

Town Clerks Office.  
W. A. Grange. Clerk.

3147

Napanee, Ont.

September 29th., 1905.

James White Esq.,

Geographer, Department of the Interior,

O T T A W A. O n t.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of the 23rd., making inquiries as to the origin of the name "Napanee", and asking for other particulars.

I believe the name originally was derived from the Indian, and signified generically "flour", and afterwards obtained the significance of "the flour mill". The name has not always been spelled "N a p a n e e", but has gone through several variations of that spelling. There has been some controversy in our local paper (the "Napanee Beaver") in respect to the exact origin and significance of the name, and probably the person best informed on all the history and tradition bearing upon the matter is Mr C.C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, of Toronto, who was formerly a resident here. The fact that it would seem to have the meaning of "the flour mill" is in a measure confirmed by the fact that many of the old settlers in the front part of the County still speak of the place as "the Napanee".

The first white settlers located here probably about 1780, and I believe the grandfather of Sir R.J. Cartwright was given a grant of the land which includes the town site. He built the flour mill just below the falls of the Napanee River, and there is still a mill there owned by Sir Richard J. Cartwright. I may say in passing, that I believe my own great grandfather was ~~the~~ a first mill-wright employed by the Cartwrights, and I think he came to the Town in 1791.

W. A. Grange  
Town Clerk, Napanee

*Napanee Ont*  
*Ans'd*  
*Lennox Co.*  
*P.S. There is some discussion of the matter in Cariff's "Settlement of Upper Canada" pages 208-9 -*