

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, FEB 23 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.

Kristnes
Sask.

Kristnes is a compound word from the two words "Krist" (derived from Kristus: Christ) and "nes" meaning a small peninsula or point of land stretching out into a river, lake or larger body of water. The fact that this name was considered the most suitable for this postoffice, I shall more fully explain a little farther on. —

Towards the latter part of the 9th century, there lived a man named "Helgi" known even to our present generation by the title of "The Lean" (magri) He came of the blue blood of the Viking leaders — the next thing the North Saxons ever had to a Lord, and to escape the grasping and haughty rule of Harold the fair haired, who ascended the Norwegian throne in 872, he with many of his family and friends moved to Iceland. Here he embraced Christianity, at least nominally tho' he still voted offerings to the old Norse war Gods, when in danger from his enemies or from the sea. Later on he sailed for the shores of Iceland, which was then just being settled, by spirits as restless as his own, and "took land" — to use a literal translation of the Norse phrase for "settled" — in that part of the country still known as "Eyjafjörður" — fjörð or fjord of Isles — There he erected his rude mansion and according to custom named it, calling it "Kristnes"

This name thus has attached to it, much of the interesting history of our

little branch of the Teutonic race and hence the undersigned, who was brought up near the ancient "Kristnes", thought it fit, that the postoffice, which the Department was good enough to grant his locality should be named, after the founder of the settlement or district from which he hailed.

Other traditional names, if any, are very scarce around here, and if they do exist, I am unable to give their derivation. —

Kristnes P.O. April 6th 1906.

J. S. Tharlacius
postmaster.