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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 3 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.

*Pond Mills
Middlesex Co. Ont*

Pond Mills Oct 9th 1905-

Mr James White Esq,

Dear Sir - I will try to give you some information as to the origin of the name of the village of Pond Mills from which our post-office takes its name. It is situated in the township of Vestryminster three & a half miles south-east of the city of London on a line of railroad known as the London and Part Stour R.R. which is owned by the city. It no doubt owes the name Pond Mills ~~from~~ ^{to} the fact that a grist-mill as it was called was built here about 1826 A.D. And as it was driven by a supply of water drawn from the ponds it would be called Pond Mills to distinguish it from other mills in the neighborhood which were built on the river Thames.

Why it should have been called mills instead of mill I hardly know unless it arose from the habit some of the early settlers in this district had of calling a proper name in a good many cases by its plural number. For instance I have heard a Mr Grievie spoken of as Mr Grievies &c.

The ponds in question are of some repute as a pleasure resort for the city folks. They cover probably 30 acres. There used to be three known as the big, little & south ponds respectively. But since the strip of ~~land~~ floating sod known as the Bar became detached & floated away there have been of course only two ponds. It is here that the ice-house which has been such a bone of contention between the board of health the ice-men & the city-council was built.

Yours respectfully

Adorn Betty

Pond Mills Ont.