

413/5

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 27 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.

Thessalon ✓
Algoma Dist. Off

3. Tessalon, named after Rucel which flows into Lake Huron at this point, & called Tessalon River. In the early history of the Country, the Jesuit Fathers called the River "Riviere de Tessalon". The Indians here say that the name was given to it on account of the Point at narrow neck of land which puts out a mile and as it is approached by water looks as if it were leaning over the water and the name Tessalon, originally used means leaning point.

Indian Office

At Thessalon

11th December 1905

MEMO

James White Esqr
Geographer

Sir

I have endeavoured to get the proper translation of, Thessalon, Nipigon, Michipicoten, and Missinabi.

The Chief of Mississauga Band, says, that the word Thessalon is pronounced Thesenong in Indian, and means slow. The Chief of Thessalon Band says it means, a long narrow point - either of those would do here as the river runs very slow, and there is a long narrow point at the mouth about 2 1/2 miles long, Nipigon means, water full of fish, Missinabi means, Pictures in the water, Michipicoten; there was an old tribe or Band lived here once who are now extinct they were called Myshebigwadung and white men have corrupted it to Michipicoten

X Algoma Dist

Thunder Bay Dist

Algoma Dist

Thessalon 6115

Indian Office

At _____

_____ 190__

MEMO

The only word the all agree upon is
Missinaibi I will be visiting the
Spanish Band as soon as the river
freezes so I can cross and will enquire
among the old men there and also at the
Serpent River Band and if there is any
differences I will let you know

your obedient servant

Samuel Hagar

Indian agent

James White Esq

Geographer

Department of

The Interior

Ottawa