

*Acts of the General Assembly of His Majesty's Province of New-Brunswick passed in the year 1812.* Saint John, NB: Jacob Mott, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, 1812.

52 George III – Chapter 24

**An Act to encourage the erection of a Passage Boat to be worked by Steam for facilitating the communication between the City of Saint John and Fredericton. Passed the 7th March, 1812.**

Whereas a Petition has been presented to the General Assembly of this Province from John Ward, Robert Smith, George D. Berton, James C. F. Bremner, Esquires, and James Fraser and Lauchlan Donaldson, praying for an Exclusive privilege for the term of ten years, to be granted to them by an Act of the General Assembly of this Province as an encouragement to the erection of a Passage Boat to be worked by steam, for the accommodation and conveyance of passengers between the City of Saint John and Fredericton. And whereas a convenient Passage Boat for the accommodation and conveyance of Passengers between the City of Saint John and Fredericton is much wanted, and if worked by Steam will add greatly to the facility of communication.

I. Be it therefore enacted by the President, Council, and Assembly, That the said John Ward, Robert Smith, George D. Berton, and James C. F. Bremner, Esquires, and James Fraser and Lauchlan Donaldson, upon good and sufficient security being given to His Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, by Bond from the said John Ward, Robert Smith, George D. Berton, and James C. F. Bremner, Esquires, and James Fraser and Lauchlan Donaldson, in the penal sum of five hundred pounds, conditioned to be void on the erection of a good sufficient and convenient Boat to be worked by Steam, and competent to the accommodation of sixty passengers, within two years from the passing of this Act, shall so soon as such Boat shall be completed and finished, have, possess, and enjoy to themselves, their executors, administrators and assigns, the sole right of carrying Passengers, and transporting freight of different kinds in a Boat so to be worked by Steam upon the River Saint John, between the said City of Saint John and Fredericton, for the term of ten years; and no Other person or persons whomsoever, other than the said John Ward, Robert Smith, George D. Berton, and James C. F. Bremner, Esquires, and James Fraser and Lauchlan Donaldson, their executors, administrators or assigns, shall use or employ any Boat or Boats to be worked by Steam upon the said River Saint John, for any purpose whatsoever during the said term of ten years.

II. And be it further enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend or be construed to extend to restrain or in any manner affect the right of any person or persons to carry Passengers and transport freight in Boats or Vessels of any description whatsoever not worked by Steam, in like manner as such person or persons might have done if this Act had not been made.

III. Provided always and be it further enacted, That if the said John Ward, Robert Smith, George D. Berton, and James C. F. Bremner, Esquires, and James Fraser and Lauchlan Donaldson, shall neglect to enter into and duly execute the said Bond as required by the first Section of this Act, within one month from the passing of this Act, the same shall cease to be of any force or effect.

IV. Provided also and be it further enacted, That whereas such Steam Boat can be made use of during the summer season only, a list of the rates of Passage Money and freight intended to be received and taken during the then next ensuing season shall, within two months before such Boat shall be actually used for the transportation of Passengers and freight as aforesaid, be published in the Royal Gazette, and in case any alteration of such rates to be taken in any subsequent season shall be thought expedient to be made during the enjoyment of the right herein before granted, such alteration shall be in like manner published three months at the least before the commencement of such season, and that no higher or greater rates shall be taken in any season than such as shall be published to be taken during such season as aforesaid; and that in case such Steam Boat shall be unfit for use, or shall not be ready to be employed for the purposes aforesaid, agreeably to the true intent and meaning of this Act, during the space of three months in any season after such Steam Boat shall be completed and finished as aforesaid, unless in case of any accident, by which the necessary repairs of such Boat shall require longer time to complete the same, then and from thenceforth the said right secured as aforesaid by this Act, shall cease determine and become null and void.