

Sept. 26
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La Salle Sells Seigniory . . .



La Salle's Deed of Sale To Sulpicians

Deed of Sale by Cavalier 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, Monsier 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 Perrusseau, together with the lands which will be enclosed between the homesteads of Raimond Boisneau 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 in-

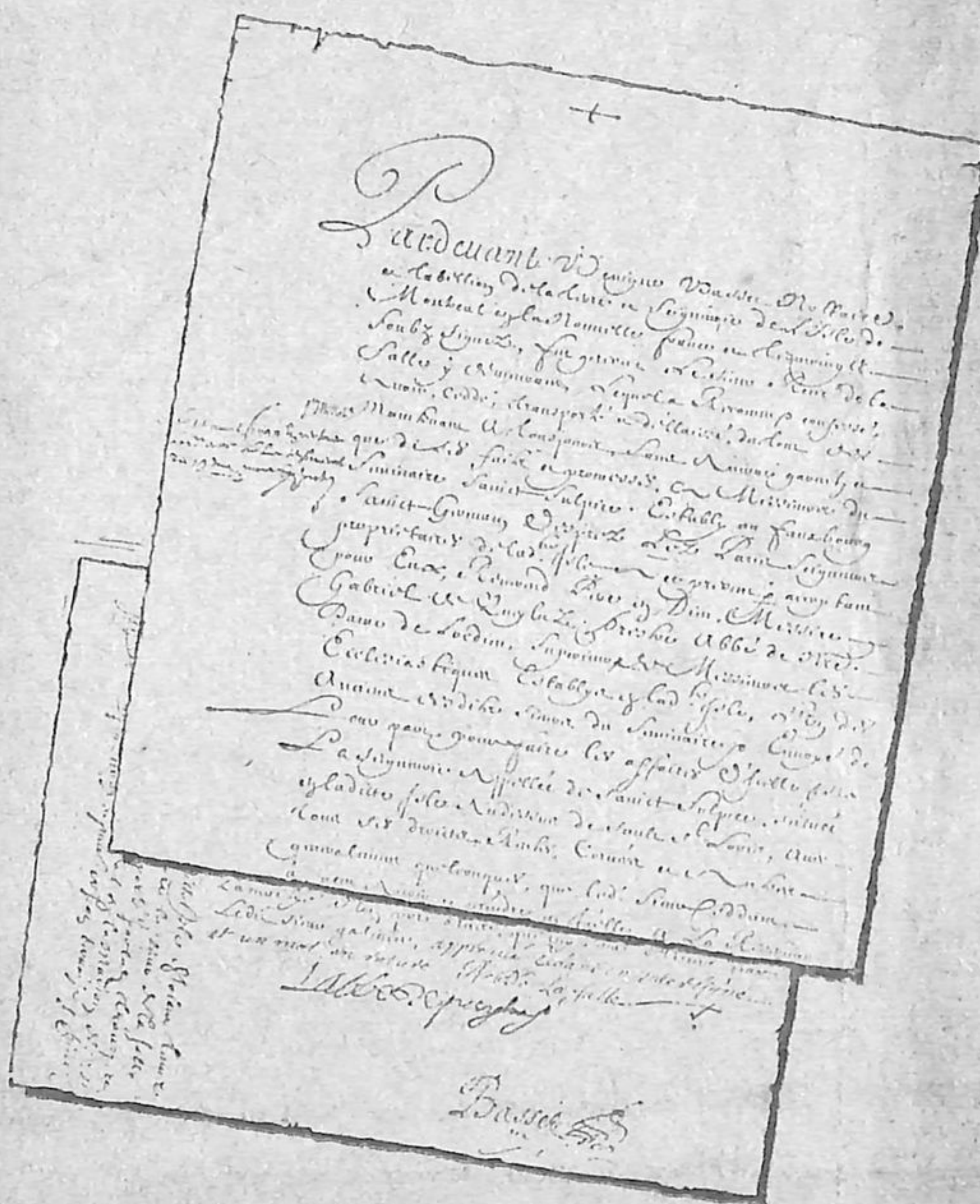
For La Salle, exploration was an obsession he would pay any price to satisfy.

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

Rene Robert Cavalier 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.



ducement, 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

And at this time in Western Ontario . . .

The late Stephen Leacock once wrote La Salle was as far ahead of his times as others of his era were behind. Today, La Salle may be regarded by some as a visionary who failed, yet his little ship the Griffin was the first to sail the Great Lakes. And when he sold his seigniory to the Sulpician order, La Salle became directly responsible for early explorations of the north shore of Lake Erie. One condition of the expedition was two missionaries must accompany him. His initial trip led him to the Burlington Bay area, there he met Louis Jolliet, who after a northern exploration tour had travelled Lake Huron, St. Clair River and lake, the Detroit River, and

Lake Erie as far as the Port Stanley area where he landed and went overland to make contact with La Salle. The two priests, Dollier de Casson and Rene de Brehant Galinee learned of the mission need in the far west, decided to leave La Salle and go there. Their travels led them by land to the Grand River, to Lake Erie and to Port Dover where with their aides they spent the winter of 1669-70, first Europeans to do so. And there in March, 1670, a cross, bearing the fleur de lis, was erected, claiming the land for Louis XIV of France. From Dover, they went to Point Pelee, thence to the Soo area. Subsequently Galinee was to prepare the first map of the Great Lakes area.—LNB

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article is one of 30 in a series compiled with the co-operation of the Public Archives of Canada being published each Saturday on this page. Copies of individual articles cannot be supplied but the entire series will be reprinted in tabloid form for distribution without charge to schools at conclusion of the series in April. Advance requests for reprints should be addressed to "Famous Letters," The Free Press, London, Ont.