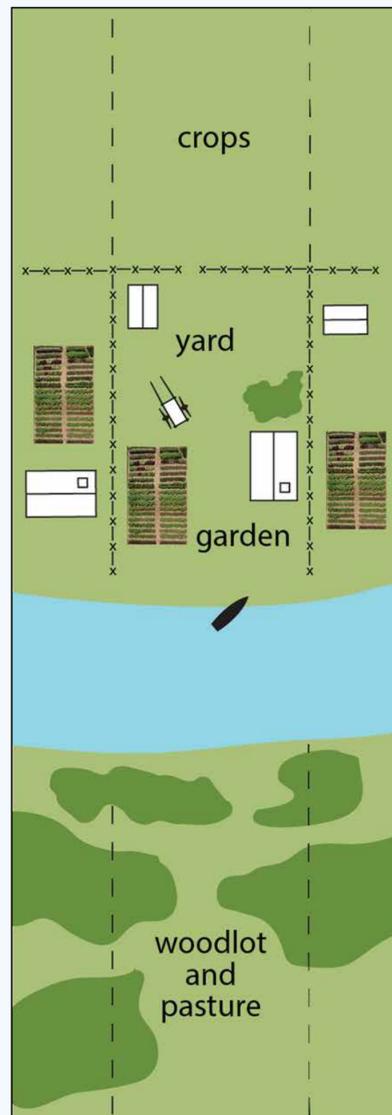


THE RIVER AT YOUR FRONT DOOR

St. Clements still shows signs of the old river lot system

When settlers first arrived here in the early 1800s, they adopted a system of allotting land that was familiar in Quebec, and similar to a Scottish system.



River lots were long, narrow plots of land running back from the river. You were close to your neighbours and close to the river.

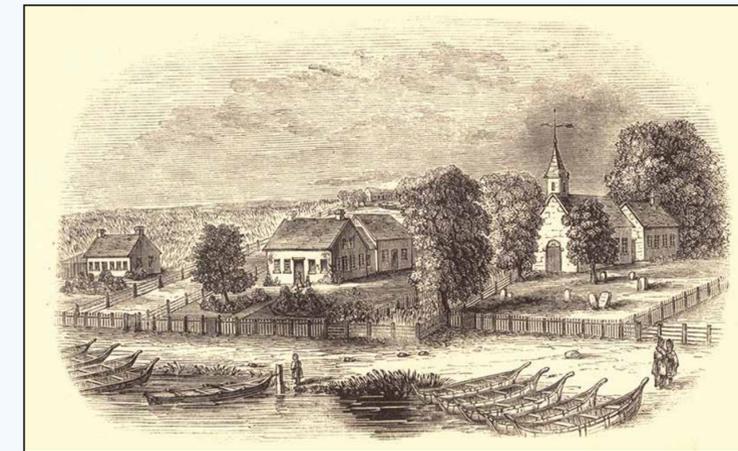
Near the river, you had your house, a garden, and your livestock. Farther back were your crops, and beyond that was shared hayland.

In this area, homes and farmland were on the west side of the river—the prairie was already clear of trees because of fires. On the east side, now St. Clements, the other half of the lot was mostly treed, and used for firewood, building and fencing materials, and summer pasturing for cattle and horses.

Lots were two miles deep on either side of the river. That was the amount of land granted by local First Peoples for use by the settlers, in exchange for an annual gift.

Some lots were only twenty metres (66 feet) wide. An observer in 1874 noted that one settler...

"...had in all 64 acres of land, but it took a journey of 8 miles to pass from one end of it to the other."



St. Peter's Settlement at the Red River, ca 1845
Internet Archive



The river lots have all but vanished on the west side of the river, but are still visible on the east side in St. Clements
RM of St. Clements Public Access Map

For more information on our area's history, please visit the Red River North Heritage website using the QR code below. Funding assistance for these signs was provided by the Manitoba government.



St. Clements
The place to be