

*Letter from Mr. Chief Secretary Murdoch to Captain Cox.*

Government House,  
Montreal, 5th March, 1841.

SIR,

I am commanded by the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst. suggesting a place for holding a Poll in the County of Drummond. In reply I am to inform you that previously to the receipt of your letter, the Commission had issued to the Returning Officer directing him to hold the Poll at Drummondville.

I have, &c.

(Signed,)

T. W. C. MURDOCH,  
Chief Secretary.

Capt. Cox, &c. &c. &c.  
Kingston.

*Memorial of Inhabitants of the County of Sherbrooke.*

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Charles, Baron Sydenham, of Sydenham in the County of Kent and Toronto in Canada, Governor General of British North America, &c. &c. &c.

The Memorial of the undersigned Inhabitants of the County of Sherbrooke,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :—

That under the late laws regulating the Elections for the former Province of Lower Canada, the suffrages of the Electors of the County of Sherbrooke were taken and received at Sherbrooke and at Shipton.

That under the Writ of Election recently issued for the return of a Member for the said County, the Returning Officer, Charles Whitcher, Esquire, has announced to the Electors of the said County that the ensuing Election is to be held at the Village of Lennoxville, which has never hitherto been a place for holding the Elections.

That this change so far from being of any benefit or advantage to the community will prove the direct reverse, for while it approaches to some Electors at one end of the County, the place of polling, it equally removes those of the other extremity, reducing some Electors to a travel of some twelve or thirteen miles, and leaving others to come some forty or fifty miles without any commensurate advantage.

That this injustice to the Town of Sherbrooke, the District Town, and the Capital of the Eastern Townships is so manifest that Your Excellency's Petitioners can scarcely suppose for an instant that it can have been effected through design, but that it has arisen from oversight or evil influence or advice.

Wherefore Your Petitioners and Memorialists humbly pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to take these circumstances into your gracious consideration, and to direct that the place of Election be restored to Sherbrooke, the principal Town in the County of Sherbrooke.

And Your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c. &c. &c.

1st March, 1841.

(Signed,)

H. RICE,  
and sixty-two others.

*Letter from Mr. Chief Secretary Murdoch to H. Rice, Esq., acknowledging the receipt of the preceding Memorial.*

Government House,  
Montreal, 5th March, 1841.

SIR,

I am commanded by the Governor General to acknowledge the receipt of the Memorial signed by yourself and other Inhabitants of Sherbrooke, remonstrating against the removal of the Poll, for the County Election, to Lennoxville. In reply, I am to inform you, that in fixing on the latter place, His Excellency was influenced by a desire to avoid the confusion of two Elections for Members of Parliament going on at the same moment in the same place, and the Writ having issued and the Summons been sent out, it is not in his power to alter it.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

T. W. C. MURDOCH,  
Chief Secretary.

H. Rice, Esq.,  
Sherbrooke.

*Letter from the Returning Officer for Shefford to Mr. Chief Secretary Murdoch, with an Enclosure.*

(Copy.)

West Shefford,  
3d March, 1841.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose to you certain Queries upon which I wish to obtain a legal opinion as early as possible.

In these Townships heretofore, persons have been admitted to vote at Elections under all the circumstances set forth in these Queries, as also Squatters, who had no color of title to the lands upon which they claimed to vote. In fact, Elections in these Counties have been heretofore so conducted that the Elective Franchise amounted in truth to universal suffrage.

As, no doubt, I shall be called upon to decide in most of the points submitted, it is very desirable that I should be assisted by a legal opinion, in order to the better and more satisfactory discharge of my duties.

I have therefore to beg that you will cause me to be furnished with such opinion at the earliest possible moment.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

(Signed,)

JAS. BOTHAM,

Returning Officer for Shefford.

T. W. C. Murdoch, Esq.,  
Civil Secretary,  
Montreal.