

40 P/15

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 25 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.

Maunt Forest, Arthur Sp. (Ans d)  
Wellington Co. Ont.

Forest-seat, book-les

" " Queens-les

" House, seat, West Heath

" " , " Queens-les

I am informed and believe -

that the Village - now Town - of Mount Forest was named after a place in Ireland suggested by Frederick McDonald - who came from Ireland and who was one of the first settlers in Mt Forest and who was, I think, the first Post Master in the Village -

"Maitland" was the first name suggested for the new Village (being on the Maitland River) but as the name Mount Forest was suitable on account of the natural features or appearance of the Village and neighborhood Mr. McDonald's desire was agreed to and the Village plot was called Mt. Forest

Mt Forest Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1905

H. C. Perry  
Town Clerk

OFFICE OF  
THE CLERK  
OF THE CORPORATION

Flour-nail  
Puk ✓

MOUNT FOREST, ONT., April 6<sup>th</sup> 1906

James White Esq.  
Geographer  
Ottawa

Dear Sir  
Referring to your letter of October last re derivation of "Mount Forest".

I have at last got hold of Mr. McDonald and he has shown me some letters from Mount Forest - Ireland - one is dated March 1869 in which the writer refers to his Town being named after the Irish Town - of the same name - The place is not far from Dublin the son says

The River here runs along between 2 pretty steep hills and no doubt when the forest was on - it would look pretty Mountainous -

Yours truly  
W. Cherry  
Town Clerk

Mt. Forest  
Wellington Co. Ont