

317/9

Department of the Interior,

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.

Luis
Pontiac Co. Lee

Ans'd

Simpson
Dec 4, 1905.

James White Esq.
Geographer
Department of the Interior.

Sir

Your letter of Oct 31st respecting the derivation of the name "Quio" has been referred by the municipal council of the village of Simpson to me, as being probably, the only person in the locality who has any knowledge of the derivation of the name "Quio", as you see it, or "Simpson", which is now the legal designation of this incorporated village.

My personal knowledge of the matter dates back about 40 years, during which time I may say I have resided in the place, from information gleaned from residents whose opinions overlap my own, I learned that for more than 40 years past there has been a settlement

at the junction of the Ottawa and a small affluent which traverses the townships of Onslow and some other of the neighbouring townships; and that this small river from the earliest days of the settlement had always borne a name, which by the inhabitants, who were wholly English-speaking, was occasionally rendered, phonetically I presume, as "Ouro"

For a considerable time the settlement was known either by the name of the river or by that of the township of Onslow in which it is situated, and which, "Onslow", up to about 30 years ago was the post office name of the place.

About that time, the number of inhabitants having greatly increased, a desire for municipal self-government arose, and steps were taken to have the village erected into a separate municipality. I was then appointed by the county council of Pontiac as superintendent to investigate the matter of the petition and to report thereon in accordance with the provisions of the municipal code. In suggesting a name for the new municipality, I of course gave due weight to the wishes of the municipal electors. The

name attached to the small river
 referred to, which ran through the
 village, was unanimously chosen,
 but, owing to the uncertainty of the
 spelling, "Bonillon" or "Quins" being
 used indiscriminately by the public,
 I concluded before sending in my report
 to obtain, if possible!! the assistance of a
 more expert philological scholar than
 myself. Mr. Wotton Smith, a resident of
 of the village, and then mayor of the town-
 ship of Ouslon and warden of the county,
 suggested the late Dr. Van Cortlandt of
 Ottawa, as one versed in such matters.
 His advice was accordingly sought.
 After some research he informed me
 that the spelling "Bonillon" was un-
 doubtedly the correct one, but, as, being
 French, it embodied the liquid sound
 of the double b together with the nasal
 sound of the terminal syllable, its pro-
 nunciation would present an inen-
 surable difficulty to the inhabitants,
 who were all English speaking. As the
 spelling "Quins" did not preserve either
 the liquid or nasal sounds, he suggested
 that the spelling should be "Quyon" as
 affording the nearest approach to the
 desired effect. This spelling I adopted
 in my report, which was homologated by

the county Council and made⁴
effective by the necessary Order in
Council. Thus the name "Dunson"
became the legal designation of the
new municipality, and by ~~it~~ such
has it since been designated, and
thus affects the title to the immovable
property within its limits.

Of course this long recital leaves
the question of the derivation of the
name "Bouillon" or "Duis" practically
unsolved. For all I know the original
name may be Al Longuin, or French as
determined by W. Van Cortlandt, or God-
Knows-what. One thing I do know, that
any tampering with our legal name
of "Dunson" would be deeply resented by
the people as uncalled for and serving
no good purpose.

I might as postmaster say, that
letters from the eastern parts of Quebec
still frequently come addressed "Bouillon"
thus apparently corroborating W. Van Cort-
landt's dictum in the matter.

I have the honor to remain
Yours very truly

W. Van Cortlandt

Awaiting information from
the Bureau with a view of "Duyon"

Ref Q3
2-1-03

Duyon
Dec 31st 1902

A. H. Whittemore Esq.
Secretary Geographical Board.

Sir -

During the last summer I waited upon you with reference to the change made by your board in the name of this municipality, from "Duyon" to "Quis". You then informed me that as the board would not meet for some considerable time owing to the absence of the members; it would be well for me to then formulate the objections which the municipal council were against the change, in order that the board might then take them into consideration.

The objections entertained are briefly these. The municipality was incorporated upwards of thirty years ago under the name of "Duyon" and thus for municipal purposes that name has become its legal

and only designation. It has since been conducted under the same name, and thus for all the purposes of registration the name of "Lyon" can be the only legal one as affecting land titles; The post office name is "Lyon" and never was "Lino" at any time.

As the largest and most populous center in the county of Portnevo, and being the location of several large industries including the Dowd Milling Company, with a capital of \$500,000, it has become well known all the mercantile world by its name of "Lyon", and its interest will, and have in fact by the change of the station name effected by the Canadian Pacific Ry. Co. in compliance with your instructions, already suffered serious prejudice.

The municipal council, a copy of whose resolution has already been placed in your hands, is of the opinion that the objections advanced are of sufficient weight to justify a re-consideration of the step taken by your board.

I have the honor
to remain your obedient servant

W. H. H. H. H.
Mayor

2/1/03

Chief, copy of resolution of Council, which
he refers, not received.

Asked for information re origin of "Drap" which
he gave me verbally, when here in the summer.