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# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, ..... APR 11 1906

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 who 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.

*Nicolson*

Simcoe Co. Ont.

Nicolson

Apr 27<sup>th</sup> 1906.

(1) Nicolson was named after the first man who settled here

Mr John Nicol is his name

He came to the place and built  
Saw-mill - Grist-mill & post office  
when the country was all bush

Being asked to give a name to the  
place he first called it Underhill.

This name he chose from the fact that  
the hill is prettily situated on  
the Kottawasaga river and surrounded  
by hills. This name was rejected  
as there was a place somewhere  
called by that name.

He then called it Carlisle after  
his home in Scotland.

This was also rejected and the  
name Nicolson was finally settled  
on being derived from the  
name Nicol.

Mr John Nicol spent his life  
in the place sparing neither  
his labor or money to make  
it what it is.

He died in the year 1893

I hope this information will  
be satisfactory.

Yours sincerely

E. Nicol

F.M.