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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.

*Vaunce  
Middlesex Co. Ont*

*(See over)*



Ottawa, October 23rd, 1905

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your memo respecting the name of your village and have not been able to find in the Gazetteer another place of the same name. I am, therefore, inclined to think that it may have been made up from the names of some of the residents in your locality, or may be an abbreviation of one of the names submitted when the P. O. was opened.

Yours truly,

*James White*  
Geographer

*Yamsek Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> 1905*

*Dear Sir*

*In reply to the above I may say when the P. O. was opened a friend inquired why it was so named and as no information could be given except that it had been supplied by the department he jokingly said "some official likely had a Dutch uncle whom he wished to honor". I think the name submitted was Evergreen Hill which was something of a natural feature in the locality.*

*\* The residents of this locality are all of English or Scotch descent and the name does not seem to have any relation to any of them*

*Yours truly*

*Jno. W. Robson P. M.*



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Varnumk 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1905

Dear Sir

I am in entire ignorance of the origin of the name Varnumk. Application was made in 1870 for a postoffice in this locality - which was then and still is a country place adjoining the Townships of the Townships of Concord and Pobo. When notice of the grant of the P. O. was received the name was also supplied. No reason was given except that a shorter name than the one we proposed was preferred.

There is a Presbyterian Church <sup>here</sup> - was here before the P. O. - which is the centre and meeting place of what is known as English Settlement congregation. That is the only other ~~other~~ name ever given to the locality except the names of the Townships.

I regret that I cannot give you more satisfactory information.

Yours truly  
Jno. W. Robson P. M.