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Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, MAR 2 1906

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 who 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.

✓ *China Point*

Queens Co. P. E. I.

China Point

A farming settlement on the western shore of Orwell Bay N.E.I. bounded on the west by China Creek. I have heard my father William Spencer Crowe, who was born 1796, say that the place was called after a man named Chauncy whom he had heard tell of as the builder of a vessel near that place before he was born. Amongst the old people China tobacco was called Chauncy and when that word came to be pronounced properly a change also took place in pronouncing the name of the settlement. I remember hearing both pronunciations. The man referred to must have been an old French settler but there is a possibility perhaps a strong one that the name is merely a corruption of the French word chêne (an oak) as the land on the point was covered with oak a generation or two ago.

(Orwell Bay was called after Lord ^{or Orville (perhaps Downe is his name)} Orville; Pownal after Lord Pownal. Post Selpuk after Lord Selpuk Gallis Point (now Earncliffe) because a gallows or gallows was found erected upon it. Seal River because of a number of grampus killed there 75 years ago. The fish I imagine were not grampus but blackfish. Cherry Valley was called after the home Capt Buss a royalist, who settled there. Vernon River was called after Lord Vernon

W. S. Crowe Postmaster

P.S.

The Earl of Selkirk settled the land to the south of Orwell or Orville Bay (It was called Orville in old times) The Port was named after him, Vernon, Seal and Orwell Rivers empty after meeting into the Bay which is an arm of the Hillsborough Bay

W. S. C.

JAMES WHITE

James White