

Correspondence
respecting
Mr. Felton.

Governor-in-chief's commands, and beg leave to answer as succinctly as possible the several questions propounded by Mr. Felton, in the order in which they are proposed in your despatch. It may not be unfit, however, to preface my answers by stating that, in consequence of the high importance attached by Mr. Felton to the mislaid document, which, if in existence at all, I always have considered, and still do consider a mere private memorandum, which could not, as such, be called for by the House of Assembly. I have long since most diligently examined, with the assistance of the gentlemen of my department, all my private as well as official papers connected with my tour through the eastern townships in 1824, in the hope of finding the paper deemed of such moment; but I regret to say that my repeated searches have proved wholly fruitless, and I am again obliged to appeal to memory and to other sources of information to govern me on the subject. From these sources was made out a hasty memorandum statement, addressed inofficially to Mr. Davidson, for his and Mr. Felton's information, but which, it seems, was nevertheless transmitted to the Assembly; which statement, I persist in saying, shows a larger sum than that which I think I ever received, although the total amount is considerably under the sum which would appear to have been due upon the aggregate number of locations at 7s. 8d. that were issued by Mr. Felton as agent, and appearing on the face of the several lists by him returned and recorded in this office, and recently calculated with somewhat more correctness* than had previously been done, implicit reliance having always been placed by me upon Mr. Felton's statement of my fees. One fact must impressively favour the assertion; it is this: that Mr. Felton, in 1834, when applying to Government for 913 acres of land, as agency per-centage upon the locations by him issued, and under which settlements were made a few days previous to bringing up the list and order of reference thereon, spontaneously intimated to me that he was my debtor of a balance of location fees. He must, of course, have had the means of establishing that balance; I had not. I have no doubt that this balance, at least, was due, being fully convinced from recent calculations (margin) that I have never received from Mr. Felton so large an amount as 50 £., nor did I give the subject a thought, and expressed my surprise at his communication; he did accordingly pay me 7 £. some shillings as the balance due, after deducting 30s. or 40s. which he said he found charged against me in his accounts, for so much paid by him for me at Sherbrooke. I speak subject to the evidence of my receipts, by which I will stand corrected. I now proceed to consider the queries proposed, to which I beg leave to give, seriatim, the following answers:

* Locations:	
Hatley	- - 95
Eaton	- - 14
Ascot	- - 32
Orford	- - 6
Stoke	- - 1
Dudswell	- - 6
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	154
At 7s. 8d.	<hr/>
Total Fees	£. 59 8

1. In the month of October 1824 I received from Mr. Felton, I believe at Sherbrooke, the Returns of Locations by him made, as agent of the townships of Ascot, Hatley, Stoke, Eaton, Orford and Dudswell, which returns are dated the 15th October of that year, and are the documents laid before the Assembly under the letters A, B, C, D & E, and, if I mistake not, Mr. Felton at that time made out a statement or memorandum of fees due to me upon the locations, which, by those returns, appeared to have been made; but I neither have kept that memorandum, nor do I recollect the amount of the fees then due; but it must necessarily have been that shown by the number of locations multiplied by 7s. 8d. and could have been no other.

2. I do not keep any official cash book of fees received by me, having other satisfactory data for computing the amount annually received. These data consist of the Record of Locations, the book of Certificates of Vagrancy, and the Accounts of the Patent-office. The searches and diagrams are few in number, and are generally, though not regularly, noted in the office, and an average allowance is made for them in the annual returns.

3. In October 1824 I received part, if not all the location fees appearing at that time to be due by Mr. Felton's returns; the amount I cannot recollect, but it could assuredly be no other than that shown, as stated above, viz., by the number of locations multiplied by 7s. 8d.

4. I believe I did draw on Mr. Felton for something like 10 £. on account of fees, and I have no doubt that I was duly debited with it in the reckoning of the agency account alluded to by Mr. Felton. If I did draw upon Mr. Felton, of course he holds my draft, with my receipts for any monies received.

5. See the preceding answer.

6. Assuming the whole balance to have been discharged, the amount paid to me by Mr. Felton, including, I believe, my draft of 10 £., must have been precisely equal to the amount of the number of locations issued, multiplied by 7s. 8d., viz., about 40 £., the returns showing about 110 locations; but I conscientiously believe the sum paid was much under that amount.

7. They ought to do so, or Mr. Felton's returns are fallacious.

8 & 9. Mr. Felton, in 1814, was a perfect stranger to me. He may have had a promise from Lord Bathurst of 10,000 acres of land; and if we met, as it appears we did, in London, he may have told me so; but really it is impossible for me, after the lapse of 22 years, and deeply engaged, as I then was, upon public works, to charge my memory with such matters.

10. I received an intimation to that effect from the Hon. Mr. Cochran, then secretary, dated Castle St. Lewis, Quebec, 3d July 1818.

11. This would depend upon the terms of the grant, and the executive government would of course be most competent to judge of the expediency of location or non-location, and I could but humbly obey the mandate.

12. They do not appear to have done so.