

314/1

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, APR 12 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.

Odessa

Lennox Co. Ont.

Odessa on
Apr 21st 06

Dear Sir,

I find that about the year 1830 there was a very small settlement here where a Grist and Saw Mill, was started by one, John Link, and shortly after went in the hands of Benjamin Booth, a U.S.L. and a Post Office opened in 1840 by Thos Allen Stayner Esq. Deputy P.M.G of British North Amic, - who installed Parker Smith Zimmerman as P.M. he (P.S.T) held the appointment, and was acting P.M till 1897. the place was then called, Mill Creek, P.O. until the war of 18--- (have forgotten the date) between England and Russia, about that year a new name was proposed at a Town Meeting, and the change made to, Odessa, after Odessa, Russia. the former name, Mill Creek, was after the creek that supplied power to the Grist and Saw Mill. said creek starts from Sloats Lake at Sydenham 14 miles from here, and forms what is known as Mud Lake, near here. from here it finds its way to Mill Haven (7 miles) where it empties in the bay of Quinsee, about 16 miles west from Kingston. Benjamin Booth owned, and operated the first Grist and Saw Mill in these parts, at that time at, Mill Haven.

Yours truly
J.A. Zimmerman Post Master
Odessa, etc.