

NAME:BRASS, John

PARISH: Native

ENTERED SERVICE: (fl. 1848-1867)

DATES:

Appointments & Service

Outfit Year*

Position:

Post:

District:

HBCA Reference:

**An Outfit year ran from 1 June to 31 May*

John Brass was a native of Rupert's Land but it is not known where he was born. He may have been the son of Peter Brass. John Brass joined the Hudson's Bay Company in the Swan River District in the capacity of midman (ie., an oarsman on a freight canoe or York Boat) in 1848 at wages of 17 pounds sterling per annum. He served in this capacity for a number of years before becoming a freeman (ie., a former employee of a fur company who elected to remain in the interior as an independent trapper or trader with the Indians). He returned to the Hudson's Bay Company in 1859. According to an agreement made with the company dated March 25, 1859 at Fort Pelly, he agreed to serve in the capacity of steersman (ie., the foreman of a crew on a freight canoe or York Boat) for 2 years as from June 1, 1859 at 25 pounds sterling per annum. He apparently continued in this employ in the Swan River District until 1867, after which he seems to have left the service of the Company.

(HBC Archives B.239/g/32, fo.10; B. 239/g/28, fo.9; B.239/g/36, fo.42; a.32/22, fo 205; B.239/g/44, fo. 45.)

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