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Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 28 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.

Priceville

Grey Co. Ont.

Pricerville April 28 1875

James White, Geographer
Ottawa

Dear Sir

I was handed the attached sheet of questions and will answer all I can - The Village of Pricerville was named after a man called Price, who was, or, had been a surveyor, & lived in the early Forties near the Niagara River, & was greatly interested in assisting the many poor runaway slaves, who were at that time trying to escape from the land of bondage, to "Queen Victoria's Land of Freedom" The free grants, or homesteads offered by the Government, along the 1st con south, & 1st con north, commencing a mile west of Pricerville, in Township of Glenelg & extending along the 1st con south & 1st con north, in Township of Antimonia, until intersected by Toronto & Sydneyham Road, was all settled on by ex-slaves from Maryland & Virginia, about 1847-50. When the village plot was laid out & post office about to be placed, the Blacks wanted the place called after their friend Price. Some of the Whites proposed the name "Crossland" but it was resolved to call name it after "the Conductor on the underground Railway"

Price went to live with friends in Pennsylvania at close of Civil war, and is said to have died about 1870 -

The village is placed in an elbow of the Saugeen River, where there is still one, or two sites for water power still unharnessed -

A mile north east of village, the land is high & flat and forms a tamarac swamp of about 250 acres, the drainage from west side forms a creek, or branch of the Saugeen, while the outlet on east side forms a branch of Beaver River, which empties into Georgian Bay at Thornbury -

William Ferguson was the first Postmaster appointed at Pricerville

Yours Truly

J A M Ferguson