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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 19 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.

*Wesley, East Luther.
Dufferin Co. Ont.*

Wesley Out
Oct 23rd 1905

Mr James White
Geographer
Dept of Interior
Ottawa

Dear sir

In reply to foregoing, the first name of this post-office was Erasmus (This is simply a rural office, no village here) When I received notice in October 1895 of the intention of the P.O. Dept to establish an office here and placing me in charge the name was filled in, as
"Erasmus" and as the most interested parties had no objection to the name and no particular preference for any other it was allowed to remain and was known by that name until October 1903. ~~The~~ the P.O. authorities ^{previously} notified me of their intention to change the name owing to confusion in delivery of mail between "Erasmus" and "Eramosa" caused by similarity of names and this being the newer office must be changed. After of the patrons of the office met here one evening and after considering a number of names on my motion they accepted "Wesley" I had found to my surprise on examining the Official Postal Guide that there was no office in the entire Dominion of Canada named in honor of the great founder of Methodism. For these and the additional reasons that it was a simple name, easy to ~~pronounce~~ pronounce to write and to spell

it was accepted unanimously and on being
submitted to the Post Office authorities was
approved and the name went into effect
on October 1st 1903 In brief the
name is in honor of John Wesley
the Founder of Methodism

Yours respectfully

Geo Wood
(Postmaster)

Wesley
Dufferin Co
Ontario
East Lutter Township

Oct 23
1905