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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 4 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.

River Valley
Nipissing Dist. Ont

River Valley 15 Jan. 1806

Mons. James White Geographer
Ottawa

Cher Monsieur

Depuis longtemps que
je voulais repondre à vos questions
mais, comme je ne sais pas lire ni
écrire l'anglais, il a fallu attendre
que je trouve quelqu'un pour
m'en donner l'explication, mainte-
nant je vais repondre au meilleur
de ma connaissance, si votre lettre
eut été en français peut-être que
mes reponse aurait été plus
précis.

(1) La place a été nommée par un
Mr. D. St. Eloi, qui a été le 1^{er}

Maître de Poste ici la rivière
Sturgeon passe dans un terrain
plaine mais à une petite distance
il y a une chaîne de petite montagne

chaque cote de la riviere de sorte
que la riviere pas a travers d'au
d'un petite vallee voila ce qui
a value le nom de River Valley
je suis le premier colon qui est
arrive ici en l'annee 1896. Mon
nom est F. X. Catford, je venais
de Butte City Montana, je suis 2^{em}
Maître de Poste de River Valley c'est
moi qui a remplacé le 1^{er} qui
se nommait D. St. Eloi, il n'y a
jamais eu d'autre nom de donner
avant celui de River Valley,
peut être que j'oublie quelque chose
mais si vous avez encore p^r besoin
écrivez moi. en francais je me
ferai un plaisir de vous repondre

Votre tout-dévoilé

F. X. Catford

River Valley M. P.
District Nipissing Ont.