

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 25 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.

*Stratroy  
Middlesex Ont*

*We are just Stratroy - nothing  
more nothing less and stand at  
the Head of  
Sydenham River  
J. Green  
Town Clerk*



Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 1905

Dear Sir

I have yours of 9<sup>th</sup> inst. in reference to the origin of the name of this town. I may say my informant has resided in the adjoining Parunship of Adelaide, or in Strathroy since 1846, that he is a man of culture and intelligence and perfectly reliable. Of course it was possible he may have been mistaken, but I have seen him again, and he reiterated his former statement, and said he got it many years ago, from a cousin of the late John D. Buchanan, He says Buchanan certainly was an Irishman. although like many others no doubt descended from a Scotch ancestor. But I have

have other evidence; Geo. Buttery now in his 86<sup>th</sup> year with memory and mental faculties clear and unclouded, he resided in Adelaide Sp. about two miles from Strathroy, since 1832. He is highly respected, has held many important positions and very way reliable. I saw him, and he gave practically the same version as my other informant. He and the Buchanans, father and son came to Adelaide in the same year, and with both especially the son John D. he was intimately acquainted. The son the father was British Consul at New York; the land was granted to him, as to

many others, in Adelaide, that they settled here, and gave the then village its name. He says he had it from John D. Buchanan himself over and over, that they named it Strathroy, because it somewhat resembled the place of the same name in Ireland, whence they came, and of this he says there is no doubt. As to its not appearing in the list of names, I can not say, except to offer a suggestion. I know as a fact that in Scotland and Ireland, every small hamlet, and almost every farm had its own name, so that such names were too

numerous to appear in any  
Gazettes, and no doubt  
some of them owing to changes  
and separation of the  
inhabitants are no longer  
used at all. Anyhow  
I think this is the best  
best I can do to give  
you the desired infor-  
mation. Old processes  
are now very few, and  
I could find none better  
than Mr. Butters.

Yours very truly  
H. W. Coll  
P.S.

James White Esq.  
Geographer  
Ottawa

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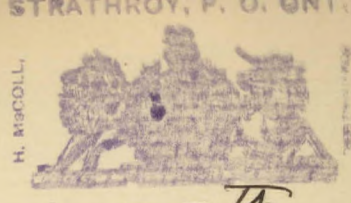
JAMES WHITE,  
*Geographer.*

Kindly write your reply on the attached sheet.

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*Strathroy  
/out.*

# Reply



Nov 27<sup>th</sup> 1895

After waiting and making inquiries, the following explanation has been given me by an old resident, who assures me it is correct!

It is well known that John D. Buchanan was the founder of Stathroy in the early thirties. His father had a position as British Consul in a large American City, and in connection with many officers and soldiers received a grant of land in the Township of Addicks. When the father and son came to take possession of what is now a part of the town, they said to each other "How much this is like our own native home, Stathroy, Co. Antrim, Ireland. Let us call it Stathroy" and it was done.

I have been unable to find the name in any list of Irish towns in my possession but the gentleman assures me that being a native of Ireland, and having recently visited the land of his birth, there is certainly a Stathroy in Antrim Co, and that our Stathroy was named after it. The word "stath" means a glen or vale, and "roy" means "red", that is the "red glen".

Wm. Coll  
P.O. Stathroy