

*J. H. McNaught*

# 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.

*"Mary field" Sask*  
*and*

*address answer to  
J. H. McNaught  
Halcyon Hot Spgs  
B.C.*

The party J. G. M. Gaughan  
who gave the land for school  
in this district named the  
School District Maryfield  
is all I can tell you about  
it when it got a P.O. it took  
the same name now that it  
has a Railroad the C.P.R.  
has taken the same name for  
Station

D.M. J. G. P.M.

As Mr M. Gaughan is left this district  
and is at the Station not present

The origin of the name Maryfield for this place was in  
1883. I took up a homestead there & like all old country settlers  
thought it should have a name, my elder sister's name is Mary.  
and when she was writing to me she suggested that I name  
my place after her I did so calling it Maryfield. At that  
time post offices were few the mail for all the settlers in the  
district came to Fleming & as we only got our letters very  
irregular I got a young lad named for Mahon to ride my  
pony over a week to Fleming to bring in the mail for all the  
neighbours he got to be known as the Maryfield post man. My

friends in the Old Country always put the name Maryfield  
on all letters & papers that I send.

Then there being a large number of young children  
within a radius of 2 miles of my place. I suggested to  
my neighbors the necessity of having a school somewhere in  
the district; at the same time offering a plot of land  
free, also \$10<sup>00</sup> towards starting a fund to build a  
school. But at that time, money was so far from plentiful  
among the settlers that they could not see their way  
to adopt my suggestion. About two years after I left  
the district I had a communication from one Mrs Wm  
Stableford asking if I would still stand to the offer  
I made about the school. I replied I would &  
the first board of Trustees named the school  
district, Maryfield School District after my old  
place. Times having got a little better they had formed  
a school district. Then shortly after there was a  
post office opened near the school & it took the name  
of Maryfield. The young lads got up Cricket & Football  
Clubs and they too took the name of the Maryfield  
Cricket & Football Clubs. And now the Town of Canada  
seems to place it firm on its maps. That is the  
History of the Name. My sister is still living in Scotland.

While I was there I was a young bachelor now I am  
getting to be an old one but am very pleased to see that I  
have left my imprint on the Map of Canada the  
home of my adoption.

I trust the above information will be satisfactory

I am  
Yours truly  
John Young McNaught.