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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 19 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.

New Dundee
Waterloo Co. Ont.

New Brundeu, in the South easterly part of Wilmot Township Co
Waterloo, located on the Alder creek a beautiful spring water stream
which in time past contained only speckled trout & was named so on ac-
count of its banks being covered with alders. It was named after the
Classic City on the Frith of Tay, Scotland. John Millan a native
of Brundeu Scotland was the founder. He was a refugee of the war of 1812
having previously been engaged in mercantile business near the
whirl & rapids on the N. York side of Niagara river one of his
unfortunate experiences of that struggle was when 500 British
soldiers & Indians crossed the river, set fire to & destroyed his store
with all its contents & made him a prisoner. The other members of the fami-
ly succeeded in making their escape with the horses. Some time after
the family returned & found nothing but ruins living in want, moun-
ting the loss of their supplies where fate they were ignorant. He
was liberated & arrived home an evening entirely unexpected by the
family. They moved to this part about the year 1826. From that time
dates the history of Bonie New Brundeu, Mr Millan giving it that name
he at an early work & built the first saw mill in the township & kept
a very small store bringing the goods up from Hamilton with an ox cart
(2 wheels) John Millan sold the premises to his brother Fred. G. Millan who
in the year 1849 built the grist mill, the first Hotel, a Mr Bond using it as
a Temperance house. Samuel Forney was the first sawyer & Mr Slatt the
first grist miller. The Alder is a small fresh clear cold water brook
starting 6 miles north & running south with numerous curves traverses the
centre of the noted hard wood belt which divided the Waterloo plains
from the Wilmot Tinery, these woods were dense & literally filled with
wild animals, these bears frequently travelled from the one side
cover to the other & on their way quenched their thirst when crossing the Alder
It is said that a hunter by the name of Jacob Bettschen once counted 31
deer while crossing the creek. Bear, wolves & wild cats had their
trails & could be seen when passing. It was in the vicinity of these
trails where the pioneer hunters laid their deer snare, wolf traps &
Bear catches made of logs. Among the most noted pioneer hunters were
Dan Schover, Jim Crombach, John Bettschen the Salsburg, John Klopf
Stim & a Mr Steward, many daring exploits & encounters are told
of these courageous backwoodsmen. Many relics are found & dug up in
this district showing unmistakable signs that the Red man of the forest once
reigned here supremely. Many rare stone & copper specimens were found by
the writer along the Alder being a proof that these of yore this was
a noted Indian centre. Some of the finest largest & oldest
trees are still standing in this neighborhood, much care having
been had to preserve the original forest.

G. Bettschen