

31F/1

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 29 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.

Raycroft

Larark Co. Ont.

Raycroft. April 28. 06.

Dear Sir: —

Your letter received some time ago. With regard to this place 'Raycroft' I would say— There is a post-office at Tatlock about five miles from here. This was rather a long distance for the families ^{around here} to go for mail. So it was decided to have a post office in this section. A man called Mr. Noble Raycroft wrote the head office, desiring to keep the post-office. The head office desiring information about this place wrote the post-master at Tatlock requesting him to draw a map showing the relative positions of properties in this section. The map was drawn, and showed that Mr. Raycroft's house was not in a suitable position, regarding the people who ~~not~~ would get their mail at the new office.

According to the map the most suitable place to have the office here, was the place owned by Robert Whyte, and it was decided that this would be where the office was to be kept.

Then seeing that Mr. Raycroft applied first for the office, (although the circumstances

would not permit his having the office) the
Post Office Department honored him in so much
as to call the place by his name. 'Rayercroft.'

Mr. Rayercroft, after whom this place got its
name still resides in this section.

Hoping this information will be
satisfactory, I remain,

Yours truly,
Robert White,
"Postmaster" Rayercroft.