

File 60

Deposition of James Mason

Ap. 19 1828

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 James Mason of the Township of Rawdon said County & District Farmer¹ who has voluntarily declared and deposed being duly sworn upon the holy Evangelist that he the said Deponent was present on the eighth day of October 1 one thousand eight hundred twenty seven the day that the Revrd James Edmund Burton and John Jeffries of Montreal butcher Land holders in said Township & County met upon the boundary Line between their respective properties for the purpose of finally settling and rectifying any inaccuracy that might be in said Line or boundary and was present the whole of the time that the said Revrd James Edmund Burton & said John Jeffries remained together upon that occasion And that the said

Rev J. E Burton did not then or there strike push batter beat or assault in any other way or manner whatever the said John Jeffries And the said Deponent further declares that said John Jeffries had no legal grounds or reasons whatever to indict the said Reverend J. E. Burton for any occurrence or any transaction that took place on the said eighth of October 1827 seven – And Deponent further deposes that the said John Jeffries was in the first instance accosted in the most peaceable gentle and respectful manner by the said Rev^d James Edmund Burton and that the said John Jeffries used the most scurrilous and shameful language to the said Rev. J E Burton and at one time put his right hand into his left breast coat pocket apparently to search for a pistol or pistols (which the said John Jeffries constantly carries about him) for the purpose of shooting the said Rev.

J E Burton or some of his family or companions Deponent lastly declares and

deposes that the above affidavit is true and correct in all its parts and in every particular in testimony of which Deponents has signed his hand to these presents being first read by Deponent
James Mason

Sworn before me
at the Village of L'Assomption
this 19th day of April 1828 eighth
Alex'r Mabbut J.P
True Copy (initialed)

¹ Mason family tradition maintains that James was, at one time, employed by Burton as a driver at Rawdon. The first record of Mason is his marriage (at Montreal) on July 2, 1827 to Mary Armstrong who was an orphan ward of Burton, again by Mason family tradition. Other Mason family members begin to appear at Rawdon c.1826 including what may have been his father, brother, sister and many other near relatives. In File 113 (1829), he states that "for the last three years [he] has lived near the [Burton] residence". He does not acknowledge any previous knowledge of Burton.

Arthur Hamilton (File 60) was probably a brother of Catherine Hamilton Mason who was married to James Mason's brother, John.

James Mason at this time may have been resident at Burtonville on Range One, the Burton residence. He later farmed just south of Rawdon, First Range at St-Sulpice (1829) before settling with his father at 1 / N & S 9 to the east of the Burton holdings at a date before 1831.