

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.

*Staples
Essex Co. Ont*

James White Esq
Geographer
Ottawa

Staples Noom 10-1905-

Dear Sir

I have consulted with several of the old settlers of this place and gleaned the following facts concerning the name & early times of this village. Our Village was first named Elmwood by the Leamington & St. Clair R.R. Co when their branch from Comber to Leamington was opened. It was named Elmwood because the surrounding country for miles was noted for its growth of soft-elm about two years later or about 18 years ago when our postoffice was opened it was found that the Post-office would require a different name owing to there already being ~~already~~ a similar name among the postoffices of the Dominion. A man by the name of Staples operating a sawmill, ^{of the name} was appointed the first Postmaster & the postoffice called after him, the R.R. company shortly after changed the name of their station from Elm-wood to Staples as they too had difficulty with freight going astray owing to there being another place of the same name.

Mr Staples (ford cannot learn his first name) came from Culloden in Oxford County, he remained here but a few years & moved back to the same place where I am told he still carries on business he was a Wagon Maker by trade also a pump maker

Yours Truly

D. K. Menzies

Post-Master

Staples Ont-