

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE COX PERIOD

IN THE BELIEF THAT THE SYNOPSIS OF
THE CORRESPONDENCE OF MAJOR NICHOLAS
COX, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF GASPE,
AND RELATED LETTERS OF HIS GASPESIAN
CONTEMPORARIES, PREPARED AND PUBLISHED
BY THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA, IS
OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO THE READERS
OF SPEC, IT IS PRESENTED BELOW.

KEN ANNETT

THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA IN ITS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1888 PUBLISHED, UNDER THE HEADING - "CORRESPONDENCE WITH MAJOR NICHOLAS COX, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF GASPE" - A SYNOPSIS OF LETTERS PERTAINING TO GASPE FOR THE YEARS 1774 - 1786-WRITTEN NOT ONLY BY NICHOLAS COX AND THE GOVERNOR OF QUEBEC BUT BY CONTEMPORARIES OF COX IN GASPE SUCH AS FELIX O'HARA, WILLIAM SMITH, HENRY SHOOLBRED, ROBERT ADAMS, AND OTHERS.

IN THE BELIEF THAT THIS RECORD IS A UNIQUE AND FASCINATING PART OF THE GASPEAN HERITAGE, "GASPE OF YESTERDAY" PRESENTS IT BELOW.

1774 - April 1

Return of families residing at Bonaventure, specifying the number of their children and cattle, as also of strangers and settlers there.

1777 - July 24

Instructions to Nicholas Cox, Lieutenant Governor and Supt. of Gaspé - To report the names of the settlements, the number settled, their nationality and political opinions. The number of craft employed in fishing and if any vessels from St. Pierre Miquelon, or other French vessels have touched there. If correspondence have been held with the colonies in rebellion. The names and extent of settlements on granted lands. To inquire into the complaints of the Indians at Restigouche concerning the salmon fishery. To ascertain the best regulations to promote the fisheries. To report the lands fit for cultivation and the progress made in the latter. To form the inhabitants into a militia. To ascertain the best places to post small detachments of military to support civil authority and enforce fishery regulations. Generally, to report all that may be of use to the improvement of cultivation, navigation or commerce in these parts.

1777 - UNDATED

List of the inhabitants of Paspébiac in 1777, names and number, showing 8 above and 13 under (age) 16, males; 4 above and 22 under (age) 16, females. Total 47. Cows and oxen, 26 - Horses, 1-Sheep, 4

1777 - August 18

List of inhabitants residing at Bonaventure on this date:

53 males, 51 females, total 104.

Cattle - 2 horses; 20 oxen; 40 cows; 12 calves; 40 sheep.

Vessels - 2 schooners; 16 shallops; 12 small boats.

1777 - August 28

Inhabitants of Gaspé within the capes, showing 23 heads of families; 53 males above and 18 under (age), 16; 2 females above and 8 under (age), 16; 70 servants employed for the season, exclusive of families.

25 boats and 28 horned cattle.

1777 - October 14

Remarks by Cox on the fisheries, giving an account of the different localities, the character of the inhabitants, the suitability for fisheries, etc.

1777 - UNDATED

List of the families with the cattle and fishing craft belonging to "Piercie" and Mal Bay in 1777.

At "Piercie" 36 men; 19 women; 48 children; 432 servants, the men so designated as servants being fishermen employed in the 104 boats belonging to the heads of families.

Of these, Peter Fraser had 26 employing 100 men.

There were 21 cows.

At Mal Bay there were 3 men; 1 woman; 5 children; 8 boats; 33 servants; 2 cows.

List of families with cattle and fishing craft belonging to the Isle of Bonaventure in 1777.

4 men; 9 boats; 40 servants; 2 cows. No women or children.

List (in French) of families with cattle and fishing boats belonging to the post of Tracadiqued or Tracadigaiche.

36 men; 35 women; 9 boys (of whom 4 do not belong to any of the families); 93 children; 3 boats; 63 horned cattle; 2 horses; 37 sheep; 12 hogs.

In a second return it states that Meunier, with his wife, who had for a long time been at great expense to have the post as a seigniory,

has two schooners, one boat and a barge. J.M.Bourg, Curé and Missionary of La Bay, has for servant, Marie Savoye, has also a brood mare and a small cow. Of the two documents the first was imperfect, the second being a corrected return, although the two substantially agree.

1778 - June 18

Henry Shoolbred to John Shoolbred, London. Reports that American privateers are now in the bay (Chaleur), having come thru' the Gut of Canso and destroyed Robin's vessels and craft at Cape Breton. Two schooners went up the bay and seized, at Paspébiac, a brig belonging to Robin, loaded with fish, which they sent off, took his peltries, fish, etc., and confined him to his own house. The men (privateers) took the buckles out of his shoes, stripped some men of their shirts, and did not leave enough of provisions. They began to load the "BEE" whose cargo of salt had been landed. What these robbers cannot take away, they burn. The country seems ruined; operations for next winter must be laid aside, and all property removed in the fall. Does not believe the people will remain to be plundered, and perhaps starved; he himself will not remain. It is probable these pirates will pay another visit.

1778 - July 1 -Bonaventure

Henry Shoolbred to John Shoolbred, London. Refers to letter of 18th., June. One of the two schooners mounted two carriage guns, 16 swivels and had 30 men; the other, 10 swivels and 28 men. They had the "BEE" loaded, sails bent and anchor apeak, waiting for the breeze, when the "BONAVENTURE" appeared, ahead of the "HUNTER" and "VIPER". Journeaux gave the schooners two broadsides, which made them decamp. They tried to escape but were captured up the Restigouche, most of the men taking to the woods; 10 prisoners were taken, one dying of his wounds; none killed or wounded on our side. Part of Mr. Roxburgh's goods and peltries captured and sunk by the crews of the privateers when they took to the woods. The French inhabitants favour the Americans, who have also gained the Indians by presents of flour, etc., out of the stores at Restigouche; the Indians knew where goods were concealed and told the privateers. The Indians at Niniquit also rose and broke into

to Miramichi may fall into the hands of the rebels, who are informed of everything by the French. Sends extract of letter from Captain Watts, whose situation, as well as that of other posts on the bay, is not only disagreeable but dangerous. The extract dated 30th. June, gives an account of his frightening the rebels who had come to attack his store.

1778 - July 4 - Nipisquit

Captain Watts to Henry Shoolbred. That 10 of the privateers came to the settlement, but being prepared for them, they went off after some provisions were given them. Is afraid that the Indians are treacherous; the Restigouche Indians have supported the rebels ever since they landed. Arrival of 15 Indian families from Cape Sable who will neither fish or do anything else. His situation is not to be coveted. Asks for blunderbusses and small arms that he may defend the place. The Americans have told the Indians that they will destroy every place on the bay and have promised them great things; however, he is not afraid of them.

1778 - July 5 - Bonaventure

Smith, Robin and Shoolbred to Captain Boyle of the Sloop-of War, "HUNTER". Express thanks for the protection afforded, and request him to leave an armed ship in the bay for the protection of the goods vessels and fishing.

1778 - July 6 - Paspebiac

Captain Boyle to Smith, Shoolbred and Robin. That in accordance with their request he will leave the "VIPER" for the protection of the bay, till he receive further orders from the senior officer at Quebec. Provisions to be supplied at the Quebec contract price.

1778 - July 7 - Bonaventure

Acknowledge receipt of offer to leave "VIPER" for their protection on condition that provisions are supplied at Quebec contract prices and agree to this condition.

1778 - July 8 - Bonaventure

William Smith to John Shoolbred. Giving minute details of the attack by and capture of the privateers; the visit of their escaped crews, ert.

After leaving Watts, the privateer crews continued in canoes along the south shore and at Caraquet captured Fraser's schooner loaded and ready for Bonaventure. A vessel has been sent. Is afraid he may lose another craft loaded with peltries as the Gulph is swarming with privateers. The Americans have been on board of most of the Bonaventure fishing boats, but the crews being French, they have used them civilly. The store at Restigouche has been plundered and the whole settlement would have been so but for the Indians. Will do no fishing there this year. At Cascapediatic salmon fishing is entirely lost, part will be saved at Nipisquit and Miramichi. The cod fishers had returned to Quebec before his arrival. Can hardly get a man to fish and the risk of advancing the fishermen is very great. The whole inhabitants of the country have become enemies to Englishmen and he is determined to leave the bay. The "VIPER" will remain till further order from Quebec; has written to Haldimand praying for further protection. A schooner has been carried off from Miramichi, supposed to be the "DILIGENCE", loaded with peltry. The Americans have also visited and plundered St. John's Island (P.E.I.) and carried away a brig from the Magdalens. The situation of the Gulph cannot be worse. An extract of the same date to Shoolbred and Barclay stating that the rebels had sworn revenge.

1778 - July 8 - Bonaventure

William Smith to (Governor) Haldimand Congratulates him on his safe arrival at the seat of his government and trusts that he may unite the hearts of men too much divided. Calls attention to the distress of these remote parts from the attacks of privateers; refers for particulars to the accounts sent to the senior officer of the navy. The fortunate arrival of the "HUNTER" and "VIPER" saved the trade of the bay from ruin, but there are now many more privateers in the Gulph threatening destruction. They find no resistance from the French and Acadians, who rather favour them. From the danger to the great property in the bay, Captain Boyle has left the "VIPER" for the propection of the trade. The situation in the bay requires local protection; cruisers do not answer as

they can be evaded by small privateers, and His Excellency's protection is relied on.

1778 - August 23 - Bonaventure

William Smith to Cox. Has received news of his safe arrival at Gaspé in H.M.S. "GARLAND". Is obliged to him for wishing his (Smith's) presence at Percé to obtain his observations on the regulations necessary for the good of the country, etc. He cannot, however, leave his business, and has given his views until he is tired, but these are in vain until the country is better governed and protected. Had hoped to have seen him (Cox) as he had promised to settle his (Smith's) difficulties with the people of Tracadiguaish. Is surprised that he (Cox) has given his opinion in their favour, as an oppressed people, whilst keeping it secret. Is happy in the reflection that he can justify his conduct from just reproach. Plundered by the enemy, neglected, nay destroyed by the government to which he adheres, he may judge what may be the consequences. Has not a bottle of wine he can spare. What was in the cask for his own use has been sent to Quebec for security.

1778 - September 9 - Bonaventure

Ensign Lepage to Cox (in French) In the absence of his father-in-law acknowledges receipt of letter from Cox. Has called on Smith who cannot come, but informed him that he (Cox) had been indisposed, that he had left for Tracadie and intended to come to Bonaventure to speak to the inhabitants. The inhabitants are always ready to obey His Majesty and think that each place should furnish its quota. Reports were made against them by persons who were not in a position to prove them. Prays that he would speak for them to Haldimand; the inhabitants trust only in him (Cox) for their tranquillity; they will find a house for him, although one not worthy of his merit.

1778 - October 3 - Bonaventure

Smith to Haldimand. Since his previous letter the coast had been repeatedly threatened with destruction by the enemy, which had been baffled by the watchfulness of the armed ships until the 27th., when four vessels were captured by an American privateer, a schooner called the "CONGRESS", Samuel Hobbs, commander. The vessels captured are the "BEE", with a very rich cargo of codfish, peltry

and merchandise; the "OTTER", with fish, oil and peltry; the "NORMAN", fish only; the "FOX", fish, salmon, oil, flour and staves. Two men have returned who saw the capture of the last three; the "BEE" was not taken when they were landed; she was to be attacked that night and the "OTTER" and "FOX" were seen off Miscou. It is a melancholy situation to see all the property wrested from them at their own door, after being promised protection by Government, in faith of which they engaged considerable outfits which the nature of the business requires, but fatally the protecting ships neither come early enough in the spring nor stay long enough in the fall. Knowing this, the enemy succeed in making captures on the arrival of the store ships in May and on the departure of the ships in September and October. Out of the ships on the coast from Gaspé, Bonaventure etc., he scarcely expects to hear of the safety of one of them. His sorrow at having to communicate the ruin of every British factory on the Gulph; his firm being the last existing. The only dawn of hope is in His Excellency's action, for this fall or early in the spring the enemy mean to burn all the craft, stores, houses, stages, flakes, etc., so as to ruin the bay. Proposes that two vessels should winter in Gaspé; one a frigate, the other a tender of from 6 to 12 guns. How they should be employed, etc. Calls attention to the neglect of Cox to deal with the Indians, who have pledged themselves to Congress and the French, but might be got over. The value of the property he is leaving; the insufficiency of the armed vessel, "ST.PETER", from her want to speed.

1778 - October - Petition of the inhabitants of Gaspé and Percé to Cox

Praying that the armed brig, "ST.PETER" may be left for the protection of the bay.

1778 - December 5 - Quebec.

Cox to Haldimand. States the advantages of his plan for raising a battalion of Canadians.

1778 - December 18 - Gaspé

Felix O'Hara to Haldimand. On behalf of the inhabitants their loyalty to Government and the hope that their gri

soon be looked into, he being the only governor who can be a judge of the reality of their complaints. Former governors knew that the seas abounded in codfish but had no idea that the land would bear wheat, a more certain nourishment for His Majesty's soldiers and sailors. This is known to His Excellency from ocular demonstration.

1779 - March 1 - Quebec

Haldimand to O'Hara. Thanks for his letter of 18 December. The present distracted state of affairs prevents immediate attention to remote situations. In the meantime sends him commission as judge of the district, which he is persuaded he (O'Hara) will execute to the best of his ability. Asks him to have a log house built for Cox, who is to come down early in the spring; whatever is necessary to finish it will be sent. The people may be assured that everything possible shall be done for their protection.

1779 - March 6

Memorial of Cox, asking for troops and armed vessels for the protection of the coast and fisheries of Gaspé, etc.

1779 - June 10 - Bonaventure

Robert Adams to Shoolbred and Barclay. Plunder of a cargo and other goods by a privateer; he and others were taken on board and kept in irons till all the stores were plundered. Nothing is left but some codfish. But for the bad conduct of the inhabitants the privateer could have done little harm. The crew loaded two schooners. The French people, so far as he can learn, took more than the Americans. However, he has kept quiet till he can ascertain so that an example can be made. Coffel (sic) has embezzled a good part of the property, a note has been taken of all goods received, besides a small sum of money; but all these he had unfortunately lost, even his own chest, being taken away. More privateers have been in the bay since and plundered Murray's stores at Trackertiguish. Last week the Indians from Restigouche came and plundered Robin's stores at the same place. Is living among rebels very hand. No word of Mr. Smith. Desires to know what is to

1779 - June - Gaspé

Felix O'Hara to Haldimand. Thanks for letter. What has happened has, no doubt, been reported in the petition from the people of Percé, transmitted by Major Holland. The situation is alarming and requires no exaggeration. For the houses to be built at Percé, all the timber has to be brought from Gaspé, causing delay and expense. Cannot tell what the necessary expense will be but gives details of the work and material required. No privateers have been seen for a week near the bay; they have plundered the Bay of Chaleurs of everything valuable, even to their small store of provisions and wearing apparel. Expresses his thanks for his appointment as District Judge; with his wants the salary is sufficient. Has been visited by an old fellow from Pabos to whom he promised a small gratuity to look after affairs there; he shall visit the place himself when he can do so with safety.

1779 - August 28 - Quebec.

Instructions for Felix O'Hara, Judge of Common Pleas of Gaspé, Chaleurs Bay and other parts of the Gulph of St. Lawrence, accompanying his commission.

1779 - August 30 - Quebec.

Cox to Haldimand. Asks leave to go to England for the winter. His going to Percé single will be of no service; the English inhabitants have declared they will all quit the coast unless a small force is sent for their protection against the Indians in winter.

1779 - October 1 - Gaspé

Felix O'Hara to (Cox). Sends intelligence brought by a privateer from Boston of the relief of the British expedition at Penobscot by the arrival of two 74 gun ships and a frigate, which took and destroyed the blockading fleet of 21 armed ships and a frigate, but, on the other hand, Lincoln had defeated Campbell to the southward. The "GUADALOUPE" frigate sails tomorrow; plenty of privateers on the coast; the Indians are threatening revenge. The Restigouche Indians and Acadians of Chaleurs Bay should have a

message sent them with promises of friendship or punishment as their conduct might merit. The bricks, etc. for the Lieut-Governor's house at Percé remain here as they would not be in safety at Percé; doubts if this and other improvements there will not be an expensive, useless job.

1779 - October 12 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Cox. That it will not be easy to bring proof on charges not specified. Without a ship-of-war on the station the coast will become the rendezvous of privateers and pirates. To neglect the Gulph is to neglect the interests of Quebec. The news of the success at Penobscot has been confirmed by Captain Walker of the Royal Fencibles, Nova Scotia, now recruiting here. The Americans lost 500 in an attempt to storm the works.

1779 - November 22 - Quebec

Cox to Haldimand. Refers to a plan that he proposed last year to raise a battalion of Canadians. Is anxious for leave of absence to look after his private affairs, but will obey orders.

1779 - November - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Is still in the dark as to the intentions of the Indians. The Restigouche tribe seems to be quiet - they express their abhorrence of the attempts to trepan their brethern of Miramichi and will not trust themselves on board ship for negotiations. One of the Micmacs dead; the other sent to his home. Will examine into the charges against the Acadians said to be assisting the American privateers. Has out of his (Haldimand's) charity clothed the naked and fed the hungry. Has sent account of disbursements at Percé; they far exceed what he could have imagined for reasons given.

1780 - May 9 - Quebec

Haldimand to Cox. A passage shall be provided for him on board one of the armed vessels, to enable him to proceed to his government at Gaspé. From want of communication his line of conduct there cannot be distinctly stated; can only recommend him to attend

to the disposition of the inhabitants and to use every means to attach them and the Indians to His Majesty's Government. To report the state of the coast, etc., on all necessary occasions.

1780 - May 30 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Has received letter by Fortin, the courier. Sends inventory of movables at Pabos, placed all but the cow in charge of Fortin and Victor. The cow is in possession of the poor widow Springfield; its milk, with the charity sent by his Excellency, has enabled her to support herself and family through the winter; has allowed her to keep the cow until further orders. Has supplied Fortin with a musket, powder, etc., and some provisions. He and Victor can prevent depredations, but have too long led an indolent life to make improvements. The Indians are showing hostile intentions, notwithstanding the deceitful statements of worthless neighbours. Hopes that the navigation being now open, the navy will awe these praters. Is of opinion that the report made by the returned Indians had a good effect on the others and had deprived d'Estaing's proclamation of its effect. A rumour has been circulated that Halifax is taken.

1780 - June 8 - Percé

Cox to Haldimand. Reports the attack by Captain Tongue on privateers in Mal Baie and recapture of a schooner from Miramichi. The privateer had attacked Percé on the 4th of June, but was repulsed by Peter Fraser and the Percé Militia. Heavier guns are wanted, which would be a complete protection. The privateers were so mean as to take the shirts off the backs of the prisoners.

1780 - June 28 - Quebec

Haldimand to Cox. His satisfaction at the news contained in his letter of the 8th., with remarks. Sends a twelve pounder with ammunition.

1780 - July 13 - Percé

The letter of the 8th June was written the day after he had landed, so had not been able to see the people. He finds them in great misery and greatly discontented. Has ordered them under arms and brought them into good temper. A privateer of 26 guns

the attack next morning, went off on the appearance of the "WOLF". Volunteers sent to the assistance of the "HALDIMAND". After the engagement the privateer landed Captain Raking and his men who are now on board the "WOLF". Will use every effort to keep the militia well disposed. The gun received. The enemy will soon hear of it as the people at Point St. Peter are giving them information of every vessel and craft that passes up and down. Some of the prisoners talk freely of these people, and might discover the traitors. Asks for an artilleryman and also for a few soldiers to be landed from one of the ships as he can do nothing without such a force. The zeal of Peter Fraser. Sends petition from the Restigouche Indians. Lime wanted for the buildings.

1780 - August 16 - Quebec

Haldimand to Cox. Until full information is given respecting the Indian Claim, he cannot decide. The Indians must be supported in their rights to hunting, etc., but not to the injury of fair and free trade. As the inhabitants live chiefly by fishing, it would be to call them from their natural pursuits to place them on other duties; he will, therefore, send a small force and a gunner. That and the naval force in the Gulph and river will keep the post tranquil.

1780 - September 15 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Explains the cause of the great expense for buildings at Percé. Suggests that Cox should take charge of such alterations or improvements as he may wish to make, as it would not be agreeable for him to dispute with his superior officer; will assist by every means in his power.

1781 - January 8 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Has received letter by Fortin with four guineas, which he will distribute as intended; charity was never more needed than now, although the people are in a more thriving way than formerly. Necessity has driven them to cultivate the lands, in which they have found ample satisfaction. Will keep an eye to Pabos which industry will one day make valuable. The Indians

are peaceable, if the peddling, interested traders do not provoke them. A vessel in the ice was driven to the offing. The weather very cold. Is glad that his conduct at Percé is not displeasing. Will cheerfully assist Cox.

1781 - July 18 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Has been doubtful of His Excellency's wishes respecting the buildings at Percé, but had tried to finish what he had begun. The report of the result he would leave to the Lieut-Governor; when he and his family are present they will, no doubt, see many little additions to be made, but most of them, he thinks, can be done without. What small things are yet required from Quebec for finishing the buildings. The privateers have not been in lately; indeed they have taken all that was worth anything. The people are moving away, even without a pass; in fact, he thinks it cruel to keep them here to starve.

1781 - August 14 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Is afraid that their correspondence is at an end, having heard that a successor is appointed to him (Haldimand); approves of his settling Acadians in Pabos, should they be equally industrious with those on the Bay of Chaleurs. An industrious population at Pabos would stimulate the now worthless fishermen by showing them that not only necessaries but luxuries could be obtained by putting their hands to the plough and hoe; which hitherto the artful sophistry of codfish merchants has prevented. Will do all he can to carry out orders. Has still a carpenter at work to finish the Government house at Percé.

1781 - August 14 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Matthews. That the barque "MILTON" with a valuable cargo is in the bay and will remain till a vessel of force is sent to escort her. (To Quebec) Clothing for the troops and General Clark's baggage are aboard.

1781 - August 29 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Hears that Cox does not propose visiting the post this season. It is not worth visiting, particularly Percé, which is almost abandoned. thinks Percé not a proper place

money on; there are, on the contrary, many inconveniences attending its occupation. Suggests giving up further expenditure there till the Lieut.-Governor arrives. Has ordered the captain of militia to send the witness against the woman accused of being accessory to murder. Doubts if there be a principal; the woman's crime seems to be that her husband was the hangman at Three Rivers.

1781 - November 3 - Quebec

Haldimand to O'Hara. Formal acknowledgment of letters. The report of a successor being appointed to him (Haldimand) was without foundation. Has sent down flour, pork, etc., to be distributed to the indigent inhabitants.

1782 - January 22 - Quebec

Report of the money laid out on the Lieut-Governor's house at Percé, signed by Jenkin Williams. The total amount was £ 562 -12 sterling.

1782 - June 19 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Percé has been attacked by two privateers; the crew of one landed; captured all the craft there; took everything valuable; spiked the twelve-pounder and threw it over the cliffs, and carried off the two four-pounders; burned all the craft in the bay. He himself was taken prisoner, tried on board, but acquitted of the crime of being rich, and was ordered ashore with every mark of disrespect. After the most wanton destruction, the vessels dropped down with the tide; they still remain in the bay. H.M.S. "BLOND" is lost on the Seal Islands but the captain and crew saved. Has ordered his son, now in school in Quebec, to wait on His Excellency to see if there are any commands to bring. The young man and his brother, now that school is over, want employment, and are at His Excellency's service.

1782 - June 29 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Refers to letter of the 19th., stating their wretched condition. Reports the wreck of the "QUEBEC" on Anticosti; she was loaded with King's stores. The master is trying to save the materials etc., and wants advice as to the disposal of the flour etc.

responsibility should the property be lost.

1782 - July 13 - Gaspé O'Hara to Haldimand -

Gives an account of the arrangement for transporting the cargo saved from the "QUEBEC", lost on Anticosti. The flour is damaged to the extent of 56 pounds a barrel; the pease are all lost; the oatmeal nearly so. No privateers have been here for several days past.

1782 - July 23 - Gaspé

Introduces Cornelius Smith, master of the wrecked ship "QUEBEC". His good behaviour. Urges that the cargo saved may be taken away in case it should fall into the hands of American plunderers.

1782 - July 27 - Quebec

Haldimand to O'Hara. Is much concerned at the news of the 19th., ultimo. From the number of cruisers that will be on the coast till the departure of the trade fleet, there will be no future visit of these plunderers. Will be glad to see his (O'Hara's) son. Will be pleased to be of service to both of his sons, but is at a loss to know how, every department being overcharged from the number of distressed loyalists. Should think the navy an eligible employment for them, and not difficult to obtain.

1782 - August 8 - Quebec

Haldimand to O'Hara. Has received letter by Captain Smith. Is obliged by his (O'Hara's) care in helping to save the cargo, for which the vessel that carries this letter is sent. Geddes, lately at Quebec, showed some desire to settle at Pabos; would give him encouragement if he is a fit person. Asks his opinion of Geddes, and what terms should be allowed him.

1782 - September 3 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. The arrival of the "LIBERTY", which is too small by one-half to take the flour; the danger of leaving it here; he has sent off the best. Recommends Geddes for Pabos, as he would honestly look after its interests, and would be a good officer of militia. Exculpates himself from the charge made by a pilot named Ross, that he was in collusion with the privateers, who, instead of plundering him, had landed goods for his benefit.

Ross be compelled to produce Fortin's deposition, on which he alleges that he founds the charge, and call on Captain Inglis and others who were present when the charge was made.

Certificates, dated 4th September, from Captains Worth and Ferguson enclosed.

1782 - October 8 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Has shipped the rest of the provisions by the "POLLY" and distributed the forty tierces sent in charity to the poor people, for which they are thankful. Forty-six tierces of flour have been landed at Percé, but he does not know on what terms they have been taken from the wreck; he has stopped four tierces of the wet flour to pay for charges, etc.

(Note: TIERCE = A CASK OF 42 GALLONS CAPACITY)

Geddes has written an indefinite letter about the terms of his settlement at Pabos; he has gone to winter at Mont Louis. Will try to get a more explicit answer from him during the winter. Pabos, from its soil and situation, may be ranked among the first places on the coast to deserve justice. Thanks to His Excellency for his opinion on the unprovoked attack. The object was apparently to excite prejudice against him in the naval department. He freely forgives the author of the calumny, as he would not wish to injure his innocent family. A poor wretch, who has lost both arms by the discharge of a cannon on the King's Birthday, goes to Quebec to solicit some relief.

1783 - May - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand . Nothing has occurred during the winter. News has arrived of peace. Is not sure, however, that however advantageous it will be altogether beneficial, as when the fisheries are once established, and rum plentiful, the people will abandon their industrious habits and fall back on their original indigence.

Geddes, who has wintered at Mont Louis, has written respecting Pabos; the letter will be sent. What is he to do with the flour from Anticosti? Some arrangement has been made between Nevison and the commissary respecting wheat brought by the former from the wreck at Anticosti, to Gaspé. Some of the flour is worthless. What is to be done with what Nevison may bring, as the casks will

not bear freight to Québec? What is he to do with two American boys, escaped from a wreck on Anticosti; a prize recaptured by the "ALBERMARLE" last July? They want to take the oath, but he told them to go to work to earn something to cover them.

1783 - May 27 - Quebec

Haldimand to O'Hara. Introduces Captain Sherwood; his services prevent him from returning to the Colonies, and as he is desirous of settling on the sea coast, he is sent down with the loyalists to take a view of the Bay of Chaleurs, Pabos, etc., to form a settlement should he like the situation. From his services, would like him to settle at Pabos, should it prove beneficial to him, but to make it agreeable, it would be necessary to settle in the neighbourhood, those attached to him. Every assistance and information are to be given him. Cannot tell the effect of the peace; should be sorry if it produced indolence and vice in his (O'Hara's) neighbourhood, as he seemed to think. Hopes the example of the loyalists may produce happy consequences. He is to keep the flour now in his hands, or that may arrive from Anticosti, for supplying loyalists or others. Is satisfied with his having stopped the four barrels of flour for expenses. Restigouche Indians complain of encroachments; he will not have them unjustly dealt with, and such attempts must be prevented.

1783 - July 17 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Has made a tour with Sherwood to explore the coast, but the loyalists do not seem to wish to settle on it; Sherwood will report. Had a conference with the Indians in the Bay of Chaleurs respecting the encroachments of the Acadians. Does not believe that either of them know their bounds. The Indians have no idea of being circumscribed. God and nature, they say, gave them possession of the Restigouche, with all its lands, rivers etc., that they have uninterrupted possession confirmed by Their Majesties of Britain and France. In answer to the representations that they might let the Acadians cut the hay, the Chief answered that that that would be to deprive them of their lurking places for creeping to their game, and that now the grass is gone the game has forsaken their usual haunts. Hopes to see the differences settled, as there is now a quantity of land cultivated, so that by its produce the

fishery can be carried on to advantage. The Acadians are industrious, and although not friendly to Government, their industry must be beneficial. They have been assured that their property will not be interfered with. They ask for no more land than they can conveniently improve. One man, with ten in a family, has petitioned for two acres in front, by a league in depth, about 150 acres. An Englishman or English American would petition for as many thousands and not improve one.

1783 - July 17 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Trusts that his departure from Quebec, without previous notice, will be attributed to His Excellency's absence, and to the necessity of taking advantage of the wind and tide. Is sorry that his predictions are verifying the bad effects of the peace, which has let loose a new banditti that far outvies the old; they have brought riot, debauchery and every species of immorality to Percé, that murder has been perpetrated there, and unless a stop be put to vice at that place, the people will become a disgrace to Government. Only a miracle or the iron hand of power can bring them back. Enters into further details on the subject and on the difficulties of his position. Has not distributed any of the flour in his store till orders received from His Excellency. Geddes may, perhaps, look for the place of sheriff, which is vacant.

1784 - January 3 - Percé

George Geddes to O'Hara. Accepts his offer concerning Pabos, and begs that he may be allowed as much as possible, having almost nothing to begin with, and that the General (Haldimand) be requested to allow provisions for some time. Asks for an order, that he may begin work as early as possible in the spring, specifying that three months' notice before leaving is to be given on either side, and that he may be allowed a reasonable sum for stages, if he leave. Will have a constable appointed. Dunn will serve till a new one appointed; he and Connor were appointed by Richardson, but Connor has removed to Grand Grèves. Robin expected this winter, will take charge of the letter for Fox at Paspebiac. A

note from O'Hara, forwarding the letter from Geddes.

1784 - March 6 - Trakediesch

Memorial (in French) of Maturin Bujot, praying to be secured in possession of the land which he cultivates at the place commonly called La Nouvelle.

1784 - May 22 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Cox. Refers Sweet from Rhode Island to him for a decision as to his right to fish in accordance with the preliminaries of peace.

1784 - May 30 - Quebec

Haldimand to Cox (PRIVATE) Asks him to look after his interests at Pabos and Bonaventure. He has no intention of having these settled this year, lest it should interfere with the establishment of the loyalists, but he could wish to have some Acadian families settled there as they are steady and more attached to their settlements than any others in the country. Desires to make no change respecting the fishery at Pabos.

1784 - May

List of the posts on the Labrador coast sent by Major Cox.

1784 - July 1 - Baie des Chaleurs

O'Hara to Haldimand. The letter of 14th May did not reach till 26th June, delaying the closing of the bargain with Geddes; that is now done, including the reserve of a few quintals of fish for his (Haldimand's) own use.

NOTE: QUINTAL - WEIGHT OF 100-LL2 POUNDS.

Geddes has been supplied with a boat, flour, nails, etc. Is setting off to lay out land for the loyalists; it will be a hard task to please these discontented people. Supposes that Cox's orders are sufficient authority for laying out the lands.

1784 - July 2 - Paspebiac

Charles Robin to Cox. O'Hara states that all Paspebiac is taken into the township, although application for a grant was not decided on when the mails left England. Asks that part be reserved; he does not know the quantity. He knows that in Europe his, and his

friends' concerns in the fisheries, are regarded as beneficial to the nation in general, and that they have reason to expect a large tract. Recommends the old settlers who have improved the lands about their houses.

1784 - July 3 - Bonaventure

Cox to Haldimand. Has been twice driven back to Bic by a gale, losing a boat and the bowsprit. At Percé, O'Hara joined on the 18th, and reached Paspebiac on the 25th. Loyalists sent ashore to view the land could agree about nothing. As there were stores at Bonaventure, and shelter for the women and children, who, he feared might be attacked with sickness, he had thought it best to go there, where also the vessels could be safely and discharge readily. The loss of boats, etc. The loyalists see now that it would be better to settle at Paspebiac. They would have been glad to have taken up the improvements made by the Acadians, but were convinced by him that these could not be interfered with. They have returned to Little Paspebiac, the best situation for a town, for reasons specified. The difficulties with the loyalists; asks for the appointment of two or three justices, some of the disbanded soldiers being very bad men. Without a civil or military force, thefts, murders and licentiousness will go on this winter. O'Hara is proceeding to lay out a town. Sends provision list of the "ST.PETER"; the loyalists on board of her were very willing to assist. Cannot send return of the other vessels. Sends list of men entitled to provisions. The loyalists petition for three months' additional provisions, or most of them will starve; also for boards, nails, seines, etc.; their potatoes are planted. Four American vessels have landed their men and erected stages, etc. Asks for orders respecting them. Mrs. Cox coming down. Proposes after a tour to return to Gaspé and lay out a town on St. John River, Gaspé Bay, where no land has been granted; several have applied for grants there; it is the best place for artificers, who don't intend to follow fishing. Encloses letter from Robin, with remarks. Has been able to get rations. Law (Captain George Law, Sr.) will send return of stores issued to Wood.

1784 - July 22 - Paspébiac

Robin to Cox. That the township to be surveyed by O'Hara will cut off the fishermen at Paspébiac from wood for flakes, stages and fire, and compel them to go for a supply to Nova Scotia, or abandon the fisheries to the persons in the neighbourhood. A front of nine miles would be required to furnish timber for the use of the fishery. Sends this letter as a protest against the present measures. (for settling the country)

1784 - July 29 - Restigouche

(Rev.) Bourg to Cox. M. Bourg, Curé to the Acadians, to the Governor of the Bay of Chaleurs (in French) That the captains of militia have not been able to settle with the Indians about their hay field. The Indians wish the arrangement to be made in the Governor's presence, their chief reason, however, being that they wish to increase the rent for their hay. It seems unjust; although some of the habitants have not paid fully, yet the Indians on the other hand have been robbing the French.

1784 - August 3 - Paspébiac

Roll of loyalists who have drawn lots in the township of Paspébiac.

1784 - August 7 - Tracadegash

Decision by Cox in the dispute between the Acadian settlers and the Indians of Restigouche, confirming the existing custom that the settlers pay the Indians a dollar for liberty to cut hay on the meadows and marshes of Restigouche, and confirms to the Indians the sole right of fishing and hunting in, and contiguous to, the River Restigouche within certain defined limits.

1784 - August 7 - Tracadie

List (in French) of the inhabitants of Tracadegash, with the quantity of land each inhabitant has improved.

1784 - August 7 - Tracadie

(Rev.) M. Bourg, Curé, to Cox (in French) Recommending the petition of Francois Commeau for land at Nouvelle to favourable consideration.

1784 - August 9 - Tracadegash

Petition (in French) from Pierre Loubere for 750 acres at the River Casapya (Cascapedia ?) for himself and family.

A recommendation by Cox, dated August 16, is appended to the petition.

1784 - August 16 - Bonaventure

Cox to Haldimand. Transmitting his decision in the dispute between the Acadian settlers and the Indians, with a statement of their respective claims.

1784 - August 18 - Bonaventure

Memorial by Thomas Pryce Jones, Azariah Pritchard, Philo Holibut, Abel Waters and Joseph Arseno d'Quinton for leave to erect a grist mill on the River Ceplin, to assist the settlement at Paspébiac.

1784 - August 18 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. That he has, after much trouble, convinced the loyalists of the advantages of the lands contiguous to Paspébiac for a settlement. Has laid out the town as a parallelogram; the motive of the loyalists in asking this was to take in the beach and marsh. Gives the dimensions, etc., of the settlement. Has not taken into the township 124 chains in rear of the great bank, as he thinks there should be a reserve of timber; there are 22 families settled there for a number of years, and he is sure His Excellency would not wish these poor people to be distressed. Unless in every case a proper reserve is made for the fishery it will inevitably dwindle. He is throwing the damaged flour into the sea, it being in a state of putrefaction.

1784 - August 19 - Bonaventure

Jean Caissy (Quessey) - Memorial (in French) for land at Nouvelle.
Memorial (in French) for land at the same place by Jean Lebrun.
Both petitioners describe themselves as pilots.

1784 - August 19 - Paspebiac

Memorial from loyalists, praying for a supply of necessaries, as owing to their late arrival here they are unable to make gardens, etc., and it will require their utmost efforts to have houses built before winter.

1784 - August 20 - Paspebiac

Cox to Haldimand. That Sherwood is asking for the lands and improvements of almost every inhabitant settled at Paspebiac, which cannot be granted without the greatest injustice. The Acadians do not choose to remove from their present improvements. Some of them have asked lands for their grown-up sons; had recommended Pasbo (Pabos) which cannot long remain unsettled, being so handy to the fishery.

1784 - August 25 - Paspebiac

Cox to Haldimand. Arrival of the snow, "LIBERTY" and brig, "ST. PETER" with everything safe and in good order.

(NOTE - MRS. COX TRAVELLED TO GASPEZIA ON THE BRIG "ST. PETER")

The settlers return thanks for the bounty; they are going on cheerfully, building their houses, and are better pleased with the land the more they know it. Has not laid out the land on the beach opposite the Great Paspebiac till His Excellency has decided upon Robin's application. Sends list of those who have drawn their lands. Some idle ones remain only for the provisions. Captain Law will give minute information about the people. Without his assistance he (Cox) would have left them long ago. O'Hara has left, tired out; believes that he will never survey for loyalists again. Sends petition for a grist mill. Is glad he had steered clear of the granted lands at Bonaventure; doubts if many of the grants would stand good in court. Will write to Sir Charles Douglas and order the Americans away. If they disobey is he to seize their vessels, or to burn their flakes, stages and fish? Has appointed Thomas Man to the office of sheriff. The "POLLY" has met with so many accidents that it was too late to send her for provisions. The hoy was too useful to be parted with as she served as a store-house. Recommends memorial from the loyalists, which is enclosed.

The return of loyalists at the new settlement at Paspebiac follows.

1784 - August 27 - Percé

Cox to Haldimand. Has arrived at Percé where he must winter, being disappointed of a house at Gaspé. Shall expend only enough to keep out the wind and snow, as he intends to build a house at St. John's, Gaspé. Is only waiting for O'Hara to go to lay out the new township.

1784 - August 28 - Bay of Chaleurs

List of necessaries wanted by the loyalists. An unsigned memorandum accompanies the list, stating the condition and necessities of the settlers; men, women and children are busy clearing their lots and building houses. The work in the woods tears their clothes; many who formerly lived well are without articles which are to them necessaries, such as tea, sugar, etc., yet they have every prospect of doing well, and, in eighteen months, when their gardens and harvest come in, they will need no further assistance. It is the best country for a poor man he ever knew, from the great quantity and variety of fish, game, maple trees, etc., and the land very capable of cultivation. Even small spots laboured by the fishermen in a most slovenly manner produce exceedingly good wheat, pease, potatoes, flax, etc., and the industrious are always sure of a good market.

1784 - September 4 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Calls attention to the grant of land he received in consequence of his petition. The land was not in accordance therewith, all the marsh being left out, which was the valuable part of it, and nothing granted but that on a barren hillside..etc., etc.,

1784 - November 2 - Quebec

Haldimand to Cox. Has received letter of 20th August, with enclosures, and Captain Law has communicated information respecting the settlers. Sends statements by Law and answers for his (Cox's) guidance. Robin deserves encouragement, but care must be taken to guard against monopoly in lands of a settlement which will probably become extensive. His memorial will be considered by the Governor and Council. Is concerned that there should be so

ill-disposed and refractory persons among the loyalists and that the officers should be the most troublesome. Nothing can do more good than curtailing, or discontinuing, for a time, the issue of provisions. He is sailing in a few days. Reports on civil matters are to be sent to Hamilton and on military to St.Leger.

(NOTE - From the Quebec "GAZETTE" of November, 1784 - "On Tuesday last (November 16th., His Excellency, General Haldimand embarked on board His Majesty's Ship "ATLANTA". His Excellency was received on the Grand Parade and saluted by the troops under arms. The streets were lined by the troops in garrison, and His Excellency was accompanied to the water side by His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor, the members of His Majesty's Council for the Province, by Brigadier-General St.Leger, the Commandant, other officers of the garrison, judges, and others, who bid him an affectionate and respectful adieu. Upon his setting off from shore, His Excellency was saluted by the guns of the garrison, which the "ATLANTA" returned, and immediately set sail with a fair wind for England..")

1785 - June 28 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Reports a favourable fishing so far, and that the loyalists, both here and in Chaleurs Bay, are improving the land in spite of some restless spirits among them. Remonstrates against the enforcement of the law against cutting white pine, as from the St.Lawrence to the Restigouche there is not one white pine in a hundred that would line out a main top mast for a fifty gun frigate, the pine being only fit for boards, scantling, etc., and needed for boats and houses. The bad effect of the enforcement; Governor Wentworth and Sir Charles Douglas agree in this opinion. The inconvenience of vessels trading in the Bay of Chaleurs having to enter and clear at Gaspé. A change prayed for by a memorial. The merchants have offered to use their influence to have him named collector and he asks for that of Haldimand also, should the change in the custom house be made.

1785 - September 12 - Gaspé

O'Hara to Haldimand. Has investigated the report as to illicit trade between the Americans and the settlers. It is partially true, but it is difficult to stop it so long as the Americans are permitted to cure fish on the shores. The discontent of the Restigouche Indians at the encroachments of the whites. There should be a line of partition between the two races, as neither of them know anything but the law of force. The Acadians have rapidly increased in population for the last twenty years, and deserve encouragement, but they should not be permitted to interfere in the precarious means the savage uses to procure his homely fare. Is afraid of ill-consequences unless the matter is looked into. Pabos not flourishing. The land at Paspebiac on which the loyalists settled is exceedingly good and they might be satisfied were they not a discontented, unsteady people. Further respecting the application for a custom house at Gaspé. Cox has removed the seat of government from Percé to the Bay of Chaleurs by which the Government House at Gaspé (Percé ?) must go to wreck.

1786 - May 20 - London

Haldimand to O'Hara. The report concerning the Indians, etc., must be laid before Carleton through the proper channel. Major Mathews, who takes this letter, has been empowered to settle all his (Haldimand's) affairs. He (O'Hara) may apply to him. As Pabos and other property are to be disposed of, any intending purchaser is to apply to Mathews, who will do everything possible for his (O'Hara's) welfare.

(NOTE - In 1786 Felix O'Hara purchased from Haldimand the Seigniory of Pabos. His Will specified that this seigniory be a legacy for his three grandsons, named Felix)