

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

PERCÉ - THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

The first church on CAP CANON and the
Deed of Gift by the Charles Robin Co.
for the land of the second church.

KEN ANNETT

PERCÉ - THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

PERCÉ'S CHRIST CHURCH

FOREWORD

The late Abbé C.E.Roy, Parish Priest of St.Michael's of Percé and an historian of Gaspesia, has noted in his "PERCÉ-ITS NATURE, ITS HISTORY" - "Apparently the first Anglican church in Percé was built by the Rev.Knagg in 1820. Beyond the fact that it existed at the time of the arrival here of the Reverend Cuisack, there is also the fact that the cemetery adjacent to it contains remains which date back to that year. It was erected in the center of Cap Canon beside the small enclosure which served as a cemetery. A regulation forbade the digging of graves less than eighteen feet from the church. It was named CHRIST'S CHURCH and the faithful called themselves the "Protestant Episcopal inhabitants of Percé."

"The first Anglican church in Percé was never completed as to the interior, When, in 1860, the time came to repair it and take advantage of this occasion to finish the interior, or to demolish it and build a new one, it was deemed preferable to rally behind the second alternative, all the more as its location no longer suited the people."

"Generous contributions in material and money were received, and the land, the vestments and vessels were donated. On January 6th., 1862, a new church was opened for worship, in which the pews were sold, and in which collection before the sermon was inaugurated. It is this same church, repaired in 1908, which one sees today (1947) at the corner of the Irishtown and the Grande-Côte road. It bears the name of St.Paul's and its faithful register themselves simply as "Members of St.Paul's Church."

"In 1903 Mr.G.LeBas donated an altar; at the same time a subscription provided for the setting up of a Sanctuary and Mr. Frederick James bequeathed the artistic stained glass window which adorns it." [Window dedicated to memory of the Rev.William Gore Lyster who served the Percé Parish from 1863 until his death in 1902]

The "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" series provides a number of references to Percé Anglican Church. No.252, RECORDS OF REV.JOHN SUDDARD reflects baptisms and marriages in 1824-1825. This first

Register has been noted in the SPEC article, "CHRIST CHURCH OF PERCEE:FIRST REGISTER" of October 5,1982 by Aldo Brochet. The visits of Archdeacon George Jehoshaphat Mountain to Percé in 1824 and 1826 are recorded in Volume 1 of "GASPE OF YESTERDAY" The HISTORICAL RECORDS OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN THE DIOCESE OF QUEBEC, published in the 1946-1947 RAPPORT DE L'ARCHIVISTE DE LA PROVINCE DE QUEBEC together with the Abbé Roy's, PERCE, refers to the following clergy who served the Percé congregation- Rev. R. Knagg, Rev.J.Suddard, Rev.W.Arnold, Rev.E.Cuisack; Rev.R.Short, Rev.S.Jones, Rev.S.Crosse, Rev.W.G.Lyster;Rev.M.Ker, and in the first half of the 20th century the Reverends Harding, Warren, Oakley, Dickson, Hobbard, Campbell,Mitchell, Bennett, Harper, and Fennick.

Against the above background the following DEED OF GIFT by which the INCUMBENT AND CHURCH WARDENS OF THE PARISH OF PERCÉ acquired the site of the second and existing church is an ACT of historic significance.

Province of Canada
District of Gaspé
County of Gaspé

Before the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the District of Gaspé, residing at Percé and acting in this behalf in default of Public Notaries residing in the County of Gaspé and being thereunto authorized by Law and the undersigned witnesses,

Personally came,appeared and were present Moses Gibaut, Esquire, residing in the Township of Percé, in his capacity of lawful attorney of James Robin, Philip Gosset and Charles William Robin of the Island of Jersey, Esquires, Merchants, carrying on trade and commerce in partnership in the District of Gaspé and elsewhere,under the name, style and firm of Charles Robin Company, of the one part;

And the Reverend Silas Crosse, Incumbent of the Parish of Percé, observing and professing the Doctrine and Discipline of the United Church of England and Ireland in the Diocese of Quebec and Joseph E.Tuzo, Esquire, Church Warden in office of the said Parish of Percé, of the other part.

Which said parties did, as by these presents they do declare, covenant, promise and agree as follows, to wit:

Whereas doubts have arisen as to the validity of a certain deed of Gift executed and passed at Percé before H.W.Harper, Esquire, Prothonotary of the Superior Court, and witnesses, bearing date the twenty third day of October, one thousand eight hundred and sixty, by and between the said Moses F.Gibaut and Joseph E.Tuzo, acting as aforesaid and registered in the Registry Office for the Registration Division of Gaspé in Register B, Volume IV at two o'clock in the afternoon on the twenty third day of October, one thousand eight hundred and sixty.

And whereas it is expedient for avoidance of any possible doubt in the premises that the above mentioned deed of Gift should be cancelled and another in proper form made and passed in lieu thereof.

Now therefore it is hereby declared, covenanted and agreed by and between the said Moses F.Gibaut and Joseph E.Tuzo, acting as aforesaid, that the deed of Gift above mentioned and specified shall be null and void and of no effect to all intents and purposes from the date thereof forever.

And now the said James Robin, Philip Gosset and Charles William Robin, hereunto present and stipulating by their lawful attorney, the said Moses F.Gibaut, being moved by zeal for the advancement of Religion, did as by these presents they do give, grant, assign, convey and confirm "a titre de Donation entre-vifs,....simple et irrevocable et en la meilleur maniere et forme que Donation puisse se faire et valoir", with warranty against all gifts, debts, dowers, hypothecs, evictions, alienations and all troubles whatsoever, unto the Reverend Silas Crosse, Incumbent of the Parish of Percé, observing and professing the Doctrine and Discipline of the United Church of England and Ireland and unto the said Joseph E.Tuzo, Church Warden in office of the said Parish of Percé hereunto present and accepting hereof for themselves and their successors in office, from henceforth forever, viz: a piece of land of one chain and eighty links in breadth by five chains and fifty-five links in depth containing one acre superficie, situate in the Township of Percé, at the place called "Stibre's Hill", bounded on the North by the road known as "Irishtown Road", on the East and South by lands belonging to the Donors and on the West by land occupied by George Molloy.

The said piece or parcel of land is hereby given and granted for the several uses, trusts and purposes, and for no other, hereinafter mentioned, that is to say: That the said piece or parcel of land shall be set apart from all profane uses and be dedicated and consecrated to the Honor and Worship of God and more particularly that a part of the said piece or parcel of land shall be used for the building thereon of a Church or Chapel to be used for and as a place of Public Worship according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the United Church of England and Ireland for all persons residing in the parish of St. Michel de Percé who shall profess and observe the Doctrine and Discipline of the said United Church of England and Ireland, and the other part of the said piece or parcel of land to be used as a Church Yard for the use of the said Church.

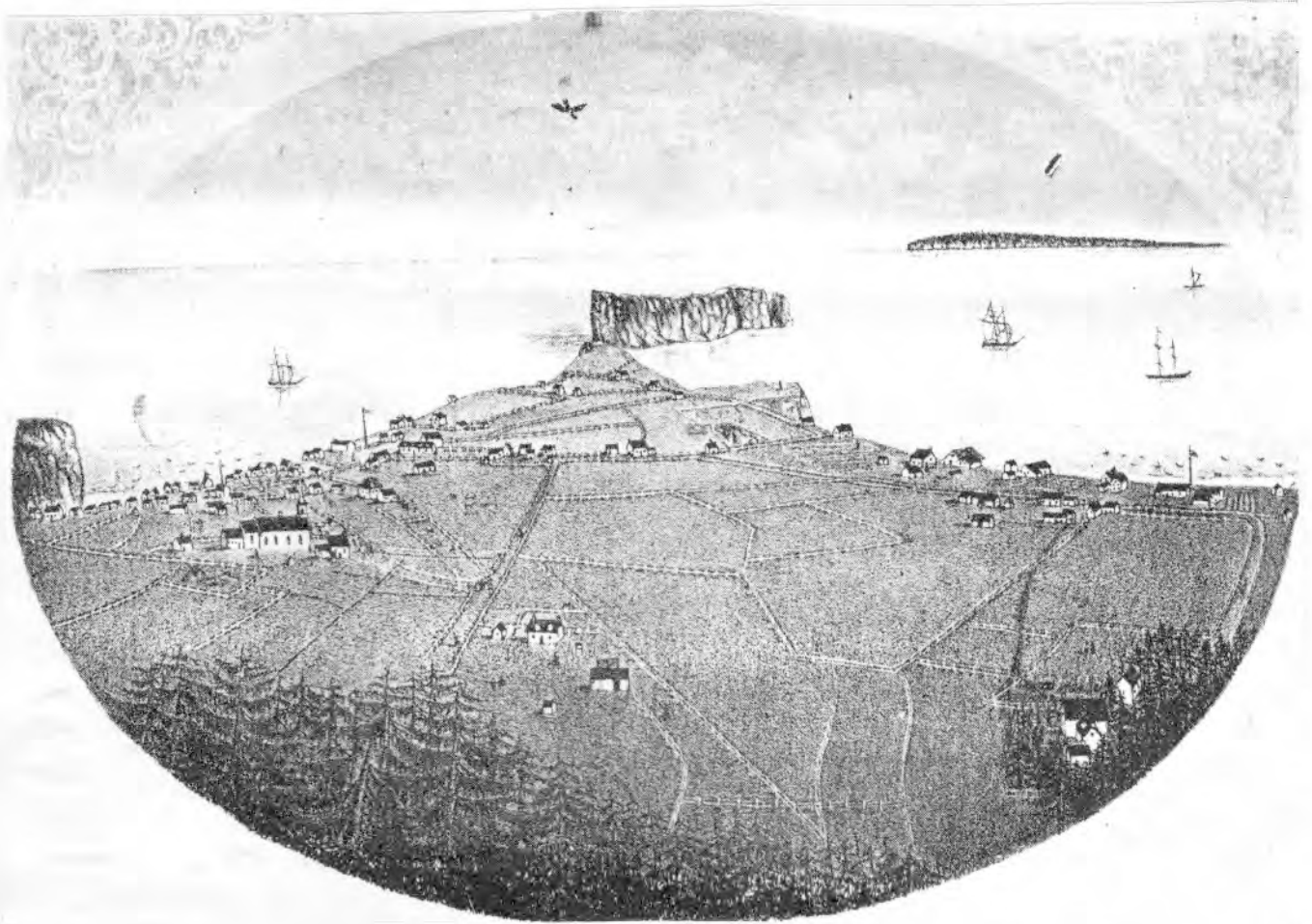
To the Donors the said piece or parcel of land belonging by purchase from John Baker dit Blondin.

To have and to hold the said piece or parcel of land together with all and singular the rights, members and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging, or in any wise appertaining unto the aforesaid Reverend Silas Crosse and Joseph E. Tuzo in their aforesaid capacity and to their successors in office, forever.

Thus done and passed at Percé this third day of May, one thousand eight hundred and sixty two, in faith and testimony whereof the said parties, acting as aforesaid, have to these presents, first duly read, set and subscribed their names and signatures in the presence of us the said Justice of the Peace and witnesses also hereunto subscribing.

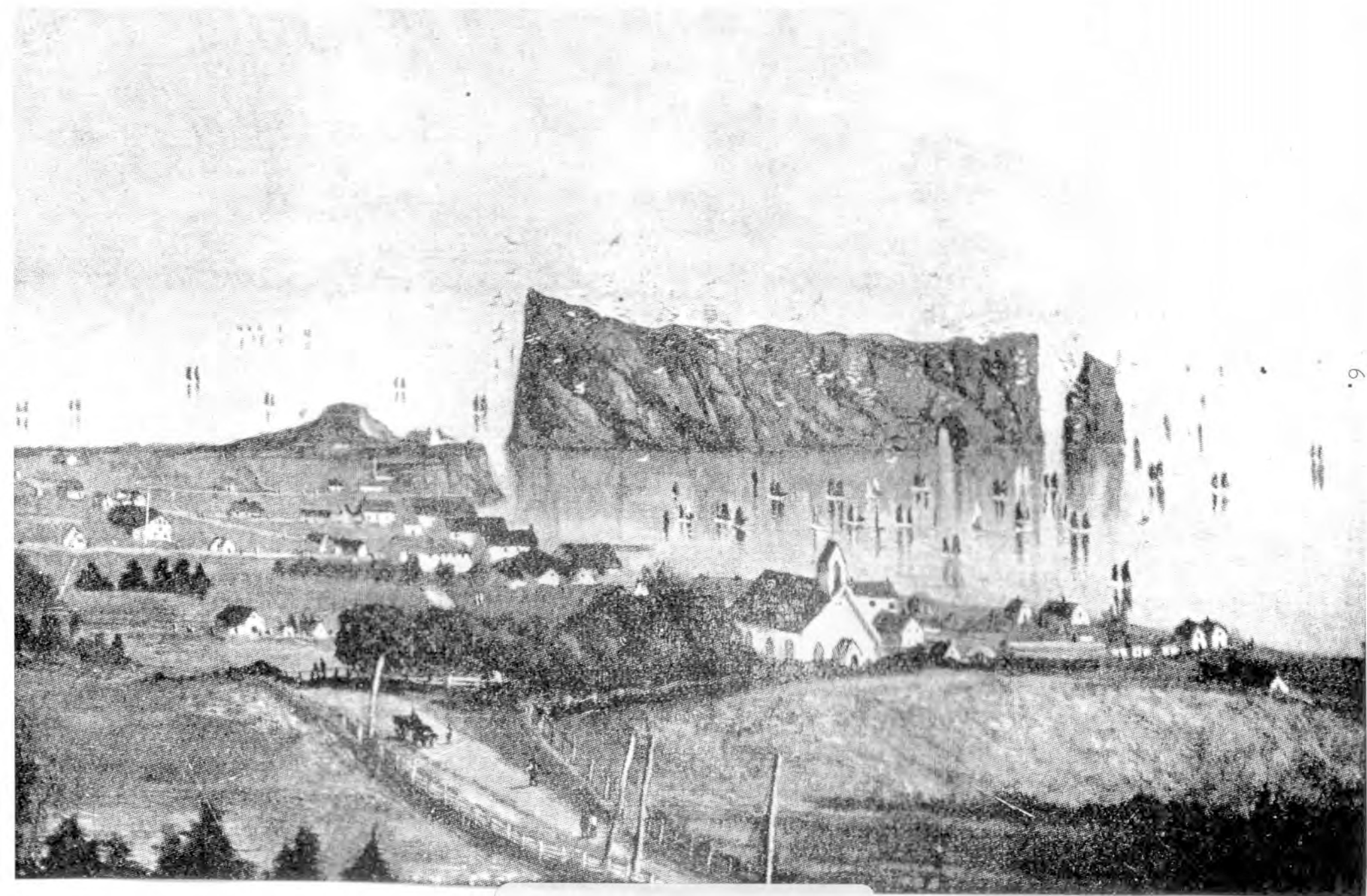
Chas. R. Payne (Witness)
Philippe Hacquoil (Witness)

(Signatures of)
Moses F. Gibaut (Attorney for Donors)
S. Crosse, (Incumbent)
Jos. E. Tuzo (Church Warden)
J. T. Connick J. P.



Percé's first Anglican Church was located on "CAP CANON", the cape to the RIGHT of CAP MONT JOLI adjacent to PERCÉ ROCK. The first Protestant cemetery was located beside the Church.

In the above panorama of old Percé, the second Anglican Church can be seen at the lower right.



6.

PERCÉ'S SECOND ANGLICAN
CHURCH

178



ST. PAUL'S - PERCÉ