

Department of the Interior

GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, November 4th, 1905

40 P/7

Dear Sir,

Could you give me any information respecting the derivation of the name "Nith" as applied to the stream which runs through your village.

Thanking you in advance.

Yours truly,

James White
Geographer

James Brown, Esq.,
Postmaster,
Nithburg, Ont.

*Nithburg
Perth Co. Ont.*

40P/7

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 16 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.

Nithburg
Perth Co. Ont.

Aus'd

X

Reply Reported by J. A. Brown pm
Nithburg

The Old John Brown Family Came to the Huron Tract
In January 1840. and settled down ~~of~~ Lots 18 & 19. 11th Con⁻cession
of the Township of North Easthope. on a Creek or Stream which
passed through these lots. at that time called Highland Creek
on which the Brown family erected a Saw and Flour Mills.
This place was then known for many years by the name
of Browns Mills. at that time the nearest Post Office
was Stratford. a distance of 14 miles.

about the year 1847. a post office was opened at Bells Corners
(Now - Sheakespeare) 8 miles south of Browns Mills. from
Browns Mills - - The people in this part of the ^{W.P.}
in 1849 applied and got permission to get their mails
from Bells Corner box to Browns Mills once a week
by a carrier paid by the people. and placed
in charge of James Brown at Browns Mills. ~~now~~
a Lady ^{16 years old} of the name of John Brownlee carried the mail
once a week (Saturdays) During the year of 1849.

The mail was carried in a Sackel on the Boys Back
in 1849. James Brown became owner of lots 17 & 18 on the
12th Concession of North Easthope through which the
River Nith flowed. affording an excellent water power
he got a village plan of 250 lots surveyed out 1/4 mile
north of Browns Mill on the River Nith. on which
he afterwards erected a Saw - flour & wool Carding
Mills. the new village was named after the
name of the River (Nithburg) The village flourished
and became the place of general business for many
years. In 1850 January application was made to the
Postmaster General for a post office at Nithburg
Mr John Dewie P.O. Inspector came from Toronto and
opened the P.O. office at Nithburg a point in ~~1850~~
James Brown Postmaster. and still remains in
office yet over

performing and attending to Duties of office
a period of about 55 years of faithful service

I am now 83 years of age. I think I am the oldest
Postmaster in Canada

The first settlers of this locality has all
passed away. Some dead, others moved to
New Localities.

Respectfully yours

James Brown pm
Nithburg
Ont

