

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE PHILIP BECHERVAISE SUCCESSION

Disposition of the estate of the noted
Gaspé shipbuilder, Philip Bechervaise,
and his wife, Margaret Julia Coffin.

KEN ANNETT

THE PHILIP BECHERVAISE SUCCESSION

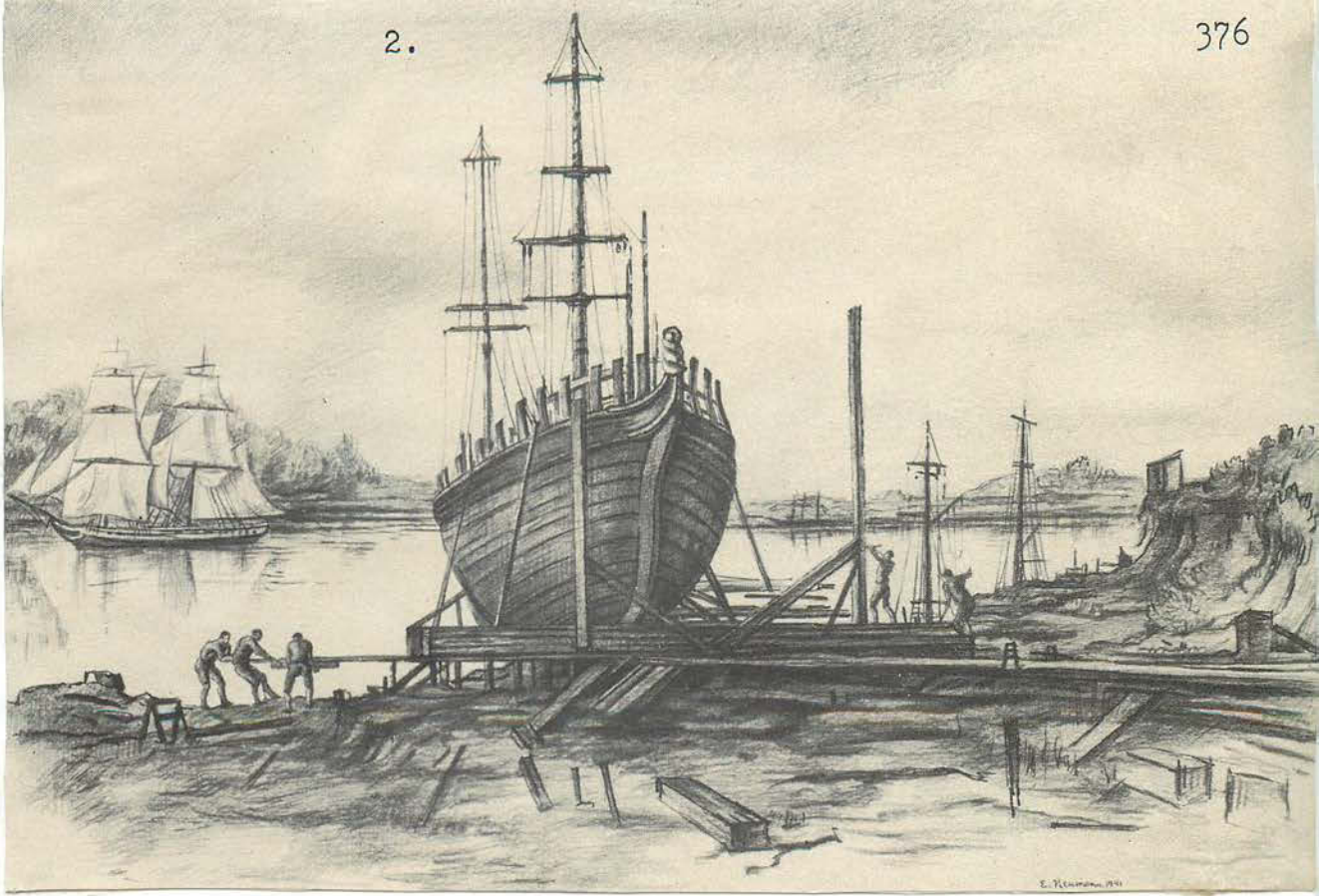
FOREWORD

Article #106 of this GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY series, PHILIP BECHERVAISE- GASPÉ SHIPBUILDER, recalled something of the background of Philip, a native of St.Aubin, Jersey, his settlement at Gaspé in 1820, his marriage to Margaret Julia Coffin in 1825 and his noted career as a Gaspé shipbuilder. This account was published in Volume 3 of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY and was the basis of a CBC RADIO broadcast on the programme, QUÉBEC A.M. hosted by Louise Penny on January 23rd.,1989. Included as part of the article was an Act of the prominent Quebec City Notaries, L.T. McPherson and E.B.Lindsay in November,1824 providing in much detail for the building at Gaspé by Philip Bechervaise of a 350 ton Bark at the price of £6 s10 per ton. The Quebec City merchant Charles William Ross acted as attorney for Philip Bechervaise. Long after the writing of article #106 it came to light that the wife of Charles William Ross, Annabella Stuart, and the wife of Henry O'Hara of Gaspé, Mary Stuart, were sisters. Both Ross and George Stuart,Sr. were active in Gaspé as merchants. The vessel above was being built by Philip Bechervaise for Edward O'Hara, brother of Henry O'Hara

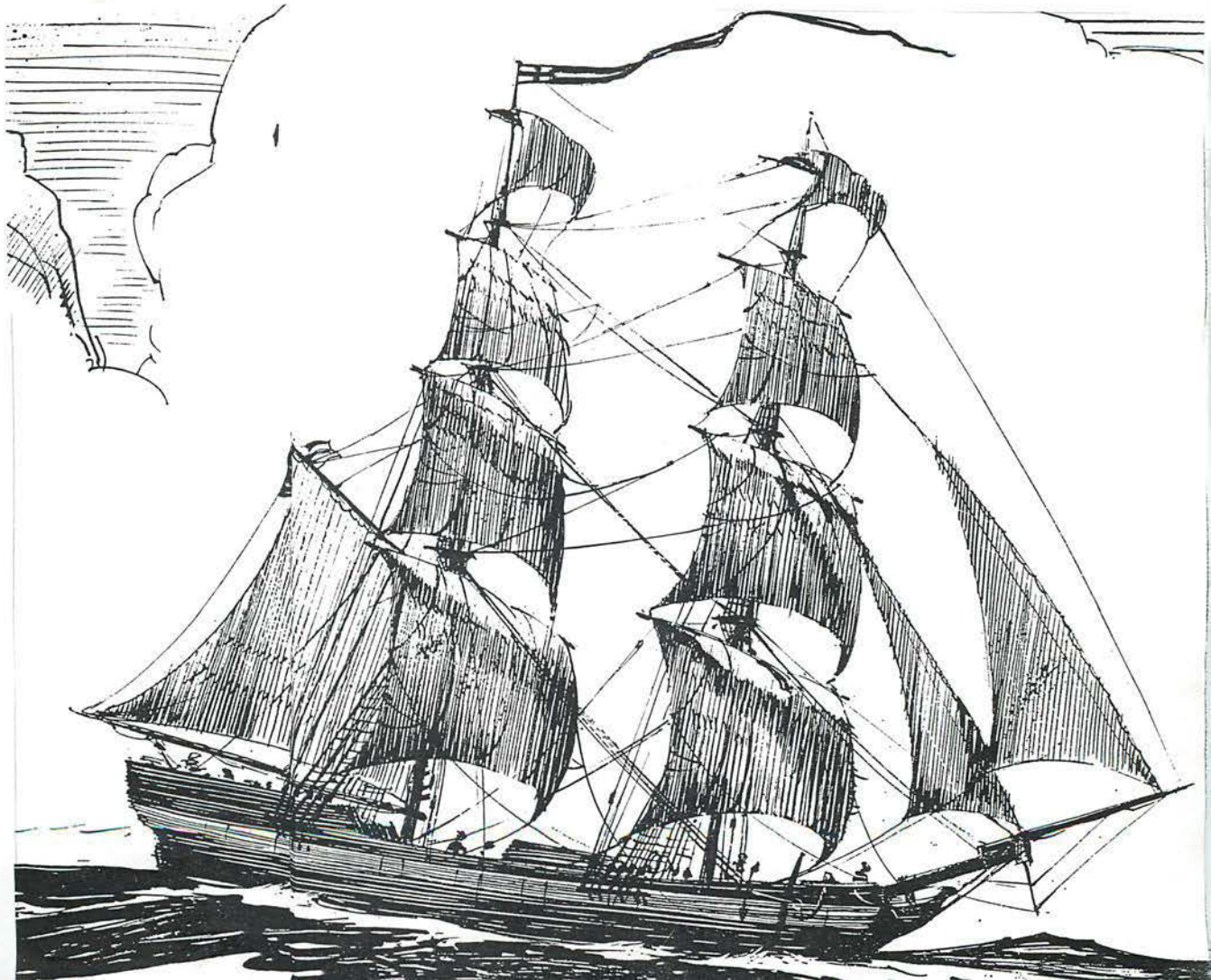
The aim of the following is to supplement the previous article #106 with more direct reference to the family of Philip and Margaret Coffin Bechervaise and to the Bechervaise property, including the Shipyard.

Philip Bechervaise had returned to Gaspé in 1820 after a dismal decade as prisoner of Napoleonic France. It is likely that it was his early shipyard referred to in the following extract from the article, DR.VON IFFLAND IN GASPÉ, published by SPEC in the issue of August 15,1977:

"...At the beginning of June (1821)when it was very warm, and the air very dry, some persons set fire imprudently in various wood lots so as to clear land, and the most terrible consequences followed. Fire consumed the woods for a league and a half (1 league = 2.5 miles approx.) and burned down five houses; indeed the fire was



IN MEMORIAM OF THE SKILLED GASPÉ SHIPBUILDERS



"so violent that it menaced the woods of all the land bordering Gaspé Bay. The Protestant (Anglican) church was birned to the ground four hours after the congregation had met in it for Service AND HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE POPULACE, A VESSEL IN THE SHIP-YARD WOULD HAVE SUFFERED THE SAME FATE....."

FAMILY
OF PHILIP
AND MARGARET It was in 1825 that Philip Bechervaise married Margaret Julia, the eldest daughter of Benjamin and Christianna Patterson Coffin, then 18 years of age. On the paternal side Margaret was the granddaughter of Abraham and Hannah Ascah Coffin while her maternal grandparents were John and Margaret Ascah Patterson. It is of interest to recall the family born to Philip and Margaret from 1825 to 1851.

* 1825	PHILIP SAMUEL.	MARRIED ELEANOR LANGUEDOC,
1827	BENJAMIN.	MARRIED MARY PATTERSON.
1829	MARGARET.	MARRIED FELIX COFFIN.
1831	MARY CHARLOTTE.	MARRIED FREDERICK DUMARESQ.
1833	ELLEN JANE	MARRIED WILLIAM PATTERSON.
1835	JANE.	MARRIED GEORGE COFFIN.
1837	CHRISTIANNA.	MARRIED JOHN WILSON.
1839	JOHN JAMES .	MARRIED ANNIE ALGER.
1841	SOPHIA LOUISA.	MARRIED BENJAMIN ANNETT.
1842	ISABELLA.	
1845	EMILY.	DIED YOUNG.
1847	CHARLOTTE.	DIED YOUNG.
1848	JAMES WILSON.	
1851	WILLIAM GEORGE	MARRIED CHARLOTTE PYE.

[George, son of William George, born 1902 married Evelyn Hall of New Carlisle, and resided at New Carlisle.]

RENOUNCIATION OF SUCCESSION OF THE LATE PHILIP BECHERVAISE
AND WIFE BY PH. S. BECHERVAISE AND OTHERS IN FAVOR OF
WILLIAM AND JAMES BECHERVAISE. 4 MAY, 1878.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC On this the fourth day of May in the year
DISTRICT OF GASPE of Our Lord One thousand Eight hundred and
 seventy eight, at Gaspé in the District of
 Gaspé aforesaid, Before me, John Pettener
Richmond, Clerk in Holy Orders, acting in this behalf as by law
duly authorized

Personally came and appeared Philip Samuel Bechervaise,
Benjamin Bechervaise, John James Bechervaise, all of the Town-
ship of Gaspé South, farmers, Mary Charlotte Bechervaise, wife
of Frederick Marett Dumarasq and the said Frederick Marett
Dumaresq to assist his said wife; Ellen Jane Bechervaise, widow
by the first marriage of the late William Patterson and by a
second marriage of the late Abraham Coffin, in their lifetime
both of the aforesaid Township of Gaspé South; Sophia Louisa
Bechervaise and Isabella Bechervaise of Gaspé South, of the
first Part,
and James Wilson Bechervaise and William George Bechervaise,
also of Gaspé Bay South, farmers, of the second Part.

The Parties of the first Part for and in consideration of the
natural affection they have for their brothers, James Wilson
Bechervaise and William George Bechervaise, the Parties of the
second Part and to avoid all legal and other proceedings and the
cost of the same, do hereby and by these presents renounce and
relinquish for themselves and their heirs and assigns, forever,
and grant and bequeath unto the said James Wilson Bechervaise
and William George Bechervaise, their heirs and assigns, forever,
all claims, interests, rights and privileges generally which they
may have inherited and which may have accrued to them by the
demise of their late father, Philip Bechervaise and their late
mother, Margaret Julia Coffin, in their lifetime of Gaspé Bay
South aforesaid, on the lands, tenements, farm stock, agricultural
implements and all moveables generally belonging to the late
Philip Bechervaise and the late Margaret Julia Coffin his wife at
the time of their decease and principally on a certain lot of land

situated, lying and being in the said Township of Gaspe Bay South and known as Lot number twelve in the First Range of Gaspe South, and on an acre of land more or less known as "The Shipyard" and bounded as follows, that is to say, in front by the waters of the River York, in the rear by the land owned by Willian Annett, on the East by the Estate of the late Benjamin Patterson and on the West by the lands owned by William Annett , and on a Lot of land situated on the North West Arm, being the portion of the Estate of the late Benjamin Coffin in his lifetime of Gaspe South and deeded by him to his daughter the late Margaret Julia Coffin -

The whole on the following conditions:

Firstly, that the aforesaid James Wilson Bechervaise and William George Bechervaise shall afford a comfortable home as in their parents lifetime to their unmarried sisters, Sophia Louisa Bechervaise and Isabella Bechervaise until their marriage and shall then give them, free of all cost, each one cow and two sheep. Secondly, that the said James Wilson Bechervaise and William George Bechervaise shall and do hereby make themselves responsible for all just debts of the Estate of their late father, Philip Bechervaise and their late mother, Margaret Julia Coffin.

Done and passed before me, John Pettener Richmond, Clerk in Holy Orders and subscribing witnesses at Gaspe on the day and date first herein written, having been first duly read.

WITNESSES

James B. Coffin
George Annett

SIGNATURES

Philip Samuel Bechervaise
Benjamin Bechervaise
John James Bechervaise
Mary Charlotte Dumaresq
Frederic Marett Dumaresq
Ellen Jane Coffin
Sophia Louisa Bechervaise
James Wilson Bechervaise
William George Bechervaise

In testimonium Veritatis

John Pettener Richmond, Clk.