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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 28 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.

*Rutherford  
Essex Co. Ont*

card for  
Inkermansville.

Nechum. (Claros).

Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 1905

To James White Esq.

Geographer Dept of Interiors.  
Ottawa, Ontario.

My Dear Sir:—

I have obtained the following information regarding yours of 28<sup>th</sup> ult & would say that the village of Nechum was named after Mr Hugh Nechum he being the first Post Master on the establishment of a Post office in this place. He was a large grain dealer, lumber merchant also saw a mill and saw mill in connection built the Nechum dock along with Mr Henry W. Wight in Regina Bay on the shores of Lake Erie. Mr Nechum is dead. Died a year ago last summer belonged to the A. F. & A. M. Lodge. Might say further before the establishment of a Post office here that the village went by the name of Indermansville getting the name from the hotel that was built ~~here~~ and christened as such and that being the only building in the place in those days. The hotel got burnt down before its completion shortly afterwards Mr Nechum came in started above business and got the Post office established from which it derived its name. Trusting this information will be satisfactory to you. I remain, very yours.

J. A. Wight

Ex-1500 Post Master Nechum  
Ont.