

Finding Aid

**“N. B. Parish Registers:
Saint-François Xavier 1859 - 1920”
[microfilm]**

MCC-00173

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Provenance: Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

Accession Number: MCC-00173

Collection Title: "N. B. Parish Registers: Saint-François Xavier 1859 - 1920" [microform]

Date Range: 1859 - 1920

Shelflist Numbers: UF-0191

Physical Characteristics: 1 35mm microfilm reel

Condition: Good to poor

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Introduction

This microfilm provides information of records on baptisms, marriages, and burials in the parish of Saint-François Xavier 1859 - 1920.

Access

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

Historical Note¹

The first French settlers to the Saint-François de Madawaska region come around 1826. They have to purchase their lands from Americans who are already there exploiting the pine forests. Till 1843, Saint-François is part of the Saint-Basile parish. It appears that Father Langevin, who also serves Sainte-Luce, says mass in Saint-François three to four times a year. After 1843, the territory is served by Sainte-Luce.

On January 9, 1849, a piece of land is granted for the construction of a church in Saint-François. The first church, called "the red church" is built in 1850 and burns down on Thursday February 3, 1886. The house of Hilaire Nadeau serves as a temporary chapel for 2 years and 5 months.

The parishioners of Saint-François start building another church under the supervision of a new priest, Father Phydime Paradis. On June 29, 1888, mass is celebrated for the first time in the new church on the hill, north of "the red church" site.

On May 10, 1920, Father Dumont, who worked so hard for thirty years in the Saint-François parish, sees the fruit of his labor disintegrate into ashes in a matter of over an hour or two. Lightning struck the bell tower during a violent storm and fire destroys the church.

On May 1st, 1929, the parishioners assist to mass for the first time in their new unfinished church. The work on the inside of the church is done and during the last visit of Bishop Chiasson, the church is blessed on September 20, 1941.

¹All information in the Historical Note were translated and or taken from Revue de la Société historique du Madawaska "Livre souvenir" par/by Jacques G. Albert.