

114/8

# 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.

Rock Barre ✓  
Kings Co. P.S.J

● Rock Barra is so named from the fact that almost all the original settlers in this section of the country came here from the island of Barra, in Scotland.

How the name Rock came to be compounded with Barra I cannot say. Some explain it by the presence at some little distance off the Island shore, in the time of settlement, of a large rock, which proved a nuisance to the navigation of fishing-boats &c. used by the pioneers. This rock, in the course of about a hundred years - or more - has been so battered by the sea that now scarcely a trace of it remains. This may have been the cause of the compound name; but it is more probable that the name as it now stands was transplanted directly from ~~Scotland~~ some locality in the Hetheland to their new found Island across the Atlantic.

Daniel McNeill,

Postmaster.