

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 21 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 that 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.

"Coalfields"
Asa, Sack ✓
Roche Perceé

Coalfields
Sask:

Dear Sir

Re your request for information about this locality, I beg leave to state, that the name of this village is Coalfields, It is situated on Range 6 sec 3 township 2 west of 2 meridians on the banks of the Souris river, & about 6 miles from the U.S. Boundary of N. Dakota.

The chief industry is the mining & shipping of a grade of coal, called the Souris Lignite Coal. From this industry & the numerous seams of coal found here Coalfields derives its name. The mines were first started some 15 years ago, by a Mr Harsard, & one of the mines bears the name of the Harsard mine to this day. Mr Harsard is now a prosperous farmer at Josephsburg Alberta.

At first, the mines were opened merely to supply the local farmers with fuel, but since then, so great has become the demand, that the output is about 100,000 tons per annum in fact it is almost the only fuel obtainable in Southern Manitoba.

The general appearance of the valley is of a rugged type, perhaps the most striking feature is the sugar loaf hill, in which are distinctly seen no less than 4 coal seams varying in size from 1 to 7 feet in thickness.

The coal is obtained by tunnelling into the hill side.

The valley here is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile wide, & has sloping banks about 100 ft high, beyond which opens out the boundless prairie.

There is a curious formation of sandstone rocks extending for miles along each bank of the river, in some places having the appearance of solid masonry.

One of these rocks, has a large aperture in it & is called the Pierced Rock. The C.P.R. depot which is in the vicinity is called Roche Perce.

Trusting that these few lines will give you the desired information

I am
yours truly

J. A. Lee.
Postmaster

J. A. Severelle
Coalfields
Sask.