

40 P/9

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, OCT. 19 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 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.

*Salem
Wellington Co. Ont*

Ans'd

Salem.

Salem is an unincorporated village on the south westerly part of Lots numbers fifteen sixteen and seventeen in the eleventh Concession of the Township of Nichol in the County of Wellington and Province of Ontario and was founded on the ninth of June 1845 by Sem Wissler ,whose ancestors emigrated ~~1766~~ about 1720 from Switzerland to Pennsylvania and settled on the west bank of Middle Creek in what is now Clay Township ,Lancaster County and where the founder of Salem Ontario was born on the 21st of March 1819.The origin of the name may best given as written in his own hand writing in his Family Bible.

"Sem Wissler was born the 21st March A.D.1819 in Elizabeth Township ,Lancaster County ,State of Pennsylvania and came to this Province on the 24th August A.D.1839 and on the 9th June 1845 I came to Nichol and commenced to improve the forest and I called my place Salem." He used to call it the City of Peace. Enclosed I send a copy of the "Wissler Family Record" in which at pages 10,11 57,58 70 71 and 85 to 91 you will find part of the early history of parts of Waterloo Township Ontario and of Salem .

Yours truly

Sem Wissler