

40 P/2

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 5 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.

*Rapide
Oxford Co. Ont.*

Rayville Nov 6th 1905

In answer to your request for information re origin of the name (Rayville) I am able to give the following

(2) Named after a gentleman who a few years ago was the conservative member for Glengarry in the Dominion House. I cannot give any further information regarding him but you will no doubt be able to secure it from the records of the House

(4) About forty years ago it was called Dornoch after the place of the same name in Sutherlandshire Scotland from which many of the residents in the vicinity came from. It retained this name for about 20 years when the post office having been given up the name was assumed by another office up in Grey County

Trusting this information may be satisfactory to you

Yours Respectfully
W. Sutherland

Card for
Dornoch