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 Cavelier 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 Cavelier de la Salle to the Seminary of Saint-Sulpice, 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 the Bishops 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 Queylius, Priest Abbot of Our Lady of Lorette, Superior of Messieurs the Bishops 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 thereunto 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 Moyssan called the Parian and on the other that of Pierre Perceveau, together with the lands which will be enclosed between the homesteads of Raimond Blaiseau called La Chaumie, and of Pierre Gaultier, called Suprindomme, 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 fattened pig, which shall be delivered to him by said sieur Glinier. Approved Vendor between lines and one word cancelled.—R. DE LA SALLE

Labbe de Queylius
Basset, Nore

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