

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.

"Joc Chwood Hills"

~~Assess~~ Sask

The H.B. Coy's Post located here
in the Hills, holds the original

name Poo-sack-an-acting, or T. Hills,
Province of Saskatchewan.

and is in Tp 27. Range 15 - W 2nd meridian

where this punk wood was most
abundantly found round the Post.

N. M. W. J. McKenzie
ms

E. A. V.

H.B. Coy's office
Touchwood Hills

Sept 6th 1905

N. M. W. J. McKenzie,
HUDSON'S BAY CO.
TOUCHWOOD HILLS, ASSA.

ms

"Touchwood Hills"

An Indian word, spelling as follows

"Poo-back-an-ā-ching"

and means in English Touchwood Hills.

It has been known by this name from time immemorial - quantities of punk wood that the Indians used to make fire with before the days of matches, was found in these hills and still some may be found.

The original mode of igniting this wood was by rubbing two pees together, and later by flint & steel. Some of the old Indians still carry a piece, in their firebags and use it for lighting their pipes, in their more solemn ceremonies, such as medicine making etc

It is of a punky or spongy nature and very much resembles a sponge in color also porous, and the least spark of fire will ignite it.

N. M. W. J. McKee

HUDSON'S BAY CO

TOUCHWOOD HILLS, ASSA.

W. M. W. J. McKee
1878