

Department of the Interior,

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OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, NOV 16 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 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.

*Mawcok*

Shefford Co., Que.

Department of the Interior  
Office of Reclamation

Dear Sir:-

Re origin of name of this Post Office - would say that it is named after a river, on which the village is built. This river takes its source in a small lake by the name of Boston Pond, in the County of Shefford, and discharges its waters some twelve miles further, into the Black River (a tributary of the Yamaska).

The name Mawcook is said to be a compound word, from the Oroquois dialect and to mean Crane River. I have no authentic proofs of this, but it is what I have always understood from some of the old settlers who have now passed away.

The banks of the river are, - at certain season of the year, - infested with cranes, which would lead one to believe the origin of the name. I have never been able to ask information of anyone knowing the Oroquois dialect.

Yours very truly  
H. L. S. Andrews