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Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, APR 11 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.

Ravenscliff

Muskoka Dist. Ont.

Ottawa, Ont. May 11th, 1906

Dear Sir,

I have been referred to you for information re derivation of name "Ravenscliffe". I shall be much obliged if you will let me have a memo re same.

Yours truly,

James White
for D.
Geographer

James Sharp, Esq.,

Burks Falls, Ont.

James White Esq.
Ottawa

New Westminster B.C.

May 22nd 1906

Dear Sir
In reply to above I beg to say I with my wife and child arrived on Vernon Lake from the City of Manchester England. later end of April 1870 - the settlement at that time was small - nearest mail delivery Huntsville - P.O. being in a small log building covered with scoops - mail being brought from Bracedwidge on horseback - later part of 1872 settlement at the head of the Lake increased and we moved for a P.O. our property was wanted and I was requested from Ottawa to give the office a name - Ravenscliffe is in what is known as Island B. Bay about seven miles up Vernon Lake and within about 1 mile of the head of the Lake is a great spot in this Bay and on the boundary of my location rising gradually from the water was a very high cliff well wooded and on the very top were several tall dead trees upon which the Ravens every morning used to hold forth - a day or so after receiving word to select a name Mr. S. and I were enjoying a paddle on the Lake in the early morning - and discussing the selection when ("about 4 o'clock a.m.") the Ravens began their melody - and Mr. S. said I think a very appropriate name for the office would be "Ravenscliffe" and I at once wrote the P.O. Dept. giving the name - receiving in return an acknowledgement and complimenting me upon the name selected - I was appointed P.M. and held the office until I left the neighborhood and removed to Burks Falls - where I still reside - I have a mill business here and Mr. S. and I are spending the summer here - the inquiry having been forwarded by my son -
Yours truly
James Sharp

Ravenscliffe May 7th 1906

James White Esq Ottawa

Dear Sir

I am unable to give you the information you require, and I cannot find anyone who knows how the place got its name. I understand the person who gave it the name lives at Burk's Falls his name is Mr. James Sharp. He would be able to give you the true information as to how and why he named the place Ravenscliffe

I am sir

Yours truly

L. Lipper