# New Brunswick Parish Boundaries in the pre-1861 Census Years 

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## Documents

## New Brunswick Parish Boundaries in the pre-1861 census years

Quantitative data relevant to the early history of New Brunswick are scarce. Grain-bounty returns, probated wills and inventories, and church records hold promise as sources of data for work on the pre-confederation period, but these records are fragmentary, their use is difficult, and they have yet to be exploited systematically. ${ }^{1}$ Undoubtedly, the provincial censuses taken in $1824,1834,1840$ and 1851 are the most accessible and complete numerical records available for the province in the first half of the nineteenth century. ${ }^{2}$ However, these data are not immediately useful for the study of spatial patterns. As the population of the province increased, and the settled area expanded, old parishes were divided, new ones were created, and existing boundaries were altered. Thus the number of parishes increased from 34 in 1784 to 80 in 1834 and 100 in $1851,{ }^{3}$ and at each census, statistics were collected according to the current pattern of this changing mesh. But few nineteenth-century maps of the province are reliable indicators of the parish lines; those that exist rarely show the boundaries as they were in a census year.

The developing network of parish boundaries can be traced through the succession of provincial statutes by which the boundaries were erected, changed and confirmed. The best guide to this plethora of legislation is part V of 13 Vict., c. 51 (1850), An Act to consolidate all the Laws now in force for the division of the Province into Counties, Towns and Parishes, and the details need not be repeated here. Much of this material was usefully summarized by W. F. Ganong in his ". . . Monograph of the Evolution of the Boundaries of . . . New Brunswick", ${ }^{4}$ but his treatment of boundary changes is on a chronological, county-by-county basis, and the wealth of information the work contains is only systematized in maps for 1786,1836 , and 1901.

1 Inlieu of detailed censusinformation, such records might prove fruitful for studies of agriculture, the economic composition of society, and the demographic characteristics of the early New Brunswick population. For an introduction and summary of potential see Gary B. Nash, Class and Society in Early America (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1970).
2 Journal of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick [JLA/NB], 1825, Appendix; JLA/NB, 1835, Appendix; JLA/NB, 1841, Appendix; JLA/NB, 1852, Appendix.
3 Total for 1834 includes City of Saint John and District of Carleton but no other districts within parishes; total for 1851 includes City of Saint John.
4 Royal Society of Canada, Proceedings and Transactions, IInd Series, 7 (1901), pp. 139-449.

Nevertheless, this pioneering effort was an invaluable aid in drawing up the maps below. ${ }^{5}$

Among the many eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century maps of the province, a handful were particularly useful for this study. The early and important "Plan of the South West Part of New Brunswick including the River Saint John as high up as the Great Falls . . . . Compiled by George Sproule . . . assisted by Mather Byles . . ." was a starting point. Copies of the original map in the Public Record Office, London are held by the Public Archives of Canada (PAC) and the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB), and it is reproduced at one quarter of the original size in Royal Society of Canada, Proceedings and Transactions, IInd Series, 7 (1901), facing p. 412. "A Map of Cabotia . . ." by the English cartographer John Purdy (London, 1814) and the later "Improved edition, with additions" (London, 1828), which make use of boundary surveys conducted in the province, stand almost alone in importance among maps produced before 1830 . The only challenge to their supremacy is the ". . . Map of New Brunswick compiled from actual surveys and from Documents in the Surveyor General's Office. By Anthony Lockwood Junr." (1826), the only known copy of which is in the New Brunswick Museum, Archives Division. The modestly titled yet detailed "Sketch of the Province of New Brunswick by Thomas Baillie . . ." in An Account of the Province of New Brunswick with advice to Emigrants (London, 1832) is useful for the 1830s, as are "A Map of the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia . . . by James Wyld" (London, [1845]) and the "Map of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia . . . [etc.]. Compiled . . . by Joseph Bouchette" (New York: Sherman and Smith, 1846) for the following decade. The "Map of New Brunswick compiled at the Colonial Department" by L. Herbert Senr. in May 1834 (Original ms copy in PRO, London, transcript in PAC) bears on the question of certain boundaries in Northumberland County. For 1851 the "Map of the Province of New Brunswick. Compiled from the Latest Authorities by George Hayward Perley" (Saint John, 1853) is useful in conjunction with John Wilkinson's "Map of the British Province of New Brunswick" (n.p., 1858), which was described at the end of the nineteenth century as "the greatest map which has yet been published of New Brunswick". ${ }^{6}$

The following maps need little explanation. It should be realised, however, that like all maps, they present a simplified picture of reality. Problems of scale and projection can only be met by generalisation. And as some of the

[^0]boundary legislation is inconsistent and confusing, a few of the parish lines are 'best estimates' of the true situation. Fuller discussion of the more important of these cases is warranted. As Ganong has pointed out, there were, by 1824, a number of discrepancies between the laws defining parish boundaries and common assumptions about the location of those limits. In 1786, Moncton parish in Westmorland County was defined according to its original Nova Scotian township boundaries. ${ }^{7}$ If strictly observed, these limits would have carried the north-eastern corner of the parish into the County of Northumberland, and the county line was apparently accepted as the boundary of the parish. Similarly, acceptance of the Charlotte County line as the northern boundary of Pennfield parish was apparently de facto rather than de jure. ${ }^{8}$ The boundary between Nelson and Glenelg parishes in Northumberland County presents a more intractable problem. The confusion arises from inconsistencies in 54 Geo 3, c. 17 (1814), which defined Nelson's eastern line according to the western boundary of Chatham parish and Glenelg's western limit according to the inland boundary of Carleton parish. By this definition, Glenelg and Nelson had competing claims to some $70 \%$ of the present area of Nelson parish. It appears that some tried to resolve the discrepancy by assuming the western boundary of Carleton parish to be the south-eastern extension of the western line of Chatham parish. ${ }^{9}$ Others portrayed Nelson parish as a narrow stip (of the same width as Huskisson and Harcourt parishes in 1834). However, the solution adopted in Map I appears to have been more generally accepted; Ganong concluded that this was the intended arrangement, and his interpretation is fully borne out by Anthony Lockwood Junior's map of the province in 1826. ${ }^{10}$

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7 See Ganong, "Monograph. . .", p. 434 and 26 Geo 3, cap. 1, An Act for the better ascertaining and confirming the boundaries of the several Counties within this Province, and for subdividing them into Towns or Parishes.
8 See 53 Geo 3, cap. 2, An Act to enlarge the limits of the Parish of Saint Stephen in the County of Charlotte; 53 Geo 3, cap. 15, An Act to enlarge the limits of the Parishes of Saint Patrick and Saint George in the County of Charlotte; and Ganong, "Monograph . ..", p. 434.
9 See, for example, the map enclosed in Sir Howard Douglas' dispatch No. 6 of 8 March 1826 in PANB (Map Section, Catalogue number VI-203-(1826]) and in the Public Archives of Canada.
10 See Ganong, "Monograph ...", p. 436 and maps cited above, especially Baillie and Lockwood.

## KEY TO PARISHES*, 1824

## COUNTY OF YORK

1 Fredericton
2 Saint Mary
3 Douglas
4 Kingsclear
5 Queensbury
6 Prince William
7 Northampton
8 Woodstock
9 Wakefield
10 Kent

## COUNTY OF SAINT JOHN

11 City of Saint John
12 Portland
13 Lancaster
14 Saint Martins

## COUNTY OF KINGS

15 Kingston
16 Sussex
17 Hampton
18 Norton
19 Westfield
20 Springfield
21 Greenwich
COUNTY OF QUEENS
22 Gagetown
23 Waterborough
24 Wickham
25 Hampstead
26 Brunswick
COUNTY OF SUNBURY
27 Maugerville
28 Sheffield
29 Burton
30 Lincoln

## COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE

31 Saint Andrews
32 Saint Stephen
33 Saint David
34 Saint George
35 Saint Patrick
36 Saint James
37 Pennfield
38 Campo Bello
39 Grand Mannan
40 West Isles

## COUNTY OF

WESTMORLAND
41 Dorchester
42 Sackville
43 Westmorland
44 Hillsborough
45 Monckton
46 Botsford
47 Salisbury
48 Hopewell
COUNTY OF
NORTHUMBERLAND
49 Newcastle
50 Chatham
51 Ludlow
52 Northesk
53 Alnwick
54 Carleton
55 Beresford
56 Glenelg
57 Saumarez
58 Wellington
59 Nelson
*In each of the keys, the numerical ordering and the spelling of parish names follows the census for that year.


## KEY TO PARISHES, 1834

COUNTY OF YORK
1 Fredericton
2 St Mary
3 Douglas
4 Kingsclear
5 Queensbury
6 Prince William
7 Southampton
8 Dumfries
COUNTY OF CARLETON
9 Northampton
10 Woodstock
11 Kent
12 Brighton
13 Perth
14 Wicklow
15 Wakefield
16 Andover
17 Madawaska

## COUNTY OF SAINT JOHN

18 City of Saint John
19 Portland
20 District of Carleton
21 Lancaster
22 Saint Martins
COUNTY OF KINGS
23 Kingston
24 Sussex
25 Hampton
26 Norton
27 Westfield
28 Springfield
29 Greenwich

## COUNTY OF QUEENS

30 Gagetown
31 Canning
32 Wickham
33 Waterborough
34 Brunswick
35 Hampstead
COUNTY OF SUNBURY
36 Maugerville
37 Sheffield
38 Burton
39 Lincoln

COUNTY OF
WESTMORLAND
40 Dorchester
41 Sackville
42 Westmorland
43 Hillsborough
44 Moncton
45 Hopewell
46 Salisbury
47 Shediac
48 Coverdale
49 Botsford

## COUNTY OF

NORTHUMBERLAND
50 Newcastle
51 Chatham
2 Ludlow
53 Northesk
54 Alnwick
55 Blissfield
56 Blackville
57 Glenelg
58 Nelson

## COUNTY OF KENT

59 Richibucto
60 Carleton
61 Wellington
62 Dundas
63 Huskisson
64 Harcourt

## COUNTY OF

GLOUCESTER
65 Addington
66 Saumarez
67 Caraquet
68 New Bandon
69 Beresford
70 Bathurst

## COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE

1 St. Andrews
72 St. Stephen
73 St. David
74 St. George
75 St. Patrick
76 St. James
77 Pennfield
78 Grand Manan
79 West Isles
80 Campobello
MAP II - 1834



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 Acadiensis| KEY TO PARISHES 1840 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| COUNTY OF YORK | COUNTY OF SUNBURY | COUNTY OF |
| Fredericton | 42 Maugerville | RESTIGOUCHE |
| Saint Mary | 43 Sheffield | 79 Dalhousie |
| Douglas | 44 Burton | 80 Addington |
| Kingsclear | 45 Lincoln | 81 Durham |
| Queensbury | 46 Blissville | 82 Colburne |
| Prince William | COUNTY OF | 83 Eldon |
| Southampton | WESTMORLAND | COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE |
| Dumfries | 47 Dorchester | 84 Saint Andrews |
| COUNTY OF CARLETON | 48 Sackville | 85 Saint Stephens |
| Woodstock | 49 Westmorland | 86 Saint David |
| 10 Northampton | 50 Botsford | 87 Saint George |
| 11 Kent | 51 Shediac | 88 Saint Patrick |
| 12 Brighton | 52 Moncton | 89 Saint James |
| 13 Perth | 53 Salisbury | 90 Pennfield |
| 14 Wicklow | 54 Coverdale | 91 Grand Mana |
| 15 Wakefield | 55 Hillsborough | 92 West Isles |
| 16 Andover | 56 Hopewell | 93 Campo Bello |
| 17 Madawaska | 57 Harvey |  |
| COUNTY AND CITY OF SAINT JOHN | COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND |  |
|  |  |  |
| 18 City of Saint John | 58 Newcastle |  |
| 19 Portland | 59 Chatham |  |
| 20 Carleton | 60 Ludlow |  |
| 21 Lancaster | 61 Northesk |  |
| 22 Saint Martins | 62 Alnwick |  |
| 23 Simonds | 63 Blissfield |  |
| COUNTY OF KINGS | 64 Blackville |  |
| 24 Kingston | 65 Glenelg |  |
| ${ }^{24}{ }^{24}$ Kingston | 66 Nelson |  |
| 26 Hampton | COUNTY OF KENT |  |
| 27 Norton | 67 Richibucto |  |
| 28 Westfield | 68 Carleton |  |
| 29 Springfield | 69 Wellington |  |
| 30 Greenwich | 70 Dundas |  |
| 31 Studholm | 71 Weldford |  |
| 32 Upham | 72 Huskisson |  |
| COUNTY OF QUEENS | 73 Harcourt |  |
| 33 Gagetown | COUNTY OF |  |
| 34 Canning | GLOUCESTER |  |
| 35 Wickham | 74 Saumarez |  |
| 36 Waterborough | 75 Caraquet |  |
| 37 Brunswick | 76 New Bandon |  |
| 38 Hamstead | 77 Beresford |  |
| 39 Johnston | 78 Bathurst |  |
| 40 Petersville |  |  |
| 41 Chipman |  |  |



## 104 Acadiensis

KEY TO PARISHES 1851

| COUNTY OF ALBERT | COUNTY OF KINGS | COUNTY OF SUNBURY |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 Coverdale | 36 Greenwich | 73 Blissville |
| 2 Elgin | 37 Hampton | 74 Burton |
| 3 Harvey | 38 Kingston | 75 Lincoln |
| 4 Hillsborough | 39 Norton | 76 Maugerville |
| 5 Hopewell | 40 Springfield | 77 Sheffield |
| COUNTY OF CARLETON | 41 Studholm | COUNTY OF VICTORIA |
| 6 Brighton | $\begin{array}{ll}42 & \text { Sussex } \\ 43 & \text { Upham }\end{array}$ | 78 Andover |
| 7 Kent | 44 Westfield | 79 Madawaska |
| 8 Northampton |  | 80 Perth |
| 9 Simonds | NORTHUMBERLAND | 81 Saint Basil |
| 10 Wakefield | NORTHUMBERLAND | 82 Saint Francis |
| 11 Wicklow | 45 Alnwick | 83 Saint Leonard |
| 12 Woodstock | 46 Blackville | COUNTY OF |
| COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE | 47 Blissfield | WESTMORLAND |
| 13 Campo Bello | 49 Glenelg | 84 Botsford |
| 14 Grand Manan | 50 Ludlow | 85 Dorchester |
| 15 Pennfield | 51 Nelson | 86 Moncton |
| 16 St. Andrews | 52 Newcastle | 87 Sackville |
| 17 St. David | 53 Northesk | 88 Salisbury |
| 18 St. George | COUNTY OF QUEENS | 89 Shediac |
| 19 St. James | COUNTY OF QUEENS | 90 Westmorland |
| 20 St. Patrick | 54 Brunswick | COUNTY OF YORK |
| 21 St. Stephen | 55 Canning |  |
| 22 West Isles | 56 Chipman | 91 Douglas |
| COUNTY OF | 57 Gagetown | 92 Dumfries |
| GLOUCESTER | 58 Hampstead | 93 Fredericton |
| 23 Bathurst | 60 Petersville | 95 New Maryland |
| 24 Beresford | 61 Waterborough | 96 Prince William |
| 25 Caraquet | 62 Wickham | 97 Queensbury |
| 26 New Bandon |  | 98 Saint Mary's |
| 27 Saumarez | RESTIGOUCHE | 99 Southampton |
| 28 Shippegan |  | 100 Stanley |
| COUNTY OF KENT | 63 Addington <br> 64 Colborne |  |
| 29 Carleton | 65 Dalhousie |  |
| 30 Dundas | 66 Durham |  |
| 31 Harcourt | 67 Eldon |  |
| 32 Huskisson* | CITY AND COUNTY OF SAINT JOHN |  |
| 33 Richibucto |  |  |
| 34 Weldford |  |  |
| 35 Wellington | 68 Lancaster |  |
|  | 69 Portland |  |
|  | 70 Saint John City |  |
|  | 71 Saint Martins |  |
|  | 72 Simonds |  |

[^1]


[^0]:    5
    I should also like to thank Roger Nason, formerly Map Curator of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, for his careful and intelligent assistance on a pressing question which arose when this paper was in the final stages of preparation.

[^1]:    ${ }^{*}$ In the census, statistics for the parish of Huskisson are included in those adjoining Parishes.

