

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

"...HEREBY GIVE AND BEQUEATH..."

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LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT-ABRAHAM

COFFIN

Ken Annett

"...HEREBY GIVE AND BEQUEATH"

ABRAHAM COFFIN'S LAST WILL AND  
TESTAMENT

PREAMBLE

A previous article of the "Gaspé of Yesterday" series, "THE COFFIN FAMILY OF GASPE", (No. #079 - Vol.3) recalled the background and highlights of this pioneer family of Gaspé Bay. It explored summarily the historic links of the Coffin family to Normandy in France, Devon in England and Nantucket Island in the American colonies. Family records exist for some seven hundred years prior to the settlement of Abraham Coffin at Gaspé Bay.

The first formal occasion to establish claim to the lands held in Gaspé Bay by Abraham Coffin came after his death when, in 1819, his eldest son, Benjamin, came before the Gaspé Land Commission, sitting at Douglstown, to assert his father's 600 acres claim to lots on the South Side of the North West Arm of Gaspé Bay at L'Anse-aux-Cousins. Another claimant for land there was William Annett, one of the four sons of the Peninsula pioneer, William Annett and his wife, Elizabeth Siddon. Benjamin Coffin's wife was Christianna, daughter of John and Margaret Ascah Patterson. They had a family of three sons and six daughters over the years 1807 to 1829.

FAMILY OF BENJAMIN AND CHRISTIANNA

MARGARET JULIA(1807);SOPHIA HANNAH (1809); JOHN (1812); ELEANOR MARIA (1815); CHARLOTTE (1817); ANNABELLA (1820); BENJAMIN (1822); ABRAHAM (1825); EMILY HENRIETTA (1829)

This article recalls the Last Will and Testament of Abraham who married Annabella Annett

"...HEREBY GIVE AND BEQUEATH..."

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF

ABRAHAM COFFIN

1825-1894

DATE OF WILL- 20 December,1893.Codicil 7 December,1894

DATE OF DEATH- 9 December,1894

NOTARY- Rev.John P.Richmond.  
Incumbent,Church of England Mission for  
Gaspé Basin.

WITNESSES- Felix J.Annett  
Joseph Patterson

SUMMARY OF  
PROVISIONS - Gave and bequeathed the following properties  
in the following proportions, to his several  
children hereinafter mentioned.

First the property at L'Anse aux Cousins on  
which the family reside;

To his son James B.Coffin, a lot of land on  
which the said James B.Coffin has built a  
house and made other improvements, Bounded  
as follows,that is to say;

North and South by two Brooks, East by the  
junction of the same Brooks and on the West  
by land owned by the heirs of the late Char-  
lotte Coffin, wife of Frederick Annett,with  
right of way to the Queen's Highway, and  
marked on the annexed Plan as letter "A"

PROVISIONS

(ctd)

To the son John T.Coffin a lot of land on which the said John T.Coffin has built a house and made improvements, bounded as follows, that is to say;

In Front by the waters of the Dartmouth River; and on the North by the waters of the Dartmouth; on the South by land occupied and built upon by A.McGregor Coffin, and herein given to him; and on the West by the heirs of the late Charlotte Coffin and having on the West line a breadth of Seventy five yards and one half yard from the centre of the Queen's Highway; together with the right of way over the adjoining part of the property to a Well, and the right of erecting a Well-house over it.

To his son A.McGregor Coffin, a portion of land on which he has built a house and made improvements, adjoining the lot herein before given to John T.Coffin, having a frontage on the Queen's Highway of One hundred and three yards, and bounded as follows that is to say; In Front by the waters of the Dartmouth River, on the North by the land herein given to John T.Coffin, on the South by the land to be herein given to his son Walter Coffin, and in the Rear by the heirs of the late Charlotte Coffin; having also on the rear line the breadth of One hundred and three yards; with Right of way over the property given to John T.Coffin to the High-way; and over the adjoining property to the Brook.

PROVISIONS

(ctd)

To his son Walter Coffin the house and barn, and a lot of land having a frontage of Eighty five yards on the Queen's Highway, to be measured from the Brook or Western boundary of the property, and bounded as follows, that is to say:

In the Front by the waters of the Dartmouth River, On the South by the East Brook, on the North by the land herein given to A. McGregor Coffin, West by the heirs of the late Charlotte Coffin, having on the Western line the distance between the Brook and the Western line of the lot of A. McGregor Coffin; with a reservation in favor of the said Walter Coffin of Thirty feet around the Barn and with a reservation of a Right of way, in favor of A. McGregor Coffin to reach land to be hereinafter mentioned; and with the right reserved to the other sons to use the Threshing Mill, the Ice-house and Store on the Bank, in common with the said Walter Coffin.

The balance of the Back land, namely Three hundred and forty feet to be divided equally between his sons A. McGregor Coffin and Walter Coffin, with right of way over intervening portions of the property.

And to his daughter Agnes, wife of Joseph Cass, for her son Alvin, that portion of the homestead held by purchase from his Sister, Ellen

5.

PROVISIONS

(ctd)

Coffin, having a breadth of two hundred and sixty five feet and bounded as follows, that is to say;

On the East by the land belonging to Emily Coffin; on the West by the land belonging to the heirs of his sister, Margaret Coffin; on the front by the waters of the Dartmouth River; and in the Rear by a reservation of Seven Acres which is hereby given to his son James B. Coffin.

Secondly, The Grist Mill on Mill Brook, together with all right of way, or of Water power or other right thereon whatsoever to him belonging, he doth give and bequeath to all his sons, provided that they may together re-build the Mill and use the Water-power, or any one of them may do so with the consent of the others or by purchase of their shares at a fair valuation, provided also that the others shall not have the power to prevent such rebuilding and utilization, after refusal on their part, and after having had the offer of a fair value for their shares.

Thirdly, Lot Number "E", Dartmouth Range of Gaspé South, held by him by Letters Patent, except the portion sold by him to Cyril DeRoy, he gives and bequeaths as follows; To A. McGregor Coffin a frontage of two acres

6.

PROVISIONS

(ctd)

by the depth of the lot according to Patent, bounded as follows, that is to say;

On the East by the heirs of Margaret Coffin, on the West by the Eastern line of the property of Cyril DeRoy and an extension of that line to meet the Rear line, In Front by the waters of the Dartmouth River and in the Rear by waste lands of the Crown.

To John T. Coffin the part of the said lot to the rear of the part sold to the said Cyril DeRoy.

To his son Walter Coffin the remainder of the said lot having a frontage of one acre and three fourths of an acre and bounded as follows, that is to say;

On the East partly by the land of Cyril DeRoy and partly by the land of John T. Coffin, on the West by the property of Peter Jacque, in Front by the water and in the Rear by waste lands of the Crown.

Fourthly, to his son John T. Coffin he gives and bequeaths the whole of Lot number Eight in the Dartmouth Range of Gaspe South, for which he has letters Patent.

Fifthly, all that part of Lot number Sixteen in the Dartmouth Range of Gaspe South, purchased from Patrick Kenney, he doth give and bequeath unto his sons A. McGregor Coffin and Walter Coffin in equal proportions.

PROVISIONS

(ctd)

between A. McGregor Coffin, who is to have the East end and Walter Coffin, who is to have the West end.

Also Lot number Fifteen in the same Island containing according to the same Deed Twenty two acres, as follows;

To his daughter Charlotte, Four acres, that is to say One acre frontage on Saint George River and four acres in depth, on the line between lots Fourteen and Fifteen.

Eighteen acres, that is to say the balance of Lot Fifteen after Charlotte Coffin's Four acres have been taken out to his four sons, James B., John T., A. McGregor and Walter, to be divided equally between them.

Ninethly, All monies, Bank Stock, shares and other securities of any kind he gives and bequeaths to his Wife, if she survives him, and if not, then the said property above mentioned under this clause to be divided equally among all his children, after the payment of all his lawful debts.

And for the execution of this his Last Will and Testament he doth hereby appoint his sons James B. Coffin and John T. Coffin as his Executors.



IN  
TESTIMONIUM  
VERITATIS

THUS DONE AND PASSED AT GASPE VILLAGE  
AFORESAID, BEFORE ME JOHN P. RICHMOND, CLK.,  
AND SUBSCRIBING WITNESSES, ON THE DAY AND  
MONTH AND YEAR FIRST ABOVE WRITTEN, AND  
SIGNED BY THE AFORESAID ABRAHAM COFFIN  
WITH ME AND THE SAID WITNESSES, THESE  
PRESENTS FIRST READ ACCORDING TO LAW

(Signature) Abraham Coffin

Felix J. Annett

John P. Richmond,  
Clk.

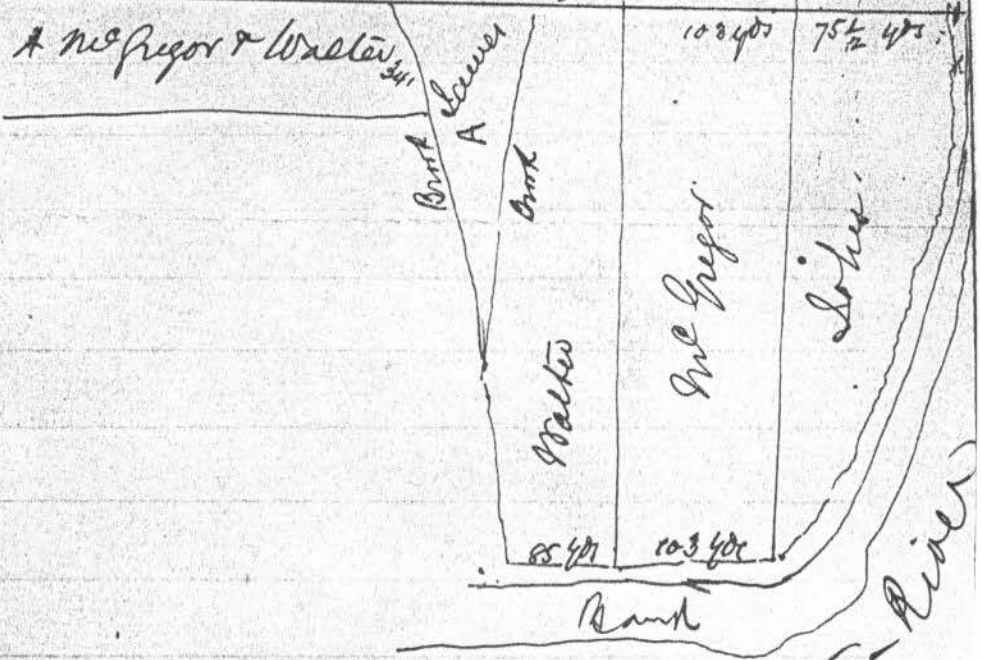
Joseph Patterson

[ APPENDED IS THE PLAN TO EXPLAIN THE  
POSITION OF DIVISION OF THE HOMESTEAD ]

Plan to explain the position of division of the Homestead,  
with the Initials of the Testator and parties hereunto

A.C. F.F. & P. J.P.B

Mrs. Coffin
Mrs. Coffin
Mrs. Coffin
Mrs. Margaret Coffin (Mrs. Rehevernes)
James James   Agnes Coffin for Alvin Case
Lucy Coffin
Mrs. Charlotte Coffin



Dartmouth River

LAST WILL OF ABRAHAM COFFINCODICIL

Province of Quebec  
 County and District of Gaspé  
 Gaspé Village

On this the seventh day of December  
 in the year of our Lord one thousand  
 eight hundred and ninety four, Before me, John P. Richmond, Clerk in  
 Holy Orders, residing at Gaspé Village and acting herein in default  
 of a Notary Public; and before the undersigned witnesses specially  
 called for the execution of these presents; personally appeared  
 Abraham Coffin of Gaspé Village, farmer, Who did declare and say as  
 follows; that he, having made his last Will and Testament in the year  
 of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety three before the  
 above mentioned John P. Richmond, Clk., doth hereby make and declare  
 the following a codicil to the above mentioned Will -

First, having purchased Lot Thirty Eight in the First Range of  
 Gaspé South, he hereby wills that his Executors shall reserve one acre  
 along the water frontage of the said lot, together with the riparian  
 rights on the York River and the right of way thereto for the benefit  
 of his four sons in equal shares and that the balance of the said lot  
 shall be sold by his Executors, at their discretion, so as to demand the  
 best price, and the proceeds of such sale shall be equally divided  
 between his sons and daughters.

Secondly, that the share with Quebec Steamship Company shall be sold  
 in the same manner and the proceeds be divided between his sons.

That the Sewing Machine purchased last by him shall be the property  
 of his daughter Charlotte, together with one cow; that his daughter  
 Euphemia shall have one heifer from the stock and one or two sheep;

that the last mare purchased by him from Metis shall be the property of his sons Walter and McGregor Coffin; that the balance of the stock on the farm shall be divided between John,McGregor and Walter Coffin, his sons,in the way they are acquainted with and lastly the remainder of his property after paying his just and lawful debts shall be divided equally between his four sons above mentioned.

DONE AND PASSED before me,John P.Richmond,Clk and subscribing witnesses on the day and year above first written and signed by the said Abraham Coffin in our presence who with presence of each other have signed these presents,first read according to law

(Signatures)

Felix J.Annett

Abraham Coffin

Reuben A.Coffin

John P.Richmond,Clk.

IN TESTIMONIUM VERITATIS

*Abraham Coffin*

*Felix J Annett  
Reuben A Coffin*

*Witnesses*

*In Testimonium Veritatis;*

*John P Richmond Clk*