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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa,.....

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.

*Tobermory
rather places in
Bruce Co., Ont.*
Ans'd

County Treasurer's Office



Walkerton, Ont., 3, Nov. 1905.

James White, Esq.,
Geographer,
Department of Interior,
Ottawa.

Dear Sir:-

My reply to your letter of the 12th. ult., is long delayed, but I have been extremely busy and I hope you will excuse the delay which has been unavoidable. The following are the names of such towns and villages within the County of Bruce, that I have been able to obtain information^{of} as to their origin. Commencing with the northern part of the County :-

Tobermory, named by the Highland fishermen after a place in Oban, Scotland. McVicar, named after Peter McVicar, who owned large mills there. Miller's Lake, bears the name of B.B. Miller, Indian Land Agent for Bruce Peninsula. Lion's Head, named in consequence of a cliff, a short distance to the east, bearing a fancied resemblance to a lion's head. McIver, named after John McIver, Indian Agent at Cape Croker Reserve. Wiaraton, named after the place where Sir Edmund Walker Head was born in Kent (see Ency. Brit.). Oliphant, named after Laurance Oliphant, Superintendent of Indian affairs in 1853, '54. Hepworth, When this place was laid out the owner of the property asked a friend of his, who was an Englishman and a Methodist, to suggest a name; he gave John Wesley's birthplace; he aspirated the letter "H". markly, so the place bears the name of "Hepworth", not "Epworth". Allenford, bears the name of James Allen, the founder of the place.

County Treasurer's Office



Walkerton, Ont.,

(2.)

"Southampton", - at the time this was surveyed, the Deputy Minister of Crown Lands ^{at that time,} bestowed the name to commemorate his birthplace in England. "Elsinor", this Dannish name was given in honor of the present Queen; shortly after she became Princess of Wales. "Chesley", - It is said to be named after one Solomon Chesley, who was in the Indian Lands De-
partment in the sixties, whether ^{or not} correct, I cannot say. "Dobbington", bears the name of its founder. "Kincardine", named after the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. "Bervie", named after a prominent town in Kincardineshire, Scotland. "Millarton", bears the name of its founder, William Millar. "Cargill", named after the late Henry Cargill, M.P. "Pinkerton" - bears the name of several families which reside in this locality. "Walkerton", bears the name of its founder, Joseph Walker. "Elmwood", obtained this name owing to the presence of a very large elm tree at the intersection of its ^{two} main streets. "Lucknow", this village was surveyed at the time of the Indian Mutiny, hence its name. "Teeswater", bears the name of the river on which it is situated.

Many of the names in this County seem to have been bestowed in an arbitrary manner by the Post Office Department or Post Office Inspectors, at the time the post offices were established. The information I have given, I am sure is correct with the exception of Chesley, and if you can confirm what I have said, from records of the members of Civil Service, I should feel amply repaid for supplying the above information. I remain

Yours truly

Norman Robertson