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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 2 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.

*Stewart  
Kent Co Ont*

Stewart but is the name given to a P.O. in the Township of Tilling East County of Kent in the south western Peninsula of the Province. The first name was Smith; called named after the Family of Mr Thomas Smith who were the first Residents at Stewart and its Postmasters for many years. Coming to Canada from Scotland in the early thirties of last Century they settled in Stewart and were the Pioneers in Business and Farming on the Middle Road in the Centre of the Township. They built the first Store kept the first P.O., and were the first to erect a Steam Sawmill and Flour Mill in the Township. Mr James Smith was one of the first Municipal Councillors in Tilling East and served likewise as Reeve for several years. Mr Thomas Smith died during the Fifties and his Son James, Robert, and David died in the year 1877, 1890 and 1896 respectively.

The Smith Family are at present represented at Stewart by Mr James W Smith youngest Son of David Smith who with his deceased Brother Charles Thomas Smith conducted the Sawmill and Lumbering Business successfully until the Timber Supplies of the District were exhausted.

Mr J W Smith is an Englishman, a keen Sportsman and Crick Shot, was a Member of the Bisley Team of 1903, served a Term as a Municipal Officer and is a public spirited Citizen in every way. Fourteen or Fifteen years ago it was thought desirable to change the name of the P.O. and the name of Stewart was selected in account of Mr James Stewart a Resident of Tilling Village being a Son-in-law of Mr Robert Smith one of Stewart's Postmasters. Mr Stewart was born in Chataquay Quebec in 1840, came to Tilling in the Fifties, went to British Columbia during the Sixties came back to Tilling East and engaged in Farming and Stockkeeping, served as Councillor and Reeve and is now a Broker and Banker in Tilling Village. The District around Stewart is very productive, oil too is found and a profitable Business is likely to be built up.