

31 F/10

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 17 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.

*Shields
Renfrew & Co.*

Shields Oct. 19th
188.

The Geographer.

Department of the Interior

Ottawa

Dear Sir, In regard to the name Shields. This name, in Postoffice was named after a man of the name of Hugh Mc Shields, who is a farmer, of this locality, is still alive and lives here still. The name Shields is applied to a Postoffice, a county office. There is no town or village, just a Postoffice on a farm house. It was first called Muskrat Lake after a lake of that name, situated close to the office. The lake received its name from the little ~~animal~~ animal called Muskrat. Before this country was settled, and for long afterwards, this Lake was lined with Muskrats and it was from these little animals the lake was called Muskrat Lake. But the office was only called Muskrat for about a month. The office was only opened ~~two~~ ^{two} years ago, the first of this month. Hoping this will prove satisfactory to you
I am, yours truly
Postmaster, Shields Ont.