your enquiry would say that "Minising" appears to be an Indian name meaning 'Island'. This is borne out by the natural features, as it is a hill surrounded by a valley, and the land in said valley being composed of marl clay, full of shells. - On the south east side we have a gravel-pit and the action of waves can be easily seen in the formation of the deposit. - This same side of the hill appears to have been one of the Indian villages or camping grounds. as pieces of pottery and pipes arrowheads can be dug up from a depth of a few inches & the ground at that depth has the appearance of being burnt. The place was named by one Colin McDougall (who got it from the Indians) about the year 1865.

Yours truly
A. Ronald P.M.