

31 D/S

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 18 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.

*Shanty Bay
Simcoe Co. Ont.*

The settlement of what is now known as the village of Shanty Bay began in 1831 when the late E. G. O'Brien took up his grant of land there. A large emigration took place in that & following years and free grants of land were given round Lake Simcoe and in the then district of Simcoe to half-pay Officers of the Army and Navy. Among them was my father commonly known as Colonel O'Brien who had charge of the settlement under Sir John Colborne.

On taking up his grant which was in the 2nd range of the township of Oro he set apart ^{on the Lake Shore} a site for a church and school - Parsonage - village lots and a space for a village green. A great many immigrants coming in at the time log shanties were built for them over what is now the village and thus the place got the name which it has since retained. The church parsonage and village green are still there but the shanties have given place to a number of nice residences for summer visitors and comfortable houses for permanent inhabitants.

William E. O'Brien