

11E/15

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.

Iris
Queens Co.

The name Iris was given to this place by the Postoffice department about 20 years ago when we first had the Postoffice opened here. The former name was Pleasant Valley. The answer I recd. from the Postoffice Inspector of our division upon asking why the name of the place was changed to Iris, was that - there was too many of the name 'Pleasant Valley' in the Dominion and was causing some confusion in the discharge of mail matters.

I am informed the way this place got its first name 'Pleasant Valley' it was about sixty years ago before there was any settlers on a government road opened here, the people had a foot path between Murray Harbour and Belle Creek a distance of about ten miles which was then mostly forest, and on one occasion there minister, Rev. Donald McDonald was passing through on this path in company with two or three of his friends, and when they were about half way through, they set down to luncheon in a nice little valley, and upon some of them making remarks about the particular place there were the minister said, well call this Pleasant Valley,