

File 60 B - date 1828 est.

Burton's copy of the petition which was circulated against him and from which settlers withdrew their signatures.

Copy

To The Honorable and
Rev'd Charles James Lord Bishop
of Quebec. The petition of
divers Inhabitants of the Township
of Rawdon in the County of Leinster
District of Montreal / Humbly Sheweth

That we the settlers
and Landholders of the said
Township having great sense of
complaint against our present
pastor the Rev'd Mr Burton
we your Lordships Petitioners
humbly beg leave to lay before your
Lordship part of the grievances
under which the settlers of this
Township now labour through the
conduct of Mr. Burton & & &c

Names¹

Erased by me J Rourke
Do_ Do_ John Gray
Do_ Do_ Tho^s Pearson
Do_ Do_ Will Scroggy [sic]
Do_ Do_ Hugh Heron²
Do_ Do_ David Scott
William Dugan³ X
Erased by me J. Gray
Do_ Do_ Farris Gracy [sic]⁴
Do_ Do_ Will Gracy
Do_ Do_ James Gracy

Erased by me R Parkinson
Do_ Do_ Jno Parkinson
Do_ Do_ Geo Parkinson
Do_ Do_ Jno Parkinson
Do_ Do_ Abraham Bagnall
Do_ Do_ Hesachia Burbige
NB⁵ - Elias Burbige⁶
NB – John Jeffries
X Solomon Cooke [sic]
Erased by me R Kite
Do_ Do_ John Kite
Do_ Do_ Will Holtby Junior

Erased by me Will Holtby, Sen
Do_ Do_ Rob^t Bagnall
Do_ Do_ A Walker
Do_ Do_ Wm. McNown
Do_ Do_ Wm. McNown
Do_ Do_ James Croker
Do_ Do_ W Bagnall
Do_ Do_ H Pigott
Do_ Do_ J McNown
Do_ Do_ J Cultra
Do_ Do_ S Cultra
Do_ Do_ H Smith
Alex Leith X⁷
Erased by me W Sadler
Do_ Do_ H Torney
Do_ Do_ T Torney
Do_ Do_ J Sadler
W Rae.....⁸ X
Nimabach⁹ Campbell X
Erased by me J Tiffin
Do_ Do_ P Dugas¹⁰
Do_ Do_ R Rogers
Do_ Do_ J Clemans¹¹
Do_ Do_ W Byrne [sic]
Do_ Do_ J Allen
Do_ Do_ A Kirkwood
Do_ Do_ J Kirkwood
Do_ Do_ J Copping
Do_ Do_ J Morgan
Do_ Do_ R Grigg
Do_ Do_ J Burns
Do_ Do_ J Smiley Junr
Do_ Do_ J Smiley Senr
Do_ Do_ S Smiley
Do_ Do_ G Hobs
Do_ Do_ G Copping

Do_ Do_ W Copping
Do_ Do_ W Marlin
Do_ Do_ R Brown
Do_ Do_ W Brown
Do_ Do_ D Manchester
Do_ Do_ D Manchester
Do_ Do_ E MacGee [sic]
Do_ Do_ J Foster
Do_ Do_ G Swift

Of the above 69 - 62
have erased their
names – one more
S. Cook has expressed
a wish to have his
name expunged
but I¹² would not
consent. Four others¹³
Will'm Dougan, Alex
Leith, Will'm Roedell /Roesell
Campbell are absent
& have no Land or
vote in Rawdon &
consequently there
are now but, two
Names virtually
to the Petition -
the Agitator & his
Man

To ArchDeacon
Mountain

ENDNOTES:

¹ The names are all known settlers or settler's sons and are found in land, census and / or church records unless otherwise noted. A note explains any of doubtful legibility.

The term "erased by me" was added by J. E. Burton and the meaning is made clear by text at the end of column two. See Endnote 12 and Burton's Letter (File 111).

Do _ Do _ means ditto

² I believe him to be a younger brother of Alison Heron, Mrs. John Holiday, the wife of a Scottish & Presbyterian settler located at 10 / N 27. This is the only reference I have found to this individual at Rawdon. See I.G.I. Hugh Heron born 18 June 1807 at Cavers, Roxburgh, Scotland.

³ He was a non resident according to the note at the end of column two where his name is spelled Dougan. See note 12.

⁴ Phares Gracey is the more common spelling of this name.

⁵ A symbol, not unlike the letters NB, has been inserted before these two names. Judging from Burton's endnote and other documents they identify Jeffries the "agitator & his Man" Burbidge.

⁶ Elias Burbidge was baptized April 10, 1805 at Keevil in Wiltshire. He was married at Rawdon, by Mr. Burton, on November 18, 1830. From the 1831 Rawdon census, it appears that he lived at Lot 18 North in the Third Range land which he purchased from John Kite, another Wiltshire man. He is a younger brother of Hezekiah Burbidge (previous signature) who is recorded as a resident of nearby St-Sulpice in 1829 (church register) and for the 1831 Census (L'Assomption).

From the context of this document it appears that at this date Elias was employed by John Jeffries. As we know, from previous sworn testimonials, Jeffries was resident in Montreal, it is logical that he would have a man to oversee his Rawdon property.

RIAL Letter 447 / 9608 of March 13, 1828 places "Mr. Jeffery Man" on Lot 3 / 18 which was the address used by Elias Burbidge in 1831.

⁷ See note 13. There is evidence of an Alexander Leith at Sorel c.1821, on the Internet.

⁸ A non resident, in the endnote his name is William Roedell or Roesell. See note 13.

⁹ See note 13. In the end section, his first name is omitted. Here it is illegible. I have chosen to read it as Ahimelech, an actual Biblical name although it is hard to justify, this interpretation by the opening letters. In Burton's hand it more resembles Nimabach or Ninnabach which are nonsensical.

¹⁰ Philemon (aka Firmin) Dugas was a Roman Catholic and his wife a Protestant converted to Catholicism (see St-Jacques Roman Catholic register). They must have occasionally attended Mr. Burton's services, as members of the family were sometimes sponsors at baptisms. However, the baptisms of their own daughters are recorded at St-Jacques.

Dugas was an American of Acadian descent and one of the leading citizens of the Township.

¹¹ This could be John Clement/s of de Ramsey who is recorded in the Christ Church register as sponsor at a wedding in 1841 and at a baptism in 1842.

¹² It is apparent that this document is a copy of the original circulated by Jeffries and was prepared by James Edmund Burton. This document is unsigned and undated. The original would appear to have been circulated between October 1827 when Jeffries and Burton quarreled and April 19, 1828, which is the date of the testimonial letters from Hamilton (File 59) and Mason. (File 60A).

¹³ J. E. Burton wrote, "One of the individuals resides in Quebec another at Sorel, a third in La Prairie & a fourth at Hawkesbury in Upper Canada". File 95 Diocesan Archives, Bishop's University