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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa,                     OCT 17 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.

*Ramsayville*  
~~*Taylorville*~~  
*Carleton Co Ont*

Russayville Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> 1905

Dear Sir

In accordance with your request in the accompanying sheet I herewith willingly comply. And being a resident and owner of the property on which the Village is built on for the last 57 years I consider I am well able to give you all the details from its originality when it was comparatively a dense forest until the present moment:

The place has had several names during the last 37 years and is situate in the Township of Gloucester Co. of Carleton about 7 miles East of Ottawa by rail on what we call the Russell Road and the Village is situate on Lot No 20 in 5<sup>th</sup> Concession Ottawa Front on the farm owned by Robert Ramsay Sr. Lately willed over to his Son Robt. J. Ramsay

In the early days in 1847 the Late Mr. Alexander Ramsay Purchased the farm from the Late Sargent J. Johnston it being a Grant to him for services rendered to the Empire

When Mr Ramsay who was a widower with three small Children two Boys and one Girl after he had paid for the Farm he had little or no money left to support himself and Children but had to work like a Slave as all the old Settlers had to do in Clearing the Forest Piling up the the logs in piles and Burning it off Then Harrowing in the seed with a v shaped drag and next the Stumps and roots to get a little Crop raised on and so on year after year the early Stone cleared acre after acre until they got their farms Cleared in those days we had to reap with a sickle and Mow with a scythe and often had to hoe in the corn in the foot of the trees

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So thick on the ground that the teeth of the dogs could not touch it to cover the seed grain. There was no such thing as a wagon in those days in the vicinity a pair of Cart wheels if a man was able to buy them and an axle and 2 poles in slots mortised into poles for a bottom and side guards between the wheels. This rude construction consisted the whole wheeling outfit on the farm to draw in the Hay or grain or to go to place of worship on the Sabbath or to go to Market in old By Town.

The Luxuries of a buggy was unknown the red Deer was more numerous than the Cattle and the howls of the ravenous bands of wolves when they would pursue a Deer would make <sup>the</sup> Neighbourhood hideous with their yells until they would capture the poor victim then the quarrelling and fighting amongst themselves while tearing the poor animal to pieces but it would soon be all over and there would be nothing left of it but a bloody circle & a <sup>few</sup> bits of hair on the well beaten snow. All other game was also very abundant.

Well to turn to main subject of Enquiry when Mr Ramsay moved in to his shanty on his Bush Farm there was a small log school build on the corner at a point <sup>where</sup> the roads crossed at a point of about 4 acres North from the South end of the <sup>Farm</sup> this School was of the rudest construction it was in size 18 x 24 the benches were of 2 x 12 <sup>in</sup> plank the plank rested on 3 legged stools a <sup>small</sup> table filled the office of desk for Teacher and old man by name of Mr Egan was Teacher and he boarded week about amongst the few settlers the Methodist & Presbyterian Ministers would come occasionally from By Town to preach to the few residents Mr Johnston had given

permission to build the School and it was built  
 by all the free residents when Mr Ramsay bought  
 at the Farm there was nothing said about  
 reserving the School but bought and paid  
 for the Farm School also then of course the  
 School was his he could do what he had a <sup>number</sup>  
 to with it But he went a few <sup>acres east</sup> and built  
 his Shanty and left the school for the good of  
 the residents Some time after all was settled  
 Mr Johnston got Mr Ramsay ~~to~~ to deed  
 him back the School and a 1/4 acre of Land for  
 nothing but 5 Shillings was mentioned in  
 the deed so Mr Johnston claimed the School  
 as his own and placed a Card over the School  
 door (Johnstons, School House) Mr Johnston  
 persuaded Mr Ramsay that as he had given the  
 Land in the first place to the Trustees of the Vestry  
 he only desired to have the honour of giving a deed  
 to the Trustees of which they had not got as yet  
 So Mr Ramsay gave Mr Johnston a Deed direct  
 to himself under the conditions that that he Mr  
 Johnston give the Trustees a Clear deed  
 But time passes on and and the Trustees  
 got no deed But allow me the writer to say  
 that it was in that old school I got all the  
 schooling I ever got in my life and that was  
 6 months altogether as I had to work on the Farm  
 until I was a young man Dear Sir you cannot  
 expect a much better history of the fact with all  
 the details from an uneducated man

But to go on the old school was becoming  
 inadequate to accommodate the fast increasing  
 population and the section resolved to build  
 a larger Building and in 1858 the Trustees  
 requested Mr Johnston to give them a Deed befo

They would proceed with the building Mr Johnston blankly refused to give them a deed. But it so happened that Mr Johnston never got the deed that Mr Ramsay gave him of the property entered on record and the Trustees knowing that Mr Ramsay gave the property to Mr Johnston exclusively to be dedicated for a Public School and a place of worship after consulting legal authority insisted that Mr Ramsay should give them a deed direct to the Trustees of the Section in which he considered <sup>himself</sup> justified in doing so he gave the Trustees a deed and the new school was built and continued for a public school until 1894 when we built a larger brick school in a more central ~~locality~~ part of the section.

But in the early days the place was generally called Ramsays Corners before there was a Post Office Church or any other branch of trade in the locality. In 1860 one of Mr Ramsays boys went to learn the Blacksmith trade in three years later he built a shop for himself and introduced the first trade at the Corners. About this time a man by the name of Chas Taylor bought a small farm across the road from the Ramsay Property. He was an old sailor by profession and had lately arrived from England he soon after started a Shinn to sell liquor he was of a most ambitious <sup>young</sup> to make money and make a name for himself at that time back in 60's liquor was low in price and license also and the the majority drank more or less. But the local inhabitants were of a temperate disposition and earned their money too hard as to spend it in such a hole as he kept

But as there was no other place where Liquor could be had in the vicinity the Sports from the City and rough Classes would find a place there to let them selves loose and do as they liked.

In order to get the name of the place he hung up a sign board at the door Taylorville. He then applied for a Post office by that name.

But the department would not grant it. He also applied for conveying a weekly mail to and from Ottawa the Department would not give him what he wanted. But he had the privilage ahead of others of taking the office & conveying the mail on account of being the first applicant. The respectable class of residents were at the same time urging Mr Ramsay who was running a Blacksmith shop and a Grocery store in connection with his Farm to apply for the P. O. and he did apply. So Mr Taylor rather than let Mr Ramsay have the office took it himself under the name of Taylorholme and had to comply with the Dept's offer for conveying the mail.

But the majority of the people would not allow their mail to go there as he kept the office in a most filthy place at the back of the House where he kept swill barrels and cooked Hog feed and the people were always quarreling with him on account of where he kept the office but the word he would use if the Bgrs did not like it they could get their mail some where else but he kept the office 2 or 3 years and gave it up.

He asked Mr Ramsay to take the office. But he would not take it under his name. So Mr Ramsay got every resident in it.

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vicinity to sign a petition to the Department  
to change the name to Ramsays Corners and the  
office was assigned to him on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1872

But in those times we only received \$10<sup>00</sup>  
per annum for keeping a weekly Mail  
P.O. and we had a Quarterly newspaper account  
and other accounts that has long since  
been abandoned by the dept

Mr Ramsay has kept the office for about  
33 years with the exception of 2 or three years but  
~~but~~ it was always kept in his premises

Mr Taylor sold his Farm and left the place  
in 1874 and to this day there has not been a parcel  
of his property utilized as a village lot But the  
old dilapidated old log House that used to be  
the scene of Mannys a drunken frowb and  
broken head stands alone on the little Farm.

While on the Ramsay Property there is two  
Churches a Manse a General Store Post office  
a Blacksmith Shop a Grist Mill &c

In fact the entire village is the production  
of the two Ramsay Families there is also a flag  
Station on the N. Y. & Ottawa R.R. the Station  
is built on the identical spot that Mr Alexander  
Ramsay built his first Cabin 58 years ago

Since those early days New Generations  
has sprung up and and New Element has taken  
the place of the old Pioneers there very few  
of the old Pioneers left to tell the difficulties  
of the early days As I have said the village  
is built on cross roads Mr Ramsay has two  
Corners and the Property Taylor owned 35 years  
ago has two Corners & as the entire village is  
built on the Ramsay Property yet the Post  
Considered it sounded rather selfish to have the

Post office named Ramsays Corner since about two years ago he forwarded a petition the Dept to have the place called Taylorville. He did not consult any of his light grown up sons or Daughters or any of his Brothers large Family & all their large connections and it caused much bitter feeling and P.M. him self when he came to himself he could have cut his right hand off for being the cause of it after the Post office being known as Ramsays Corner for about 33 years so he was if possible determined to remedy the injustice. he had done to all his connections to have the name changed from Taylorville to Ramsayville and he got it changed even without a petition which change came in force the 1st October 1905

If Mr Taylor had been a moral living man the name (Taylorville) would <sup>well might</sup> ~~not~~ have been changed. But he was one of the most blasphemous characters that could be found being an old sailor he had all the lowest and most abominable language on his tongue and two often he delighted in using it besides he was a brutal wife thrasher but at last his wife in her piety after a beating she seized the gun and shot him in the legs he got better & sold out his place about 35 years ago but it seems that no one can prosper on his place since he left as there has been dozens on it since Taylor left and none does prosper



since at the Corners in fact there never was a proper Hotel there; just imagin a small board cut board 3x4 ft nailed up against the wall without paint a lock + key on it - a Counter about 15 ft long in a low shed built at the back of a small log House a half doz bottles of Liquor mostly of his own Manufacture the Ceiling so low that a tall Man would have to stoop that constituted the total out fit of the Taylorville Hotel

But the traveling public can always get accomodation at Mr Ramsays although he do not keep a Hotel

Now Dear Sir I have given you the details of originality of the place and Post office now called Ramsayville and for two years + 3 months called Taylorville and for 33 years called Ramsays Ramsays Corners + for two years called Lay Lorraine; The late Alexander was the first on which the village is situated in 1848 Mr Taylor moved in 1861 + left in 1874 and left no posterity behind him the Ramsays still are the Proprietors and are at the present time numerous and of course still increasing in number it is their ancestors which have borne the burden + heat of the day

The late Alexander died in 1877 his oldest son John Ramsay died in the year 1898 his grand son is living yet + is 64 years old and has held many offices of Trust being R. M. for 33 years Secy Treas for the Public School for over + is yet and has always been a most honorable Honoree then why should the place not be named after the Builders + so

Yours respectfully

He I consider I am the only man who can give you all the details of the above is of any use to you in any way I will be pleased if not then I will be glad to see the scribbling of an uneducated man and if it is some to you it may amuse you. Mrs. C. R.