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Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER

Ottawa, AUG 29 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.

Cherry Valley ✓
Queens Co P E I

Cherry Valley P.E.I. Sep 16th 1905

Mr James White

Dear Sir

In reply to yours of 29th Uet, soliciting information of the district in which I reside I may state that I am handicapped by the fact that this part of the island has settled nearly a century ago and in some instances three generations has passed away and with these some of the information you require.

This district and the one to the west of it was formerly known as Pownal Bay; the name of the last mentioned district has since been abbreviated to Pownal.

Pownal Bay lies about 12 miles South of Charlotte Town and both districts are situated at the head waters of the bay (hence the name), Cherry Valley proper the district South of us is like situated. I cannot state how the name originated, but as it is by no means uncommon in England it has probably been imported by some of the early English settlers who made this district their home. This district is now called Mount Mellish although our Post Office is called Cherry Valley after the place in which it was formerly located. Many years ago a family named Lane, from Mount Mellish Province of Ulster, Ireland settled here and called their new residence after their former place of abode; about 60 years ago a public school was erected on their premises, and the district has been since known as Mount Mellish.

Cherry Valley retains its original name which was acquired by the abundant growth of wild cherry with which the land was formerly covered. Wishing I could give you more information I remain, very respectfully yours,
Francis J. M. Eakern
Postmaster Cherry Valley