

GASPE OF YESTERDAY

VOL. II

KEN ANNETT

1983

GASPE OF YESTERDAY - VOL. II - 1983

FOREWORD

In 1981 a first volume of GASPE OF YESTERDAY presented thirty articles on significant persons and events in early Gaspesia. The FOREWORD to that volume stated the rationale of its contents as being an attempt to contribute to an understanding and appreciation of certain aspects of the heritage of Gaspésians. That rationale applies equally to the present volume and it is presented in the sincere hope that its thirty-five monographs of some variety and scope will serve to extend and deepen awareness of Gaspesia's remarkable past.

To provide perspective on the topics treated in Volume II it may be helpful to recall the titles of the articles that were included in the previous volume.

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The continuing interest of C.A.S.A. and the publishers of the Gaspesian weekly newspaper, SPEC, in the GASPE OF YESTERDAY series is appreciated. Some fifty articles of the series have been published by SPEC to date. Comment and inquiry from the readers of SPEC, indicative of genuine public interest in the story of Gaspesia's past, has been encouraging. Over and beyond the response from individual readers the series has elicited inquiry from such organizations as:- THE PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA; THE ARCHIVES OF QUEBEC; THE CANADIAN BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY; THE ARCTIC BIOLOGICAL STATION; THE UNITED EMPIRE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA; THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GASPESIA; THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND. Copies of the privately published and very limited edition of Volume I have been donated to:- THE ARCHIVES OF QUEBEC; BISHOP'S UNIVERSITY LIBRARY; THE WAKEHAM COMMUNITY LIBRARY; THE BISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

Like the legendary tales of "THE THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS", the stories of the past in Gaspesia are of almost infinite variety. To attempt to reconstruct the lives of our ancestors and the varied events and situations that they experienced is a great challenge. It is, however, a vital and essential task if we are to understand, appreciate and document our heritage as Gaspesians,

Trends of our time lend particular urgency to this task. Though out-migration of English Gaspesians, particularly of youth, is not a new phenomenon, the degree of exodus has accelerated in recent years in the face of increasing serious pressures on the Québec minority - linguistic, educational, social, economic, political, in nature. Of the 150,000 English who are reported to have left Québec in recent years to seek homes and careers elsewhere are included many Gaspesians. This deplorable situation lends urgency to the need to record the story of Gaspesia's past before the dispersal of its English families has passed the point of no return in terms of retrieval and record.

GASPE OF YESTERDAY, dedicated to such search of our past, is encouraged in not being alone in this objective. Excellent material is being published by such searchers and authors as Dorothy Phillips, David and the late Doris McDougall, D.R. Garrett, R. Alexander, Aldo Brochet and others. The role of C.A.S.A. in promoting research and of SPEC in publishing articles of an historical nature is an invaluable contribution.

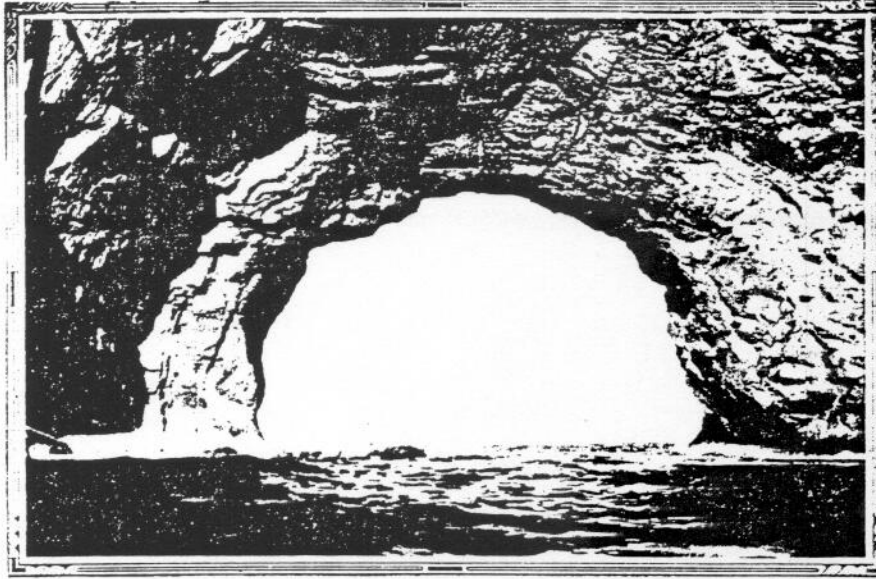
To provide a focus for the search and preservation of Gaspesia's past and a permanent repository for the records and history of English Gaspesians in particular, GASPE OF YESTERDAY has the dream of establishing a chartered, non-profit, GASPESIA FOUNDATION, to be located in a central point, such as New Carlisle, of the region from Restigouche to Gaspé. Decisions on projects for such a GASPESIA FOUNDATION would be the responsibility of a representative Board of Directors. Typical of the tasks that might be undertaken would be the gathering together of the various records and registers of Baptism.

Marriage and Burial of early Protestant missionaries and of the Protestant churches of Gaspesia - records that are now widely dispersed and not readily available. This project alone would be of general public interest and would provide an invaluable aid to Gaspesian descendants interested in family history.

Should this dream of a GASPESIA FOUNDATION become a reality, it would justify and extend the various efforts now being made to search out and record the fascinating story of GASPE OF YESTERDAY.



GASPE OF YESTERDAY



The "Arch" through the Roche Percée

ULYSSES

"... I am a part of all that I have met;
Yet all experience is an arch wherethrough
Gleams that untraveled world, whose margin fades
For ever and for ever when I move.
How dull it is to pause, to make an end,
To rust unburnished, not to shine in use !
As though to breathe were life. Life piled on life
Were all too little, and of one to me
Little remains: but every hour is saved
From that eternal silence, something more,
A bringer of new things; and vile it were
For some three suns to store and hoard myself,
And this gray spirit yearning in desire
To follow knowledge, like a sinking star,
Beyond the utmost bound of human thought."

ALFRED TENNYSON.