

The Origin of the Names of the Post Offices of Simcoe County

BY DAVID WILLIAMS

The sources of the names of places are almost unlimited. Some are named after their founder or after some place or circumstance germane to him or his associates. Thus, England is the land of the Angles, Nova Scotia is a new Scotland to home-seekers from across the ocean; St. Lawrence commemorates the day of the river's discovery; London, Thames, Stratford, Avon, were named in loving memory of the Home-land. Others are named after some physical feature, as Montreal, the royal mountain; or some incident in their history may have suggested a name that appealed to all and became at once and forever adopted, as Pennsylvania. In Canada many places are named after the original inhabitants, or have retained the name they gave it; as Huron, Penetanguishene.

So, to compare smaller things with greater, we find that all cases, as well as others of a more official character, have operated in giving names to the one hundred and seventy-three or four distributing centres of the County of Simcoe, the largest county in Province of Ontario. Many of them are named after the first settlers of the immediate locality, as Fennells, Guthrie, and it is thus that the memory of those who were first to brave the hardships of life in the wilderness is perpetuated; some from the towns or boroughs these settlers had left beyond the seas, as Hampshire Mills, Dalston; others from local peculiarities or incidents, as Glen Huron, Anten Mills; while

* Reprinted from the Papers and Records of the Ontario Historical Society for 1906.