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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

OCT 4 1905

Ottawa,.....

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.

*Normanville  
Hoffelt B Out*

Normandale, named for Joseph Van Norman the founder of  
same - never had any other name - I do not know the year that  
Mr. Van Norman came here, he died I think in 1887 or 1888 -  
Had a blast furnace here - perhaps I should say smelting works  
a cupola - finishing shop &c - hauled iron ore west of  
the village about 8 or 9 miles -

a small stream - Potters Creek ran through our village there  
was been dry for the most part of two years - for the want  
of a little fixing - So all the water now runs through the back  
Creek - Lake Erie on our east - very high bank on the south -  
high hills on the north - our road, continuation of Main St. runs to the  
west and up over the Plains a how sand desert - we have just one  
street - The last member of Joseph Van Norman's family died  
last fall - Geo. R. Van Norman - K. C. Brautford -

I would advise you to write at once to Mrs E. D. Lillson (Sour)  
Lillsonburg, who is getting to be an old lady - She is the only one left  
that I know of - is a daughter of Benjamin Van Norman a  
brother of Joseph's - All the old settlers have passed away