

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.

Riversdale
Anna Lark

This is only a local district, with a post office by the name of Riverdale, there is a School located on my Homestead (viz) the S. W $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec 12-21-33 W of the 1st P.M., and the name of the School D^t is Riverdale the School D^t was organized before the post office was established and we asked the postal authorities at Ottawa to name the Post office after the School D^t, Riverdale, but No, they would not do that, they said the P.O must be Riversdale

The name Riverdale was taken from a temperance story, called The Westons, of Riverdale, the book was given to my late Wife, who died on the 18th of March^{AD} 1890, before she was married by a friend, the story was founded on fact, and Riverdale is a town or village in Lancashire, England, the name is appropriate for this locality as we are on the Big Cut, Arm Creek

I located here in June A.D. 1887,
Have been here ever since, my Wifes
maiden name was Ellen Needham,
Born at the village of Hagg, N^o
Buxton, Derbyshire, England in
the year 1833,

Yours Sincerely

Wm Rowland,

Postmaster,

Riversdale,

Asa.