

Department of the Interior,

31 #/4

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, OCT 31 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.

*Orunston  
Chateaugay Co. Ill.*

The Village of Ormstown was known as the Village of Durham up to the year 1885 at this date the G. T. Railway built a branch Railway through here and as they had already a station called Durham they changed the name to Ormstown. Ormstown is the name of the Concessions which form the Parish

These Concessions were surveyed about the year 1820 and settled with people from Scotland and the north of Ireland, and at that time they were some noted person named Ormiston. where these parties came from so they called the Concessions after him, and Durham got its name from Lord Durham who visited the place when he was Governor. Robert Seller of Huntingdon has printed a book giving a history of the whole district this book was printed a number of years ago and gives a full account of the first settlers in the place

Yours truly  
Alex Mills

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Village of Ormstown