

File 61
Deposition of John Brennan

est. October 1829

1829¹

Province of Lower
Canada District
of Montreal County
of Leinster
To Wit.

Before me Jos. Senet
Esqre one of his Majesty's
Justices of the peace
for said County and
District

Has formally appeared John Brennan of
the Township of Rawdon Landholder² who
has voluntarily declared and deposed & being
duly Sworn upon the holy Evangelist
that the Deponent was deputed by
James Croker³ in whose house John
Brooks resided⁴ previous to his accidental death
to repair to the Rev'd JE Burton minister at Rawdon
to require his attendance in order to perform
the funeral ceremony at the interment of the
said John Brooks⁵. And he the said Deponent
further states that having called on the said
Rev'd JE Burton & requested him to attend for
the purpose of performing the said ceremony
which he the Said Deponent averred was to take
place the following Sunday he the said
Rev'd J. E. Burton told him the Said Deponent

that he was to read prayer & preach on the
Sunday appointed for the burial at the house of
Mr. Jos. Eveleigh⁶ Six or Seven miles distant from
his the said Rev'd J. E. Burton's house⁷ as also the
same distance from the church yard⁸ and the said
Rev'd J. E. Burton assured the Said Deponent
that he would repair from the Said Mr. Eveleighs
house to the church yard in order to
perform the said evening ceremony immediately after
divine Service And he the said deponent
further says that the said Rev'd J.E. Burton
made use of the following words on that occa-
sion in order to better impress the circumstance
on the said Deponents mind "I will
go from the house of prayer to the house of
Mourning" And he the said Deponent further
declares that he that he the said Deponent told to
said James Croker the result
of his conversation with the said Rev'd J. E.

Burton previous to the time appointed
for the burial And this Deponent finally
states that this affidavit is true and correct
in all its points & parts in testimony
of which he the said Deponent has

signed his name to these presents having
been first read, by Deponent

Sworn before me at (signed)
Saint Jacques John Brennan
this day of 1829

True Copy

¹ The document is marked 1829 and again at the close but the rest of the date has been omitted. The burial possibly occurred in September or October of 1829. Brennan's statement is similar to that of James Herbert which is dated October 20, 1829

² He was located at 8th Range, Lot S 16 near to Brooks and Croker.

³ He was at this time located at SW ½ of Lot 15, 7th Range in 1823 7 1826; he was later granted 8th Range, Lot S 10.

⁴ Brooks was living on "Lot No.15, the Division line between 6th & 7th Range" in October 1826 according to the Surveyor's report of improvements (NAC 2515, Volume 57, page 29118). This report shows no buildings on Brooks' property but three small buildings on Croker's clearing. Croker was unmarried and it would seem that he shared his dwelling with Brooks and his family. John Brooks (posthumously) or his son was granted 8 / S 11, in 1842.

⁵ Brooks had converted to Roman Catholicism at St-Jacques in 1819 before his marriage to Sophie Locat-Renaud. They baptized three children at the church there in 1823, 1225 and 1827.

Often burial was on the same day, or the day following a death when weather was warm or epidemic was feared. In this case, several days would elapse between the death and the proposed burial date. There should have been ample time to arrange for a priest to come from St-Jacques, there being no Rawdon Catholic church at this time. It appears that his friends, Croker and Brennan, who were both Anglicans and Burton, were overlooking that Brooks had become a Roman Catholic and was no longer a Protestant.

⁶ The Eveleigh family, father and sons, were on lots 21 and 22 of the Sixth Range with son Joseph at North 22 (Statistical Statement of Rawdon, 1824 C2502, page 13058).

⁷ Burton owned about 1200 acres on the First Range; his household was at Lot 16, see File 112..

⁸ Gérard Brady in Rawdon: A Human Mosaic (p. 27) copying from Fournier Rawdon: 175 Ans d'Histoire (p. 81) states that Burton built a Chapel on Lot 15 in 1822. This is disproved by Burton's clear statement that there was no church in November 1827 (File 65, Bishop's Diocesan Archives). Likewise in a letter (File 111) dated 11 April 1829, Burton is explicit that there is no church building. Where was the "church yard" in December 1829? A school had been established at the Forks, Second Range, Lot 22 South and evidence in the R.I.A.L. documents point clearly to its use as a church and that a funeral was conducted there in October 1825. It seems probable that there was a burial ground there.