

41 A/2

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 29 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.

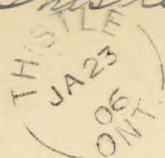
To ensure free transmission of your reply I enclose herewith an addressed envelope which will come free of postage.

*Whistle
Grey Co. Ont*

Jas. White Esq.

Geographer, Dept. of Interior, Ottawa.

Shistle P. O. Grey Co., Ont.
Jan 23rd 1906



Dear Sir, I beg to acknowledge receipt of attached sheet, and noted its requirements. I may say that the name "Shistle" as applied to this small country Post Office, is the result, after due enquiries, of a patriotic national sentiment on the part of Mr. J. M. Findlay acting postmaster at Bromore at the time of institution of this office, and Mr. David M. Selvey, the first P. M. of the same, both of whom are of Scotch descent, and living in a settlement largely Scotch.

To the west of the Office $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant, and not likely to be reported by any other office, is a lake of about 100 acres in size, rich in marl of a superior quality, and from which the large Cement Mills in the Town of Durham is supplied some 6 miles distant. The Lake is called "Wilder's" from the fact of several families of that name living in close proximity to it. They were of a wild regardless nature getting into fights quite frequently, and whooping after the manner of Indians, from whom they were generally supposed to be descended, inveterate hunters and trappers as they were, helped to carry out the idea. It is reported that one by the name of David Wilder attempted in a fit of rage to drown his wife, but being a strong muscular woman was not able to accomplish his purpose. Two years ago

an interesting find was fished up by the dredge in the shape of a bone of a mans arm, together with an Indian skinning knife

There are not any of the same now remaining in the locality, being scattered to the four winds of Heaven some have gone to Kansas, to Muskoka, to Michigan, Idaho &c. some of whom are still alive I hear, A Mrs. Thos Daly and Mrs. John Moore, are the only descendants now here, the latter being childless. The sons of the former but one are also in Michigan, the one remaining here a true type of the proverbial Indian as we read about him. high cheek bones, no labor any more than he can help, shiftless. I believe there is a Nelson Wilder living in the vicinity of Durham said to be a descendant of these families.

The Lake is fast becoming called "Hamiltons" from the fact that one of the nearest farmers has placed boats upon it, for the use of picnic parties. who come from within many miles radius. The banks are beautifully wooded with pine spruce, balsam, cedar, and a white barked birch, a beautiful and ideal spot for a Summers afternoon outing. A P. O. by the name of "Merritt" used to be in the vicinity but now discontinued called after some relation of ^{the late} Mr. Geo. Jackson ex M. P. who was instrumental in starting the office. Another P. O. by name of "Greenside" existed some 15 years ago, and kept by Mr. Robt. Legate, while he was Clerk of the Township of Egremont. This office was to the S. E. of Thistle, and named from a clump of evergreens growing near by. I have taken a delight to gather such information as I could, there are really nothing further.

(to pg 2)

I am Dear Sir

Your Obedient Servant

Wm. W. Ramage

P. M. Shistle,

Esquemont Township

Grey Co., Ont.