

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY BETWEEN WILLIAM  
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KENNEDY AND THE SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS OF DOUGLASTOWN  
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KEN ANNETT

EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY IN DOUGLASTOWNPREFACE

References in the following Deed involving William Kennedy and the School Commissioners of Douglastown serve to remind us of the beginnings of that Gaspé community. For as was the case at New Carlisle, Douglastown was laid out circa 1784 as a town site with a grid of surveyed streets and a plot designated as a COMMON. An early issue of SPEC published the interesting article, DOUGLASTOWN BEFORE 1800, by Doris and David McDougall. In it they referred to the sworn deposition of the Loyalist, Robert Simpson, in 1801, in which he stated...."That in the year 1784, to the best of the Deponant's recollection, when the several lots were laid out by Mr.O'Hara, the Surveyor, the Deponant was the principal person who attended and assisted Mr.O'Hara in the chaining and marking all the Country Lots and the said Town of Douglas...."

The Deed also serves to remind us of the continuing role of pioneer Loyalist families in Douglastown. Reference to four members of the Kennedy family serves to recall that William Kennedy, U.E.L., whose Memorial of 1801 was quoted in the McDougall article above mentioned, was a pioneer settler at Douglastown before 1800. Again, reference to members of the Morris family is a reminder that Thomas Morris, U.E.L., was a pioneer settler.

The influential role in Douglastown and area of the Rev. Duncan Gillis, Parish Priest, is an integral part of the Gaspesian heritage.

Douglastown                      On the sixth of May eighteen hundred and  
 Gaspé                                eighty six, Before us, the undersigned Rev'd  
 P. Quebec                          Duncan Gillis, Parish Priest of Douglastown,  
 Canada                                Gaspé, acting in this case as Public Notary  
    as by Law provided, and witnesses specially  
 called for the following object and herein after named and subscribed,  
 personally came and appeared William Kennedy, Esq'r, Haldimantown,  
 Gaspé, Quebec, on one part: on the other part the undernamed school  
 commissioners of this municipality.

The said parties, William Kennedy and the  
 school commissioners, of their own accord, consent and agree, do  
 confess and acknowledge, by this present instrument, to make  
 between them the exchange and interchange of the following immovable  
 described properties under the reciprocal and ordinary lawful  
 (?warranty) generally.

Whatever to wit-

1. has been transferred from that day and for ever at the title  
 of exchange and unterchange by the school commissioners of this  
 municipality to the said William Kennedy and heirs and assigns  
 all the following parcels or lots of land granted by the Crown  
 land department to the said school commissioners, viz.-

- (1) a parcel of land of about one acre and a half superficies  
 (1 and 1/2 acres) shown on the cadastral plan of the Town-  
 ship of Douglastown as COMMON as per grant from the Crown  
 land department dated eleventh January eighteen hundred and  
 seventy six, bounded as follows, that is to say; towards the  
 South by the North line of Front Street, forty feet in  
 breadth; towards the West by the East line of fourth cross  
 street prolonged from the said Front Street; Northwards to  
 the south line of the proposed Public Road along the line

of high water mark of one chain in width; towards the East by the division line between two lots numbers Seven and Eight of the First Range of the said Town Plot of Douglastown prolonged Northward to the South line of the proposed Public Road as above mentioned, and toward the North by the said allowance of the Public Road.

(2)also the said Commissioners has transferred to the above mentioned William Kennedy and heirs a parcel of land bought by them from the Crown land department on the sixteenth March eighteen hundred and eighty five, a lot of land of about half an acre (1/2 acre) more or less, situated in the aforesaid Township of Douglastown, otherwise known as follows, that is to say - the West part of the lot Number Twelve in that part of the Township of Douglastown known as the COMMON; the said West part being two chains in breadth, more or less, and bounded as follows, viz: on the North by the Barachois; on the South by the Front Street; on the West by a lane or public road leading to a Well, and on the East by a line drawn parallel to the side lines of the lot.

For the above two parcels or lots of land the above mentioned William Kennedy has transferred to the present school commissioners of the aforesaid municipality, and to their successors in office, a lot or parcel of land situated in the village of Douglastown, Gaspé, Province of Quebec, which lot or parcel of land is about one square acre (1 square acre), which lot is bounded as follows: on the North East by a lot occupied by Matthew Morris; on the South West by that occupied by Thomas Briard; on the one side by a property of Cecile Morris and on the other by a part of the property of Daniel Scott.

The said exchanges are accepted by William Kennedy and School Commissioners and are reciprocally guaranteed without trouble or incumbrance. The present School Commissioners who consented and agreed to this Deed and signed their name to the instrument are John Maher, Chairman, Thomas Kennedy, and John Briard who sign this Deed in presence of the undersigned witnesses, James Kennedy and Laurence Kennedy.

Signature of parties -

William Kennedy.

Commissioners Signatures -

John Maher, Chairman; Thomas Kennedy; John Briard.

Witnesses -

James Kennedy

Laurence Kennedy

In testimonium veritatis

Duncan Gillis, P.P., Douglstown, Gaspé.