

112/6

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 30 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.

Hunter's River
Queens Co. P 2 9

Hunter River
Sep. 2. 05

James White Esq

Dear Sir: In reference to your inquiry respecting derivation of place names in Canada I may say that this Village Hunter River takes its name from a man called Hunter whose body was found on the banks of the stream which is now called Hunter River and where the Village is situate.

Of the history of Hunter very little appears to be known by the oldest inhabitant now living except that he was supposed to be a traveller or trapper that perished here when the country was a forest and only a path through the dense woods to travel by. Year of death unknown, but thought to be about 60 or 70 years ago. It is however a known fact that the body was found and buried in a spot that was known by the older inhabitants, and in excavating for a building about 15 years ago parts of the skull and were unearthed and placed in the Cemetery situated on the banks of the River.

The River which takes its name from Hunter is a fresh water stream, which flows into Clyde or New Glasgow River and thence into the Gulf of St. Lawrence. About 35 years ago the Railroad was opened through the country and of course the Station was called Hunter River and also Village. So far as I can learn this was the first name ever applied to the place. Trusting the above information is as full as desired I remain yours truly
J. H. Vaunderstone Postmaster
Hunter River N.S.

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Ottawa

I have been instructed to report the following information to you regarding the names of persons who have been identified as being of the same name as the person named in the foregoing, and also regarding the names of other persons in the vicinity of your residence, knowing any one of the persons named in the foregoing, or other persons passing on his usual route, and other persons who are known to you. It will be many months before the information is received. In your communication 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 neighborhood, will you kindly refer to them.

Below I have indicated the lines along which I desire information and also the character of information in Canada:

- (1) Whether named after a village, town, or city, or named after 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 recorded by the system 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, and any details respecting the nature of the name as applied to the feature and the geographical position of the latter.

P.S. If there are any special information which you would like to have, not supplied in the foregoing, would make an effort to obtain it and supply it at any time if requested yours
 J. H. V.

Herbert Price
 Queen's