

Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 22 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.

"Newburg" *Sask*
Ross creek *assa*

Sir:

In answer to your query I would say the name "Newburg" was given to this Post Office by myself on account of the School District in which it is situated having that name. I have made inquiries concerning its source as a name for the S. D. and find it was selected by the Education Dept. when the S. D. was formed.

The "Ross Creek" runs thro' the district and there is an interesting tradition told me as to the source of its name — The "Gros Ventre" Indians came over here from the United States and fought or were fighting a battle at the junction of the Ross and Gros Ventre creeks near Irvine when some Army officer named Ross appeared upon the scene and in some way succeeded in stopping the battle and his name was then given to the creek and that of the "Gros Ventre" Indians was given to the other creek. You may accept this for what it is worth. I tell it as I heard it and cannot attempt to vouch for its authenticity as anything more than a story. If, however, I am able to find anyone acquainted with the facts of the case and can throw any further light upon the subject I shall send you another letter at a later time —

To Jas. White Esq,
Geographer
Dept. of Interior
Ottawa

Respectfully Yours
W. E. Martin P. Esq.