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# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 28 1906

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 who 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.

*Strathavon*

Grey Co. Ont.

Strathaven May 8<sup>th</sup> 1906

Dear Sir

The Post Master handed me this sheet to fill as he is a young man and I am one of the older residents of this place Strathaven spelt with an e. is named after a town in Scotland

It is in a beautiful valley on the north side of the Township of Holland Co. Grey. sixteen miles from Owen Sound. a small river named Big Head runs through the valley and in to the bay at Meaford

It is called Big Head on account of a large skull being found near its source supposed to be an Indians

A man named Ramage. with five sons and three daughters came from Strathaven Scotland over fifty years ago and got six hundred acres of fine lush land from government cleared up his land made pot ash. raised lots of fine horses and cattle built a saw mill and Grist mill. and founded the village about forty years ago. then passed away like the rest of the old pioneers

There is one Grand son living here  
who owns two hundred and forty  
acres of the land the saw mill  
and grist mill.

Hoping this small poor account will  
be of some use to you I remain  
yours truly John H Henry

Strathmore Pa