

304/13

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 30 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.

See Kirk
Haldimand Co. Ouch

Selkirk Dec 9th, 1905 -

James White Esq.

Brandon; The P.M. handed me

Your communication, and as one of the
oldest settlers asked me to answer it.

"Selkirk" settled early in 1800 was first named
"Williamsville" from William Steel Esq. on whose land part
of the village ^{was} situated. The people had called it "The Corner,"
or from being on or near Stoney Creek, "Stoney Creek" and
the Post Office, being the only one in the Township, was
named "Walpole." The real name of the village, Williamsville,
was very little used; so that many who lived close to it never
heard of it, and considered "Stoney Creek" the real ^{name}, and
many letters, directed accordingly, which invariably
went to Stoney Creek near Hamilton. In '54 or '5 a meeting
was held to advocate the change of the name, and to have the
name of the village and P.O. the same, "Enterprise" was
chosen, and sent to the Department. They would do that
then was already an "Enterprise" on the list of post offices
and a list of half a dozen names sent for the people to
select from. "Selkirk" was the one of them chosen, at
that time the Selkirk settlement in the north west, with
only one mail office was the only other Selkirk in British
America, and caused no confusion, but now many of
our letters go to Manitoba, and we get quite a lot of them
correspondence, so much that our P.M. secured a
copy of their value's list for reference

Yours truly

Thos. J. Harrison