

40 P/15

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 30 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.

Newbridge
Huron Co. Oct

Newbridge January 14th 1906

Dear sir

You wish to know from what source Newbridge took its name

I may say that a small store was built here on the banks of the Matland River

where the country was a dense forest and very few settlers and some years later some village lots were laid out and the village was named Spenceston because William Spence owned the farm that the village was laid out on But there was a Spenceville P.O. at that time and the P. office could not take that name and there was some good and true Irishmen here at the time and there was a town in Ireland where they come from named Newbridge and they decided to call the P.O. Newbridge after the town in good old Ireland

These events all took place about the years from 1855 to 1860

Truly yours

James Hallis

one of the first settlers
