

# Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, OCT 5 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.

*Ashburn*  
*Ontario Co. Ont.*

Ashburn Oct 24/55

To Jos White Esq

Dear sir

In replying to your questions I would say first that Ashburn derived its name from Ashbourne Derby in England. a Waggon maker by the name of Daniel Bawler who was a native of Ashbourne called a meeting of the residents in order to have the name changed from Butlers Corners to Ashbourne but by some mistake it was put down Ashburn by which it has been spelt since Ashburn went under the name of Butlers Corners up to 1850 or 1855- so named after Richard Butler who was a native of the north of Ireland and one of the first settlers here. I cannot find out at what time he came here but it must have been before 1837 for he was a sergeant in some troop at the time of the rebellion of 37

Ashburn is situated on Lot 27 in the eight and ninth Con of the Township of Whitley

Hoping the above will be satisfactory

I am yours truly  
J Lawrence P M