

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 22 1906

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.

✓ Batoche
Sask

Batoche P.Q. 7 Mars 1906

Monsieur

Vous trouverez les renseignements que vous demandez :

On a donné le nom de Batoche au village car le premier colon qui est venu s'établir en magasin sur la place s'appelait David Letendre. Son nom Batoche il avait bâti une belle maison sur le bord de la rue habitation à la place de la traversée où passaient les traînes qui se rendaient à Carlton, à Minotous et au Lac des Lacs. La rivière s'appelait la Rivière du Gros Ventre ou Belly et David Letendre a vendu sa maison, son magasin sa maison d'actuellement au gouvernement pour servir de Barrack. David Letendre a quitté la place et est allé s'établir sur une ferme. Il est mort en 1901. Sa veuve a vendu son magasin et une partie de sa terre à un commerçant d'affaires russe avec quelques uns de ses enfants. Les autres sont mariés. Plusieurs sont morts.

La Mission Catholique est établie sur un collin à 3/4 de mile de la traversée. Il y a une Eglise de 60 X 25⁺ une maison et une école.

C'est ici que le général Skidleton est arrivé avec ses soldats à l'époque des troubles en 1885.

Environ 50 familles échevonnées sur le bord de la Rivière appartiennent à la paroisse. Voilà à peu près les renseignements que je pense vous donner pour le moment.

Votre Obed. Serviteur

Joseph P. M.
à Batoche

Batoche to-day is not the busy trading post it was twenty-five years ago. The riverside plat, famous throughout those parts as headquarters for "Old Batoche," the trafficker in furs, has become a straggling little hamlet strangled by a thick growth of scrub. The business activity of the district has moved over to the railroad town of Duck Lake, with its Mounted Police post, its stores, its bank and its elevators. It was not so in the days when Riel made Batoche his base of supplies. The half-breed trader from whom the place took its name was originally Xavier Letendre. The natives will tell how Letendre when a youth went to Norway House with his first canoe-load of skins, and told the Hudson's Bay people his name. Too lazy or too busy to learn the French name, the factor announced that in future the young trapper would be called Batoche, the Indian corruption of the French "bateau," a boat. And Batoche he remained until Pere Moulin, the village priest, laid about him for an inscription for the old trader's tombstone. Batoche did not join Riel. Before the troubles began he had built a house—for many years the finest structure on the upper reaches of the Saskatchewan.—at a cost of ten thousand dollars. The rougher work had been sawn and planed by hand, and the fine carpentering had been laboriously carried all the way from Winnipeg. The whole place had been fitted up with a care for detail that up there in the wilderness amounted to elegance.

Batoche Sask