

File 65

Survey addressed to and completed by Burton date 1828 est.

(Circular)

QUEBEC 15th Nov. 1827

Rev. Sir,

You will be pleased to use your best diligence to procure as accurately as may be in your power, the information required in the questions, which are here subjoined; and to return it to me filled up by your own answers as early as possible, with the confirmatory signatures as to its general correctness of a Justice of the Peace, and of your own Church-wardens.

I am, Sir

Your Obedient

Humble Servant

C. J. QUEBEC¹

1. What is the whole number of Protestant Inhabitants within the range of your labours? 510

2. What is the total number of persons who attend upon your preaching in all the different places where you at any time officiate. 450

3. What is the number of churches or of Preaching-stations, regular or occasional, where you perform duty? And at what intervals do you perform at each? *I preach*

in Rawdon three Sundays in the month as the congregation is largest there and the fourth Sunday is destined for Kilkenny and Lacheney [sic]. In Rawdon I officiate in the first Range one Sunday in the second the next and in the sixth Range the third Sunday.²

4. What are the distances of each from the head-quarters of your charge, and what is the present state of communication between the one and the other? *The station*

at the forks in Rawdon is three miles. The station in the sixth Range seven miles. I read at head quarters, one Sunday to accommodate Protestants to the south of the River - Lacheney is twenty six Miles from head quarters- Kilkenny thirty five and the road to the latter place dreadful. The last time I went to Kilkenny I was obliged to walk the whole way the Road to [sic] bad for any Machine.³

5. Can any circumstances be stated which fairly warrant a belief that more of the persons thus occasionally visited would regularly attach themselves

to the Church of England, if more frequent opportunity of attendance upon her ordinances would be provided.

I have been frequently asked to visit oftener at Lacheney & Kilkenny where they have long wished to have churches built with a view to augment the attendance of the Clergyman- Had there been any funds at my disposal I would have built Churches before this at both places. I should have had the hearty cooperation of all Protestants there without exception.

6. What instances are there within your knowledge of the erection of Churches, or of other preparatory steps taken for introducing the worship of the Church of England where no Clergyman if that Church has hitherto been placed?

In the Township of Kildare to the north of me the Protestants have erected a School House where they pressed me frequently to attend.

7, What places are there in your neighbourhood, within or without the limits of your charge, where there is encouragement for the establishment of the Church of England: and what do you know of the number of persons who would be disposed to avail themselves of her worship and ordinances, if placed within their reach?

The above Township of Kildare containing 200 Protestants have sent a deputation to me begging my attendance or the attendance of some other Clergyman

8. When did you take possession of your Parish or Mission? -- what has been the increase of your Congregation or Congregations since that time? and what proportion has it kept with the general increase of Population? *I took possession in 1821- Congregation has increased 400, fifty or sixty being the number I had at first – The congregation of the Church of England has increased more than any other to the best of my knowledge and belief.*

9. What is the number of Professed Adherents to the Church of England? and what is the number of communicants?

I have always endeavoured to beat down the distinction so I have had few professions with regard to first Quere [sic] – Forty communicants now but they have increased annually – Yet slowly I have too much to do Had I an opportunity to see the People oftener I'm sure the numbers would increase more rapidly----

10. What is the number of persons within the sphere of your knowledge, who have joined the worship of the Church of England, not having previously belonged to that Church? and among such persons, what is the number who have contributed in any way to the erection of the church, and the number who have become communicants.

I cannot state the number correctly but some Presbyterians have attended me and received the Sacrament. The Parish and the Clergyman are too poor to erect a Church.⁴

11. What is the number of persons belonging to the families of such as are described in the foregoing question, who were confirmed at the last confirmation? – and what was the whole number confirmed.

The City of Montreal where the confirmation was held is 40 Miles from Rawdon the most Protestant part of the Parish and I did not therefore insist on attendance of the children but some went and were confirmed.

12. What is the total number of persons within the limits of your charge who are not fixed members of any religious communion? or may be considered exempt from any decided religious preference?

About Sixty Persons

13. What is the total number of persons distinctly assignable to other religious communions than our own, and what are the numbers of each respectively, distinguishing the different subdivisions of such as sometimes be comprehended under on general name?

My parish is so extensive being about 200⁵ miles in circumference I could not ascertain the above points without neglecting altogether my other professional duties, and I do not wish to give an opinion unless I can do so correctly.

14. What is the number of other Protestant places of Worship, and of Preachers?

None

15. Among those persons who do not attach themselves to the Church of England and who belong to Sects as distinguished from National Churches, is there any evidence of a particular and prevailing desire for the introduction of any other National Church in preference to our own? – or, is there any evidence that no such desire exists?

I think the bulk of the Protestant population prefer the Church of England to any other.

16. Has there been any diminution of persons attached to the Church of England, or disposed to support her Establishment, since certain endeavours have been used, proceeding from quarters unknown, to excite prejudice against her, and to produce false and unjust impressions of her character and views?

In my charge there is no alternative opportunity in the sentiments of the People. They seem at this moment more anxious for my services than at any other former period.

17. Does your experience lead you to consider that any among the various causes which prevent a coalition with the Church of England, are of a transient nature? are you aware of any which are actually subsiding? and, when they are removed, do you find them succeeded by a preference for any other National Church?

I will not take upon me to advert to the detriments of People without the Range of my duty but within the Parish I am sure there is no prejudice against the established religion on the contrary I think all protestants would embrace it was not a spirit of Party kept alive by interested individuals residing outside my Parish.

The above is correct to the best of our knowledge

E Burton

Officiating Minister

Justice of the Peace⁶

W.C. Meredith

E.J. Burton

Church-wardens⁷

Day of 182⁸

NB

There is no majistrate [sic] residing in my Mission

ENDNOTES:

¹ I have not identified C.J.; the survey appears to have come from the Bishop's office.

² This circular is the first real evidence that services were held on the First Range. Mr. Knowlton's deposition (File 112) confirms that Burtonville was located at First Range, Lot16 and . Burton indicates in his answer to question four that this was "head quarters". In his reply to Question 10, Burton makes it clear that there was no church building in Rawdon Township, in November 1827.

Gérard Brady in Rawdon: A Human Mosaic (page 27) copying form Fournier Rawdon: 175 Ans d'Histoire (page 81) state that Burton built a Chapel on Lot 15 in 1822. This is based on an incorrect interpretation of facts. Burton held title to lots 13-16 at this time and resided at Burtonville (Lot 16), as indicated and from the address used in his register.

There is other documentation that the School House, Second Range, Lot 22 North, at the forks of the Red River, was used for divine service and funerals (Royal Institute for Advancement of Learning letters).

The home of Joseph Eveleigh, Sixth Range, Lot 22 North is identified as a place of divine service in File 61 & 62. (Diocesan Archives, Bishop's University)

³ It is apparent from this that Burton traveled by wagon or sleigh and not on horseback which lends some truth to the Mason family claim that James Burton was his driver.

⁴ There was still no church building in April 1829, see Burton letter File 111.

⁵ The edge of the document has deteriorated and the number is unclear, probably 200. I have estimated the distance from Lachenaie following the St. Lawrence to Lanoraie, then north west to Lac Maskinongé then across to Chertsey and south through Kilkenny and back to Lachenaie as approximately 300 km. or 186 miles

⁶ This was left blank. See Burton's "N.B." at the close of the document. The settlers, at this time, went to St-Jacques or L'Assomption when in need of a notary or justice of the peace.

⁷ William Colles Meredith was the eldest of the sons from his wife's marriage, to Thomas Meredith, who accompanied her to Canada and was probably the fourth of their seven children.. He was 15 years old in 1827 and born May 23, 1812.

Edward John Burton was the third child and eldest son of his marriage to Margaret Boyce and was 13 in 1827; he was born, August 13, 1814.

⁸ As the document is undated, it was probably completed at least some months after the date the circular was issued from Quebec City.