

Rawdon Village: Original Plan

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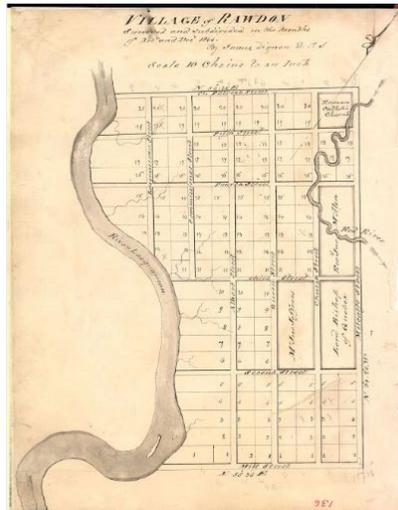
UP TO RAWDON ©

<https://uptorawdon.com/>

These three maps from BANQ are sourced from [Fonds Ministère des Terres et Forêts](#) and [Publications et archives gouvernementales](#), merci à France Pontbriand. Click on each map to make a readable size.

Map 1

The scale is 10 chains to the inch; one chain is 20.2 metres or 66 feet.



This 1844 survey was signed James Dignan, D.P.S., an Irish born surveyor who was recorded living at Berthier on the 1851 and 1871 censuses. He died at Berthierville 28 March 1872, aged 73. Fournier incorrectly names him as Dignam and at BANQ he is alternately named Dingman, a cataloguing / clerical error. His nephew, Frederick Patrick Dignan was born in County Meath and became a priest at St-Hyacinthe in 1868 and was a witness at his uncle's burial. The Reverend Dignan had been brought to Canada by his uncle and is buried in St-Phillipe de Windsor Mills, his parish church. His 1895 burial registration gives this family history (source: Drouin Index).

James Dignan's work is well represented at BANQ. He surveyed the 9th 10th and 11th Ranges of Rawdon Township in 1844, locating the lakes and the "squatter paths" that existed before settlers were obliged to clear roads. Dignan (sometimes misnamed Dingman) completed many survey maps and one can find Cathcart, Chertsey, Chertsey and Cathcart, Daillebout and Ramsay, St-Gabriel de Brandon and others as early as 1832 in the archive.

This initial survey of part of Lot 17 of the Fifth Range (Rawdon Township) lays out and names streets and assigns lot numbers, the letters indicating the ranges are added on Map Two, which follows. The northwest is at the top left of each map. The first street named is Saint Patrick in honour of the mainly Irish congregation of the newly founded Roman Catholic parish. The last block is marked "Roman Catholic Church". This land was given by the Crown Agent Thomas Griffith in 1836 for a cemetery for the Township's Catholic population. Griffith had hoped to

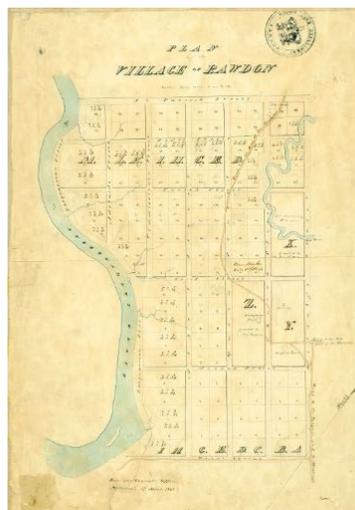
claim all of lot 5 / 17 for himself but did not succeed. (See *Thomas Griffith, Crown Agent* in UP TO RAWDON, Part One). Marcel Fournier (in his *Rawdon, 175 Ans d'Histoire*) recounts the complicated story of the founding of the parish from 1833, under several different names, before it became Saint Patrick's – the bishop was determined against Saint Patrick, the early choice by the Irish community. Fournier places the chapel "sur let cite du cimetièrre actuel" one assumes that this is the land that was deeded by the agent in 1836.

In the row of lots where the Red River crosses the edge of the village, one is marked "Rev'd Jno. Milton". John L. Milton was the Anglican incumbent in 1834 - 1836; it appears that was this land was designated for him personally. (In 1844 and 1845, when the maps were drawn, Rowland Bourne was the minister, succeeding C. P. Reid in 1836 - 1837.) In the row below is a block of ten lots in the name of John Jefferies, a prominent early land owner and businessman (read UP TO RAWDON, Part One, about him and his second wife: *John Jefferies, Butcher and Nancy Bridge*). East of that is a block of ten lots in the name of the Lord Bishop of Quebec reserved for the Anglican church and cemetery, replacing those at the Forks. (See: *Christ Church Early Days*, in Part Two).

Source: <https://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/3142798E21,S555,SS1,SSS4,PR.11>

Map 2

This diagram is credited to the Surveyor General's Office, Montreal and was dated 17 April 1845. It is clearly a copy of the 1844 map (above) but the scale is 5 chains to the inch and with the addition of letters for the east to west rows of lots starting from A in the north to M at the south; they are mostly, but not always, in alphabetical order. The rivers are in blue.



In the northwest corner is the "road to the rear of the township", a continuation of the road to "St. Jacques and Montreal". It crossed lots 20 A and B, which are marked as "Catholic Church",

with two icons for buildings. The large lot “X” below that is bisected by the Red River and is named as “lot continuing named granted to the Reverend Milton”.

Below that are two lots 11 “Wes Meth. ... feb’y 46” granted from the petition of a group of citizens for the construction of a Methodist Chapel. (UP TO RAWDON Part One, page 315 mentions them getting Lots 11 C and 11 D, formerly held by Colonel Griffith and page 648 names the committee members.

In the row below is the large block “Z” granted to John Jefferies with an icon to indicate the site of the Presbyterian Church. I have written about this building, which may have originally been the church built by Burton on his own property at Lot 16, First Range that was later used as a drill hall by the militia in 1836 - 1837. It was definitely there before the formalization of a village plan. Read: [An Irony of Rawdon History: Did Burton’s Church become Presbyterian?](#) The village existed before it was formalized on the map

Block “Y” indicates a “parsonage” and the “English church”, officially the Church of England and Ireland. The building faces the road that led to the northeast part of the township.

Source: <https://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/3142590>
[E21,S555,SS1,SSS23,PR.1A](#)

Map Three



This village plan with added colour was signed by James Dignan D.P.S. [sic – not Dignam or Dingman] on Jan. 9, 1845, with marks indicating elevation, creeks and rivers but as surveyed and subdivided in November and December 1845 note at the bottom. It is clear that some of

the text additions are from a later date. ⁱ The alphabetic ranges are clearer but “F” omitted. The scale here is 5 chains to the inch.

At 19 and 20, A and B are the Catholic Church, *Presbytere* and school house, Lot 2 x 2, 4 acres.

19 and 20, C and D property of James Daly.

A smithy (a blacksmith is not named) is located beside the road at 18 C.

16 D – “old dwelling house, unoccupied” is set back from the road. Across Fourth Street is “Willm Walsh” 15 E. There is a Protestant William Walsh buried in Christ Church Cemetery but he lived at Ste-Julienne in 1861. I believe this is the William Welsh [sic] from Lismore, County Waterford, who married Jane Daly in 1840 in St. Patrick’s Church. Nearby is Widow Bagnall on 15 D. Harriet Pigott was the widow of the merchant, Robert Bagnall formerly of Tullamore, King’s County; see *Bagnall, Blagrove & Pigott: Family Connections* in UP TO RAWDON. Part One; Mrs. Bagnall also held 14 D.

The 10 acres on either side of the Red River is still marked for the Reverend Jno. Milton.

Col Griffiths [sic] had a house marked at 11 E. He had five lots 10 E to 14 E as mentioned on page 315 of the chapter that is referenced on page one, above.

Block “Y” is 10 acres in the name of the Bishop of Montreal and the eastern portion of it is marked “English Church”. Block “Z” is still 10 acres for John Jefferies and the only building is the Presbyterian Church, which was discussed above under Map 2.

The bottom of the map is “Mill Street”, with the lots numbered one; there is a “stone boundary” marked at each end. We consulted surveyor Paul Melançon who informed that they refer to markers placed by Mr. Dignan at all four corners for his survey. Mill Street then follows the Lacurreau [sic] River to “Dorwin’s Mill”. 1 E is “Medard Tremblay”. There was a family with this surname at Fourth Range, Lot 10 that had been granted to a Joseph Tremblay in 1836. Rasy (Rostine?) Trambles [sic] a joiner was a renter at that address in 1831. Médard Tremblay baptized a daughter at St. Patrick’s in 1843. Events at St-Jacques for Joseph and Médard Tremblay may be for these families.

Henri Lepine is at 11 G. The names Lepine and Lapine are on the old Rawdon Township map each with 50 acres on the Second Range. Charles Lepine was a *charpentier* in the village (1852 Census).

William Grigg is at 11 H. He may be a relative of Reuben Grigg who signed an 1828 settlers’ petition and is on 1831 Census or perhaps William is related to Isaac Grigg from Somerset, England who was a blacksmith and moved with relatives, late in 1851, to Huron County, Ontario, where a William Grigg was a blacksmith at Clinton, Huron County. Many references to the Griggs are found in UP TO RAWDON.

At Lot 11 I, Augustin Chalifoux was a *journalier*, who baptized a son at St. Patrick's Church, in 1844, the *parrain*, Xavier Tremblay. Joseph Chalifoux at 3 / S21 on 1861 Rawdon Census. These men were related and have descendants in Rawdon today.

Source: <https://numerique.banq.qc.ca/patrimoine/details/52327/3142589>
[E21,S555,SS1,SSS23,PR.1](#)

ⁱ From research not included in UP TO RAWDON: Between April 1846 and June 1848, Village Lots were purchased by: James Armstrong*James Daly, Hugh Daly Jedediah H. Dorwin, Patrick Carroll, John Kite, James Cunningham, Harriet Bagnall, Daniel McGarry, William Walsh, Isaac Grigg, and Thomas Griffith. (Appendix DDD to an Address to the Legislative Assembly, Crown Lands Department, Montreal, 28 February 1849).

* Information about names not on the village map: **James Armstrong** was a tavern keeper on the Third Range, Lot 21 S in 1831. He was a Protestant and is only partly identified in UP TO RAWDON. **Hugh Daly** may be the man on the 1824 Statistical Survey and perhaps is the man who died at 85 in 1875 and one of the large Daly family at Rawdon. *J. H. Dorwin: He Tried to Put Rawdon on the Map* is found in UP TO RAWDON, Part One. **Patrick Carroll** was a son of original settler John Carroll at Lot 17, Seventh Range. **John Kite** was one of the earliest settlers, c.1819; see *Kite of Wiltshire and Rawdon* in Part One. **James Cunningham** and his wife Mary Topping were Irish Protestants whose descendants are mentioned in UP TO RAWDON. **Daniel McGarry** was Irish, a cordwainer (shoemaker) on the 1852 Rawdon Census who baptized children in the 1850s at Christ Church.

In addition, the Grants Book shows lots to J.C. Milton & for the Anglican Church in 1839 & 1840, John Jeffries 1845, Bernard McManus 1846 the Municipalities of Leinster and of Rawdon, 1849 and 1852, James Cunningham, Patrick Carroll, Jedediah H. Dorwin, James Daly and **William Norrish***. It is not clear if the names duplicated are for the same or additional lots.

* The story **William Norrish: Survivor** in UP TO RAWDON profiles a man of determination.