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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 28 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.

*Sparta
Elgin Co. Oct*

Sparta was so named by a majority of the popular vote taken between 1832 and '37. The contest being between Hennesville and Sparta, Residents within a radius of two miles voting. —

Jonestown an extinct hamlet now, at one time humming with business. Situate three miles southeast of Sparta. The site now occupied as farms by George Pines (a son of Thomas Pines who was about the first settler, deceased) and Axford Bros.

In the 30-s James Chrysler came and started Jonestown by building a dam across Catfish Creek erecting a flour mill, buying wheat grinding it and shipping it in scows to St Bance thence in sailing ^{vessels} to other lake ports. The location still bears his name. A sawmill, store, tavern and distillery were soon erected. The whiskey made here had a wide reputation for its purity and fine flavor. Charlie Freeman who afterward won fame as an athlete assisted at building the dam aforementioned.

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOLOGIST

Sparta wylzece

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JAMES WHITE

Sparta wylzece