

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

9

THE ANNETT FAMILY OF GASPÉ

A brief synopsis of a volume of Annett family history that was privately published in 1978.

Copies were distributed to several members of the family and a copy was accepted, for deposit, by the Quebec Provincial Archives, Genealogical Section.

The volume contains ⁸⁶~~50~~ charts on the descendants of William and Elizabeth Siddon Annett.

THE ANNETT FAMILY OF GASPE

SYNOPSIS OF A FAMILY HISTORY

As the bicentennial of the Annett family of Gaspé draws near it seems fitting to recall and record its origins and association with the communities of Gaspé Bay.

Far back in time and family history members of the Annetti family moved down from the rugged Cis-Alpine region of northern Italy to settle in the Lombardy Plain. There they intermarried with the Sforza family that have historical associations with Milan and Florence. Subsequently, members of the Annetti migrated to neighbouring France - possibly in the entourage of Catherine de Medici when she left her native Italy to marry King Henry of France,

At the time of the Huguenot persecutions in France some members of the Annett family were imprisoned and burnt at the stake for their Protestant faith. Others, including Roland and Rolfe Annett escaped from France and found refuge, first in Holland and then in Northumberland, England. Family records show that Rolfe, from whom the Annett family of Gaspé descend, landed at Druridge Bay, Northumberland in 1555 in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. Over the following two centuries his descendants established deep roots in England. Other members of the Annett family of France settled in Ireland.

In 1770, William Annett, a seventh generation descendant of Rolfe, married Elizabeth Siddon of St.James Westminster Parish, London. The couple made the momentous decision to come to America. In 1771 they took passage on a sailing ship bound from England for the Island of St.John.(now Prince Edward Island) During the North Atlantic passage their first born, infant daughter, Ann died and was buried at sea. It was autumn before they made land-fall in the primitive colony of St.John Island. There, before the year's end, their second child, a daughter Elizabeth was born.

The rude life of pioneer settlers in the colony, difficult at the best of times, was aggravated periodically by plagues of mice

2.

which overran the fields, devastated crops, and even devoured the pasturage of the cattle. Faced with destitution from such a plague of mice, William Annett moved his family to Miscou Island at the southern entrance of Bay Chaleur.. There, it is believed, he found a livelihood in the building and repair of the fishing craft that based at Miscou in season. Here, on Miscou Island, in 1774, a son, John, was born to William and Elizabeth.

Not long after the birth of John a sudden fire destroyed the Annett home and all their possessions. William was at work some distance from home when the fire occurred. His wife, Elizabeth and the children barely escaped from the flames with their lives.

During the seasonal fishing season, fishermen from Gaspé based at Miscou and it was likely that William Annett learned from them of the opportunities for settlement on the magnificent, sheltered Bay of Gaspé. Circa 1780 the family left Miscou, entered Gaspé Bay and began a new life at Peninsula. Their first, temporary residence was likely on Peninsula Point where lots had been laid out by John Collins in 1765 and recorded in his PLAN OF THE BAY AND HARBOUR OF GASPEY. Soon, however, William moved his family to a site on the higher land above the Point in the present village of Peninsula. There, near the brook long known as Annett's Run, the family home was established on a site overlooking the inlet in the lee of Peninsula Point and with a view beyond across the inner bay of Gaspé to the Basin entrance. Following a difficult ten-year odyssey the Annett family put down roots that remain strong and deep in Gaspé for after two hundred years the property remains in Annett hands.

The Peninsula home of William and Elizabeth Siddon Annett held a family of sturdy, active sons and daughters. The eldest daughter, Elizabeth, would marry at age 17, Robert Ascah, son of Richard Ascah who had preceded the Annett family as the pioneer English settler at Peninsula. John Annett would formally petition for a grant of land at Peninsula in 1802 and four years later would marry Catherine Baker, daughter of a pioneer family. Frances, born in 1777, would become the wife of Richard Miller who came to Peninsula at or about the same time as the Annett family. William, born in 1778, would marry Margaret Patterson of Loyalist background

and acquire the three hundred acre land grant at L'Anse aux Cousins that would remain as home to his descendants for 150 years. Martha, born in 1782, would further link the Annett and Ascah families by her marriage to John Ascah in 1805. Richard, born in 1784, would lose his first wife, Mary Boyle, three years after their marriage. His second wife, Sophia Coffin, would bear eight children to enliven their home on the South-West Arm of Gaspé Bay. George, born in 1786, married a daughter of the noted Loyalist family of New Carlisle, Margaret Chisholm, and settled in Peninsula. The youngest member of the family, daughter Christy, born in 1787, would marry Walter Phillips, son of a family with long and continuing association with the Peninsula community.

AT WORK IN GASPE

Given the maritime-environment of Gaspé with its potential for fishing, whaling and sea-borne trade, it is not surprising that the men of the early Annett generations were active as ship-builders, mariners, whalers and traders. From the forest which the extended almost unbroken to the shores of Gaspé Bay the Annett men wrested clearings for their homesteads and obtained the timber to build their boats and sailing ships. The local waters provided an abundance of a great variety of fish - salmon, mackerel, cod, smelt, lobster, etc., - for food and export. The introduction to whaling by a member of the Coffin family of Nantucket, who chose to settle in Gaspé, took them out of Gaspé Bay to whale in the waters of the Gulf and up the St. Lawrence estuary.

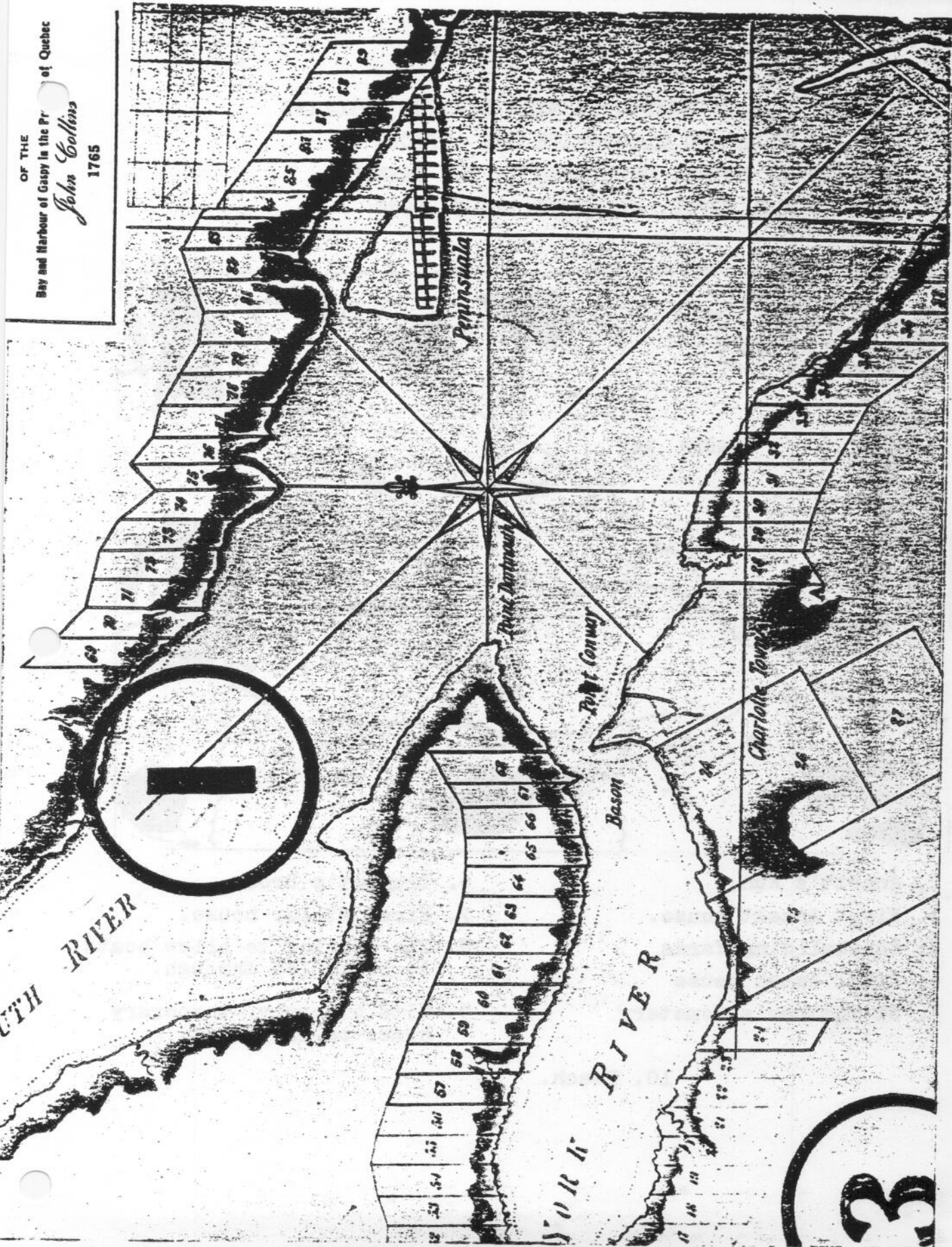
In our modern age of affluence and technology we can only marvel at the courage, initiative, inventiveness and self-sufficiency of these pioneer Gaspeians. Far removed from centers of population, with their only link and line of communication, the sea, they not merely survived but used the natural resources at hand in Gaspé to win their livelihood and so establish those strong family and community ties that would be an enduring legacy for their descendants. The role and contribution of their women folk is worthy of particular note and honour. Without most of the many modern conveniences that their descendants now take for granted, they established and maintained homes, raised families,

The isolation of Gaspé from the seat of government in Quebec and the attraction to its shores of European fishermen and American privateers created serious problems for the maintenance of law and order. In 1828 the administration of Lord Dalhousie, then Governor and Commander-in-Chief for and over the Provinces of Lower Canada, Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Other Dependencies, ordered the erection of a gaol at Percé. William, son of William and Elizabeth Siddon Annett, was appointed as Gaoler of Percé. While records do not reveal the criteria used in his appointment it is assumed that in a rough and ready age, William was considered to be most capable of dealing with prisoners. He held the post at Percé from 1828 until 1841. His reputation was testified to by his contemporaries in the District of Gaspé, including his neighbour at Percé, John LeBoutillier, who would serve as Member of the Legislature for Gaspé.

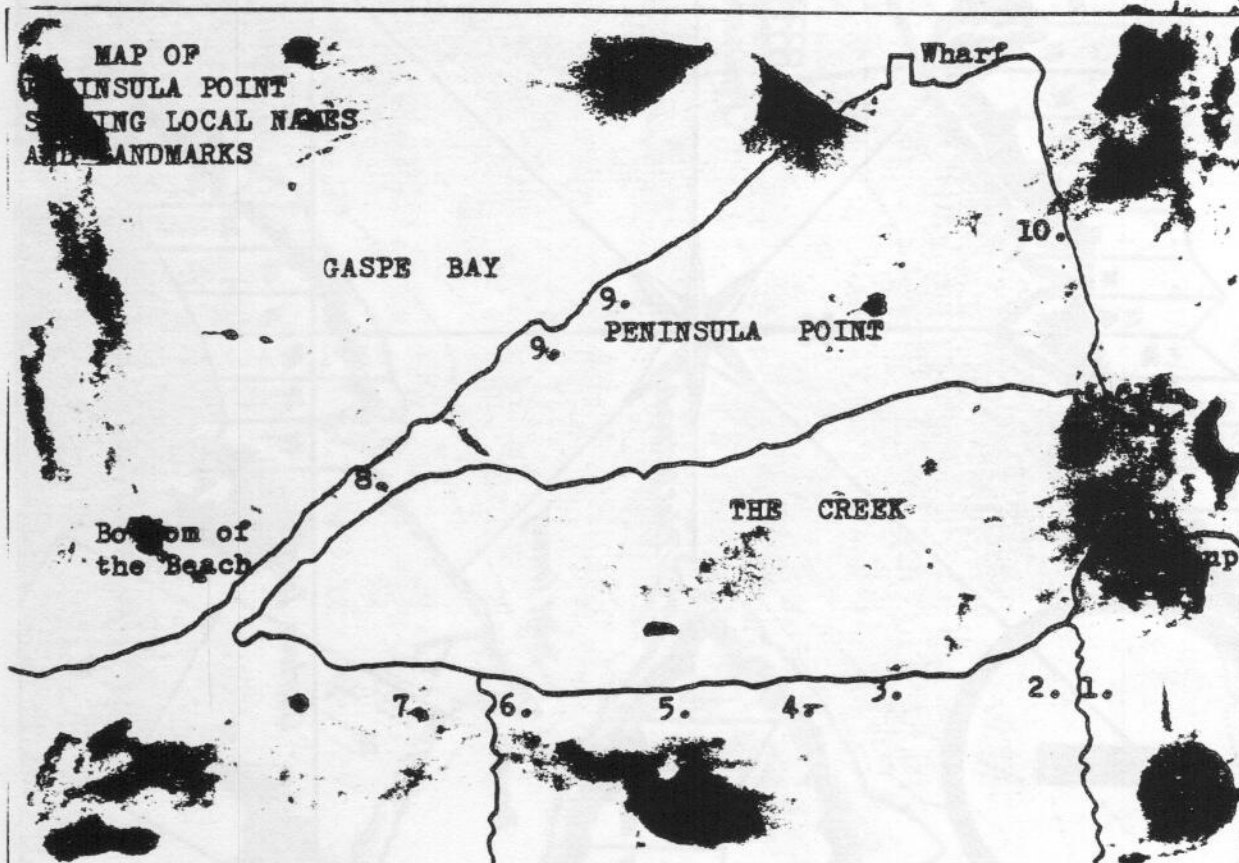
LEGACY

The family traits and character have been recurrent in succeeding Annet generations. An affinity for the sea and maritime careers has been evidenced in an attraction to such pursuits. Members of the family have responded loyally to calls for service to their country in war as well as in peace. Now scattered far from Peninsula and to be found throughout Canada, in the United States and abroad, descendants of the Annett family of Gaspé are involved in a wide range of careers and activities. Some have won academic distinction. Many have contributed to trade, business and the professions.

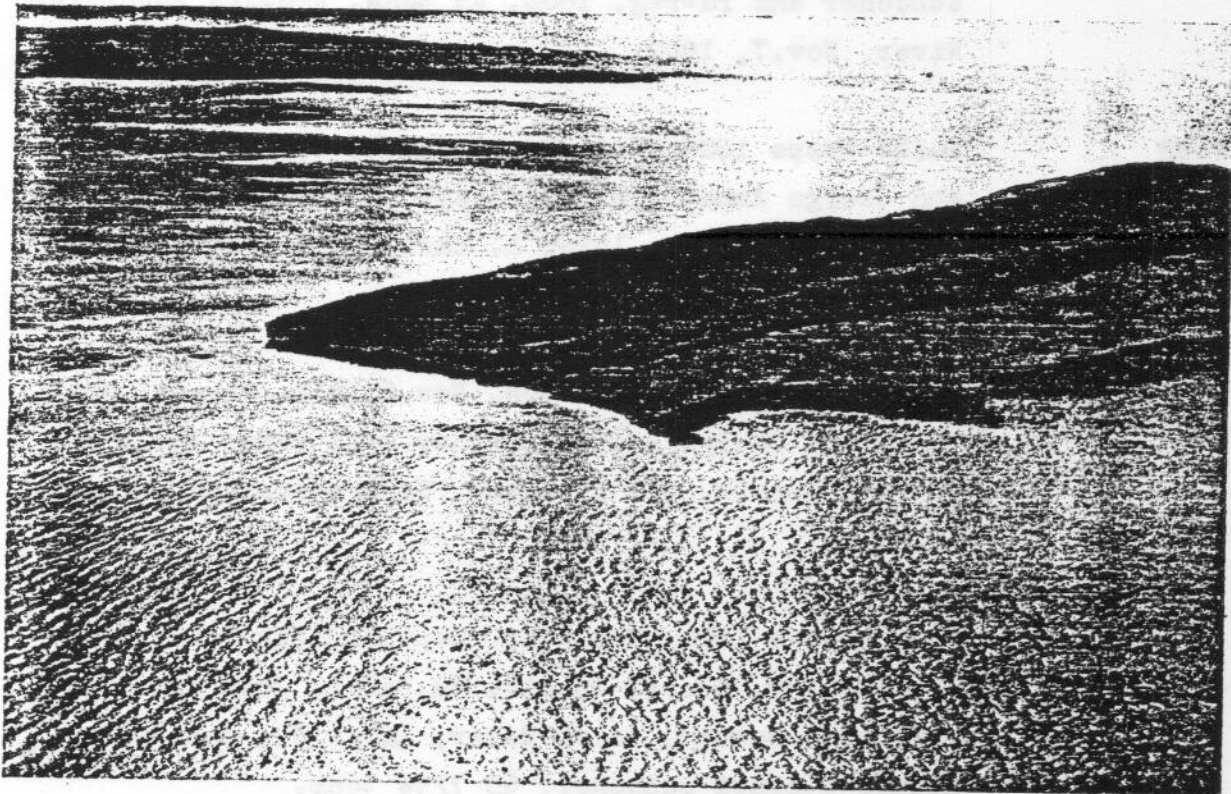
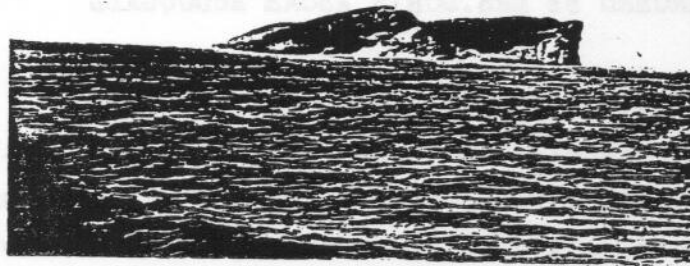
Though they may now be far from Peninsula, on the lovely shores of Gaspé Bay, all descendants of William and Elizabeth Siddon Annett can recall with deep appreciation their heritage as the bicentennial of the Annett family of Gaspé approaches.



ADAPTATION OF SKETCH BY MISS DOROTHY PHILLIPS
OF PENINSULA TO ILLUSTRATE HER ARTICLE ON
PENINSULA POINT, PUBLISHED IN THE GASPESIA
HISTORICAL REVUE, VOL.VIII, NO.3, 1970



- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Annett's Run. | 6. Trumpet's Brook. |
| 2. First Annett house. | 7. First Miller house. |
| 3. Shipbuilding Yards | 8. The Opening to allow boats to be hauled through. |
| 4. First Ascah house | 9. Site of early, temporary homes on the Point. |
| 5. St. Matthew's Cemetery | |
| | 10. Beach. |



THE LONG FINGER OF CAPE GASPE, AND GASPE BAY

WILLIAM EDWARD AND ELIZABETH SIDDON ANNETT ENTERED
GASPE BAY PAST THE LANDMARK OF CAPE GASPE TO LAND
AT PENINSULA AND ESTABLISH THE ANNETT FAMILY OF
GASPE.

VESSELS BUILT AND/OR OWNED BY THE ANNETT FAMILY (REGISTERS TO 1828)

RESEARCHED BY MRS. DORIS ASCAH McDOUGALL

TRIAL

Built Gaspe 1805. Reg. Aug. 10, 1805.
 Owners William Annett, George Annett shipbuilders together with John Annett and Richard Annett, carpenters, all of Gaspe. Master, William Annett. Originally pink-sterned schooner. Rebuilt as square-sterned schooner and re-reg. 1806. 45 tons. Wrecked Magdalene River, Nov. 7, 1807.

FOUR BROTHERS

Built Gaspe 1808. Reg. Nov. 2, 1808. Owners Wm. Annett and George Annett, shipbuilders and mariners of Gaspe. Master, Wm. Annett, later A. Cass. Square-sterned schooner, 51 34/94 tons.

MARY BOYLE

Built Gaspe 1811. Reg. Que. Nov. 6, 1811. Owners, John Boyle and George Boyle, together with Thos. Boyle and Richard Annett, all of Gaspe. Square-sterned schooner. 80 tons.

ELIZA

Built Gaspe 1812. Reg. Que. Sept. 24, 1812. Owners James Baker, George Annett, Wm. Baker, John Annett, mariners. Master, James Baker, later Wm. Baker. Square-sterned schooner, 65 7/94 tons.

CHARLOTTE

George Annett had an interest in the ill-fated Charlotte which he transferred to Robert and Richard Ascah. This vessel was wrecked in the St. Lawrence in

1831 -passengers and crew all lost -this last is not documented, but family tradition.

ANN

Built Gaspe 1816. Reg. Quebec Nov. 9, 1816. Owners, John Patterson together with Richard Patterson and Wm. Annett, mariners of Gaspe. Master, John Patterson. Square-sterned schooner, 75 34/94 tons. Re-reg. 1825 Transfer of all rights by Richard Patterson for himself and acting for J.Patterson, deceased, and William Annett of Gaspe, mariners, to C.W.Ross of Quebec, merchant.

ANNABELLA

Built Gaspe 1818. Reg. Que. Oct 5, 1818. Owners, George Boyle, mariner, together with John Boyle, Richard Annett, James Boyle, Felix Boyle, mariners, all of Gaspe. Master, George Boyle. Square-sterned schooner. 87 tons.

WE DO NOT HAVE THE QUEBEC REGISTER FROM 1828 ON. THE GASPE REGISTER BEGINS IN 1843 SO THERE IS A GAP IN OUR INFORMATION HERE.

DEFIANCE

Built Peninsula 1843 by William Annett. Reg. Oct 21, 1844. Owners, William Annett, James Annett, John Annett. Master, William Annett. Square-sterned schooner. 39 1454/3500 tons.

Vessel lengthened and Re-Reg, May 16, 1853. Owners, William Annett, James Annett, John Annett, Edward Annett. Master, William Annett. 65 359/3500 tons.

ROSE OF
GASPE

Built Gaspe Basin 1841. Previously registered Quebec 1841. Transferred and altered. Reg. Gaspe 1845, Oct. 14. Owners, William Annett and George Annett of Gaspe Basin, farmers and fishermen with Abraham Paterson and William Paterson, farmers and fishermen. Master, Benjamin Paterson, later June 20, 1848, William Paterson. Re-registered Gaspe 1848 (name shown as Rose) - owners Vital Fournier and Simon Fournier. Square-sterned schooner. 34 1728/3500 tons.

PERSEVERANCE

Built Gaspe Basin 1840. Former reg. Que. Nov. 1840. Transferred to Gaspe reg. 28 May 1853. Owners, Abraham Coffin, Frederic Coffin, Jr., Richard Annett, Frederick Annett. Master Frederick Coffin Jr. Square-sterned schooner 69 1327/3500 tons. Vessel stranded and went to pieces on Sandy Beach Point, 1867.

WOLVERINE

Built Gaspe 1858. Reg. June 21, 1858. Owners, John Adams, ship builder, Thomas Adams and Thomas Cunning, mariners. Square-sterned schooner, 49.41 tons. Mortgaged with LeBoutillier for \$1260 Nov. 27, 1867 and discharged May 5, 1884. Re-reg. May 5, 1884. Purchased from Thomas Adams and Edwin Adams May 5, 1884 by George Annett and Louis Annett of Gaspe, mariners. Sold April 21, 1886 to John J. Cass, merchant, Cape Cove.

To His Excellency Alured Clarke Esquire,
 Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of
 His Majesty's Province of Lower Canada &c. &c.

The Petition of William Ennet
 Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner with his Family, consisting of a Wife and Seven Children, has for these four years, last past dwelt on a spot of Land situated on the North side of the North West Arm of Gaspe and by his Industry has made considerable improvement on the premises, wherefore the better to secure to your Petitioner and Family the fruits of their Labours, humbly Prays your Excellency to Grant him Two Hundred Acres of Land, to begin at the boundary line between him and Samuel Meaker, and to run from thence along the shore towards the Red Creek, with the customary depth backwards, to make up the Two Hundred Acres above pray'd for. And your Honors Petitioner as in duty bound will pray

William Ennet

William Ennet

Book C. page 259

The Petitioner is a
Native of Old England
has resided in this
Country near Twenty
years, raised a large
Family, and always
behaved inoffensively
and very Industrious
and certainly has
merit to deserve

John Hawk

This is
one of the Petitions referred
by the General reference
and endorsed upon the receipt of
Edward O'Hara's letter
dated at Quebec 23 March 1793

Filed at E. H. on the Minutes
of the said Committee
25 March 1793

To His Excellency, Sir Robert S. Milnes Esquire, Lieutenant
 Governor of His Majesty's Province of Lower Canada and its
 Dependances &c &c.

The Petition of John Amnet of Gaspe

Humbly represents

That your Excellency's Petitioner is a
 Native of the District of Gaspe, borne of and bred by English Parents
 And inheriting their natural attachment to that Government,
 and Loyalty^{to} their King; Humbly prays that two Hundred
 Acres of His Majesty's ungranted Lands in Gaspe Bay, be granted
 to him and his Heirs, to enable him to support himself and
 Family, Beginning at a small Creek known by the Name
 of Shallop run on the North side of Gaspe Bay, and running
 for Front to the Eastward.

And he as in Duty bound will ever pray

John Amnet

Asse 20th January

1802

Douglasp Town 3rd July 1817 Claim by William Annett
 nett of Gaspe Bay of lot c^o 12
 and the N W half of lot c^o 13 on the South
 side of the NW branch of Gaspe^{Bay} running
 in front magnetically South 45° East
 twenty eight chains and a half, and in
 depth South 45° West, bounded in front
 to the N E by the NW arm of Gaspe
 Bay on the S W in depth by waste
 lands of the crown, and on the N W by
 Saw Mill Brook and lot c^o 11, and on
 the S E by the south east half of the said
 lot c^o 13 containing three hundred
 superficial acres, claimed by occupiers
 for one year last past, and situated
 at the place commonly called L'ar-
aux fousins.

Quebec 25th October 1821

Present J. F. Taschereau Esq^r President

J. Duchereau Duchesnay Esq^r

The lots of land
 above mentioned
 and described claimed by the said
 William Annett having been duly
 published in the Quebec Gazette of the
 10th and 17th February 3rd April and 8th May
 one thousand eight hundred and twenty
 according to an act passed by the Legisla-
 -ture of this province in the fifty ninth
 year of the reign of his late Majesty
 George the third intituled "An Act to secure
 the inhabitants of the inferior Districts

Appointed under and in virtue of the said
act, ^{having} received satisfactory proof of the
possession and occupation of the said
lot c^o 12 and the NW half of lot c^o
13 by the said William Annett as
by the said act provided they do accor-
dingly in virtue of the said act,
adjudge and declare the claim of
him the said William Annett to
the said lot of land c^o 12 and to
the said NW half of lot c^o 13 to be
good and valid.

Certificat

Wm Annett

Deputy Clerk

Bay of Gaspé 5th July 1819 } Claim by George Arnetts of Gaspé
Bay for lot 257 near the Pointe
du Sud in the said Bay in the West branch of
the said Bay bounded in front on the SW by
the Bay aforesaid, in depth on the NE by vacant
land of the crown on the SE by lot 256 on the
NW by lot 258 situate on the north side of
the North West arm of Gaspé Bay, running
in front magnetically North 55° West nine-
teen chains and in depth North 35° East
containing two hundred superficial acres
claimed by occupancy for one year.

Quebec 25th October 1821

Present J. T. Taschereau Esq. President } The lot of land here-
L. Duchesneau Esq. } above mentioned and
described claimed by the said George Arnetts
having been duly published in the Quebec Gazette
of the 10th and 17th February & April and 8th May
one thousand eight hundred and twenty accord-
ing to an act passed by the Legislature of this
Province in the fifty ninth year of the reign of
his late Majesty George the Third, intituled "An
act to secure the inhabitants of the inferior
District of Gaspé in the possession and enjoy-
ment of their lands" and the commissioners
appointed under and in virtue of the said
act having also received satisfactory proof
of the possession and occupation of the said
lot of land by the said George Arnetts

by the said act provided. they do accordingly
in virtue of the said act adjudge and then
the claim of him the said George Bennett to
said lot of land as to be good and valid

Certified,

W. Justice

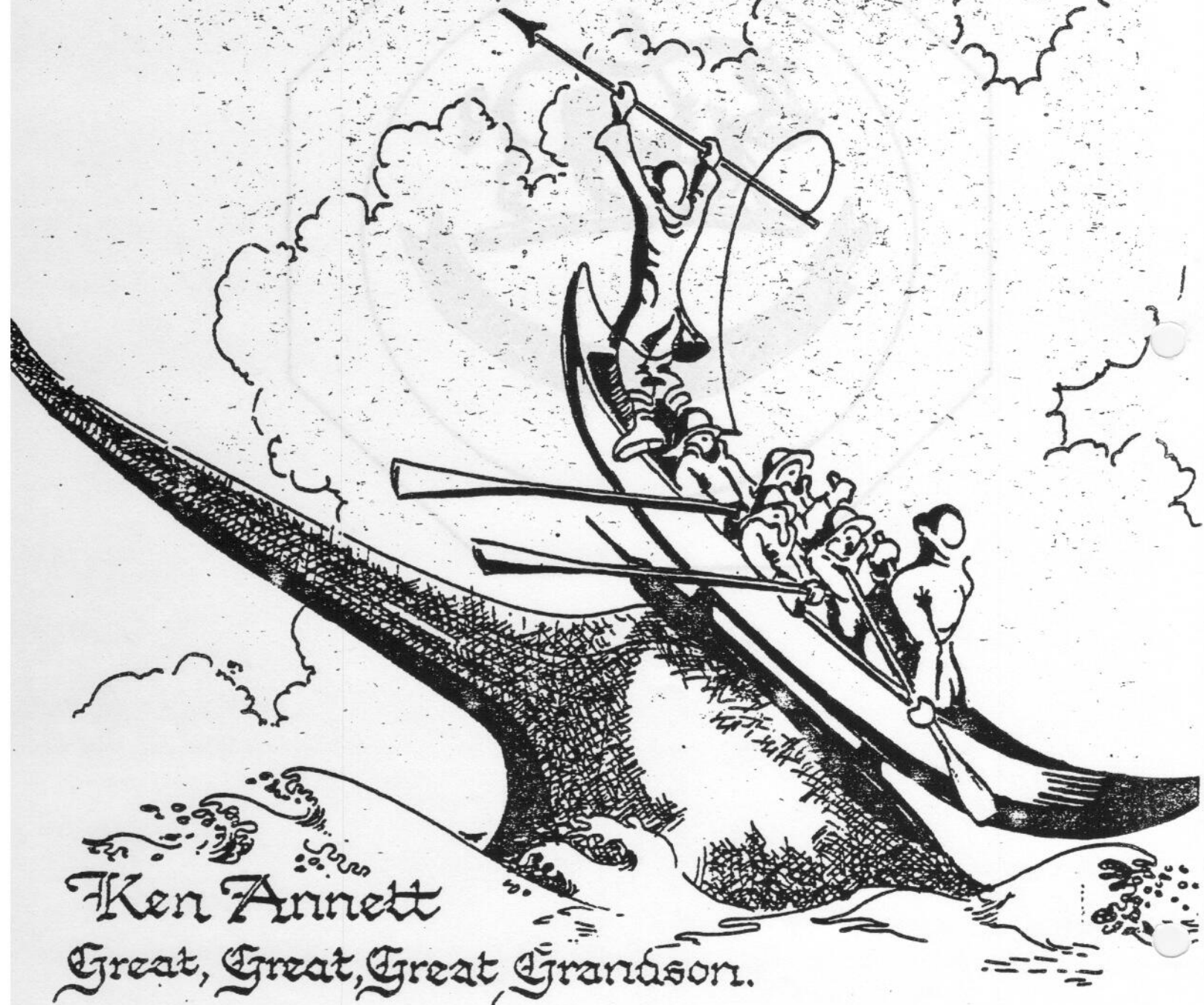
Secretary to Court

Council of Barrada
District of Gaspe

This Indenture made at Gaspe
Baron in the County and District of Gaspe, on
the seventh day of March in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty
two Before me John Loder Esq. one of Her
Majestys Justices of the Peace for the District
of Gaspe and acting in this case as by Law
provided. Witnesseth That Sophia Coffin
wife of the late Richard Annett, Frederick
Annett, William Annett, Peter Annett and
Benjamin Annett do hereby renounce all
right title and claim to a certain lot of
land numbered eleven in the first range
in the Township of York, containing one
hundred acres bounded on the one side
by land owned by Thomas Laddard, and
on the other side by land owned by Frederick
Annett, in rear by brown lands and in
front by the Waters of Gaspe Baron, in favor
and for the sole use and occupation of the
following persons in manner following,
viz. in four equal parts or portions each
containing twenty five acres - The first part
bounded on the upper side by land owned
by Thomas Laddard aforesaid, in favor and
for the use of Charlotte Annett, daughter of



The
Annett Family
of
Gaspé



Ken Annett
Great, Great, Great Grandson.

or portion adjoining that in favor of Char-
lotte Annett to Elias Halle son of Joshua
Halle. The third part or portion adjoining that
in favor of Elias Halle to Mary Jane Annett
wife of Thomas Miller, the fourth part or

portion adjoining that in favor of Mary Jane
Annett to Annabella Annett wife of Abraham
Patterson, and bounded on the other lower side
land owned by Frederick Annett aforesaid.
In witness whereof we the undersigned
have affixed our signatures and seals this day and
date as above written.

- Joseph Coffey, wife of late
- Richard Annett J. J.
- Frederick H. Annett J. J.
- Millican Annett J. J.
- Felix Annett J. J.
- Benjamin Henry Annett J. J.

In presence of us the undersigned
witnesses

- George Laves
- Abraham Patterson

In testimony whereof
"John Eden" J. P.