

There, the hard-pressed surveyors and administrators aimed to reduce the overcrowding of the Saint John and to increase inland settlements by sending the troops upriver, beyond the areas of civilian settlement Regimental commanders cast lots to see which tract each unit would take, and during the fall, boatloads of troops were moved rapidly up the Saint John to inspect and, it was hoped, to settle their new properties.¹⁷

The formal grant was made on June 6, 1787 from “George the Third by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith”¹⁸ The lands were already “being partly improved by the respective Grantees.” The grant was measured in chains, and the major markers were specific trees—spruce, maple, hemlock, ash, and elm. It contained 11,343 acres divided into 184 lots of 61.65 acres each. The lots were extremely long and narrow so as to allow each soldier access to the river; in fact, the river cut through the lots. The great majority of men received one lot, some got two lots or rarely three, and the sponsor received several lots. The King reserved “to us and our Heirs and Successors” mineral rights and all white pine trees¹⁹—masts for the Royal Navy. Each grantee must agree to clear or prepare land, usually three acres every three years, to erect a dwelling of at least 20’ x 16’ and to keep a few cows.

Robert Sutherland was discharged on September 28, 1783 at Paulis Hook, New Jersey, and on his discharge paper stated he had received “fourteen days subsistence to carry me to my place of destination.” He was granted Lot 146 on the Nashwaak River, Dugald Campbell Grant in the Parish of Saint Mary’s. All lots had around 62 acres. The farm next to Robert was granted to John Sutherland. Grants to others by the name of Sutherland, William, John, 2nd, John 3rd, George and Hugh, were fairly close. Roderick McLeod received Lots 162 and 163, and Roderick, Jr., Lots 158 and 159. Just to the north of McLeod were the farms of John, William and Donald McLeod, and immediately adjacent on the south were the farms of Murdoch, Duncan, and Roderick McLeod, Jr. These groupings have the appearance of clans mutually helpful to their members. All of this land was north of Fredericton.

As already stated, Loyalist refugees from the United States had settled along the Saint John River and on coastal bays. Soon they were dissatisfied with the governor in far-away Halifax. They also were irritated by the pro-American attitudes of the earlier settlers from New England most of whom lived in peninsular, eastern, Nova Scotia although some (like the Kenneys and Kimballs) lived in or near Maugerville and around the western bays. These Loyalists petitioned for a division of Nova Scotia, and this was quickly granted in 1874. The new division was called New Brunswick, the name taken from the connection of King George III with the House of Brunswick.

Loyalists also established Fredericton on the site of the abandoned French settlement of Saint Ann’s, and it became the provincial capital. The city is near the junction of the Nashwaak and Saint John Rivers. The Scottish soldiers already had settled on the Nashwaak above Fredericton. (To this day Loyalist sentiment is strong in a broad triangle from Fredericton to the coast of New Brunswick.)

¹⁷ Moore, *op cit*, p 194

¹⁸ Copies of the Land Grant, the land map and Sutherland’s Discharge Paper were sent by C. Harris to CMF.

¹⁹ When land grants were first issued the government reserved to the Crown all white pines 61 cm or more in diameter. These were marked by broad arrows. Until 1811 if such a tree were cut down without permission the owner forfeited the land.