

114/5

# 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.

Bradford  
Prince Co. *psj*

Bradford. R.E.I.  
Sept 5<sup>th</sup> 1905-

Dear Sir

I here by try and give you an idea  
of the place in which we live

Bradford was Originally known as Big Clear.  
It taking its name as follows - Big Clear being  
a thickley wooded settlement and by reason  
of a big Bush fire the wood had to be cut  
downe thus making a big Clearance and it  
was so called Big Clear and remained by that  
name until an application was mad for  
a Post Office which the Governement granted  
So we changed the name Big Clear to Bradford  
which name we got out of a Book.

It being the name of a town or village  
near London England. The Boundries of  
this Office is an ideal farming Section of  
R.E.I. It being Situated Between Tryon  
and Cape Traverse.

There are no mountains or valleys.  
Or no Rivers worth speaking of.  
Or no town nearer than Summerside  
in the distance about - Eighteen miles

So trusting these few remarks  
may meet your approval I remain

Benjamin McNeill  
Postmaster