

Department of the Interior,

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OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, NOV 6 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.

Musselyville

Bonaventure Co., Que

In 1890, the fall of 1890, the Quebec government gave me certain rights on a track of land, in the township of Hamilton, Bonaventure County. P. Q.

According to said rights, the Crown land agent - could not sell - by location ticket - any lot of land in said township without my consent.

I immediately went to live there, built a house, and in the following year, a Chapel also, on the foot of the 7th Concession, along the Mercier road.

The Quebec Government, through Hon. H. Mercier, prime minister, promised to help me in establishing a new settlement.

but, in March of the following year, the Mercier Government fell, and another, of another color, took up the succession.

This new government not only refused to help me, but left no stone unturned against me.

However, in spite of all this, I went on, in the midst of poverty and all kind of difficulties, to build up my parish.

Some settlers came to live around me, but, as it often happens, some of them were not in earnest, their one purpose being to take away all market lumber from their lands.

And so, I continued for a little over four years; at which time, there were, I should say, about seventy five families in my Colony.

In the mean time, one of my brothers joined me from Europe, with his family; he is still living there and is the

postmaster of the village.

In 1895 I left Musselyville and went to live in the United States of America. At present, I am at the head of St. John the Baptist parish, in Fall River, Mass.

My colony I named after my own name Musselyville. My name is English; ~~that~~ of my ancestors left Manchester England, to live in Belgium, several centuries ago.

I am born in Belgium, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 1878 and came over to Canada in 1885.

For four years I worked at Montreal - two years at St. Anne de Beauport near Quebec, and four years at Musselyville. From 1895 I am working in the U.S.A.

I am born in 1852 at Heule, Westflanders, Belgium.

Musselyville is dedicated to St. Alphonsus, and so is called St. Alphonsus of Musselyville (the name of the post office is Musselyville) - Some people call it: Caylin River; but improperly, for Caylin River is situated at six miles from Musselyville, along the shore of the Bay de Chaleurs.

The place has also an Indian name, but I forgot what it is.

I attest that all the foregoing is true.

H. J. Mussely
P.C. priest -
founder of Musselyville, Fall River
Mass.