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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 3 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.

Tacumworth
Admission - OWS

A Chapter on Tamworth

By Rev. W. H. Adams.

"Wheeler's Mills" was the name of old time popularly given to the thriving little town on the Salmon River which is the metropolis of Addington County. The Wheelers, who were the first to settle on the spot, came from the States, but were of English extraction. And Mr. Calvin Wheeler it was, the progenitor of all hereabouts now bearing his patronymic, who named the place Tamworth. He was a warm admirer of Sir Robert Peel, the Prime Minister of England, who sat in the Commons (as did his father before him, and his son, after him) for the ancient borough of Tamworth, in Staffordshire. This high opinion of the British statesman it is alleged, accounts for the old settler's choice of a name for the then newly rising town. It may just chance there were other reasons also. For Wheeler is not an extinct name at the present time in the old English borough; and in the year 1352, Richard le Wheeler was High Bailiff there, while some bearers of that surname, who, however, dropped the prefix "le", filled the same office at various subsequent dates.

Not a few mid-England names terminate in "worth", as for example, Bosworth, Kenilworth, Wirksworth, Lutterworth, Epworth, etc. A "worth" designated the walled enclosure within which the primitive peoples of England were wont to dwell together. The "worth" which stood by the river Tame of course was Tameworth or Tamworth. And, although the wattle and daub was at length superseded by walls of solid masonry, and many changes and chances came to the place itself, the Tame ever flowed quietly onward toward the lordly Trent and the North Sea, and Tamworth remained an indelible place-name in the history of the land.

Tamworth lies on the border of what was once the great forest of Arden, and but a mile distant from Watling Street—the most remarkable of all those old roads constructed in Britain under the Roman Caesars. From the "street" in question there ran a Roman by-road to the place itself, and traces of the Roman occupation are not wanting. The most interesting of all these relics is a pig of lead disinterred some seventy years ago. The ancient Latin inscription upon it indicates that it was smelted in the year 76 of the Christian era.

The written history of Tamworth dates from the time of the Saxon "Heptarchy." It was the favorite place of residence of the great King Offa, whose reign began in 755. This monarch built (for those times) a magnificent palace at Tamworth, and fortified the town by surrounding it with a vast entrenchment and bank, traces of which remain to-day, and retain the name of Offa's Dyke, or the King's Ditch. Two of the charters granted by Offa were dated from his palace of Tamworth (in regali palatio Tamworthie), as were also charters of his successor Coenwulf (794-819); of Berhtwulf (838-85); and of Burhred, who fled the country at the time of the Danish invasion in the year 874, when Tamworth was razed to the ground.

It is said that the town lay in ruins for forty years. At the expiration of that time Ethelflaeda, "the Lady of the Marches," daughter of King Alfred the Great, fortified Tamworth, and made it her general residence until her death in 918. She raised the great artificial mound upon which Tamworth castle stands to-day, and which has withstood the storm and stress of nearly a thousand years. She is described in one of the old charters as "a woman godly, righteous, and wise, stepping in the footsteps of Alfred, her father." Here she brought up her nephew Athelstan, who was to come after her, teaching him not only the wisdom that is found in books, but also the knowledge of men and how to rule them.

In 925, Athelstan, having succeeded to the throne of England, sought to

cement peace with the constantly invading Danes by giving his sister Editha in marriage to Sihtric, the Danish King. Both sovereigns came to Tamworth, where the nuptials were solemnized in 925. In 941, however, Anlaf, a son of Sihtric by a former wife, invaded England, besieged Tamworth, and took the town after great slaughter, carrying away much plunder. The town did not recover from this disaster, and thence forward ceased to be a royal residence.

William the Conqueror, in 1066, bestowed Tamworth castle and its lands upon his Dispencer or Steward, Robert de Marmion, one of his Norman followers. He also granted Marmion the manor of Scrivelsby. Both were to be held on condition that Marmion or his successors performed the right of Royal Champion at every Coronation. (It is worthy of note that the present owner of Scrivelsby, Mr. Frank Seaman Dymoke, a lineal descendant of Robert de Marmion through one of his heiresses, is the hereditary champion of England at the present day.) The Marmions survived, in the direct male line until 1291, when the Manor of Tamworth Castle passed by marriage into another family. It frequently changed hands until 1897, when it was purchased by the Corporation of Tamworth for the Burgeses of the Borough in commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was then formally dedicated to the use of the public for ever.

Of the historic incidents in connection with Tamworth Castle it may be noted that Queen Matilda seized the stronghold because the third Robert de Marmion identified himself with the claims of Stephen in 1135. On Stephen's release the Castle was restored to Marmion.

Again, the fifth baron, Robert, when in France with King John (1199-1216) for some offence sided with the French King, and John, in revenge, ordered Tamworth Castle to be pulled down. The order, however, was not carried out, probably because the castle was strong enough to resist an assault.

During the Civil War, the Castle was, in the autumn of 1642, occupied by the King's party. The whole neighborhood is said to have favored the cause of Charles. In the fol-

lowing June Cromwell marched against it, and after a two days' siege compelled the garrison to surrender. The incessant warfare which was waged in that part of the county at this period greatly impoverished the town and the surrounding territory.

Although not a royal residence since Saxon times, Tamworth has nevertheless often been the scene of many royal junketings. William the Conqueror doubtless visited his Dispencer here; while his son, Henry I, held his court here in 1111. Again, on March 12th, 1158, Henry II paid a visit to the town and castle of Tamworth, being accompanied by Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas A. Becket, then Lord Chancellor, and other noted persons. In the reign of Edward IV. (1461-1483)

an amusing incident is said to have occurred, which formed the subject of a ballad entitled "King Edward and the Tanner of Tamworth." A tanner journeying towards the town met the King on a hunting excursion, and supposing him to be a robber afforded him much amusement by his bluff conversation.

In the time of Richard III. (1485), Henry, Earl of Richmond, passed through the town with his army on the way to the famous field of Bosworth. He is said to have lingered behind his troops and to have lost sight of them. Next day he rode publicly through the streets of Tamworth that his safety might be known. Shakespeare, in his play of Richard III. has not overlooked the parts which Tamworth played in this era of the history of the nation, and in representing Richmond as addressing his followers to be bold on the battlefield at Bosworth, makes him say:

"From Tamworth thither is but one day's march
In God's name cheerly on."

Readers of Scott's "Marmion" will be interested in the following extracts from Sir Walter's Journal: "April 6th, 1828, Easter Sunday. We breakfasted at Ashbourne and went on to Derby; * * * from thence to Tamworth, where we slept.

"April 7th. (We visited the Castle in the morning. * * * It is a fine old place, neglected; but therefore, more like hoar antiquity. The keep is round. The apartments appear to have been modernised, tempore James I. There was no small quantity of armor and odds and ends, which I should have been glad to possess. There was a fine demipique saddle said to have been that of James II. The pommel rose and finished off in the form of a swan's crest, capital for a bad horseman to hold on by."

This reference to Sir Walter Scott recalls to the memory the lines from "Marmion":

"And therewith herald pomp and state

They hailed Lord Marmion;
They hailed him Lord of Fontenaye,
Of Lutterward and Scrivelsby,
Of Tamworth Tower and town,"

as well as the subjoined from James of Scotland in the same poem:

" * * if within Tantallon strong,
The good Lord Marmion carries long,
Perchance our meeting next may fall
At Tamworth, in his castle hall."

to which the haughty Marmion made reply:

"Much honored were my humble home,
If in its halls King James should come;
But * * many a banner will be torn,
And many a knight to earth be borne
And many a sheaf of arrows spent
Ere Scotland's King shall cross the Trent."

Of course, as says a recent writer, "Scott's Lord Marmion is a fictitious personage, for the male line died out in the reign of Edward I, but a younger branch of the Marmions did continue for many centuries in the male line and took a leading part in the Scottish wars. Still, no one quarrels with Scott because with magic art he blended together history and romance, truth and fiction, in order to produce an immortal poem."

The fleur-de-lis has for centuries been the emblem of old Tamworth. It is embossed on the Mayor's chair of office, carved on the facade of the Town Hall, and floated (a golden lis on a dark blue ground) on the Castle flag. Since the above "chapter" was sent to the press, our own Reeve and Council have recommended, at their regular meeting held on April 3d, that we adopt the same device for local employment here. Accordingly, one of our business firms is arranging for the immediate manufacture of souvenirs bearing the Tamworth borough seal,—the fleur-de-lis surrounded by the mediaeval Latinism, "Sig. Burgi. de Tamworth in Comitatu Warwic et staf." The whole will be enclosed within a border having the legend, "A Souvenir of Tamworth Ontario."

It should have been stated that in Saxon times a Royal mint was established in Tamworth. The coins struck there are quaint in design, exceedingly rare, and highly prized by numismatists. The coins of Offa (755) are remarkable for the beauty of their execution. The most curious coin made there in the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042) was a silver penny, bearing on the obverse "Edward Rex," and on the reverse "Bruning on Tam." Bruning was the Master of the Mint. In the time of Henry I (1100) the minting operations ceased.

Tamworth, Ont.,
March 29th, 1905.

I regret very much that this has lain upon
my table so long unexamined, but the
fact is it got covered up and in
the hurry and press of many affairs
was not turned up until now, when
a general cleaning up during a
few dull days, brought it to light.

I enclose an article clipped from
a local newspaper which will give
you all the information available
as I had a hand in helping to
prepare the article in question, I
can vouch for it.

Yours truly
J. H. Coombs

Vermont, Oct
7th Feb 1906