

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.

*Quill Lake" Sask.
Watson
Paskwigan*

Quill Lake, Sask.,
Sept. 30/05

Sir,

Mr Gordon, our Postmaster has kindly passed this circular to me. I am much pleased to be able to add my quota as the pronunciation & spelling of geographical names has a great attraction for me. If you issue any literature or if there is any society in this connection I wish you would put me in touch with it.

I would like if you would give me the pronunciation of; Bagot, Beausejour C.P.R. Stations in Man., and of Gananoque, Ont. & the spelling of Ston(e) Mountain of Man.

On the other side I give a few of the places in this vicinity

I am Sir

Yours very truly

W. L. MacKenzie

Quill Lake - a village & station on the C.N.R.
370 miles from Winnipeg, named after
two lakes, "Little Quill" & "Big Quill"
lying 6 miles south. These lakes were
so called by the Indians because
they got "pelican" feathers from them
for their arrows.

Watson - a village & station, 389 miles from
Winnipeg, is named after Senator Watson
of Portage la Prairie.

Parkweigan - a flag station on C.N.R.
13 miles east of here is Indian for
Charley.