

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL

NEW RICHMOND

KEN ANNETT

THE PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOLNEW RICHMONDFOREWORD

The "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" article, EDUCATION FLASH-BACK TO 1890, which appeared in SPEC of June 5, 1990, referred to the first Protestant School House built in New Richmond in 1839. There has now come to light the Deed of Sale for this school as drawn up by J-G. LeBel, N.P. in 1834. This Deed, of great significance for the history of Protestant education in Gaspesia, will serve to extend and enrich the information contained in the SPEC article of June, 1990.

It may be of interest to note that Notary J-G. LeBel prepared this Deed in company with his contemporary, Martin Sheppard, N.P., only a year after he began work as a Notary Public in Gaspesia. The date was April 2nd., 1834, the locale, New Richmond Township, the vendors of the site and building, Robert Duthie and John Gilker and the purchasers, the trustees of the Presbyterian School of New Richmond - Andrew Turner, Gilbert MacWhirter, John McColm and James Adain.

It is unfortunate that the handwriting in the Deed can be described only as atrocious. Why so is open to speculation as it was not the norm for LeBel Deeds. A number of words and phrases are difficult or impossible to decipher in the French text. However the general provisions and intent appear clear and are given in the following free translation of this significant text.

FREE AND UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF THE DEED OF JOSEPH-GUILLAUME
LE BEL, N.P. - DUTHIE ET AL TO TRUSTEES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL.

April 2nd., 1834

Before the undersigned Notaries Public for the Province of Lower
Canada

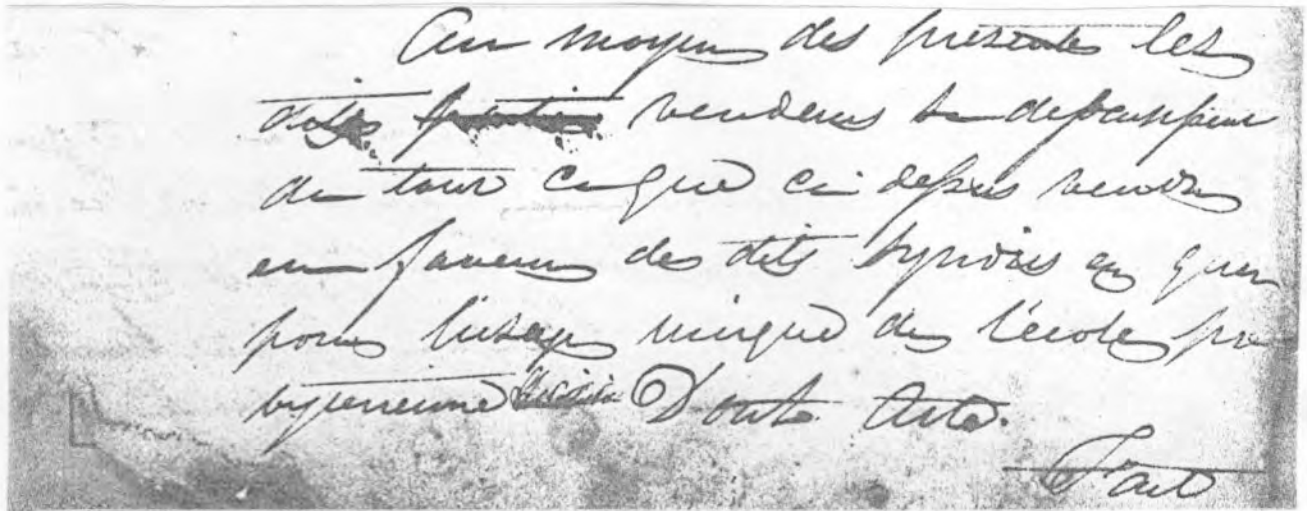
Were present Robert Duthie and John Gilker, residents of New Richmond
Township, Bonaventure County, Inferior District of Gaspé.

Who, by these presents, voluntarily sold, ceded and gave over,
from this time and forever, for the use of the Presbyterian School
of New Richmond Township in the said County of Bonaventure, solidly
engaging themselves the one with the other and renouncing expressly
any recourse to the Law, they guarantee freedom from all trouble
and any other general hindrance to Messrs Andrew Turner, Gilbert
MacWhirter, John McColm and James Adain, Trustees of the Presbyt-
errian School, being present and accepting as purchasers for them-
selves and their successors, that is to say -

An arpent of land located in the first concession of the said
Township, bordered on the East by the (? Royal ?) road, on the West
by John Gilker, on the North by the said John Gilker and on the South
by said Robert Duthie such that the building actually on the site
shares the properties of both. The building belongs to the said vendors,
half and half, by virtue of legal titles held by them and which they
are prepared to produce for the said purchasers in future should the
need arise.

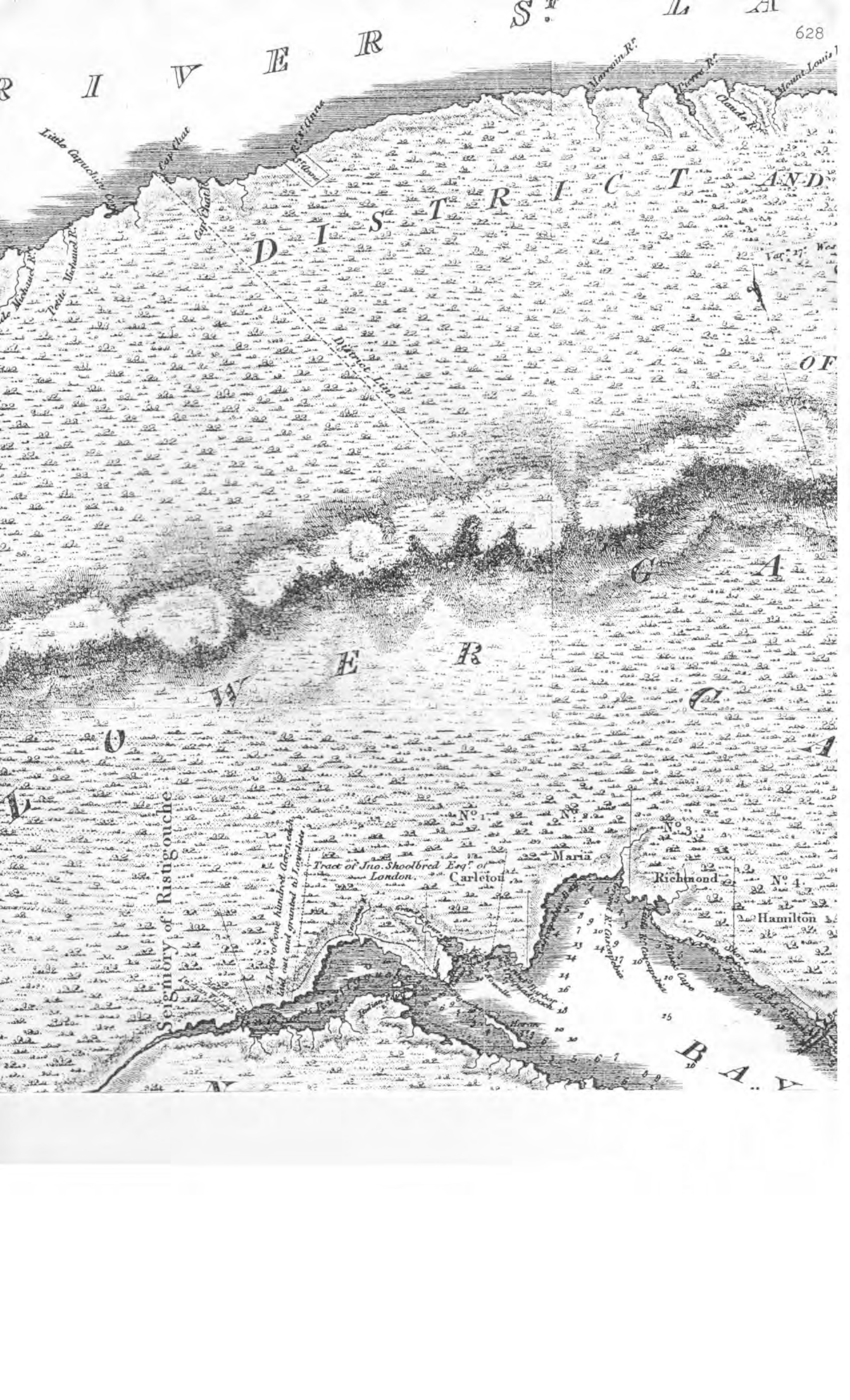
This sale is made for and in consideration of the price and sum of TEN POUNDS current money that the vendors recognize as having received from the said purchasers to their entire satisfaction prior to the signing of these presents, therefore fully acquitted.

[The actual text of the second to last paragraph of the Deed follows as illustration of the difficulty in deciphering]



Done and signed at New Richmond Township, in the Manse of the community the second of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty four and the said parties have signed with us, the said Notaries, after due reading.

SIGNATURES: Robert Duthie Andrew Turner John McColm
John Gilker Gilbert MacWhirter James Adain
M. Sheppard, N.P. J-G. LeBel, N.P.



SEIGNIORY of RICHMOND

Tract of Jno. Shoolbred Esq. of London

Carleton

Richmond

Hamilton

BAY

Lot of one hundred Acres, etc. laid out and granted to Townshend

No. 1

Maria

No. 4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30