

New Brunswick Parish Boundaries in the pre-1861 Census Years

Graeme Wynn

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New Brunswick Parish Boundaries in the pre-1861 census years

Quantitative data relevant to the early history of New Brunswick are scarce. Grain-bounty returns, probated wills and inventories, and church records hold promise as sources of data for work on the pre-confederation period, but these records are fragmentary, their use is difficult, and they have yet to be exploited systematically.¹ Undoubtedly, the provincial censuses taken in 1824, 1834, 1840 and 1851 are the most accessible and complete numerical records available for the province in the first half of the nineteenth century.² However, these data are not immediately useful for the study of spatial patterns. As the population of the province increased, and the settled area expanded, old parishes were divided, new ones were created, and existing boundaries were altered. Thus the number of parishes increased from 34 in 1784 to 80 in 1834 and 100 in 1851,³ and at each census, statistics were collected according to the current pattern of this changing mesh. But few nineteenth-century maps of the province are reliable indicators of the parish lines; those that exist rarely show the boundaries as they were in a census year.

The developing network of parish boundaries can be traced through the succession of provincial statutes by which the boundaries were erected, changed and confirmed. The best guide to this plethora of legislation is part V of 13 Vict., c. 51 (1850), *An Act to consolidate all the Laws now in force for the division of the Province into Counties, Towns and Parishes*, and the details need not be repeated here. Much of this material was usefully summarized by W. F. Ganong in his “. . . Monograph of the Evolution of the Boundaries of . . . New Brunswick”,⁴ but his treatment of boundary changes is on a chronological, county-by-county basis, and the wealth of information the work contains is only systematized in maps for 1786, 1836, and 1901.

- 1 In lieu of detailed census information, such records might prove fruitful for studies of agriculture, the economic composition of society, and the demographic characteristics of the early New Brunswick population. For an introduction and summary of potential see Gary B. Nash, *Class and Society in Early America* (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1970).
- 2 Journal of the House of Assembly of New Brunswick [JLA/NB], 1825, Appendix; JLA/NB, 1835, Appendix; JLA/NB, 1841, Appendix; JLA/NB, 1852, Appendix.
- 3 Total for 1834 includes City of Saint John and District of Carleton but no other districts within parishes; total for 1851 includes City of Saint John.
- 4 Royal Society of Canada, *Proceedings and Transactions*, IInd Series, 7 (1901), pp. 139-449.

Nevertheless, this pioneering effort was an invaluable aid in drawing up the maps below.⁵

Among the many eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century maps of the province, a handful were particularly useful for this study. The early and important "Plan of the South West Part of New Brunswick including the River Saint John as high up as the Great Falls Compiled by George Sproule . . . assisted by Mather Byles . . ." was a starting point. Copies of the original map in the Public Record Office, London are held by the Public Archives of Canada (PAC) and the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB), and it is reproduced at one quarter of the original size in Royal Society of Canada, *Proceedings and Transactions*, IInd Series, 7 (1901), facing p. 412. "A Map of Cabotia . . ." by the English cartographer John Purdy (London, 1814) and the later "Improved edition, with additions" (London, 1828), which make use of boundary surveys conducted in the province, stand almost alone in importance among maps produced before 1830. The only challenge to their supremacy is the ". . . Map of New Brunswick compiled from actual surveys and from Documents in the Surveyor General's Office. By Anthony Lockwood Junr." (1826), the only known copy of which is in the New Brunswick Museum, Archives Division. The modestly titled yet detailed "Sketch of the Province of New Brunswick by Thomas Baillie . . ." in *An Account of the Province of New Brunswick with advice to Emigrants* (London, 1832) is useful for the 1830s, as are "A Map of the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia . . . by James Wyld" (London, [1845]) and the "Map of the Provinces of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia . . . [etc.]. Compiled . . . by Joseph Bouchette" (New York: Sherman and Smith, 1846) for the following decade. The "Map of New Brunswick compiled at the Colonial Department" by L. Herbert Senr. in May 1834 (Original ms copy in PRO, London, transcript in PAC) bears on the question of certain boundaries in Northumberland County. For 1851 the "Map of the Province of New Brunswick. Compiled from the Latest Authorities by George Hayward Perley" (Saint John, 1853) is useful in conjunction with John Wilkinson's "Map of the British Province of New Brunswick" (n.p., 1858), which was described at the end of the nineteenth century as "the greatest map which has yet been published of New Brunswick".⁶

The following maps need little explanation. It should be realised, however, that like all maps, they present a simplified picture of reality. Problems of scale and projection can only be met by generalisation. And as some of the

5 I should also like to thank Roger Nason, formerly Map Curator of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, for his careful and intelligent assistance on a pressing question which arose when this paper was in the final stages of preparation.

6 Ganong, "Monograph . . .", p. 403.

boundary legislation is inconsistent and confusing, a few of the parish lines are 'best estimates' of the true situation. Fuller discussion of the more important of these cases is warranted. As Ganong has pointed out, there were, by 1824, a number of discrepancies between the laws defining parish boundaries and common assumptions about the location of those limits. In 1786, Moncton parish in Westmorland County was defined according to its original Nova Scotian township boundaries.⁷ If strictly observed, these limits would have carried the north-eastern corner of the parish into the County of Northumberland, and the county line was apparently accepted as the boundary of the parish. Similarly, acceptance of the Charlotte County line as the northern boundary of Pennfield parish was apparently *de facto* rather than *de jure*.⁸ The boundary between Nelson and Glenelg parishes in Northumberland County presents a more intractable problem. The confusion arises from inconsistencies in 54 Geo 3, c. 17 (1814), which defined Nelson's eastern line according to the western boundary of Chatham parish and Glenelg's western limit according to the inland boundary of Carleton parish. By this definition, Glenelg and Nelson had competing claims to some 70% of the present area of Nelson parish. It appears that some tried to resolve the discrepancy by assuming the western boundary of Carleton parish to be the south-eastern extension of the western line of Chatham parish.⁹ Others portrayed Nelson parish as a narrow strip (of the same width as Huskisson and Harcourt parishes in 1834). However, the solution adopted in Map I appears to have been more generally accepted; Ganong concluded that this was the intended arrangement, and his interpretation is fully borne out by Anthony Lockwood Junior's map of the province in 1826.¹⁰

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- 7 See Ganong, "Monograph . . .", p. 434 and 26 Geo 3, cap. 1, *An Act for the better ascertaining and confirming the boundaries of the several Counties within this Province, and for subdividing them into Towns or Parishes*.
- 8 See 53 Geo 3, cap. 2, *An Act to enlarge the limits of the Parish of Saint Stephen in the County of Charlotte*; 53 Geo 3, cap. 15, *An Act to enlarge the limits of the Parishes of Saint Patrick and Saint George in the County of Charlotte*; and Ganong, "Monograph . . .", p. 434.
- 9 See, for example, the map enclosed in Sir Howard Douglas' dispatch No. 6 of 8 March 1826 in PANB (Map Section, Catalogue number VI-203-[1826]) and in the Public Archives of Canada.
- 10 See Ganong, "Monograph . . .", p. 436 and maps cited above, especially Baillie and Lockwood.

KEY TO PARISHES*, 1824

COUNTY OF YORK

- 1 Fredericton
- 2 Saint Mary
- 3 Douglas
- 4 Kingsclear
- 5 Queensbury
- 6 Prince William
- 7 Northampton
- 8 Woodstock
- 9 Wakefield
- 10 Kent

COUNTY OF SAINT JOHN

- 11 City of Saint John
- 12 Portland
- 13 Lancaster
- 14 Saint Martins

COUNTY OF KINGS

- 15 Kingston
- 16 Sussex
- 17 Hampton
- 18 Norton
- 19 Westfield
- 20 Springfield
- 21 Greenwich

COUNTY OF QUEENS

- 22 Gagetown
- 23 Waterborough
- 24 Wickham
- 25 Hampstead
- 26 Brunswick

COUNTY OF SUNBURY

- 27 Maugerville
- 28 Sheffield
- 29 Burton
- 30 Lincoln

COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE

- 31 Saint Andrews
- 32 Saint Stephen
- 33 Saint David
- 34 Saint George
- 35 Saint Patrick
- 36 Saint James
- 37 Pennfield
- 38 Campo Bello
- 39 Grand Mannan
- 40 West Isles

**COUNTY OF
WESTMORLAND**

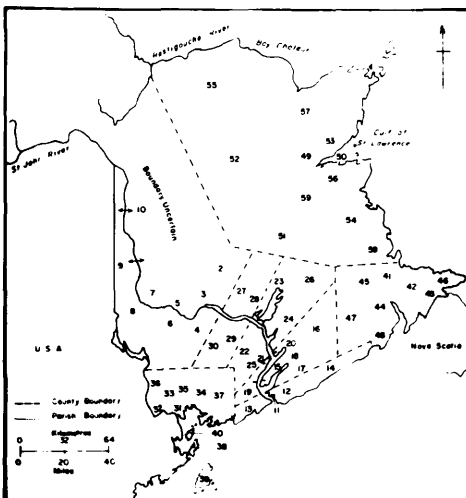
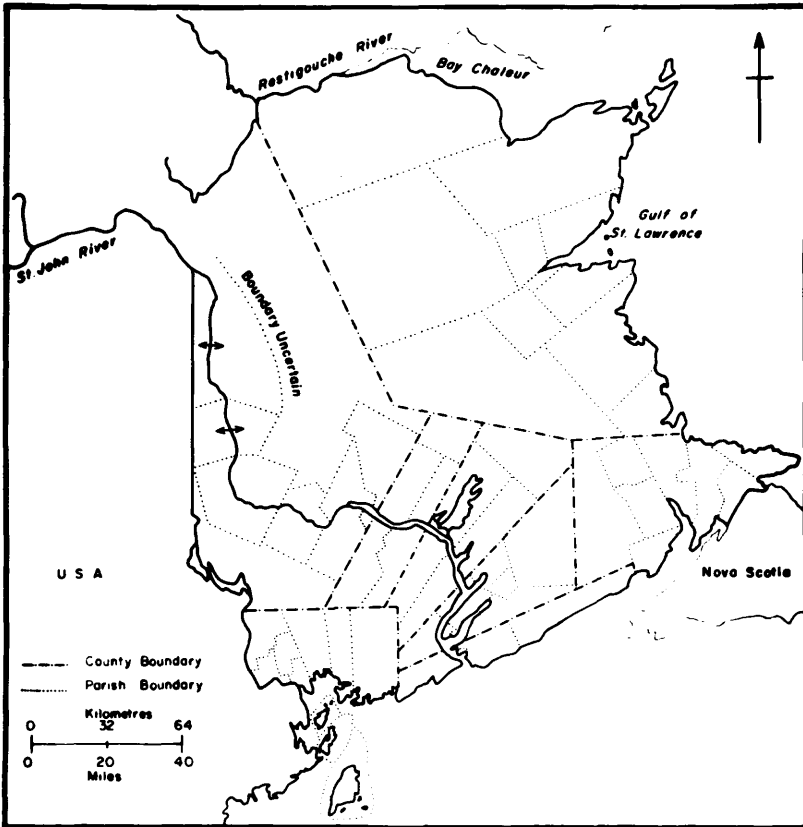
- 41 Dorchester
- 42 Sackville
- 43 Westmorland
- 44 Hillsborough
- 45 Monckton
- 46 Botsford
- 47 Salisbury
- 48 Hopewell

**COUNTY OF
NORTHUMBERLAND**

- 49 Newcastle
- 50 Chatham
- 51 Ludlow
- 52 Northesk
- 53 Alnwick
- 54 Carleton
- 55 Beresford
- 56 Glenelg
- 57 Saumarez
- 58 Wellington
- 59 Nelson

*In each of the keys, the numerical ordering and the spelling of parish names follows the census for that year.

MAP I — 1824



KEY TO PARISHES, 1834

COUNTY OF YORK

- 1 Fredericton
- 2 St Mary
- 3 Douglas
- 4 Kingsclear
- 5 Queensbury
- 6 Prince William
- 7 Southampton
- 8 Dumfries

COUNTY OF CARLETON

- 9 Northampton
- 10 Woodstock
- 11 Kent
- 12 Brighton
- 13 Perth
- 14 Wicklow
- 15 Wakefield
- 16 Andover
- 17 Madawaska

COUNTY OF SAINT JOHN

- 18 City of Saint John
- 19 Portland
- 20 District of Carleton
- 21 Lancaster
- 22 Saint Martins

COUNTY OF KINGS

- 23 Kingston
- 24 Sussex
- 25 Hampton
- 26 Norton
- 27 Westfield
- 28 Springfield
- 29 Greenwich

COUNTY OF QUEENS

- 30 Gagetown
- 31 Canning
- 32 Wickham
- 33 Waterborough
- 34 Brunswick
- 35 Hampstead

COUNTY OF SUNBURY

- 36 Maugerville
- 37 Sheffield
- 38 Burton
- 39 Lincoln

**COUNTY OF
WESTMORLAND**

- 40 Dorchester
- 41 Sackville
- 42 Westmorland
- 43 Hillsborough
- 44 Moncton
- 45 Hopewell
- 46 Salisbury
- 47 Shediac
- 48 Coverdale
- 49 Botsford

**COUNTY OF
NORTHUMBERLAND**

- 50 Newcastle
- 51 Chatham
- 52 Ludlow
- 53 Northesk
- 54 Alnwick
- 55 Blissfield
- 56 Blackville
- 57 Glenelg
- 58 Nelson

COUNTY OF KENT

- 59 Richibucto
- 60 Carleton
- 61 Wellington
- 62 Dundas
- 63 Huskisson
- 64 Harcourt

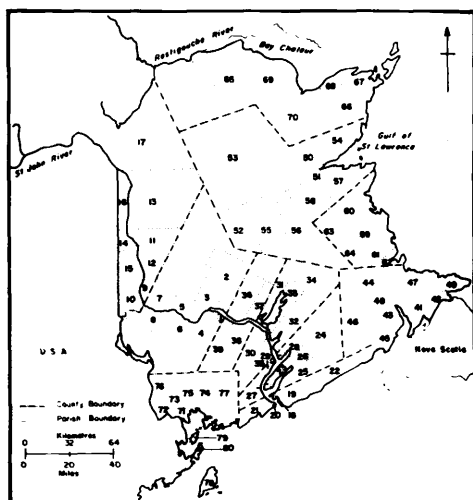
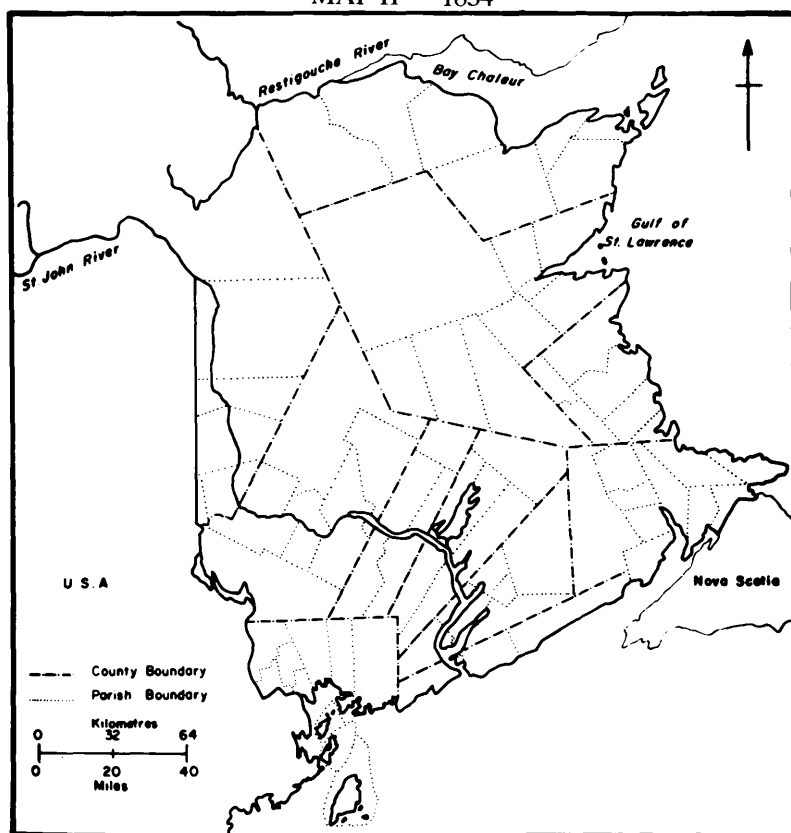
**COUNTY OF
GLOUCESTER**

- 65 Addington
- 66 Saumarez
- 67 Caraquet
- 68 New Bandon
- 69 Beresford
- 70 Bathurst

COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE

- 71 St. Andrews
- 72 St. Stephen
- 73 St. David
- 74 St. George
- 75 St. Patrick
- 76 St. James
- 77 Pennfield
- 78 Grand Manan
- 79 West Isles
- 80 Campobello

MAP II — 1834



KEY TO PARISHES 1840

COUNTY OF YORK

- 1 Fredericton
- 2 Saint Mary
- 3 Douglas
- 4 Kingsclear
- 5 Queensbury
- 6 Prince William
- 7 Southampton
- 8 Dumfries

COUNTY OF CARLETON

- 9 Woodstock
- 10 Northampton
- 11 Kent
- 12 Brighton
- 13 Perth
- 14 Wicklow
- 15 Wakefield
- 16 Andover
- 17 Madawaska

**COUNTY AND CITY
OF SAINT JOHN**

- 18 City of Saint John
- 19 Portland
- 20 Carleton
- 21 Lancaster
- 22 Saint Martins
- 23 Simonds

COUNTY OF KINGS

- 24 Kingston
- 25 Sussex
- 26 Hampton
- 27 Norton
- 28 Westfield
- 29 Springfield
- 30 Greenwich
- 31 Studholm
- 32 Upham

COUNTY OF QUEENS

- 33 Gagetown
- 34 Canning
- 35 Wickham
- 36 Waterborough
- 37 Brunswick
- 38 Hamstead
- 39 Johnston
- 40 Petersville
- 41 Chipman

COUNTY OF SUNBURY

- 42 Maugerville
- 43 Sheffield
- 44 Burton
- 45 Lincoln
- 46 Blissville

**COUNTY OF
WESTMORLAND**

- 47 Dorchester
- 48 Sackville
- 49 Westmorland
- 50 Botsford
- 51 Shediac
- 52 Moncton
- 53 Salisbury
- 54 Coverdale
- 55 Hillsborough
- 56 Hopewell
- 57 Harvey

**COUNTY OF
NORTHUMBERLAND**

- 58 Newcastle
- 59 Chatham
- 60 Ludlow
- 61 Northesk
- 62 Alnwick
- 63 Blissfield
- 64 Blackville
- 65 Glenelg
- 66 Nelson

COUNTY OF KENT

- 67 Richibucto
- 68 Carleton
- 69 Wellington
- 70 Dundas
- 71 Weldford
- 72 Huskisson
- 73 Harcourt

**COUNTY OF
GLOUCESTER**

- 74 Saumarez
- 75 Caraquet
- 76 New Bandon
- 77 Beresford
- 78 Bathurst

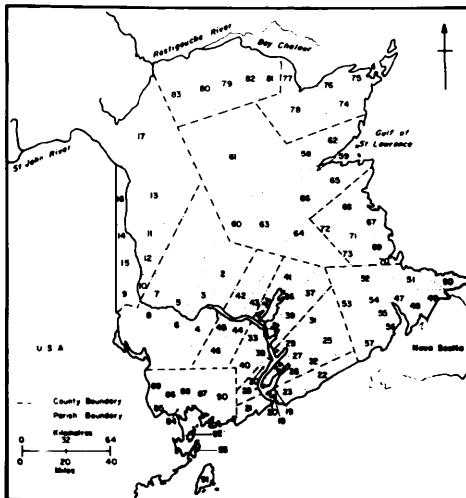
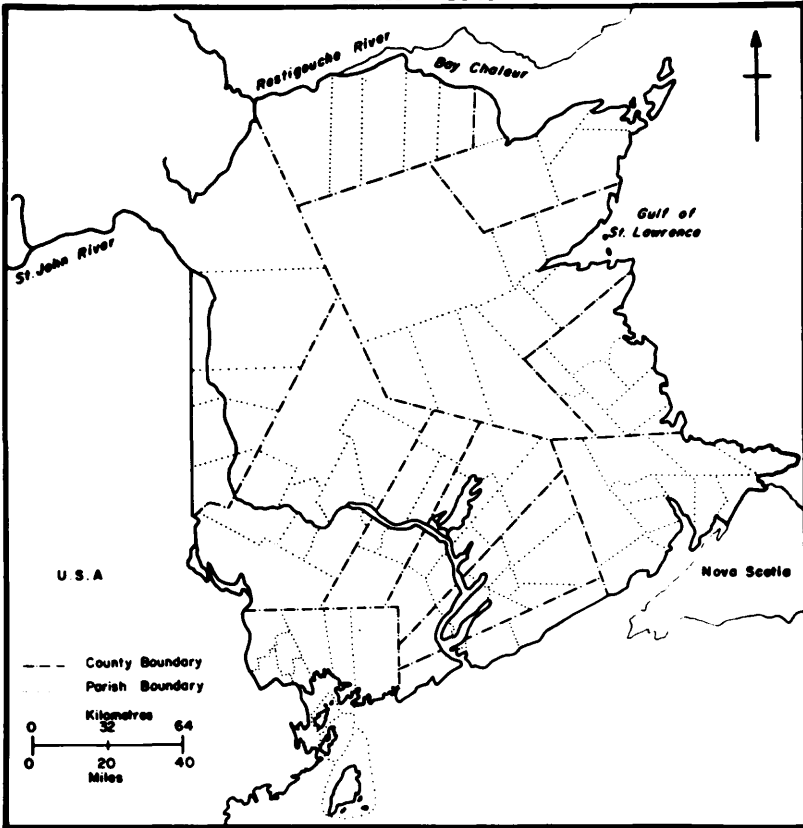
**COUNTY OF
RESTIGOUCHE**

- 79 Dalhousie
- 80 Addington
- 81 Durham
- 82 Colburne
- 83 Eldon

COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE

- 84 Saint Andrews
- 85 Saint Stephens
- 86 Saint David
- 87 Saint George
- 88 Saint Patrick
- 89 Saint James
- 90 Pennfield
- 91 Grand Mana
- 92 West Isles
- 93 Campo Bello

MAP III — 1840



KEY TO PARISHES 1851

COUNTY OF ALBERT

- 1 Coverdale
- 2 Elgin
- 3 Harvey
- 4 Hillsborough
- 5 Hopewell

COUNTY OF CARLETON

- 6 Brighton
- 7 Kent
- 8 Northampton
- 9 Simonds
- 10 Wakefield
- 11 Wicklow
- 12 Woodstock

COUNTY OF CHARLOTTE

- 13 Campo Bello
- 14 Grand Manan
- 15 Pennfield
- 16 St. Andrews
- 17 St. David
- 18 St. George
- 19 St. James
- 20 St. Patrick
- 21 St. Stephen
- 22 West Isles

COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER

- 23 Bathurst
- 24 Beresford
- 25 Caraquet
- 26 New Bandon
- 27 Saumarez
- 28 Shippegan

COUNTY OF KENT

- 29 Carleton
- 30 Dundas
- 31 Harcourt
- 32 Huskisson*
- 33 Richibucto
- 34 Weldford
- 35 Wellington

COUNTY OF KINGS

- 36 Greenwich
- 37 Hampton
- 38 Kingston
- 39 Norton
- 40 Springfield
- 41 Studholm
- 42 Sussex
- 43 Upham
- 44 Westfield

COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND

- 45 Alnwick
- 46 Blackville
- 47 Blissfield
- 48 Chatham
- 49 Glenelg
- 50 Ludlow
- 51 Nelson
- 52 Newcastle
- 53 Northesk

COUNTY OF QUEENS

- 54 Brunswick
- 55 Canning
- 56 Chipman
- 57 Gagetown
- 58 Hampstead
- 59 Johnston
- 60 Petersville
- 61 Waterborough
- 62 Wickham

COUNTY OF RESTIGOUCHE

- 63 Addington
- 64 Colborne
- 65 Dalhousie
- 66 Durham
- 67 Eldon

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAINT JOHN

- 68 Lancaster
- 69 Portland
- 70 Saint John City
- 71 Saint Martins
- 72 Simonds

COUNTY OF SUNBURY

- 73 Blissville
- 74 Burton
- 75 Lincoln
- 76 Maugerville
- 77 Sheffield

COUNTY OF VICTORIA

- 78 Andover
- 79 Madawaska
- 80 Perth
- 81 Saint Basil
- 82 Saint Francis
- 83 Saint Leonard

COUNTY OF WESTMORLAND

- 84 Botsford
- 85 Dorchester
- 86 Moncton
- 87 Sackville
- 88 Salisbury
- 89 Shediac
- 90 Westmorland

COUNTY OF YORK

- 91 Douglas
- 92 Dumfries
- 93 Fredericton
- 94 Kingsclear
- 95 New Maryland
- 96 Prince William
- 97 Queensbury
- 98 Saint Mary's
- 99 Southampton
- 100 Stanley

*In the census, statistics for the parish of Huskisson are included in those adjoining Parishes.

MAP IV – 1851

