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Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 28 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.

Thornbury

Grey Co. Ont.

Thornbury Pk.
Apr 11 1906

Dear Sir In reply to Mr. E. E. E. I would say I found it difficult to get correct information, but think I have at last succeeded. It appears in 1826. Chas. Rawlin P.L.S. assisted by a Mr. Gifford also a P.L.S. who was employed by Govt of Surrey. Township and Town of Thornbury. at which time it was suggested that it be called Thornbury out of compliment to Mr. Gifford who was born in a town of that name in Somerset England - Thornburyⁱⁿ in valley. enclosed by the Blue mountains of Colony wood so called, because of its blue appearance in certain atmospheric conditions & generally indicating a coming rain. Bear River runs through town & on which there are many very fine water powers: The stream is continuous, being fed by springs at its rising. Thornbury has the greatest power and operates two large mills & plenty power left over.

Yours Truly
J. W. E. Pk.

A Resident of Thornbury.
40 years and Pk-39.