

# 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.

"Cotham"

~~Ansa~~ Sask

Cotham Sask Sep 6<sup>th</sup> / 05

To Jas White Esq  
Dear Sir

Our post master (Mr. E. J. Bissicks) has handed me your letter of Aug<sup>21</sup><sup>st</sup> as, being one of the pioneer settlers, and the father of the settlement of Cotham, he considered me the fittest person to deal with the subject matter of it.

I would state that I and my son, together with Mr. Bissicks, came here from England in the year 1885, at that time there were three French Canadian settlers here, very nice people, but all of whom left for other parts some time ago, and the settlers are now all English; There are 27 homesteaders, and with their families number 63 souls, most of the homesteaders have purchased other land thus increasing their holdings -

The natural features of the country, in this district are rolling prairie thickly interspersed with bluffs of white poplar, and sloughs surrounded by withy and other scrub, and it has altogether a park like appearance and is generally considered very pretty; the soil is good, dark sandy loam on clay subsoil -

I should state that Cotham (pronounced Cot-ham) is situated on the top of the hill bounding the Deerpelle Valley on the North, and 4 or 5 settlers have their homesteads in the valley or partly so -

When we arrived here this was really a portion of the back woods of Canada known only by sections having then been quite recently surveyed, but where  
P.T.O.

in time we applied for a post office it was necessary to give the place a name, a meeting was called for that purpose, after several names had been discussed and no conclusion arrived at I proposed Cotham, which I felt pretty sure would be accepted as a majority of those present, including myself, were from Bristol England, and Cotham is a delightful suburb of that City, it was also appropriate as it signifies a habitation on a hill.

For 18 years Broadview was our nearest town, and 17 miles by trail from here, with the Valley and Crooked Lake Indian reserve to cross; Now we go to Dubue on the Kirkella branch of the C. P. Ry. only 9 miles and no hills to speak of, and you may imagine what a boon it is to us.

From 1885 to 1902 our nearest neighbour to the north, was 19 miles from us, now I believe every available quarter section has been taken up and C. P. R. land purchased besides, there is a good area under crop this year, and a large amount of land has been broken -

We have a school house and English Church here at Cotham and are a thriving and contented community.

The only river near us is the Du' Appelle which runs through the Valley about one & a half miles from here, there are two lakes Round Lake and Crooked Lake about 12 miles apart one to the East the other to the West of us & the river flows through both, there are fish of excellent quality in these lakes - don't think of any further particulars at present, but if I can be of any further service to you I shall be pleased to render it on hearing from you

I am Dear Sir

Yours faithfully

Edu<sup>d</sup> Trood Sen<sup>r</sup>