

314/8

# Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 27 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.

*Seabury*

Frontenac Cr Ort.

Sun' day April 14<sup>th</sup> 1906

J. John McNeely of the Township of Starrington and County  
of Frontenas I am 79 years of age on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July next.  
I was Born on the farm I now live on in the year 1827  
My Father Settled on this farm it being in the Centre of  
a Dense wilderness in the year 1825 now being called the  
Village of Sunburg he having been the first Settler  
in ten Miles Square his name was John McNeely  
Then I being born here I was the first white Child  
Born in that ten Miles Square there were Indians here  
then and lots of Wolves Bairs and wild Cats Deers and other  
wild animals when I was a Boy of 8 or 9 years of age I would  
go out in the evening in the dooryard I could imitate a  
wolf howling and I would commence to howl and in a few  
minutes the wolves would answer me and there would be thousands  
of them gether about airc little clearing they were a very shy  
animal and they would not come near enough to see them  
My Father was five years here before he got any neighbours  
- the first neighbour he got was Simcon Spasner he Settled on the  
west Side of him the next was John Waldron he Settled on the East  
Side of him after that the place began to settle fast

the nearest Post office was Kingston twelve miles above the year 1840 there was a post office established 4 miles west of Sunbury called Storrington P. O. and about twelve years after the name was changed to Emmeray P. O.

4 1/2 miles north east of Sunbury is Battersea P. O. established about the year 1850 a man the name of Daniel Ansley settled there about the year 1820 he had a saw mill in the year 1836 Henry Van Luren bought him out and built a grist mill and saw mill there is a fine water power there it is the out let of Lake Ontario it used to be called Ansleys until they got the Post office then it took the name of Battersea Sunbury was called Spencers Corner until we got a post office I got up a petition to have a P. O. at Spencers Corner and gave it to our member of Parliament Sir Henry Smith and he got the post office for us and I suppose he named it himself Sunbury it was established in the year 1860 about 6 miles east from Sunbury is Brewers Mills at the Rideau Canal it took its name from Aaron Brewer a man that had the contract to build the Brewers locks from the Imperial Government in the year 1826 he had a saw mill there about a mile and a half south of Brewers Mills on the Rideau Canal is Washburn there is a flour mill there Washburn took its name from the name of the Post Office

The Township of Storrington is composed of three parts of three Townships all that parcel and tract of land lying and being west of the Rideau Canal formerly the Township of Pittsburg also all that parcel and tract of land lying and being east of Lake Ontario formerly the Township of

Laharough also the 7th Commission of the Township of Kingston is now  
the Township of Sturvington this change was made about the year 1834  
the first District Commislar the Electors sent to the District Council was  
John Shepard in the year 1837

The first Township Council that sat in the Township of Sturvington was held  
in the year 1850 Henry Moonlumen was the first Reeve and Hugh Spring  
the first Township Clerk John Waldron the first Township Treasurer  
& John Mc Neely was appointed Township Treasurer in the year 1848  
and holds the office yet as T.P. Treasurer

The first Church that was built in Sunbury was a Presbyterian  
Church in the year 1852 there is now a Methodist Church

and a Salvation Bazar and a Church of England about a mile  
East of Sunbury

Sunbury has two Stores and a Blacksmith Shop and  
a woodworkers Shop and the Town Hall and Court house  
All the mens names that I have mentioned is dead long ago  
There has been grate improvements made here and in the vicinity of  
Sunbury in my Recollection this vicinity is dotted over with fine Churches  
School houses and Cheese factories Very wealthy farmers with fine Dwelling  
houses large barns with sement floors warm and comfortable Stables for  
horses and cattle with milk and water in the Stables Kitch farmers here now with  
their Rubber tired top Buggys and their fast trotting horses they can go to Kingston  
in a little over an hour we have good Roads all over the Country  
My Father when he used to first go to Kingston with a yoke of Oxen and an ox  
Sleigh and he would have to take his Ak with him to chop out the trees that would have  
fallen over the Road it used to take him a day and part of two nights to get there and  
Back he had to go 6 miles through a solid Bush without seeing a clearing  
before he got to Glenburnie Glenburnie is South of Sunbury about 6 miles

Yours Truly

P.S. Sturvington is named after a village in England Sunbury is named after a village  
in England Inverary is named after a village in Scotland

J. W. N.