

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, ..... AUG 23 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.

Devils Lake

~~Assiniboia~~ SASK

Devils Lake 184  
Park Sept 29<sup>th</sup> 1905

This  
Sir

This locality is named from the  
Salteaux Indians for mysterious lake  
or sounds that cannot be accounted for  
The Indian language has no word  
for Devils to the sense the English tongue  
has I see the Government maps  
have it down as Good Spirit Lake  
but I have been in the North West for  
thirty six years and have never  
heard the Indians or French halfbreeds  
call this place by any other name but  
Devil's Lake and that is how it is known  
throughout the country by calling it  
Good Spirit Lake you make a great  
confusion with names.

There is one place I should like  
to draw your attention too is Copper mine  
near the north of us which runs into  
the Arctic Ocean. Now when I first came  
to this country I came in contact with  
people that went out for the British  
Government in search of Sir John Franklin  
by late James W. Kay Jr. and they have  
all told me that both sides of the river  
for miles the copper ore crops out.

Now, <sup>at the</sup> price that copper is to day there  
is enough to supply the whole world.  
There is bigger Wolodyke there  
than on Dawson. You will find my  
information substantiated by the notes  
taken of the Sir John Franklin's search parties  
to the Arctic Sea overland under Admiral  
Back. If you want any more information  
on the subject I shall be happy to give the same.  
Robert Russell Smith Port Maitland