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# Department of the Interior,

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, ..... APR 14 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.

*Vivian*

York Co. Ont.

Norau. April 25, 1906

Dear Sir

In reply to yours of recent date I beg to say that the name "Norau" was a name on a list submitted by the Postmaster General, in reply to a petition sent forward by the residents of this place asking to have the post office named after Mr. McCormack who has it called McCormackville, The Authorities replied that there was a place by that name or that it was too long, and the above name was picked out of those submitted. This was about forty years ago, and Mr. McCormack is still living and was the first Postmaster (88 years <sup>age</sup>)

This place was particularly noted for its pine forest, which has long since been turned into lumber. Which is all about cleared up and into farm lands. This place is also the watershed between Lake Ontario Lake Simcoe that is we are on the height of land between the above two places. I think the word "Norau" was taken from a place in England by that name. Having the above information will nearly fill the requirements

Very truly yours  
Geo. W. McCormack  
per — Geo. W. McCormack