

and North-West Companies in 1821. In this latter year there were two districts on the river and in its vicinity, known respectively as Old and New Churchill Districts. In Old Churchill District there was only one trading post, namely, Fort Churchill, near the shore of Hudson Bay. In New Churchill District there were in all five trading posts, three of which, namely, Indian Lake, Nelson House, and Reindeer Lake, were on the Churchill River or its tributaries, while the other two at Net (Setting) and Split Lakes were on the waters of the Nelson River. The Chief Factor, John Charles, had his residence at Indian Lake, and every year he brought supplies up the Churchill River from Fort Churchill, and distributed them to the above-named trading posts, after which he collected the furs from these posts and took, or sent, them down the same river to Fort Churchill to be shipped to England.

A few years after this date, but just how many I do not know, the number of trading posts maintained by the company was considerably reduced, and several of the more northern ones were abandoned, including most of those on the lower portion of the Churchill River, for the old-time competition between the North-West and Hudson's Bay Companies was now a thing of the past, and, as the Indians were confined to the traders of the Hudson's Bay Company for their supplies, they could be depended on to come much longer distances to the trading posts than formerly. About the same time the Churchill River was abandoned as a trade route from the interior country to the coast; the Indians soon ceased to travel up or down its treacherous current; and before long the fact that it had ever been used as a regular trade route was almost entirely forgotten.