

**File 113 & File 114**  
**Deposition of James Mason**

**30 April 1829**

District of  
Montreal  
County of  
Leinster  
Province of  
Lower Canada

Before me Joseph Senet, Esq're  
one of his Majesty's Justices of  
Peace of the County of & District  
aforesaid

Has appeared James Mason of the  
Seigniorship of St. Sulpice

Landholder who has voluntarily declared  
and deposed being duly Sworn upon the  
holy Evangelist that, Deponent for the  
last three years has lived near the residence<sup>1</sup>  
of the Rev'd. J..E.. Burton & that Deponent is  
perfectly well acquainted with the mode  
adopted by the said Rev'd. J..E Burton in  
the collection of his fees in his mission and  
the manner in which such fees have been  
paid and especially by the inhabitants of the  
Township of Rawdon And further declares  
that great liberality has been displayed on  
many occasions by the Said Rev'd.  
J..E.. Burton at Rawdon in remitting  
his fees. that according to the  
circumstances of the case the fees  
have been remitted X in whole or in

X either

part or commuted. That upon certain  
occasions the Rev'd. J..E.. Burton has given very  
long credit for the payment of Said  
fees and has taken labour frequently in the  
place of said fees & produce of land  
in place of said fees and has accommodated  
himself to the wishes of the people  
individually with regard to his manner  
of collecting said fees and Dep't  
further declares that he has heard that the Said  
Rev'd. J..E.. Burton Say that at anytime  
any individual of his parishioners would  
come forward pleading inability to pay  
his dues that he the said Rev'd J..E..Burton  
would demand no fees whatever And  
that X Deponent has had two children

Said

baptized<sup>2</sup> by the Said Rev'd J..E.. Burton &  
that the Said Rev'd. J.. E.. Burton would not  
take fees although he tendered on either  
occasion in consequence of Dep't not  
having been then in flourishing circum:  
stances And Deponent can mention  
the names of many other individuals  
who have experienced Similar generosity  
from Said Rev'd. JE Burton And amongst  
the rest Some of those who have  
falsely & ungratefully Signed a petition  
respecting Said fees some months back

against the Said Rev'd. JE Burton. And  
Deponent further deposes that the said  
Rev'd. J., E.. Burton has been most punctual  
at all times in the performance  
of his public and occasional duties  
And Deponent declares that in reference  
to a certain action of Damages taken  
by the Rev'd. J.. E.. Burton against a certain  
Individual named Ben Gibson<sup>3</sup> that  
Deponent and to the best of his know=  
=ledge & belief the respectable parish=  
=ioners of Rawdon & the public agree  
in opinion that the Said Rev'd. J.. E..  
Burton was perfectly justifiable  
and did right in taking Said action  
against this Gibson he Gibson having  
grossly abused the said Rev'd JEBurton  
at the said Rev'd JEBurton's house and  
in public & in private in the most  
Scandalous and disrespectful way  
And the Said Deponent is clearly  
of opinion the said Steps of law were  
forced upon the Said Rev'd J. E. Burton  
he the Said Rev'd. JEBurton having  
made frequent overtures of peace  
& Strenuously endeavoured to an ami=  
=icable conclusion And that Deponent  
does not consider the Said Rev'd J E Burton

to be fond of law or addicted to litigi=  
=ousness as from Deponent's personal  
knowledge the Said Rev'd J.. E Burton  
has never taken any proceedings

against any man in Canada except  
in defence of his character in the  
Suit against Gibson above alluded  
to & has upon many occasions passed  
over various trespasses & offences punish=  
=able by law for peace sake and  
has forgiven many person's provocations  
and crimes which no man but a  
peaceable man and true Christian would  
forgive And Deponent declares that  
he knows the said Rev'd. J..E..Burton  
to be quiet peaceable and good natured  
to all who desire such deportment  
And deponent further states that the  
Rev'd J..E..Burton has been very liberal  
in lending the Settlers Small Sums  
of money for the purpose of  
advancing Some in life and  
extricating others from their difficulties  
& has often distributed medicine books  
& clothes gratis among those of the  
parishioners who wanted the same & has  
rendered himself extremely useful upon  
various occasions both in a temporal  
& Spiritual Sense to his parishioners

File 114

generally throughout the whole of his  
extensive mission & has been upon  
the whole a zealous laborious and  
successful Missionary and the  
Said Rev'd. J E Burton is esteemed by  
good and honest members of the  
community as a respectable  
individual in Society and cons=  
=quently it is false that the Said  
Rev'd J..E..Burton is universally  
detested in his mission Dep't  
likewise declares he has lately  
Seen a copy of a petition sent to  
the Bishop of Quebec by certain  
Inhabitants of the Township of Rawdon  
The entire substance of which petition  
Dep't verily believes to be false  
malicious & scandalous And Dep't  
finally states that the whole of the

above affidavit is true in  
testimony of which Dep't has signed  
his name to these presents having  
been previously read by Deponent  
Sworn at the village James Mason  
of St Jacques the 30<sup>th</sup>  
of October 1829  
Joseph Senet J P

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**ENDNOTES:**

<sup>1</sup> James Mason resided at Burton's March 1828 when his first son was baptized. At the 1831 Rawdon Census, he lived First Range, Lot 9 and the two half lots at this location were granted to him and his father James Mason, senior, in August 1833. The date of their ticket of location is not known, to me, but presumably they arrived, at Rawdon, in 1826, as dated by Mason's being "perfectly acquainted" with Burton for three years. This information points to an assumption that Mason did not know Burton in Ireland. The reason for his temporary location at St-Sulpice as a "landowner" is not known.

<sup>2</sup> His son, James Mason, was baptized at Rawdon on March 28, 1828 and Edward Mason at St-Sulpice on October 29, 1829 shortly before this deposition was made.

<sup>3</sup> See File 63 / 64, footnote 3, for information concerning Benjamin Gibson.