

# Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa,.....

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.

ALBUNA  
Essex Co. Ont.

*See over*

Dear Sir

I beg to acknowledge, with thanks, your memo re "Cawal" & "Albana". You omitted to mention the derivation of Albana. Is it named after a place or character in a book or is it compounded, if so, from what.

Yours truly  
James White

I am the person who gave the name Albana to a P.O. in the County of Essex. I took the name out of a ~~Latin~~ Latin Dictionary - Albana or Albunea a fountain near ancient Rome, and means clear. I thought <sup>the</sup> reference would not be inappropriate, owing to the clear water which is obtained from the gravelly soil at the place where this P.O. has been established. My aim was to find a name that would <sup>not</sup> conflict in similarity with other names of Post offices throughout the country, and thus prevent mail matter going astray.

Your obedient servant

John Thompson

Present P.M. Cawal

Formerly P.M. Albana