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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.

*Henry
Grey B. Oct.*

Ventry, Oct. 10 - '03

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

Dear Sir: - In 1868 or '69, when a P. O. was first opened here, the settlers forwarded the name of Maple Grove as their choice. but the Department finding that already on the list, replied that the new office would be known by the name of Ventry.

Previous to that time, and for nearly fifteen years after, it was known to outsiders as the 'Fraser Settlement' from the fact that Alex. Fraser of Perthshire, Scotland, and his family were the first settlers here. When his second son, now the Rev. James Fraser Ph. D. President of New Windsor College at Baltimore (U. S.), led a Surveyor's party in here, in 1855, he was the first white man so far as known, to set foot in this place. The late Mungo Fraser, for over 25 yrs. pastor of Erskine Church, Hanfilton, was the eldest son of this Alex. Fraser, whose remains have lain in the little churchyard here since the year 1879. His wife, an old lady of 84 yrs., still lives, with her two younger sons, on the 'old homestead' taken up in 1855.

Yours very truly
J. G. Johnson.

P. S. Waiting to get correct dates has delayed this.