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Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, APR 14 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.

Mongolia

York Co. Ont.



I have obtained some information from Robt. Curtis (the former Postmaster) of Mongolia. He says this place was called "California Corners" and the residents wanted the Office called by that name, but the Member of Parliament at that time changed it to Mongolia, as he said the name "California Corners" was too long and would in time conflict with (California U.S.A.) the members name was Amos Wright and he lived at Richmond Hill.

There is a story of a man by name of Corbett who lived here before the place had any name and it is said he bought horses and lumber and other things on credit and shipped them away and then went to California himself and they named the first name of the place after him (or rather his destination)

This is all I can find out, Mr Curtis was the first P. M. here and was here for almost forty years from 1865 until 1904



and he kept store here for 44 years  
Hoping this will answer your purpose

I am Yours faithfully

E. C. Emerson

T. M.  
Wongkhai Ind