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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, SEP 28 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.

*Whitfield
Dufferin Co. Ont*

Melancthon - 3rd 11 - 85

Thomas Mews Esq P.M.
Whitfield. Ont

Dear Sir

Yours of the 1st inst. Re. Whitfield - duly received and carefully read - I gave the Dep^y a full account of how the office came to be called Whitfield. Some years ago they must have mislaid or lost it. - Will you seem to say in your letter that you are sending me a government form to fill out but there was none enclosed only the letter containing the questions - which I am returning to you. - but I will give you the particulars and you can fill out the form if you honour yourself.

(4-#) I commence with the 4th question. The place was known for and wide a Campbell's Corner the whole of the late South having been located by the Campbells - from Waples - except the lot which Prachun owns. it was Clergy name. But when the application for a post office with Wm Campbell as Postmaster was made - it was found that a Post office of that name was already in use - and as there could not be two of that name they had to look round for another - James Whitley Esq - being so near - and being one of the earliest settlers - and the first Magistrate - his name was suggested and accepted - but being rather an awkward name for a Post office. the form

And adding
James Whitley - death
The date in the grave yard. there - James
Hoping this will answer your purpose
Yours all well
I am yr
J. M. Mews

Whitfield Nov^r 1905
To Mr. James White
Geographer

Dear Sir

Please excuse me for not
answering you before this
there was not any person
about Whitfield that could
tell me anything so i had
to find out were the Ex. P. M
lived Mr P. D Henry for i
knew if any person could
give the information he
could so i wrote to him and
he has sent me the whole
account of it which you
will find inclosed

James Whitley^{senior} died in
the year 1889 yours truly

Whitfield
Postmaster