

31H/9

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHER,

Ottawa, NOV 15 1906

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 who 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.

Melbourne Ridge

Richmond Co., Que.

To the Geographer Ottawa

Melbourne Ridge appears to have been known prior to 1853 or 1856 as "Butternut Ridge" about that date the Post Office was opened and named "Melbourne Ridge". The "Ridge" part of the name appears to have been due to its location on an elevated Ridge of land in the southwestern portion of the Township of Melbourne. From the height of land (within half a mile of the writer's residence) can be seen towards the East Megantic Mountain on the south the Green Mountains of Vermont on the southwest the Shefford Hills and two or three small mountains on the

west Beloil Mountain and a wide expanse of country and on the north and north east the Valley of the St. Francis in that direction.

11. Church spires can be counted on a fine day from this spot. To the northward also in this township another elevation fronts this place. known as Gallup Hill named after

the late Eliza Gallup who came from
Massachusetts about the beginning of the last
Century and made the first settlement on this
Hill. Melbourne Ridge was settled early in the
last century. About 1805-1800 by settlers from
the New England States later more came
from the British Isles. Melbourne from the
Township in which it is located and Ridge
from the elevated position or Ridge like
aspect of the tract of country in which it is
situated appears to have been the derivation of
the name "Melbourne Ridge". As for the old
designation Butternut Ridge an old resident
informed me that in the early days there
were many butternut trees growing along what
is now the Kings Highway over Melbourne Ridge
hence the name. "Butternut Ridge".

Trusting this will meet with
your approval.

Yours very Respectfully

E. J. Dunbar

Postmaster