

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE 25 PETITIONS OF 1793

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Historical record of 25 early  
petitioners for land in the  
County of Gaspé.

Ken Annett

THE 25 PETITIONS OF 1793FOREWORD

As might be expected, the early settlers in Gaspé were, for the most part, far too busy with the basic needs of shelter and food to be concerned with the formality of land claims. But as the end of the 18th century approached and the sons and daughters of the pioneer families came of age, the desire to establish formal claim to their lands became more urgent. In July, 1792, Edward O'Hara, son of the Pioneer settler of Gaspé Basin, Felix O'Hara, was elected as Member of the Quebec House of Assembly for the Province of Lower Canada, a post he would occupy until June, 1800. It is evident that he was approached by a number of his electors to help them obtain official claim to the lands they had settled or to other lands that they wish to obtain. Thus we have these 25 petitions of 1793 that Edward O'Hara placed before the LAND COMMITTEE.

In this record of petitions the reader will recognize family names that are still existing in Gaspé more than 200 years later, e.g. Ennet (Annett); Baker; Arbour; Price; Chicouane; Leavre (Lievre); Asketh (Ascah); Patterson; etc. Other names have disappeared from the Gaspé scene, but do appear in other records.

It will be noticed that some of these petitions are undated. A case in point of particular interest to the author is that of No. 395 by Wm Ennet (Annett). No written record of his death at Peninsula has been found as Gaspé had no Protestant clergyman until 1819. This record indicates that he was alive and a petitioner circa 1790. His eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was the wife of another Peninsula petitioner, Robert Asketh (Ascah)

Quebec 23 March 1793  
 Edward Mara  
 Including 25 Sections  
 of Land in the County  
 of Gaspe. Viz

180	395	Wm. Bennett	200	Acres
	396	Saml. Beaker	200	do
	397	Mortough Moriarty	8	do
	398	Geo. Sutherland	5	do
	399	John Baker Junr	200	do
	400	Jas. Calaghan	40	do
	401	Tho. Vidamour	8	do
	402	Tho. Fitz Gibbon	200	do
	403	Jos. Arbour	200	do
	404	Jas. Reynolds	200	do
	405	James Price	200	do
	406	Aubin Chicouane	300	do
	407	Peter Butler	20	do
	408	Daniel Leavre	1 1/2	do
	409	Wm. Moloney	400	do
	410	Robert Asheth	200	do
	411	Peter Patterson	200	do
	412	James Couper	200	do
	413	Peter Thorndove	200	do
	414	Hugh O'Hara	100	do

3.

- No. A15 Edward Goudon 6 Acres
- A16 Katherine Bonley 50 J<sup>rs</sup>
- A17 Abial Lucas 200 J<sup>rs</sup>
- A18 Patrick Whitteugh } 200 J<sup>rs</sup>  
Lucas }
- A19 Edw<sup>d</sup>. O'Hara . 200 J<sup>rs</sup>

Referred to the Land Committee  
 By order of His Excellency  
 The Lieutenant Governor  
 Quebec 25<sup>th</sup> March 1793

*Thos. Aston* (Off<sup>r</sup> Secy)

Rec<sup>d</sup> & Ent<sup>d</sup> upon the  
 Minutes of the Land  
 Committee 25<sup>th</sup> March  
 1793  
*W. H. J.*

See the Entry on every one  
 of the Petitions mentioned  
 in this reference, beginning  
 at Page 108 of the  
 Minutes of the Land  
 Committee Vol. II.

See the Report. *Wm. O'Hara*

A Letter from Ed. O'Hara  
 addressed to Mr. Lee: Coffin  
 dated 23 March 1798.  
 enclosing 23 Petitions for  
 Lands in the County of  
 Gaspe

Received the 25<sup>th</sup> March,  
 and recd. the same day by  
 the Land Committee.

19395 The Petitioners are as follows  
 Wm. Casper of Gaspe (no date)  
 praying for 200 Acres of land  
 beginning at the line bounding  
 land Samuel Baker, running  
 along the Shore of the North side  
 of the N.W. arm of Gaspe towards  
 the Red Creek.

It would appear that the  
 Petitioner has taken possession  
 of the spot he now lives on without  
 permission from Government

396 Samuel Deaker - no date  
 That he has cleared the spot  
 on which he dwells on the  
 N. side of the NW arm of Gaspe  
 and he prays that it may be  
 included in a Tract to make  
 up 200 Acres to begin at the  
 boundary line of W<sup>m</sup>. Ennet  
 running thence along the shore  
 towards Boudry's creek, with  
 the customary depths.

397 Martynagh Moriarty of Perce  
 Dated 26 March 1790  
 Stating that in 1785 he obtained  
 permission from Gov. Cox to  
 build upon & improve Land  
 he prays a grant of the eight  
 acres he has improved at Perce

No. 398 Geo. Subherland of Perce  
 (no date) Praying that he has cleared &  
 fenced about five acres of the  
 Land at Perce to the East of  
 the High road, bounded by the  
 North by Morlaugh Moriarty  
 & to the South by Edmond Condon

No. 399 John Baker Junr. dated  
 at Perce 9 Sept. 1791  
 Praying for 200 acres of land  
 at Perce, adjoining Governor  
 Cox's Signory at Malbay  
 River.

No. 400 James Callaghan, dated  
 at Perce 8<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1791.  
 Praying for 40 acres of land  
 in little point Peters, adjoining  
 Point Peters at Perce.

N<sup>o</sup>. 401 Tho<sup>s</sup>. Vidammont of Perce'

no date!

Stating that two acres of land  
had been laid off for him adjoining  
his fishing room, where Jos:

Plowd deprived him of a  
Cult thereon, and prays that  
Lord Dorchester would interfere  
therein, & further that he may  
obtain six acres adjoining &  
at the back of the said two  
acres.

N<sup>o</sup>. 402 Thomas Fitz Gibbon

Dated at Perce' 30 Jan. 1791  
Praying that 200 acres of land  
may be granted to him at  
L'ance à Buffa near Cape  
Dispair



N<sup>o</sup>. 403 Joseph Arbois of Perre'  
 X Dated 1<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1790  
 Praying for a grant of  
 200 Acres of Land at  
 Mal-bay beginning at the  
 Lason adjoining the River  
 Betty running South West  
 up the said River, to have  
 a front of eight acres.

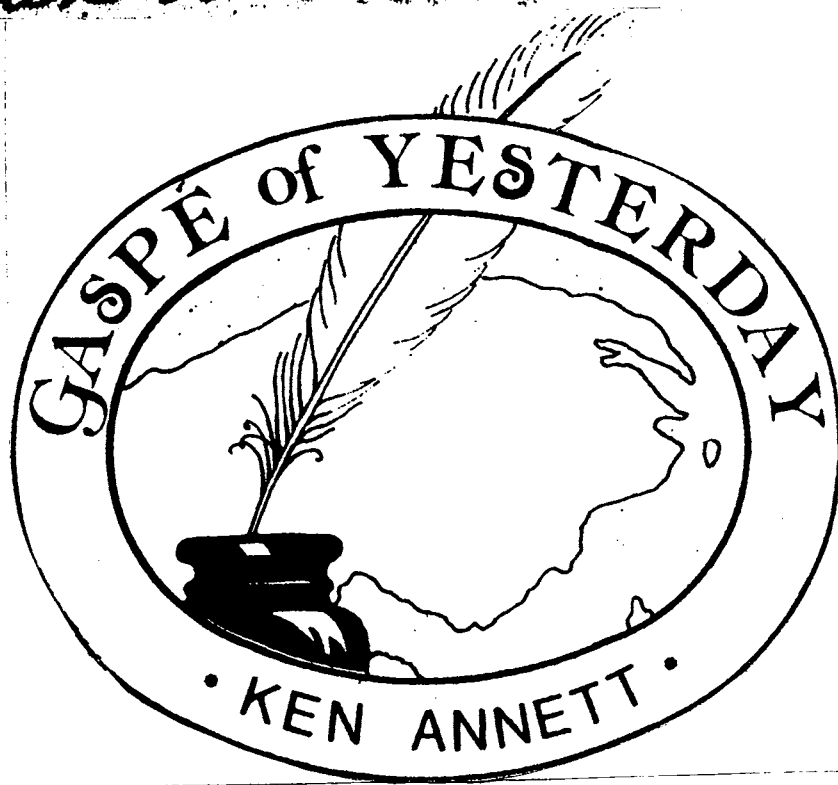
N<sup>o</sup>. 404 James Reynolds Dated  
 at Perre' 9 Sep. 1791.  
 Praying for 200 Acres of  
 Land in Mal-bay adjoining  
 Point Peters.

N<sup>o</sup> 405 James Price dated Malbay  
 7 Sept. 1791.  
 Praying he may obtain a  
 grant of 200 acres of land  
 including the spot on w<sup>ch</sup>  
 he now resides, beginning  
 at a part of green point at  
 Malbay running westward  
 & bounded by the inclosures of  
 James Henley & William Bon

N<sup>o</sup> 406 Ailben Chicoware dated  
 at Malbay River 8 Sept. 1791  
 Praying for 300 acres of land  
 on the River Malbay  
 beginning at the little creek  
 running westward.

N<sup>o</sup> 407 Peter Butler dated at  
 Douglas Town 25 Oct. 1790  
 Praying for 24 acres of the  
 vacant land behind Lot  
 N<sup>o</sup> 23 in Douglas Town.

N<sup>o</sup>. 408 Daniel Leavre dated at  
 Penei 9 Sept. 1791  
 Praying for one acre & a  
 half in front from the Kings  
 fence, at the back of Thompson  
 & Walkers Room, & extending up  
 back to the Mountain!



N<sup>o</sup>. 409 William Moloney dated  
 at Penei 8 Sept. 1791  
 Praying for 400 Acres on  
 the North East side of lane  
 an bean file.

N<sup>o</sup> 440 Robert. Asheth\* dated  
 at Gaspi 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1792  
 Stating that he is in possession  
 of a spot of Land on the  
 N. side of the Peninsule  
 Creek in Gaspi Bay  
 where he has by hard labour  
 made considerable improve-  
 ments, and Praying  
 for a grant of Ten acres in  
 front beginning at Asheth's  
 brook & running along  
 the Shore Eastward, with  
 such a depth backward  
 as make 200 acres

\* ASCAH.



N<sup>o</sup> 411 Peter Paterson of Gaspe  
no date  
Praying for 200 Acres of  
Land beginning on the East  
side of his father's lot &  
adjoining the same, to run  
the sundry courses of the  
shore for front.

N<sup>o</sup> 412 James Coupar dated at  
P. St. Pierre 8 Sept. 1791  
Praying for 200 acres of  
land at Malbay between  
Abraham Hayden &  
John McLeod.

N<sup>o</sup> 413 Peter Thorndove dated  
at Point St. Pierre 8 Sept  
1791 Praying for 200 Acre  
from the West of James  
Brieg's land to the line  
of James Reynolds land  
at lobster Beach.

N<sup>o</sup> 414 Hugh O'Hara dated  
 at Gaspe in Sept. 1792  
 That he has for 3 years  
 been in possession of a piece  
 of land on the N side of the  
 basin of Gaspe & improved  
 it, & he prays it may be  
 granted to him with as  
 much more adjoining it  
 as make up 200 acres  
 beginning at the Western =  
 most part of the Land now  
 occupied by Felix O'Hara  
 E of running along the shore  
 westward 40 Chains &  
 taking in such a depth  
 backward as will make  
 up 200 Acres & he  
 prays further for a grant  
 of 200 Acres on the South  
 side of York River about  
 two Miles above the basin  
 beginning at the West of  
 Michel Newland's  
 Land & running up along  
 the shore eighty chains  
 & backwards as far as to  
 make up the 200 Acres

N<sup>o</sup>. 415 Edward Condon Oaten  
 at Perce 15 Sept. 1791  
 Praying for six acres of  
 Land adjoining the lot of  
 Michael Reardon.

N<sup>o</sup>. 416 Katherine Lamb  
 dated at Green Pointe Dist.  
 of Gospe 8 Sept. 1791  
 Praying for fifty acres of  
 land bounded by John Bonds  
 enclosure on one side &  
 running westward

N<sup>o</sup>. 417 Abial Lucas dated at  
 Mabay 6 Sept. 1791  
 Praying for 200 Acres of  
 land adjoining Pointe St.  
 Peters where he has made  
 large improvements

N<sup>o</sup>. 418 Patrick, & Fitzhugh Lucas  
 dated at Malbay 7 Sep. 1791  
 Praying for a grant of  
 200 Acres each between  
 Mal. bay River, & Bel ane

N<sup>o</sup>. 419 Edward O'Hara dated  
 Quebec 20 March 1793  
 Praying for 200 Acres of  
 Land on the N. side of the  
 South west arm of  
 Gaspe Bay to begin at  
 the Westernmost bounds  
 of the land applied for by  
 Hugh O'Hara Esq. thence  
 running the sundry courses  
 of the Shore Westward for  
 the Customary front.



# Memorandum

This letter, together with the Petitions which accompanied it, was sent to Lt. Gov. Cox, w<sup>th</sup> a letter from the Chairman of the Committee praying information touching the Petitioners & whether their Prayers ought be granted without prejudice to the Fishery or any individual. —

Submitted. Whether it might not be expedient to return the 25<sup>th</sup> Act to the Land Office Board for the Duke of Gaspe, with Directions to employ the Surveyor acting there, to ~~advice~~ lay down upon the Plan the lands prayed for, in order to ascertain their true situation; <sup>as to enable the other towns to make</sup> as they might make part of some Township already set off or to be set off of nine miles front by 12 in depth, seeing the situation is fronted by navigable waters.

Here ends the Petitions from Gaspe <sup>to amount to</sup>  
 Mr Secretary Coffin 23<sup>rd</sup> March, by W. C. Offera.  
 See page 108 of the minute book. & refered 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Committee beg leave to observe, that if the Townships  
 upon the fishing Coasts of Chaleurs & Gaspe Bays, are  
 to be subdivided as the inland Townships, into lots of  
 200 Acres, and that a seventh part of the lots in  
 every range of Concessions is to be set apart for the  
 disposal of the Crown, and another seventh part for the  
 maintenance of a Protestant Clergy (these lots not to  
~~adjoin~~ each other) the Petitioners cannot obtain the  
 spots they desire to possess - at least such of them as may  
 not be in possession of the tract, prayed for.  
~~And they~~

17.