

41A/2

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 29 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.

*Keuagh*  
*Out*

County of Grey came to existence in 1852. It was called after Earl Grey, the father of the present governor-general. South Grey used to be Normanby, named after Lord Normandy, the name originating from William I of Normandy.

✓ Egremont - named after Lord Egremont, who lived in North west of England.

✓ Bentinck, named after Lord Bentinck.

2. Glenedg - from the name of a parish in the northwest of Invernesshire, Scotland.

Mount Forest - formerly belonged to South Grey was first known as Maitland Bush on account of the south branch of Saugeen flowing through it, which branch was supposed to be the Maitland River, which empties into Lake Huron at Goderich. The post-office was started in year 1856 - post master - William Mc. Donald. - native of the town of Forest in Province of Kintyre, Ireland. Hence the name Mt. Forest.

Kenagh P.O. - from the name of a town in the county Tipperary, Province Munster, Ireland.

Ayton - supposed to be named after a town in the south east Scotland or after Professor Ayton.

Hampden - after the great patriot of Charles I. Lincoln.

Varney P.O. - first known as Enniskillen - but when they got a post office name was changed to that of Varney. A gentleman - Provost - started grist mill, distillery, & saw mill and Varney was named after maiden name of his wife.

Orchard P.O. was first known as Formanby P.O. A farmer opposite the P.O., named John Orchard - was the means of changing the name to that of Orchard.

Holstein the P.O. began 1863. at the time of the war between Germany & Danes about the sovereignty of Holstein.

Letter Green from the name of a place in county Fermanagh, Ireland.

Glendon - P.O. first built in a little glen. Hence name Glendon.

Caldenwood P.O. Began in 1883. Post Master Calder. Then name changed to Caldenwood.

In his 74<sup>th</sup> year  
Malcolm MacPhee  
Fenagh, Ont.