

difficult to find, instead of along the rivers themselves, where they would be obvious? The answer will be plain to all who recall the conditions of travel and settlement in the early days of the province. Until well into this century there were no good roads, and of course no railroads, and nearly all travel was by water, while the settlements themselves were grouped about the navigable waters of rivers and harbors. In establishing counties, therefore, it was natural to group the settlements of a natural river system or basin together into one county, and to place the county-town as nearly as possible in their centre where it could easily be reached by water. This, of course, necessitated running the boundaries along the watersheds. If, on the other hand, the rivers had been adopted as boundaries, it would have been necessary for many of the citizens of any county to cross an uninhabited and pathless watershed to reach their county town, even though the county town of another county were just across the river from their homes.

The history of the county lines of New Brunswick shows clearly enough that these were the principles in the minds of Governor Carleton and his council when they first laid out the province into counties in 1785, and for his foresight in this, as well as for many other wise acts, Governor Carleton deserves our thanks and admiration. As laid out in 1785 the province included eight counties, Charlotte (the only one now retaining its original limits), St. John, Kings, Queens, Sunbury, York, Westmorland and Northumberland. The original limits of St. John are shown on our map, as is the original position of the line separating the four other river counties from the two North Shore counties (*i. e.*, M P on the map). This line was soon altered in part to the position OR, and still later to its present position. The other counties were set off later, from time to time; and we could have no better tribute to the wisdom of Governor Carleton in establishing the original eight counties as he did than the fact that his successors established the seven additional counties upon precisely the same principles.