

File 59 Deposition of Arthur Hamilton Oct 8, 1827¹

Before me Alexander Mabbut Esqr
one of the justices of peace of his Majesty
George the fourth residing in the parish
Of St. Pierre du Portage in the District
& country aforesaid has appeared
Arthur Hamilton² of the Township of
Rawdon said County and District
Farmer who has voluntarily deposed being duly
sworn upon the holy Evangelist that on the
morning of the eighth day of October 1827
Deponent near his own dwelling house in
Rawdon aforesaid met John Jeffries of
Montreal butcher³ and there held some

¹ This date has been added to the document in another hand and is the when the event described took place. The document was deposed and sworn on 19 April 1828.

² Arthur Hamilton may have been living with his father and brother at 2 / 15 at this time or more likely on his own lot at 2 / S 18 which he was granted in 1832. However, it is noteworthy that 2 / 18 was attributed to John Jeffries on the 1824 Statistical Survey. Mary Armstrong, Burton's ward was sponsor for the baptism of a child of Arthur and Catherine Hamilton in 1826.

³ John Jeffries [sic aka Jefferies] was at this date an absentee landowner whose name was attached to some 1200 acres, mostly located on the First and Second Ranges, lots 17 to 21. He lived at times on lot 20 South on the 2nd Range.

He was born at Bulkington, Wiltshire and came via New York to Montreal in 1803. He served as a soldier in the War of 1812. (McKenzie, Donald A., Obituaries From the Christian Guardian 1861 – 1870 Hunterdon House, Lambertville, NJ, 1888)

He had interests at Rawdon from an early date and was included in Bouchette's 1824 Statistical Statement of Rawdon. As noted in other Diocesan Archives documents, Elias Burbidge managed his property in 1828 and 1829. Jefferies was named a "butcher of Montreal" in documents concerning dispute with Burton in 1829 and at his March 1831 marriage, in Montreal. He was a Captain of Militia at Rawdon in both 1829 and 1834; he was a Major in 1845 and Lieutenant-Colonel and Commandant from 1848 until retiring in 1859. Jefferies returned to Rawdon after 1831 and is reported as serving as Senior Magistrate in 1845 and as a Justice of the Peace in 1851. (Fournier, Marcel Rawdon, 175 Ans d'Histoire, Société Historique de Joliette, Joliette, 1974)

Arthur Hamilton was granted Lot 18 South of the Second Range which is perhaps where he encountered Jefferies. The Hamilton family held several

Conversation with said John Jeffries relating to the trespass of certain pigs belonging to said Deponent⁴ and after this conversation had ended the said John Jeffries declared he would go straight off to meet - Burton - Ø meaning the Rev'd James Edmund Burton of Rawdon aforesaid and that the said John Jeffries has

Ø on the line

pistols about him which he would carry along with him & that if the said J. E. Burton or any belonging to him or any of his clan would molest or offend the said John Jeffries he the said John Jeffries would blow their brains out – Deponent declares the above to be true and correct in testimony of which Deponent has signed his Name after having first read these presents ↵ three words added in the margin Sworn before me at the Village of L'Assomption this Nineteenth day of April 1828 eight ___ Arthur Hamilton
Alex'r Mabbut J.P.

True Copy
(initialed)

locations on the Second Range including lots 15 and 16 where the meeting could also have occurred. The Burton holdings were Lots 12 – 16 on the First Range with the household on Lot 16. Knowlton encountered Jefferies (File 112) on the road leading from 1 / 16 to 1 / 17.

⁴ The pigs were a matter between Hamilton and Jefferies and unrelated to the complaint against Burton.