

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

O'HARA LORE CONTINUED

A recapitulation of the O'Hara family story and introduction of fascinating new material from the notebook of Martha Maria Collas Walker.

KEN ANNETT

O'HARA LORE CONTINUEDRECAPITULATION

In June, 1983, SPEC published GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY article No.20, "THE O'HARA FAMILY". The life and times of Felix O'Hara, pioneer settler of today's town of Gaspé, has elicited continuing interest and research. A subsequent SPEC article by Mr. R.J. Alexander, "O'HARA GRAVEYARD TO BECOME HERITAGE SITE", reported on the work of Cynthia Patterson in identifying the site and persuading the Mayor and Council of Gaspé to preserve it for its historical value. More recently, a 1995 SPEC article with the headline - "HERITAGE GASPÉ RESTORES O'HARA CEMETERY", reported on the work of Carolyn and James Caputo, Lester and Velma Coffin in restoring the site. It is of interest to note that on a detailed map of Gaspé Bay made in 1815 by Joseph Bouchette, Surveyor General, the location of the present town of Gaspé is shown as O'HARA HAMLET.

A number of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY articles refer to the O'Hara families:

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SPEC</u>	<u>IN BRIEF</u>
18	EARLY JUDGES	21-02-80	Felix O'Hara as Judge of Court of Common Pleas for Gaspé and Bay Chaleur. 1779.
19	LAND CLAIMS-GASPÉ BAY	01-05-80	Record of O'Hara claims before Land Commission.
27	SPRING GROVE	06-07-82	Wife of Rev. William Arnold was Maria O'Hara.
43	EARLY TOURIST...	29-07-81	Felix O'Hara asked by Governor Haldimand to assist the Loyalist, Capt. Justus Sherwood in locating sites for Loyalists to settle in Gaspesia.
45	COX PERIOD LETTERS		Exchange of letters between Felix O'Hara, Gov. Haldimand, and others at time of War of the American Revolution.

NUMBER	TITLE	SPEC	IN BRIEF
56	EARLY GASPÉ SCHOOLS	06-01-82	O'Hara involvement in pioneer schools.
73	ROBERT AND ANNABELLA STEWART AND FAMILY		Linked by marriage with O'Hara family.
76	POSSESSION AND ENJOYMENT OF LANDS.		Details of O'Hara land claims in 1819.
100	THE PABOS SEIGNIORY		Role of Felix O'Hara and his heirs.
157	GASPESIAN TIMBER TRADE.		Henry O'Hara involved.
167	1827-1830 REGISTER OF REV.ARNOLD.		Entries for O'Hara family.
189	GASPÉ MILITIA OFFICERS		Lieut.-Col. Henry O'Hara
206	DR.GEORGE DOUGLAS		Role re Pabos Seigniory.
228	O'HARA'S POINT		The Point at entrance to Gaspé Basin.
235	1833 INQUIRY ON GASPÉ		References to O'HARA families.
264	HONOURABLE MEMBERS FOR GASPEIA.1792-1990.		Edward O'Hara. M.L.A. Gaspé
282	GASPÉ-MIRAMICHI LINK	21-01-92	Mary Anna Cort O'Hara
287	MORE O'HARA LORE		The evolving story of the O'Hara families of Gaspé.
319	THE EARLY CHURCH IN GASPEIA.	24-04-94	Bishop Inglis meets with Felix O'Hara in Gaspé. 1789.
335	"CROANS" - A GASPÉ BASIN LOT.		Estate of Felix O'Hara
344	THE STREETS OF GASPÉ		O'Hara Street.

O'HARA LORE CONTINUED

NEW AND
SIGNIFICANT
O'HARA
FAMILY
RECORD

The specific objective of this 371st article of the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY series is to place on record additional information on the O'Hara family of Gaspé.

It was in February, 1992 that Mr. Richard Jesson of North Vancouver, British Columbia, wrote to say that he had an old notebook with O'Hara family information written by his direct ancestor, Martha Maria Collas Walker, daughter of Eleanora O'Hara Collas, the wife of Francis Collas and one of the daughters of Felix and Martha O'Hara, pioneer settlers of Gaspé Basin. Mr. Jesson kindly forwarded a photocopy of this notebook to GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY as reproduced below.

While the recollections of Martha Maria Collas Walker differ in minor details from other O'Hara family sources, her remarkable account is a precious and primary family record. Indeed it should serve to remind us that many homes in Gaspesia may have similar family records tucked away in trunks and attics - documents that should be publicized and preserved. The loss of such family data is a loss of our heritage.

Such recall of the O'Hara family that has been made possible to date is due to the discovery of records, such as the notebook account of Martha Maria Collas Walker, that follows.

My Grand Father on the
 Maternal side was Felix
 O'Donoe. His wife Martha
 McCormic, or some such name.
 They were obliged to fly
 from Ireland during
 the Rebellion & settled
 at Gaspé, District of
 Lower Canada in 17...
 date unknown. Govern-
 ment gave him as much
 Land as he chose &
 created him a Judge &
 gave him the power
 of marrying & imprisoning,
 in short he had the power
 of doing everything
 except "Hanging".

How many of his children
 were born in Ireland I know
 not. The eldest son,
 Hugh, married Mary
 Ann Cort of Mirimiche
 and granddaughter of Sir
 (something) Baird of
 Ochmaiden, Maiden Castle
 or some such
 name in Scotland. Her mother

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a very beautiful woman
 married Mr. Cort against
 her Parents wish &
 was disinherited

Second Son was Oliver
 who married ^{Annabella} ~~Patty~~
 Stuart, they had
 Felix, who died at 19
 4 Children were burnt
 to death, owing to the
 house taking fire dur-
 ing the night in winter
 Anna, who married
 a Mr. Richie Merchant
 of Liverpool, in Liverpool,
 died and left
 3 or 4 children

4
 Patty, who married *
 John Wilkie, son of
 the Rev. Wilkie
 Scotch Church

John Wilkie died
 in 61 or 62 leaving
 two daughters, who
 with their mother are
 living at Sorel Dist.
 of Gaspe

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3 Son, Edward, who
 married Miss Cameron
 she died without child
 in a few years - Edward
 entered the Army, ~~under~~
~~the~~ having been a ~~Merchant~~
 Merchant, or rather, ~~was~~
 being brought up for
 one, after a few years
 he came before the
 notice of the Late
 Duke of Kent, who
 took a great liking
 to him & made him
 his A.D.C. when they
 were quartered at
 Halifax, Nova Scotia.

6 Halifax, Nova Scotia
 He never lost sight
 of my Uncle, ^{until} but Duke
 Uncle Edward left me
 £1000, which he had lent
 to a young Nephew, (Edw
 O'Hara). Son of his brother
 Hugh O'Hara, young
 Edward lost it all in
 a gambling house in
 New York one night and

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that time he was never
heard of but it was said
that he shot himself

This was before I married
Uncle Henry O'Hara was
his brother's Executor &
had his Will - Mrs Helen
McCallum has it, as she is his niece

Henry 4th Son, married
Mary Stuart had
Henry, who died young
Helen, married to Duncan
McCallum, (Quebec) no
children - Martha
Marianne etc.

and died in a few years
Margaret married
to Doctor Farrah
had, Mary Helen ^{now 16} &
in a few years both died
& left their little girl with
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children - Martha
married Mr. (Thomas Jackson)
and died in a few years.
Margaret married to
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had Mary Helen, now 16, and
in a few years both died
and left their little girl with
Helen McCallum.

At Levis, on Sunday, the 26th instant, Dun-
can McCallum, Esq., aged 75 years.
The funeral will leave the residence of Allen
McCallum, Esq., on Tuesday, the 28th inst.,
at 2 p.m., for St. Andrew's Church, Quebec,
thence to Mount Hermon Cemetery. Friends
and acquaintances are invited to attend with-
out further notice.

Quebec
January
1873

189
On July 6th, Helen Maria O'Hara, widow of
Duncan McCallum, Esq., aged 81 years.

8
 Eldest daughter
 Bridget, who married
 James Stewart of New Brunswick
 & Prince Edward Island, had
 Felix, Robert and Henry,
 all died young & unmarried.
 2^d daughter, Eliza, died young.
 3rd daughter, Eleonora,
 (my mother) who married
 Francis Collas of St.
 Martins, Island of
 Jersey - had Felix,
 who died an infant,
 Martha Maria, myself,
 Julia Susanna and Louisa
 Frances, both dead.
 both dead of new Brunswick

Uncle Hugh O'Hara's
 eldest son, Felix, entered
 the Army and died at Ceylon,
 unmarried, in the 16th
 Regiment of Foot. Charles
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died in New York
 unmarried, Hugh
 also, in Nova Scotia
 Brian married Miss
 of New York
 has several children
 Carlotta, Mary Ann, Henry, Robert

10 Jane, the eldest daughter
 of Hugh & Mary Ann O'Hara
 married Mr. McConnel
 at Gaspe, had Maria
 who died in Quebec
 Brian, & Bruce
 one of them an Engineer
 in Montreal

Maria, Arnold, next
 left Julia, since
 married to the Rev.
 F. Boyle at Magdalene
 Island has 4 daughters

2 Caroline who married
 Mr. Murray in the B.N.A.
 Bank, has one child
 3 Jane Arnold not married
 living with Mr. Murray
 in Hamilton, Canada
 since married to Mr.
 Kerr of Montreal, kin

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 Maria Arnold next had Julia,
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 Islands and has six daughters.

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 Mr. Murray in the B.N.A.
 Bank, has one child, Jane
 Jane Arnold, not married,
 living with Mrs. Murray
 in Hamilton, Canada West.
 Since married to Mr. Kerr
 of Montreal, kin

MARRIED:
 At Trinity Church, Buffalo, on the 9th inst., by the
 Rev. Edward Ingersoll, D.D., Rector; William Hast-
 ings Kerr, of Montreal, Esq., Advocate and Barrister,
 fourth daughter of the late Rev. Wm. Arnold, Gaspe
 Basin, O.E.

to Ted and Selina Stuart
 and Charlotte. Mr. Kerr
 died & they moved to
 Toronto the son
 is named Archibald
 & the daughter Lilla
 Helen McCallum is
 Uncle Henry O'Hara's eldest
 daughter & first cousin
 of Brian O'Hara
 Helen's mother had a
 sister married to Mr
 Thomas White of Quebec
 they died & left 3 children
 Thomas married & living
 in New York
 Helen White married to
 Judge Gardner, both
 are dead leaving 5
 children, the eldest a
 son, is a Lawyer who
 with his sisters are
 now living in Montreal
 Phillippa White married
 to Mr Leaycroft, ~~she~~
 is dead leaving 11

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 a son, is a Lawyer who, with
 his sister are now living
 in Montreal.

Phillippa White married
 to Mr. Leaycroft dead
 leaving 14 children but
 only 4 are living.

Husband died either
 January or February /81
 aged 74 or 75

At Levis, on Saturday last, Brian O'Hara, Esquire, in the 59th year of his age, a native of Levis, and for many years a merchant in Porto Rico. His funeral will take place from his late residence, Levis, on Tuesday next, the 4th inst, at 4 p.m. Friends and acquaintances will please accept this intimation. New York and Montreal papers will please copy.

June
1867
Quebec

DIED.

At Point Levis, Quebec, on the 14th Dec. inst., Carlotta F. O'Hara, eldest daughter of the late Brian O'Hara, Esq., late of Porto Rico, Merchant.

DIED - At his residence, "Maison de St. Martin," on the 25th instant, John Jervoise Le Vesconte Collas, Esq., in his 50th year. Friends will kindly receive this as an intimation.

Jersey

February 7/71

DIED - AT HIS RESIDENCE "MAISON DE ST MARTIN" ON 25TH INSTANT, JOHN JERVOISE, LE VESCONTE COLLAS, ESQ. IN HIS 50TH YEAR. FRIENDS WILL KINDLY RECEIVE THIS AS AN INTIMATION. FEB. 71

The Late W. H. Kerr.

To the Editor of the STAR:

SIR, - In your issue of the 13th inst. there appears an obituary notice of an eminent member of the Bar, Mr. Kerr, which contains several minor inaccuracies, as to his early Quebec career, which it may not be amiss to rectify. It is there stated that "his father was Collector of Customs at Quebec, and his grandfather, a judge in England. His early practice was made in Quebec, in partnership with Mr. Andrew Campbell, of that city, with whom he remained ten years." These particulars are incorrect.

1st. James Hastings Kerr, the father of our regretted *confrere*, William Warren Hastings Kerr, never was Collector of Customs at Quebec, but a successful and much respected land agent.

2nd. His grandfather, a distinguished English barrister, settled at Quebec in 1797. A friend of Scarlett, afterwards Lord Abinger, and Best, afterwards Lord Wynford, and Baron McLelland, of the Irish Bar, he obtained that year an Imperial appointment and was commissioned as Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court at Quebec on the 19th August, 1797; appointed judge of the King's Bench, in 1807; called to the Executive Council in 1812; to the Legislative Council in 1821; presided its senior judge in the Court of King's Bench, during the absence of Chief Justice Sewell in England in 1814, '15, '16, and later on as Speaker of the Legislative Council. He died in retirement, at Quebec, on 5th May, 1846.

3rd. W. H. Kerr's early practice was not made at Quebec but at Montreal, for which city he left, after completing his legal studies at Quebec, first with Mr. (later on Judge) Jean Chabot, and lastly with Mr. (now Sir) Andrew Stuart, Chief Justice, S. C. On 1st May, 1854, on leaving Montreal, he opened with a Quebec barrister, J. M. Le Moine, a law office in St. Peter St., Quebec, under the style and firm of Kerr & Le Moine. In May, 1858, this partnership having been dissolved by limitation, he entered into partnership with the friend of his youth and fellow student, both at Mr. Chabot and Mr. Stuart, Mr. Archibald (not Andrew) Campbell, now joint prothonotary, S. C. After practising, with success for a few years at Quebec under the well remembered style of Campbell & Kerr, he sought in Montreal a wider field for his splendid talents, where his success has been so marked, and soon made as many friends in the Commercial Metropolis of Canada as he had left behind in the Ancient Capital.

A MEMBER OF THE BAR.