

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

GASPÉ WILLS RECALL FAMILY  
\*\*\*\*\*

The Wills of Charles Veit, Sr. and  
of Mrs. Mary Ann Norris, his wife,  
recall a family once active in the  
life of Gaspé.

KEN ANNETT

GASPÉ WILLS RECALL FAMILYINTRODUCTION

With the passing years and sweeping social changes, family names, once well known in Gaspesian communities, have faded from living memory. Such is the case of the Veit family of Douglastown and Gaspé Basin respectively. At the start of this 20th century the Veit homestead and that of their Lindsay neighbours stood side by side near the seaward end of Gaspé Basin's main street. Both of these families had moved to the Basin from Douglastown and were active and influential in the community.

At the time when the POINT of Gaspé Basin was the hub of shipping and commercial activity the Veits were prominent merchants with their store, warehouse and deep-water wharf. Later in time the Veit establishment on the POINT was purchased by the firm of JOHN F.DAVIS AND SONS, general merchants and shipping agents. Some Gaspesians may yet recall the Clarke ships such as the GASPESIA, NEW NORTHLAND and others that docked regularly at the former Veit wharf with passengers and freight.

Those who do not recall the original Veit home in Gaspé Basin may remember that one of the Veit sons built his home on a lot adjacent to western line of the "ONE ASH" property of Dr. William Wakeham.

The following Wills are historically interesting not only for Veit family references but also for the names of those responsible for the drafting of them and the subscribing witnesses.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF MARY ANN NORRIS, WIFE OF CHARLES VEIT, Sr.

30th July, 1869

In the name of God, Amen.

Now know all men by these presents that I, Mary Ann Norris, now Mary Ann Veit, wife of Charles Veit, Postmaster of Douglas Town in the District of Gaspé, being of sound mind, memory and understanding, Do on this Thirtieth Day of July, Eighteen Hundred and Sixty nine, make this my last Will and Testament to the following effect- Namely - I leave, Will and Bequest, fully and forever, to my Beloved Husband, Charles Veit the Elder, now Postmaster of Douglas Town, all my Real Estate or any interest in any Real Estate that I now have or may have by inheritance; and all my Personal Property or effects of any kind whatsoever; to have and hold the same for ever without any restriction or reservation whatsoever.

Witness my hand and seal

at Douglas Town this 30

(Signed) Mary Ann Veit

day of July, Eighteen

Hundred and Sixty nine.

Signed, Sealed, Declared and Witnessed in the presence of the Testator and in our presence and in the presence of each other. Witnesses - Sam'l Alcorn, J.P. for County of York, Ontario, C.W.

Wm. Lindsay, Merchant, Douglastown.

In testimonium veritatis - (Signed) P.Chs.Alph.Winter, P.P.

Veit  
Buried

Mary Ann, by her maiden name Norris, aged eighty six years, wife of Charles Veit, Esquire, of Sandy Beach, died on the twenty fourth and was buried on the twenty sixth day of May, eighteen hundred and ninety one in the graveyard of the Church of St. John, Sandy Beach.

Present-Thomas Pye

Geo.J. Harding

Richard Miller

Clk and Curate of Sandy Beach

LAST WILL OF CHARLES VEIT, Sr. - 29th JULY, 1891.

In the Name of God, Amen.

Now know all men by these Presents that I, Charles Veit, Sen'r of Gaspé, resident at Sandy Beach in the Province of Quebec, being of sound memory and understanding but knowing the uncertainty of life, do on this twenty ninth day of July, One Thousand Eight hundred and ninety one by this instrument make this my last Will and Testament, hereby revoking all former Wills and Testaments. And this is my Will and Testament;

- First. That my Executor see that all my just debts be paid and that my body receive respectable and Christian burial.
- Second. That my son, Frederick Thomas Veit of Gaspé Basin be my Executor, Administrator or Curator, I now invest all real estate in him for the purpose of selling the same and granting Titles for the same for the purpose of settling up my estate. And thirdly,
- Thirdly I order that as representative of my estate he, the said Frederick Thomas Veit do transfer to himself the one share I now hold in the Quebec Steam Ship Company, And the company are authorized to transfer the said one share of Stock to the aforesaid Frederick Thomas Veit of Gaspé Basin and I leave him this bequest over and above any thing he may be entitled to as a colegatee in this Will and in compensation for extra trouble in settling my Estate.
- Fourthly In case of the Death of Frederick T. Veit, then my son Charles Veit is to take his place as Executor, Administrator or Curator, but in any case the one share of

Stock is to go to Frederick T.Veit or the children of Frederick T.Veit.

Fifthly I leave and bequeath to my Daughter, Ann Harbour, all my moveable effects such as Household Furniture, Wearing Apparel, Beds and bedding and every thing of that kind that may be found in her house belonging to me. My reason for leaving so little is because I have ordered or will order to be transferred to her certain "Gas Stock" in Toronto to be transferred to her "In Trust" for herself or her children, free from her Husband's power to sell or transfer without her signature. But when she is in possession of this stock she is not to participate in the division of the subdivision of the effects bequeathed to her Four Brothers next referred to.

Sixthly There is a memorandum of what I call the effects of my estate attached to this Will which perhaps includes all my estate; which my four sons will take as the Basis to be subdivided equally amongst them, share and share alike. Their names, Frederick Thomas, Charles, Henry and Samuel Alcorn, are to assemble and divide the same amongst themselves, share and share alike. But if any one of them should enter any suit at Law against the Curator or Executor then such an one is to get nothing and be disinherited and after six months the estate to be settled without him, the sons agreeing to get the whole estate amongst them. This Will is written on One Sheet of Foolscap paper written on two sides and this side finishes my Last Will and Testament and has my signature and seal and the names of Witnesses, etc. My Bank of Toronto Stock, or the proceeds is to go into the effects to be divided amongst my Four Sons.

(Signed) Chas, Veit, Sen'r

Signed, Sealed and witnessed in the presence of the Testator and in the presence of each other.

N.C. Smillie, M.D.  
Austin Ritchie

In testimonium Veritatis

29th July, 1891

A, T. Carter, Comm. Superior Court

MEMORANDUM OF THE EFFECTS OF MY ESTATE

Lot of Land with Houses erected thereon.....	\$ 3000.00
Vacant Lot of Land between Douglastown and Seal Cove..	200.00
Store on Douglastown Beach.....	200.00
Cash left with H.and S.Veit when I left business,May 1873.....	3022.55
Goods as per Inventory.....	3350.80
Outstanding Debts £2683, valued at.....	1000.00
Stock and Implements.....	940.00
Four Shares Toronto Bank Stock.Par value \$100 each....	400.00
	-----
	\$ 12113.35

The above is the valuation I set on  
these several items today

(Signed) Chas.Veit, Sen'r  
Sandy Beach  
14 July,1891

\*\*\*\*\*

Douglastown,  
April 30th.,1893

This is to certify that the body of Charles Veit, Senior, of the Municipality of Sandy Beach in the County of Gaspé and Province of Quebec was interred in the burying ground attached to the Methodist Church situate at Haldimand of aforesaid Municipality and County on Tuesday the twenty-fifth day of April in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety three and that I officiated thereat.

(Signed) Geo. H. Williams,  
Clergyman, The Methodist Church.

Witnesses: M.J.Thompson  
Philip E.LeGros