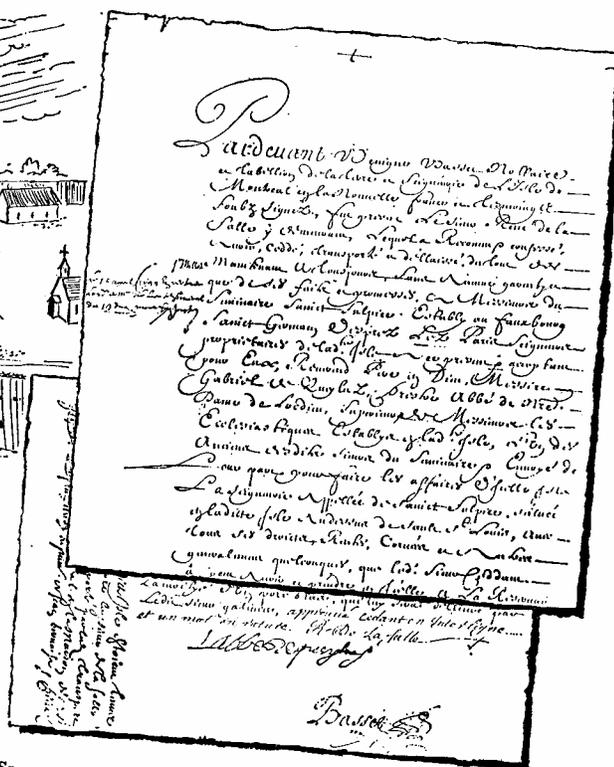


FAMOUS LETTERS IN CANADIAN HISTORY



La Salle's Sale

For La Salle, exploration was an obsession he would pay any price to satisfy.

First he sold his seigniory to finance one expedition and he later gave his life during another.

Rene Robert Cavellier de la Salle was destined for the religious life when he first came to Canada in 1667 and obtained land at Lachine which he named, thinking it was on the route to China through an inland sea.

He supervised construction of Fort Frontenac, which is now Kingston, and then set out in search for the mouth of the Mississippi which he found in 1682.

This document which is written in archaic, legal terms is for the sale of La Salle's seigniory to the Seminary of Saint Sulpice and is one of the few to bear his signature and the original of it is in the Public Archives of Canada.

La Salle's Deed of Sale to Sulpicians

Deed of Sale by Cavellier de la Salle to the Seminary of Saint-Sulpice, of his Seigniory of Saint-Sulpice, later known as Lachine, January 9, 1669.

Before Benigne Basset, Notary and Tabellion of the land and domain of the Island of Montreal in New France, and undersigned witnesses, was present the Sieur Rene de la Salle, there domiciled, who has acknowledged and admitted having ceded, transferred and relinquished, wholly and for ever, without any warranty other than his deeds and promises, to Messieurs of the Seminary of Saint Sulpice, established in the Faubourg Saint Germain des Pres near Paris, Lord proprietors of said Island, being here present and accepting on their behalf, the Reverend Father in God, Monsieur Gabriel de Queylus, Priest Abbot of Our Lady of Locdieu, Superior of Messieurs the Ecclesiastics established in said Island, one of the Senior members of said Sieurs of the Seminary, and by them sent to administer said Island, the domain called Saint-Sulpice, located in said Island above the falls of Saint-Louis, with all the Rights, Rents, Duties and Privileges whatsoever thereto pertaining, which said Sieur Vendor has, may have and obtain in said Island, with the Reservation,

which he makes, of a portion of seven Arpents of Land in width by sixty in depth, for his domain at the place where he has already caused to be made certain clearings of land and buildings, starting from the bank of the great stream and river of Saint-Lawrence, and proceeding North in the interior of the Island, adjoining on one side the property of Nicolas Moysan called the Parisian and on the other that of Pierre Perusseu, together with the lands which will be enclosed between the homesteads of Rimond Boisseau called La Chaume, and of Pierre Gaultier, called Sagouingoara; and of the enjoyment, during the present year and the next only, of fifty Arpents of land in the meadows and ponds called Saint Pierre, of which lands so reserved . . .

Has been promised to said Sieur Vendor, as an extra inducement, the half of a fatted pig, which shall be delivered to him by said sieur Galinier. Approved Vendor between lines and one word cancelled.—R. DE LA SALLE

Labbe de Queylus
Basset, Nore