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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NICHOLAS COX

1724-1794

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF GASPÉ

AND

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE LABRADOR FISHERY

1774-1794

KEN ANNETT

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NICHOLAS COX

Where the southern coast of the Gaspé Peninsula thrusts out into Bay Chaleurs and the great sand-bank of Paspébiac and the point of New Carlisle mark the shoreline, the Township of Cox recalls the life and times of the first Lieutenant-Governor of the District of Gaspé, Nicholas Cox. The adjoining townships of Hope to the East and of Hamilton to the West recall the names of contemporaries of Cox in the administration of Lower Canada.

To choose, at random, a point of introduction to the career of Nicholas Cox, let us imagine that we are in the old, fortress city of Quebec on the 18th of August in the year 1775 as James Jeffrey is writing up his personal journal of daily happenings about the town. Jeffrey, a native of the American Colonies, is working in Quebec as a clerk assistant to Hugh Finlay, Postmaster and active member of the Government, whose land claims include property at Bonaventure in Gaspesia. For August 18th., James Jeffrey noted in his journal:

"...Captain Edward in a brig from London arr'd this morning out eleven weeks. Passengers with him is Capt.Cox (late of ye 47th Reg't, now Gov'r of Gaspie) w'th his wife and family; Lieut. Faunce (late of ye 47th Reg't) now Naval Officer of Quebec, with his wife; Chas.Hay's wife, and some others..."

Two days later on Sunday, August 20th.,1775, Jeffrey's journal noted:

"...This day after church was Christian'd, in Church, by the name of Christopher, Gov'r Carleton's son.The sponcers were Lieut.-Gov'r Cramake (Cramahé), Lieut-Gov'r Hamilton (of Detroit), Mrs.Drummond and Mrs.Johnson.

Extraordinary - four Governors in Church this day,viz: Guy Carleton, Gov'r and Com'der in Chief of the Province of Quebec, Hector Theophilus Cramake (Cramahé), Lieut-Gov'r of the Province of Quebec, Hamilton, Gov'r of Detroit, Cox, Gov'r of Gaspie. All these are in Quebec at present..."

Captain Nicholas Cox, introduced in the above extracts of James Jeffrey's journal, was no stranger in the old city of Quebec. Sixteen years earlier he had been with the forces of General James Wolfe as they scaled the cliffs to the Plains of Abraham and had survived the battle that had resulted in the surrender of fortress Quebec by the French.

COX'S EARLY MILITARY CAREER

As Nicholas Cox sailed up the River St. Lawrence in August, 1775 and landed at Quebec with his wife and family, he could look back and reflect on more than thirty years of military service. As a youth of eighteen years he had joined the 58th Regiment of Foot of the British Army and soon was on active service in Scotland in bitter fighting with the forces of Highland clansmen supporting Bonnie Prince Charlie Stuart in the historic Rising of '45. This conflict, which began badly for British arms and was to see Scottish forces invade England, eventually culminated in the grim defeat of the clans at the battle of Culloden in 1746. The ensuing vengeance that was wreaked on Scotland by the forces of the British commander, the Duke of Cumberland would make pale in comparison the expulsion of the Acadians of Nova Scotia later in that decade. But, despite the ugly reputation that history has attributed to the Duke of Cumberland as "The Butcher", military writers agree that he was a superb soldier who made much needed reforms in the British Army and who was responsible for new confidence and military skill in his officers and men. It was in that rude, but effective, school-of-arms that the military career of Nicholas Cox was initially shaped and tempered.

FIRST SERVICE OVERSEAS

It was with the 47th Regiment that Nicholas Cox was posted for service overseas in Acadia (Nova Scotia) in 1750. For long the region of Acadia had been a theatre of conflict between Britain and France. A year previously Halifax had been founded on the shores of its magnificent harbour by Lord Cornwallis to checkmate the great French fortress of Louisbourg in Cape

Breton, erected at enormous cost to dominate Acadia and the entrance to the Gulph and River St.Lawrence. With the British forces of Colonel Monckton, Nicholas Cox saw service in the capture of the French Acadian forts of Beausejour and Gaspereau - a campaign that was followed by the still controversial expulsion of the Acadians from the region.

The next target of British action was Louisbourg itself. In 1758 the 47th Regiment of Nicholas Cox formed part of the Brigade commanded by a rising young officer, James Wolfe, that distinguished itself in the assault on and capture of that supposedly impregnable French stronghold. The reputation that Wolfe established there would recommend him to Pitt, the British Prime Minister, for accelerated promotion and the assignment of greater responsibilities.

THE QUEBEC CAMPAIGN

The fall of Louisbourg in the summer of 1758 paved the way for a major British attack on fortress Quebec, the heart of New France, in the following year. After an autumn interlude in Gaspé Bay following the surrender of Louisbourg, of which accounts have been published by SPEC, Wolfe returned to England where he would be appointed to command the British forces assigned to the attack on Quebec in the summer of 1759. When the Royal Navy transported that force up the St.Lawrence with such skill, the 47th Regiment and Nicholas Cox formed part of the army of Wolfe. Having arrived before Quebec, the 47th Regiment encamped for a time at Montmorency from whence it participated in Wolfe's probes of the formidable defences of the French General Montcalm. Then, in the climactic and historic battle of the Plains of Abraham on September 13th., the 47th Regiment and Fraser's Highlanders centered the British line of battle on the axis of the Sillery-Quebec road - now Quebec city's Grande Allee.

The stirring events of that day of battle, of the rout of the French forces of Montcalm, of the fatal consequences for both Wolfe and Montcalm and of the subsequent of Quebec by the British troops - these and other memories must have been recalled by Nicholas Cox as he returned to the port of Quebec in 1775. He

might also have recalled his garrison duty in the bitter, winter cold of Quebec, the renewed threat from French attack in the spring of 1760, the welcome relief felt when British ships arrived before Quebec to lift the seige, and the campaign upriver, under General Murray, that culminated in the final and total capitulation of New France.

APPOINTMENT AS LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF GASPE

The origin of the post as Lieutenant-Governor of Gaspé is to be found in the instructions issued by the British Government to Governor Carleton for the implementation of the Quebec Act of 1774. Articles 31 and 56 of those detailed instructions provided for the appointment of Lieutenant-Governors for those regions of Canada far distant from Quebec, including Illinois, Vincennes, Detroit, Mackinac and Gaspé. The choice for the District of Gaspé and the Labrador was Nicholas Cox. On his return to Quebec in August, 1775, he was doubtless looking forward to his new duties and responsibilities of government in Gaspésie. However, his anticipation would have to be set aside, for in the summer and autumn of 1775 momentous events were afoot as a consequence of the American Revolutionary War - events that would shortly see the Province invaded, Montreal occupied and American armies converging for an assault on fortress Quebec. The threat posed by the rebel forces of Generals Arnold and Montgomery required extraordinary measures for the defence of Quebec, including the services of every British soldier, sailor and loyal citizen. Appointed to the staff of General Carleton as a Field Officer, Nicholas Cox would have to forget, for the duration of the seige, his posting to Gaspé. An echo of the situation in Quebec can be heard in the following:

"At a Council of War held at Quebec on 16th November, 1775

Present - Hector Theophilus Cramahé, Lieut-Governor

Lieut.-Colonel McLean Capt. Hamilton of ye "LIZARD"

Major Cox Capt. M'Kenzie of ye "HUNTER"

Captain Jones Lieut. Nunn of ye "MAGDELEINE"

Captain Lawe Lieut. Pringle of ye "LIZARD"

Lieut. Faunce - Acting Town Major

Lieut. Fowler of ye "LIZARD"

"The annexed Returns of Provisions, of the Men in the Garrison, and of those belonging to the ships in ye Harbour, who may be employed in the Defence of the Town, having been laid before the Council of War by the Lieut-Governor, It is the unanimous Opinion of the Council of War that it is for the Benefit and Honour of His Majesty's service at all events to defend the Town to the last Extremity.

It is likewise their Opinion that the suburbs of St. John's and all the Houses adjoining to the Fortifications and Defences of the Town, which may afford Shelter to ye Enemy, should be destroyed as soon as possible.

Also that as many Pilots as can be procured should be sent to Europe aboard the "EXPRESS" which is to carry the Dispatches of the Lieut-Governor, of Captain Hamilton, the Commanding Officer of ye Troops and the Determination of this Council of War.

That a Signal should be agreed upon by the Lieut.-Governor and Captain Hamilton and be then Communicated to His Majesty's Secretary of State and the Commanding Officers of ye Fleet and Army at Boston, by which it may be made known to the Fleet and Army which may come to ye relief of Quebec next Spring, whether it is in the Possession of the King's Troops or not.

That as several Masters of Vessels which have been detained in consequence of the Embargo laid upon Shipping for the Defence of the Province, have been subjected to great Inconveniences, and who are zealous for the Service, some Immediate Provision should be made for them by the Lieut.-Governor and their Case represented to His Majesty's Secretary of State.

(SIGNED) Wm. Fooke; A. Maban; Geo. Lawe; Thom. Dunn; H. T. Cramahé;
John Hamilton; Allan McLean; Nicholas Cox; Henry
Caldwell; Thomas Jones; Thos. M'Kenzie; Thos. Faunce
Thos. Pringle. "

COMPANIONS-IN-ARMS

While the dramatic events of the American seige of Quebec and its eventual relief have been written and rewritten in great detail by both Canadian and American authors, there was one outcome of that experience that is of particular interest to Gaspésians. That was the bond and enduring comradeship forged between the small band of officers and men whose courage and fortitude saved Quebec in those dark and dangerous winter days of 1775. Faced with common peril, they came to know each other well and to share mutual respect and confidence. Of this band of military comrades were Guy Carleton, later, Lord Dorchester, twice Governor of Quebec, Hector T. Cramahé, Nicholas Cox and Francis LeMaistre, respectivé Lieutenant-Governors of Gaspé, Henry Caldwell, and George Lawe, Sr., later the Superintendent of Loyalists in Bay Chaleur. The ripple effect of this circle extended outward through the close relationship of Carleton with his successor, Haldimand, to Felix O'Hara, pioneer settler in Gaspé Bay after the Conquest, Charles Robin of the Jersey Fishery Firm that bore his name, John and Henry Shoolbred, Justus Sherwood, William Smith and others who were to play a role in Gaspesia.

THE TENURE OF NICHOLAS COX AS LIEUT.-GOVERNOR OF GASPE

Though it is subjective to divide the twenty year tenure of Nicholas Cox as Lieutenant-Governor of Gaspé into phases or periods, three fairly well defined divisions can be discerned:

1. FROM HIS APPOINTMENT IN 1774 UNTIL THE PEACE OF 1783

During this period of almost a decade life in Quebec and Gaspesia was dominated by the direct and indirect impact of the American Revolutionary War. It was not until the seige of Quebec had been lifted and the American forces driven from Montreal and the soil of the Province that Cox could be free to travel to Gaspé, in 1777, to take up his work there. But for years to come, while hostilities continued between Britain and the American colonies, the shores of Bay Chaleurs would suffer continued and devastating raids from American privateers. From Gaspé Bay to Restigouche shipping fell prey to these privateers and property was

plundered and carried off. As Governor, Cox and his superior, Haldimand, were faced with increasingly urgent and bitter demands from the traders of Gaspesia to provide them with more effective protection. Such pleas charged not only the Americans, but also the Indians and Acadian settlers as being sympathetic to the Yankee raiders. As late as June, 1782, the year that preliminary articles of peace were signed, Percé was attacked by two privateers who captured all the craft there, took everything valuable, spiked the guns that had been sent for defence, and held Felix O'Hara a prisoner until their plundering was finished. There was an exodus of traders and fishermen from Gaspesia and the economic life of the coast reached a low ebb.

The original intention of Nicholas Cox was to establish the seat of government at Percé, the oldest and best known of the Gaspesian fishing stations. Indeed, Felix O'Hara, on the orders of Governor Haldimand, had begun the construction of a home for Cox at Percé. It was to prove to be a slow, costly and in the end a rather futile project. Cox was not on the coast consistently from 1777 to 1783 and apart from the winter of 1784 never wintered in his Percé residence. Felix O'Hara, writing to Haldimand in 1785, noted that Cox had removed the seat of government from Percé to the Bay of Chaleurs by which the Government House at Percé must go to wreck. The fact was that time and events had passed Percé by as the preminent centre in Gaspesia and that the arrival of Loyalist settlers in Bay Chaleur was shifting the centre of population and activity of Gaspesia to the westward.

2. THE ARRIVAL AND SETTLEMENT OF THE LOYALISTS AND DISBANDED SOLDIERS

In another article of this GASPE OF YESTERDAY series an account was given of the tour of Bay Chaleur in the summer of 1783 by the Loyalist, Captain Justus Sherwood and his associates, to explore possible sites for settlement. Sherwood reported favourably on the district to Governor Haldimand and though he chose eventually to settle in Upper Canada, his report on the potential of Gaspesia contributed to the decision to locate a significant group of distressed Loyalists and disbanded soldiers in Bay Chaleur in 1784. Nicholas Cox was involved in the movement and settlement of the

Loyalists in Gaspesia from the beginning. It was on his orders that a township and town site was laid out at "Little Paspébiac", or New Carlisle, by Felix O'Hara. Lots were drawn there in August of 1784. Other Loyalists and disbanded soldiers chose to take up lands at Restigouche and New Richmond, and a town site was laid out at Douglstown on the River St. John in Gaspé Bay. This settlement raised many problems that required the attention and decision of Cox. The settlers required supplies of provisions, clothing and tools that had to be secured from distant Quebec. He found it necessary to defend the rights of the Acadians, who had settled earlier, to their lands. In turn, he had to negotiate for peace between the Restigouche Indians and the Acadians in what the Indians regarded as encroachment on their territory and hunting privileges. Cox also had to guard against the monopolization of lands by the proprietors of the great fisheries firms, such as Chales Robin with his access to influential government circles in Quebec and London. The maintenance of law and order was a particular concern, including the policy to be adopted towards American fisherman who continued to frequent the coast. In his early dealings with the problems of Loyalist settlement, Cox freely and publically acknowledged the great help that he had received from Captain George Lawe, Sr., his former companion-in-arms at the seige of Quebec ten years earlier.

Gaspesians are fortunate in having a number of references to this early period of settlement during the tenure of Lieut-Governor Cox. The books of Mrs. Margaret MacWhirter and Albert D. Flowers, Gaspesian authors both, contain interesting material. The Public Archives of Canada have an extensive collection of the correspondence, reports and memorials concerning the Loyalist settlement in Gaspesia. Accounts of the careers of Captain George Lawe, Sr., Benjamin Hobson, pioneer schoolmaster to the Loyalist settlement at New Carlisle, Felix O'Hara, François Le Maistre, Justus Sherwood and now, Nicholas Cox have been published, or will appear, in SPÉC. Four articles on the early Loyalist and Gaspé Land Claims have been prepared and submitted in the GASPE OF YESTERDAY series. The following glimpse into that distant

period is provided by the CHURCH AND STATE PAPERS FOR 1785 :

" 1785, New Carlisle, Gaspé, August 4th.

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE AND BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Captain Nicholas Cox, Governor of Gaspé, drew the attention of the settlers to the disorder which prevailed on Sunday. He urged the heads of families to meet with their families in some place on Sundays and to let a discreet, intelligent person read prayers. He promised to endeavour to secure a clergyman for the settlement. He also called upon the settlers to erect a fence around the acre of land used as a burying ground."

To promote respect for law and order, Governor Cox chose the prominent Loyalist, Thomas Mann, as Sheriff of Gaspé, and this appointment was promptly approved by Governor Haldimand. In another area of urgent need, Haldimand issued orders to George Longmore, Apothecary of His Majesty's Forces, to proceed to Bay Chaleurs from Quebec to provide the settlers with medical service. Longmore, whose career will be the subject of a later article in this series, must rank among the pioneers of medicine in Gaspesia. He would marry a daughter of Nicholas and Deborah Cox.

Preoccupied as he must have been with the government of Gaspesia, Nicholas Cox was not unmindful of his larger mandate. In September of 1785 we find him writing to the Governor of Quebec, setting forth the utility of a Provincial vessel of 100 tons burthen, armed and carrying 30 men, for visiting the fishing and trading posts from Restigouche to Mount Lewis on the southern side of his district in the River and Gulph of St. Lawrence and on the north from St. John's River along the Labrador shore, to settle the boundaries of the fishing posts and prevent American interlopers and smugglers.

Despite this request it appears that such patrol duty in the River and Gulf continued to be assumed by ships of the Royal Navy.

By the end of this second phase of Nicholas Cox's tenure as Lieutenant-Governor of Gaspé, a return showed that in Bay Chaleurs there were two hundred heads of families. Cox and his wife, Deborah were in residence at New Carlisle, where, according to Mrs. Margaret MacWhirter, they first occupied a house built by the surveyor, Vonden Veldon. When the Quebec author and historian, James M'Pherson LeMoine visited New Carlisle one hundred years later he wrote in his book, "EXPLORATIONS OF JONATHAN OLDBUCK IN EASTERN LATITUDES", of visiting the original residence of Cox and of seeing the solid chairs, said to have belonged to him, at Caldwell Manor nearby.

3. FROM 1787 UNTIL THE DEATH OF COX IN 1794

The question of legal titles to land in Gaspesia was a problem that was to persist until the end of the tenure of Nicholas Cox as Lieutenant-Governor, and beyond. To grasp the nature and dimensions of the land problem it is helpful to recall the various phases of settlement. To begin with, the original inhabitants, the Indians, laid claim to land that they said had been given to them by God and Nature - the bounds of which were very imprecise. The Acadians held that upon their arrival they had sought and obtained the permission to settle from Governor General Murray, who, they claimed had written them a letter in 1763 to that effect. The firms engaged in the fishery held that by necessity they should have lands about their fishing stations. In the particular case of Charles Robin such claim to lands was extended even beyond the jurisdiction of Quebec through his statement that he and his friends in Europe regarded the fisheries as beneficial to the nation in general and therefore they had reason to expect extensive grants. In Gaspé Bay, as of 1788, the only land grants that were recorded officially were those of Joseph Dean, Edward Mainwaring, Felix O'Hara and John McCord, though it is known that other families had been settled in the Bay for years. Other large tracts of land, such as the seigniory of Pabos and that of Shoolbred were in the hands of individuals.

In an attempt to deal with the vexing problem of land claims a Gaspé Land Board was established by Order-in-Council in 1789. As Lieutenant-Governor, Nicholas Cox was Chairman of the Board. The other members named in 1789 were Felix O'Hara, Charles Robin, Daniel M'Pherson, F.B. de La Fontaine, Isaac Mann, Pierre Laubert and Henry Gaspar Rimpfhoff. Distances and transportation problems being what they were at that time, it was provided that a quorum of the Board would be any three members, Lieutenant-Governor Cox being one. That the Board had its problems is evident from the following petition of Louis Bourdages of Bonaventure in June, 1791 :

" A Son Excellence le Très Honorable Guy, Lord Dorchester, Capitaine Général, Commandant en Chef des Forces de sa Majesté en Amérique, Gouverneur en Chef des Provinces de Québec, etc. etc. etc.

Qu'il plaise à Votre Seigneurie.

Représente humblement le soussigné qu'il y a trois ans et demi, il a présenté à Votre Excellence une requête par laquelle il suppliait très humblement Votre Seigneurie d'accorder à veuve Raymond Bourdages les titres des terres qu'elle et feu son mari occupaient depuis vingt six ans. Votre Seigneurie voulut bien ordonner que le Comité des terres examine ma demande. Je fis voir au Comité que j'avais un droit incontestable aux titres que je demandais, quoiqu'il n'ait jamais voulu entendre les preuves que j'avais à alléguer pour détruire les mauvaises raisons de crux qui s'opposent à ma demande. J'ai fait mon possible pendant trois ans pour avoir une réponse qu'on me refusait partout. Je sus cependant que cette affaire était renvoyée au Comité du District de Gaspé. J'écrivis aussitôt aux personnes qui m'avaient chargé de cette affaire pour la poursuivre au Comité du District de Gaspé. Mais l'Honorable Gouverneur Cox a toujours répondu qu'il n'avait aucune connaissance de cette affaire. Le Comité a fait plus, Monseigneur. Il a attendu que la navigation ait été fermée, et même les courriers qui ont coutume de monter à Québec fussent partis, pour lors le Comité s'est ouvert. Les Habitants se voyant attaqués à l'improviste, ont député un courrier pour présenter à Votre Excellence une

" requête pour implorer votre justice et pour vous exposer comment le Comité du District de Gaspé leur a refusé ce que la plus stricte justice aurait dû leur accorder. Je ne sais pourquoi. Monseigneur, on cherche à obscurcir partout de délais et de difficultés une affaire qui est si claire d'elle-même. J'en aurais peut-être trouvé la raison en disant que j'ai eu pour juges mes parties. Oui, Monseigneur, parmi les membres du Comité qui ont examiné ma requête a Québec, j'ai trouvé ceux qui s'opposent aux demandes de vos suppliants. J'ose supplier Votre Seigneurie de ne point confondre ma demande avec celles des habitants. J'ai d'autres droits à répéter si on daigne les examiner. Je supplie très humblement Votre Seigneurie de faire une réponse que je pourrais renvoyer par le courrier que la saison oblige de partir promptement, afin de pouvoir tranquilliser les esprits de ces infortunés habitants qui se voient menacés d'être dépouillés impitoyablement de tous leurs biens si Votre Seigneurie ne daigne leur rendre une prompte justice.

Louis Bourdages.

The matter of land titles in the District of Gaspé were beyond the power of regional settlement. Eventually, in 1818, the Gaspé Land Commission was established by the Quebec Legislature. Reference has been made in other articles of the GASPE OF YESTERDAY series to the work of that Commission.

In the years 1789-1790, Cox had on his hands the strange and remarkable case of British Plantation Registry and Mediterranean Passes - a case that involved not only the Court in the District of Gaspé but had the attention and concern of the Government of Quebec and the British Government in London. It was in October, 1789 that Lord Dorchester wrote to advise Lord Grenville in London that it had come to his attention that certificates of British Plantation Registry and Mediterranean Passes had been counterfeited at Boston and were in the hands of the masters of American vessels. Without naming his informant, who had provided him with a copy of the counterfeit certificate and a sketch of the seals attached to

it, it soon became known from subsequent correspondence that the person who had obtained this disturbing information was Captain Azariah Pritchard, Sr. of New Richmond in Gaspesia.

In June, 1790, the Deputy Collector of Customs at Paspébiac, Oliver O'Hara, seized two schooners, "FOX" and "DOVE", suspected of trading with counterfeit passes. In a preliminary hearing of the masters of these vessels accusations were levied against Azariah Pritchard Sr., as a participant in the fraud. These accusations were supported by depositions of Samuel Moss and Warren Cooke owners of the schooner, "DOVE" and by John Myers who claimed that he had obtained from Pritchard a certificate for his schooner "LIVELY". What these Americans apparently did not know was that Pritchard, whose reputation as a secret service agent had been established during the American Revolutionary War, was deliberately leading them on in his attempt to trace the source of these counterfeit certificates. His investigation was known to Lord Dorchester. Prior to the seizure of the schooners "FOX" and "DOVE", Pritchard had reported to Dorchester that the counterfeiting was being done in Boston by a John Norman, engraver and printer, originally of London, that the fraud had been going on for two years, that two hundred vessels had received such false documents, and that his investigations were taking him from Boston to Virginia on the trail of evidence.

On the basis of accusations brought against him by the Americans, Azariah Pritchard was tried before the Court of Common Pleas of the District of Gaspé and promptly acquitted by a jury of his peers. The schooners "FOX" and "DOVE" were condemned. In October Lord Dorchester wrote to Pritchard to state his satisfaction with his zeal in discovering the fraudulent practice but, as the affair was a continuing one, he stressed the need for continued secrecy so as to prevent those guilty from eluding punishment. Copies of all the proceedings in this unusual and secretive case were sent by Lord Dorchester to London.

The needs of the government of Gaspesia dictated that Cox travel throughout the District and it appears that he resided at Percé from time to time. Research done by the distinguished

author of books on Gaspé, Dr. John Clarke, reveal that Nicholas Cox received the grant of Bonaventure Island in 1787, while it is evident from the records of the Gaspé Land Claims Commission that he also held property at the mouth of the Malbay River, near the present location of Barachois.

The interesting and influential life and career of Nicholas Cox came to an end with his death on the 8th of January, 1794, in his seventieth year. The Quebec "GAZETTE" remarked his passing in these words:

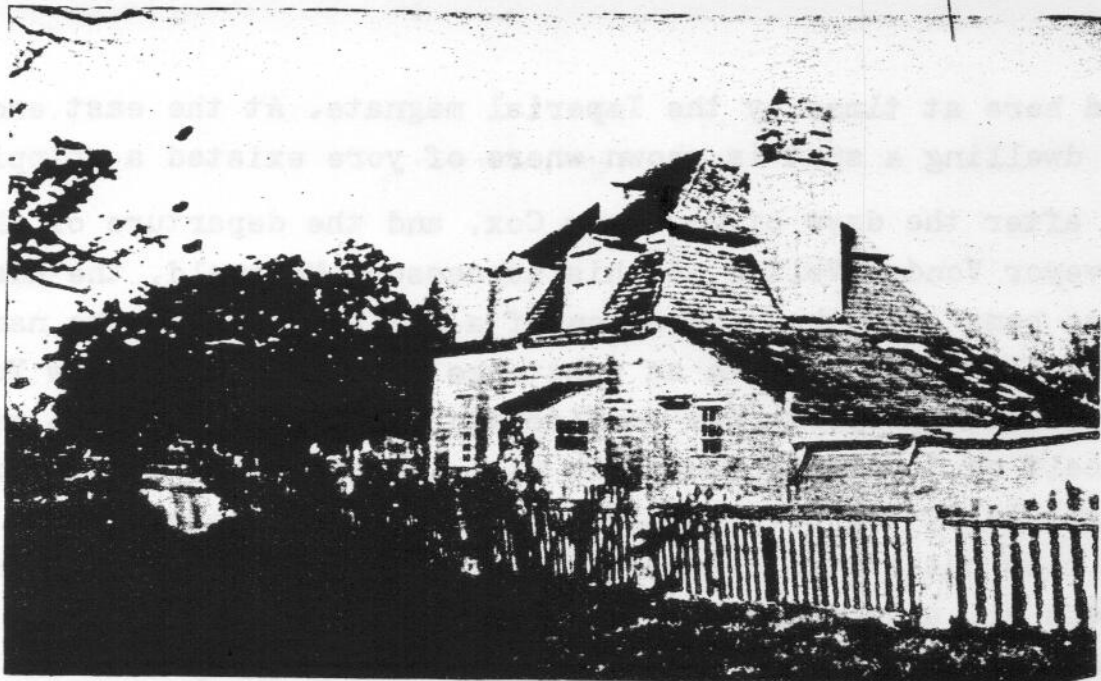
"On Wednesday, the 8th of January, 1794, died, aged seventy, Nicholas Cox, Esq., Lieutenant-Governor of Gaspé and Superintendent of the Labrador Fisheries.

In early life he embraced the military profession, and faithfully served his King and Country upwards of fifty-two years. He was present at the sieges of Louisbourg and Québec and commanded a Company of the 47th Regiment on the Plains of Abraham in the ever memorable battle of the 13th September, 1759.

In the gallant defence of this garrison during the winter of 1775 and the spring of 1776, he was appointed by Lord Dorchester to do duty as a field officer".

In reporting the loss of his long-time companion-in-arms to the British Government in London, Lord Dorchester made the recommendation that the widow, Mrs. Deborah Cox, be granted a pension. This recommendation was implemented by the Colonial Secretary, Lord Dundas, and an annual pension paid until the death of Mrs. Cox on October 17th., 1815.

It was also on the recommendation of Lord Dorchester that Colonel Francis Le Maistre was appointed to succeed the late Nicholas Cox as Lieutenant-Governor of Gaspé.



THE NEW CARLISLE HOME OF LIEUT.-GOV. NICHOLAS COX,
LATER KNOWN AS "CALDWELL MANOR".

EXTRACT FROM "THE EXPLORATIONS OF JONATHAN OLDBUCK
IN EASTERN LATITUDES" BY JAMES MAC PHERSON LE MOINE.

(NEW CARLISLE)....."I was but a few yards from the oldest house in the settlement, the identical log house built more than one hundred years previous by the Land Surveyor, Vonden Veldon, who had been employed by the Government to lay out, in square lots, the site of the future shiretown, New Carlisle, now the chef-lieu of the populous County of Bonaventure. Its dimensions were 30 by 20 feet, with a wing at the east end. The dwelling...originally had but one story, with a mansard roof, on which a diminutive story had been added a species of attic or cock-loft lit by two diminutive windows, two feet square. The house has quite an historic interest; here lived occasionally brave Lieut.-Governor Cox, about 1784. In the spacious cellar, which can store 500 bushels of potatoes, may yet be seen a recess in which he may have kept his wine. A strolling court was

held here at times by the Imperial magnate. At the east end of the dwelling a spot is shown where of yore existed a whipping post... after the days of Governor Cox, and the departure of the Land Surveyor Vonden Velden and his successor, McDonald, the historic house came into the possession of a U.E.Loyalist by the name of Caldwell, a man of note and substance in the State of New York in 1783, whose property was confiscated and who was glad to avail himself of the royal bounty in wild lands offered to the expatriated Loyalists by the Sovereign of Great Britain, George III....The house has been but little altered since its construction. On my noticing panels all around the room to a height of about three feet they (the Misses Caldwell) informed me that instead of lath and plaster partitions, such as I now saw above the panels, there were square pickets with canvass and paper to cover them in early days. The ceiling had an unmistakeable antique aspect; the "wide-throated" chimney-place in the west gable had been removed but the panels hiding its nakedness still remained...

I saw the historic chairs and felt like a Lieut.-Governor on seating myself on the highest. Two old hand-painted China tea cups were shown, of a most antique pattern; one was cracked. I was pleased to see that the pieces had again been knitted together, "Take great care of these treasures", said I, "for they are more precious than gold"

NEW CARLISLE, AUGUST 26, 1887.