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# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 27 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.

*Whitefish  
Northampton  
Cant. Argoma Dist.*



Whitefish. Ont. Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 1905

Mr James White  
Geographer. (Dept of Interior)  
Ottawa.

Dear Sir.

Your attached inquiry has been referred by our Postmaster to me and although I was not here at time of naming of station, I was told by the original first settler Mr Henry Smith, that the name was given by the C.P.Ry. Co. to their station, on account of their erroneous opinion that it was situated near the branch of the Whitefish River.

On an early map of the district of Algoma which I have. (issued by Crown Lands Dept of Ontario) the Vermillion River is marked "East branch of Whitefish River". The village is located about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the Vermillion hence I presume the name was chosen. Mr C.W. Spencer of Montreal who was the then Gen Supt Eastern Div and who is now an official of the Nat Trans Con would be in a position to give you full particulars, I should imagine.

If it will assist you in any way I may add that Worthington, (seven miles west) was named after the late James Worthington of Toronto who was an extensive contractor during C.P.Ry construction.

Yours respectfully  
W. J. Swanson