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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.

Pointe au Baril

Ferry Sound Dist. Ont.

Point Aux Barils April 22

James White
Office of Geographer
Ottawa

Dear Sir, -

I first record I have of Point
Aux Barils was in 1873 when on an hunting
and trapping expedition I went up the
Sequin river portaged into Beaver Creek
across Hornie Lake down the Magnethawane
river as far as Tributue Deer river up
Deer river to its head quarter portaged
into Pickrel river down Pickrel river
to French river down French river to
Georgain Bay thence coasting around
the shore of the Georgain Bay towards
Parry Sound meeting a French half bred
and inquiring of him of the channel among
the islands in the direction of Parry Sound
and he called it Point Aux Barils channel
and inquiring of him the reason of the
name I quined as nearly as his own
words as I can remember.

When old Pete's father was a boy
the fur traders of Penitanguishene
used to come round the shores with parties
of canoes loaded with supplies for
Maskewat Island One of the canoes
was wrecked going around the Point

and lost a barrel containing whiskey
the following spring it was found by
the party of traders stranded on
double island at the mouth of Point
Aux Baril channel, when they had a
prolonged spree. They stuck the
empty barrel on the top of a pole and
left it as a beakon. Thence it ~~was~~
became called Point Aux Baril by
the Frenchmen and halfbreeds passing
up and down the shore.

This barrel was still there when
I passed through the channel in
1873. I was afterwards appointed light
house keeper and erected the Belleme
Hotel, summer resort which in consequence
of the splendid bass fishing in the
neighbor hood has become very popular
with American sports.

Yours obediently

S. E. Oldfield P. M.
Point Aux Baril
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