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# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 29 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.

*Morpeth*

Kent Co. Ont

## Morpeth.

The village of Morpeth contains about three hundred inhabitants and is very pleasantly and prettily situated on Talbot Street in the Township of Howard twenty-two miles east from the city of Chatham, one and a half mile North from Lake Erie and four and one-half miles South from the flourishing town of Ridgton with which town it is connected by a daily line of stages.

Its commercial and mechanical institutions embrace a list such as villages of similar size usually possess. One hotel and two churches perform their respective functions and contribute their quota, in common with other attractions, toward constituting Morpeth one of the most progressive and pleasant little rural villages in this region.

In 1815 however marked the arrival of the first settlers upon the site of Morpeth, in the persons of three Nova Scotians and two brothers Joseph and Robert Woods. The former's son, James cut the first tree on the site of that village.

Early in the year 1817 a family by the name of Cole moved into the neighborhood of which Morpeth now forms the centre and soon followed the arrival of others in the same locality who steadily transformed the recent forest into a scene

of Jones development.

The first store in Morpeth was opened by one Edward Lee who had established a similar institution on the Howard and Harwich townline

about 1822 and removed to Morpeth about

1826.

It was in the late forties or early fifties that the name now borne by the village was conferred upon it by the choice of the people that of "Morpeth" being named after Lord Morpeth who at that time <sup>(ca. 1850)</sup> was making a tour through Canada by stage and who chanced to stop over night at the village known previous to that as the Red Store or Lee's corner.

Morpeth, July 5<sup>th</sup> 1906.

Mr. Jas White,

Ottawa,  
Ont.

Dear Sir:-

In response to your request re. information about Morpeth, I herewith send you all I have been able to grasp. Hoping that what I have sent you will be of some use to you.

I am Sir,

your obedient servant,

Mary S. Johnson.

Post Offices,  
Morpeth.