

**A Guide to the Saint John Valley
Crown Land Original Lots, 1790-1978**

MCC-00148

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General Information

Collection Title: Saint John Valley Crown Land Original Lots, 1790-1978

Date Range: ca. 1790-1976

Accession Number: MCC-00148

Shelf Number: V2-148 (7 maps)

Quantity/Description: 7 Mylar maps

Introduction.

The “Saint John Valley Crown Land Original Lots, 1790-1978” collection consists of seven maps documenting original Crown Land grants along the New Brunswick side of the Upper Saint John River Valley.

Physical Characteristics.

The seven Mylar maps vary in size from approximately 36-43” wide by 32-36” long. The scale of the maps is 1” = ½ mile.

Access.

This collection is available to researchers without restriction. With the permission of the Archivist, and in accordance with existing archival photocopy policies; researchers may make one copy of the material for their personal use for research purposes. They must quote “Saint John Valley Crown Land Original Lots, 1790-1978, MCC-00148, Acadian Archives/ Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent” as a source if the item is used in papers or publications.

Crown Land Grants Note.

The “Saint John Valley Crown Land Original Lots, 1790-1978” collection is a series of seven maps defining the original land grants on the New Brunswick side of the Upper Saint John River Valley. These maps are part of a series of 167 “grant reference maps” created by the New Brunswick Crown Lands Office of the Department of Natural Resources in response to the need for a province-wide reference tool for researching Crown Land grants. Plotted on a grid system covering the entire province of New Brunswick, this map series was updated in the mid-1970s.

Each map shows the original grant land lots (sometimes referred to as “cadastres” or “parcels”) in the region covered, with the name of the receiver of the grant (grantee), the acreage, and the lot number. These cadastral maps are linked to records documenting the granting of Crown Land which are kept on file at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (see “Related Collections” for additional information).

Crown Land grants were used by the British government to encourage settlement in Canada. In New Brunswick, the earliest Crown Land grants date back to 1763 in Westmoreland County. When an individual (or group of individuals or a corporation) applied for a grant of Crown Land, they were required to follow certain procedural guidelines and fulfill certain obligations before being given legal rights to the property. The first step in the land grant process was the applicant's submission of a petition to the Lieutenant Governor. For the early settler, the petition usually described himself, his need, his family, and any service he rendered to the Crown which might entitle him to reparations (i.e. land). Next, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, acting as a Committee of Council on Land, would either approve or deny the petition. If the petition was approved, an Order/Warrant of Survey was issued to the deputy-surveyor who established the boundaries of the grant to be issued.

Information gathered from the survey was then used to draw up a land grant document which served as the official record and final authority of granted Crown Land. The land grant (that is, the document itself) was essentially the final step in a process to acquire land, and served as proof of ownership to the successful petitioner. The grantee's name (but no other biographical information) was listed in the grant.

Provenance/Chain of Custody.

The maps in this collection are Mylar copies of originals produced by the New Brunswick Crown Lands Office, a division of the Department of Natural Resources. They are part of a set of 167 grant reference maps initially produced 1955-65 and revised between 1976-78. The Acadian Archives purchased this map set from the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources in 1996.

Arrangement.

The seven maps are arranged geographically moving west to east along the shore of the Saint John River.

Scope and Content Note.

The "Saint John Valley Crown Land Original Lots, 1790-1978" collection documents the locations of the original Crown Land grants on the New Brunswick side of the Upper Saint John River Valley between St-François and Grand-Sault. This collection will be of particular interest to researchers exploring land settlement history, family or regional history, or issues related to property transfer.

Related Collections and Resources.

Related collections at the Acadian Archives include Béatrice Craig's "Family, Kinship and Community Formation on the Canadian-American Border: Madawaska 1785-1842" (Ph.D. thesis, University of Maine at Orono, 1983), which may be found in our book collections (Acadian Archive F27.S30, C7, 19830. Dr. Craig's thesis explores the interaction between family, kinship networks, and the process of community formation

in the Upper Saint John Valley during the first sixty years of the Madawaska Settlement. Based on the data from parish registers, censuses, and land records, her thesis includes extensive discussion of early land grants, and includes cadastral maps of early land grants such as the Joseph Mazerolle 1790 grant (to Mazerolle and 49 others) and the Joseph Soucy 1794 grant (to Soucy and several others).

Land grant books of New Brunswick for the period 1784 to 1986 are held at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB) in Fredericton. An index to these land grants is available on microfiche for interlibrary loan. Copies of the published index may be purchased from CANB Publications, c/o Provincial Archives.

Written petitions submitted to the Government of New Brunswick by settlers seeking land grants for the period 1783 to 1918 are held at the PANB in Fredericton. An index to these records can be found on PANB microfilm F13763 (available via interlibrary loan). It provides an index of 67,000 names (including county, date, and microfilm number of the actual petition for interlibrary loan). Land petitions received between 1832 and 1966 contain little biographical data. A card index for the years 1832 to 1867 is available at the PANB. An index for the years 1868-1966 can be found on microfilm number F12524 (available on interlibrary loan).

Ordering Information.

Copies of the maps in this collection may be ordered through the New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy's Public Services Division (telephone: 506-453-3826; mailing address: Hugh John Flemming Forestry Ct., Regent Street Extension, P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB, Canada, E3B 5H1).

Sources Consulted.

Vaughn Briggs, Land Grant Officer, New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy [phone conversation 17 August 2001] and "Background on the Grantbook Database," a web text associated with a search engine for New Brunswick Crown Land grants from 1763 to 1803, located at the University of New Brunswick. Website address: <http://degaulle.hil.unb.ca/library/data/panb/panbintro.html>.

ITEM-LEVEL LIST AND DESCRIPTION

These cadastral maps document the original Crown Land grants on the New Brunswick side of the Upper Saint John River Valley. The locations listed below are civil parishes.

V2-148 (1/7) Map of original Crown Land grants: St-François

V2-148 (2/7) Map of original Crown Land grants: St-François, Lac Baker, Clair, Baker-Brook, Saint-Jacques

V2-148 (3/7) Map of original Crown Land grants: Baker Brook, St-Hilaire, Edmundston, St-Jacques, St-Joseph, St-Basile, Rivière-Verte

V2-148 (4/7) Map of original Crown Land grants: St-Basile, Rivière-Verte, Ste Anne, Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes

V2-148 (5/7) Map of original Crown Land grants: Rivière-Verte, Ste Anne, Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes, St-Léonard

V2-148 (6/7) Map of original Crown Land grants: St-Léonard, St-André, Drummond, Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes

V2-148 (7/7) Map of original Crown Land grants: St-André, Drummond, Denmark, Grand-Falls