M. Tibierge, “Memoir on the Present State of Acadia, At Fort Nashwaak, June 30 1697”, in John Clarence Webster, ed. *Acadia at the end of the seventeenth century; letters, journals and memoirs of Joseph Robineau de Villebon, commandant in Acadia, 1690-1700, and other contemporary documents* ( Saint John N.B., 1934), p. 152-155.

Although the King last year sent out two armed ships in the belief that
the fort at the mouth of this river would be reestablished, M. de Villebon did
not consider it was possible with so few men at his disposal. These ships had
no instructions to remain to assist in the work and to prevent the depredations
of the Boston coast-guards and other vessels which might have come from
England. Moreover, the soldiers brought by M. de Falaise were all young
men ill adapted to such labour, and M. de Villieu had chosen twenty from
these and from the old garrison, to take with him on his expedition to Pemaquid.
We have, therefore, remained at Fort Nashwaak.

The English made an attack on this fort last autumn, as you will see,
Sir, by the Relation I am sending you, although it has always been believed
that they would not dare to attempt it. This obliged M . de Villebon to fortify
it anew, and, to this end, he is having it enclosed in a second line of palisades,
much heavier than the first, and at a distance of two feet from the latter;
the smallest posts are 10-12 inches in diameter, and the majority are 15 to 20
inches. The fort still has 4 bastions, and each face, including curtain and
bastion, is 114 ½ feet long. The space between the two lines of palisades has
been filled with earth and fascines ; cannon have been placed on each face of the
bastions, which are of solid earth and a swivel-gun on each face covering
the curtains. There is also a cannon on each of the two curtains overlooking
the Nashwaak River on the south and the wilderness on the north; so that the
fort is defended by 10 cannon and 8 swivel-guns. It required 411 posts to
make the second enclosure.

The garrison is at present reduced to 67 soldiers including the sergeants,
and they are for the most part ill-disposed. In the past they have been
paid in the presence of M. de Villebon by the King's Clerk, who also distributed
their rations; but, since the arrival of M. de Falaise, who is very devoted to
his interests, and an excellent officer as well, he has allowed him pay off his
company ; the King's Clerk delivers to him the provisions which he afterwards
distributes as he thinks fit; this has caused an outcry among the soldiers. Some
even complained to M. de la Coste that their provisions were being withheld,
and their clothing too, for which their captain gave them a taste of the stick.

There are now no officers belonging to the original Company ; M. de
Villieu was captured by the English, M. de Montigny has gone to Placentia
with M. d'lberville, and M. Chevalier was killed last autumn on the lower part
of the river. The King's Clerk has always distributed the rations, pay, and
clothing to the soldiers, an arrangement which suited them much better. It

would be desirable that, for the troops stationed here, it should, in future be
done in that manner. The Sr. de Falaise has in his dwelling a soldier who
receives the pay of a non-co mmissioned officer and is exempt from duty ; M. de
Villebon also enjoys the services of a soldier who draws his rations and is like-
wise excused from duty ; the King's Clerk has one as well. I sometimes employ
a man to move merchandise and he brings me wood in winter, but I pay him
for that, and he is not exempt from service.

Since July 8th , 1695 , when I first came to this river, no officer or soldier
has accompanied the Indian war-parties except M. des Isles, brother of M .
de Villebon, who in the autumn of that same year, 1695 , went out with some
Indians of this river and of Pentagoet. At present there are not 6 soldiers in
the fort fit to go on expeditions; M. de Villieu took 12 last year to Pemaquid ,
almost all who were available for such a service, and the English captured them
with M. de Villieu. Also, since I have been here, no Indian from this river
has gone on a war-party with the exception of the one, mentioned above, with
M. des Isles. The missionaries estimate that there are at present 90 to 100
hunting or fighting Indians on this river.

M . de Villebon has thus far appeared to be on fairly good terms with
M. de Falaise and with M. de Gannes, his brother. It has also seemed for some
time past as though he desired to live at peace with the Srs. Damours, and
especially with the Sr. de Clignancourt, who has come to see him several times ;
he in turn visited him ; but not long ago the Intendant of Canada informed M .
de Villebon that they had again made complaints; M . de Clignancourt said it
was not true, and even gave his written statement to that effect. This obliged
M . de Villebon to write again to the Intendant, and to forward the statement;
the Intendant sent M . de Villebon copies of the letters of the said Srs. Damours ,
which has again soured their tempers ; although the Sr. de Clignancourt continues
to see M . de Villebon, it is evident that it is mainly a matter of policy
on both sides, and they are acting under compulsion.

There has been no chaplain at all at the fort this winter, Father Elizee
having gone to Quebec last autumn without any farewells. Father Simon,
missionary at Meductic, who has lodged with the Sr. de Clignancourt all winter,
has come here to say Mass on, Sundays and Feast days. A priest named
Father Thiery was sent from Quebec to replace Father Elizee. He arrived at
Beaubassin where he passed the winter, and returned to Quebec ; no one knows
why he did not come here.

M. de la Coste, King 's Clerk appears to be very faithful in his duty
towards the soldiers, and watchful that no injustice is done them. M. de Villebon
received last year only a small portion of the presents due for the Indians,
which M. d'lberville was to have distributed according to their apportionment.

I informed you before, Sir, in the Memoir which I had the honour of
addressing to you in 1695, of the relative importance of this fort and the one
at the mouth of the river. The situation remains the same. I did not say
anything of the plan to build one at Port Royal, not knowing enough about
the matter, but it appears to me, from what I have learned since, that the post
at Port Royal would be as advantageous and even more so for the welfare of
the garrison and for the King's subjects living in the settlements on the Bay of
Fundy, provided that it were safeguarded from attacks by enemies ; help could
be given easily to the settlers of Minas and Beaubassin, and obtained from them,
as well, in case of need ; the garrison could secure food more easily; navigation
is open at all seasons, and, moreover, vessels corning to this country would have
safe retreat. I have been assured that the Company's trade would be much
larger than it is here, even the trade in pelts.

*The Settlers of the St. John River*

 There are only eight homesteads on all this river. Of those belonging
to the three brothers, the Srs. Damours, that of the late Sr. de Freneuse was the
most important, both because of its livestock and the extent of its cultivation.
He harvested last year about 18 barrels of wheat, but, during the incursion of
the English in October, his house, barn and grain were burned and all his live-
stock killed except a few pigs.

The homestead of the Sr. des Chauffours is very similar to that of his
brother, de Freneuse. The English spared it, killing only 3 horned beasts,
and burned nothing.

The Sr. de Clignancourt's property is by no means so extensive as that
of the other two. He has only 3 head of cattle, and does very little planting.

The fourth is that of Srs. Martel and Baptiste, in partnership, commenced
only three or four years ago. They have as yet, no livestock.

The four other settlers are Bellefontaine, Desrochers, la Jarne and la
Treille. Bellefontaine's property is slightly more extensive than that of the
other three, and some of it is under cultivation; he has 3 head of cattle.
Desrochers has 2 oxen, but grows only Indian corn, and the two others do the
same. All these settlers were short of food last winter and, as they sow little
grain, and have no mill in which to grind the wheat they harvest, they are in
danger of faring badly again this winter, unless they have recourse to Minas or
Port Royal.

I believe the Company can do an annual trade of more than 20,000
livres in merchandise here; it should, moreover, be well-selected, in accordance
with the Memoir which I sent to the Marquis de Chevry. It is only required
for the Indians of this river, with a few necessities for the settlers. Those who
live at Minas, Beaubassin and Port Royal buy very little here because it is difficult
to reach the fort, which is 25 leagues from the mouth of the river, and
because they fear to be caught by the English.

The profits of the Company this year will not be high. As there has
been very little snow, the Indians have been starving this winter, and have been
compelled to eat the skins of the moose they had killed; moreover no Indians

have come from Pentagoet, Restigouche or Richibucto, from whom we usually
receive some pelts.

 *Beaubassin, Minas and Port Royal*

 Every year the English bring to these places trade-goods, brandy, sugar
cane from Barbadoes, molasses and the utensils which are needed, taking in
exchange pelts and grain, which has been a great boon during the recent years
of famine in Boston. M. Dubreuil, Boudrot and le Marquis, of Port Royal,
took shipments to them, for they have passports from both M. de Villebon
and the English. M. Dubreuil made four or five voyages laden with wheat.
The settlers seldom come here for merchandise for the reasons mentioned above,
although they admit that it is better and cheaper than that of the English.

Beaubassin having been burned last autumn by the English, as I set
forth in my Report, the settlers of Minas and Port Royal are afraid that they
may be subjected to similar treatment.

The frigate which was equipped at Quebec last year, remained with a
brigantine for some time at Baie Verte, and the people of these settlements
bought some merchandise, which was actually somewhat dearer than that which
they could have secured here, but was much less troublesome to obtain.

*The Rivers of Kennebec and Pentagoet*

 These two rivers are the more important in the province on account
of the Indians, who are found there in larger numbers, and are more warlike
than the others, because they are on the frontier of New England, with whose
people they are often in conflict. It is estimated that there are on the Kennebec
140 or 150 Indians, and, on the Pentagoet, 120 to 130-all fighting men and
good hunters.

I write you nothing more, Sir, this year, having obtained no further
information up to the present.

Tibierge

Fort Nashwaak, Oct . 1st, 1697.