

## The curious, and incorrect, case of “St. Martin’s Falls”, a type locality for many insect species described by Francis Walker: precision and correction

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Handfield & Handfield (2020) analyzed a problematic type locality for many insect species described by Francis Walker in the mid 1800s. The locality known as “Martin’s Falls” was a trading post of the Hudson’s Bay Company on the Albany River in northern Ontario, but it had been erroneously called “St. Martin’s Falls” on specimen labels, in museum accession ledgers, and in Walker’s publications. With the information available at the time of publishing, the authors were able to determine the location of the trading post but the latitude and longitude given were approximate and, as it turned out, slightly incorrect.

A thorough search of federal names data (Anonymous 2020) lists “Martin Fall House” as an historical name of a trading post situated **precisely** at 51° 32′ 4″ N, 86° 30′ 18″ W (51.534 N, 86.505 W). These coordinates actually mark a waterfall at that location on the Albany River. According to Klimko (1994, p. 38, fig. 3) the trading post was situated on the south shore of the river in the vicinity of the waterfall; in fact, it was directly in front of the waterfall as shown in Fig. 2. Old authors (see Handfield & Handfield 2020) indicated that the trading post was situated forty miles up river from Ogoki. This distance was probably approximated in the 1880s by following the course of the Albany river as it was at that time. So it was unclear how precise this distance was or how it was measured. As seen in Fig. 1, the precise coordinates given above nearly coincide with the location of the old authors. With the new information and the photograph provided herewith, we conclude that Martin’s Falls trading post was situated exactly in front of the falls on the south shore of the Albany river.



FIGURE 1. Localization of Martin’s Falls on the Albany River in northern Ontario. Map from Google Earth.

Handfield & Handfield (2020) also included an old photograph of Martin's Falls Trading Post provided by Gary Norman Still (22 Sept. 1939–2 Apr. 2018) and shown on his website <https://www.redriver.ancestry.ca/Corrigal-Jacob-1773.php> (last accessed 25 Aug. 2022), although the source of that picture was unknown. I found that the original photograph is preserved in the Archives and Special Collection of the Glenbow Research Centre at the University of Calgary, under catalogue number CU1154336 (NA-726-9). The picture shows Martin's Falls circa 1907 (not 1829 as originally purported, which would have predated the invention of daguerreotype photography!). The identity of the photographer remains unknown.

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**FIGURE 2.** “Traders camp on Albany River, Ontario.”, ca. 1907, (CU1154336) by an unknown photographer. Courtesy of Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University of Calgary, reproduced with permission.

### References cited

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