

114/6

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 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.

Bouwell
Queens Co. P. E. I.

To Office of Geographer
Ottawa

The name of this Place is Bonwill
it has been settled first By people that came here
From the north of Ireland and i understand
they called it after a noted Irishman By the name
of Arthur Bon. he was noted for a great horseman
and was the winner of many Prizes on the
race Course and hence the name of this Place
Bonwill

This is about all the information i can give
you as it is quite a common Country place
and nothing remarkable about it

James Costello
Post Master
at Bonwill

Sept 4th 1905

P. S
concerning dates for the
above ~~data~~ can not give
you any as all the first
settlers are dead or left
the place