

40 P/7

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... OCT 16 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.

*Shakespeare  
Perth Co. Ont*

## Shakespeare

known after the immortal poet - of course you know he is dead!  
In the late 20's the Canada Coy. surveyed the then called Huron tract - the  
main central road surveyed from the eastern limits at the boundary of  
Waterloo Co. to Goderich crossed a small stream 12 miles West at which point  
4 Townships met viz North & South Easthope - Ellice & Downie and there  
the Coy. laid out 400 acres as a central town plot and called it Stratford  
and the stream they named Avon which had its rise in a spring  
9 miles east of Stratford, part of which spring flowed east and was  
known as Horns Creek, the part flowing west known as the River  
Avon - In 1832 the family of David Bell settled 5 miles west  
of Waterloo boundary and the place was for 10 years or more  
known as Bells Corners, the jumping off place for immigrants  
to the Easthope, in the late 40's application was made to the P.O.  
Dept for a P.O. which was acceded to and a request made to the  
settlers to suggest a name - Bells Corners was suggested but could  
not be accepted as there was already a B. Co. in Ontario or Canada  
West as then known, all combinations of Bells were tried but  
all had been pre-empted - at a meeting held to get a name  
many were proposed but all rejected, at last a school teacher  
W. J. J. Linton (later known afterwards as Louie Linton Clerk  
of the peace for Perth County) suggested "Shakespeare" as their  
embryo village was situated almost on the bank of the R. Avon

as 9-10<sup>th</sup> of the settlers from the wilds of Glenora and  
Connemara knew no more of the poet than did Tom Gibbs  
black Law - "Shakespeare" it was called and a P.O. of that name  
was established - There are no objects of special or even  
local interest in the neighbourhood

I have lived in the village since 1856 and had  
the above particulars from first hand on my  
arrival here

Shakespeare  
Oct 19/1905

J. W. Donaldson