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# Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... OCT 5 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.

*A. Williams  
Norfolk Co. Ont*

Dear Sir

ST WILLIAM  
1850  
ONT.

In answer to your enquiry there is some difference in the opinions of people regarding the name of this place. E A Owen in his book called Pioneer Sketches of Long Point Settlement says,

In pioneer times St William was known as Neil's Corners. It was named St William by <sup>one</sup> Dickinson in honor of King William IV.

There is others here who claim it was named St William after one of the old settlers on whose property part of the village stands by the name of William Gillespie he was a farmer and died about 40 years ago

This place being near the shore of Long Point Bay and one William Cope having settled here a little before 1800 this place was known in early days as Cope's Landing. Part of the village is located on property taken up by him. Hoping this will be satisfactory I am  
Yours Respectfully  
John Cope. Postmaster