

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.

*Battouwood
Sask.*

Cottonwood, Sask. Dec 5th 1886

Dear Sir; I had the fortune (good or bad) to take up my residence in this country, but three years ago, when Regina was a city of tents only. The name of our little settlement "Cottonwood" is thus, because it extends along the sides of Cottonwood creek or river, so named from the kind of tree (Cottonwood poplar) which grow all through its courses, also from the Cotton-tail rabbit which lives in numbers there.

The Cottonwood creek runs nearly parallel with Wascane creek for about ten miles, then they join and together enter the La Pappelle river, which carries their waters to the great Saskatchewan. "Wascane" is the Indian name for "Pile of bones". When we came here there was a large pile or collection of Buffalo bones on one of the banks of the Wascane river where the Cree Indians used to meet for some sort of ceremony or worship. We live twenty miles from Regina. The "Pile of bones" was east of here about six miles, or twelve miles N.W. from Regina. Hence town or R.R. station on C.P.R. was named from a favorite overseer when the railroad was being built.

Hoping this will be of some slight use to you
Yours etc H. M. Deville
Post Master,