

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

ROBERT AND ANNABELLA STEWART AND FAMILY

A record to date of an ongoing search of the history of this Stewart family of P.E.I. and Gaspesia whose members were well-known and influential in their time.

The interest and contributions of Donald Stewart of Charlottetown and David McDougall of Montreal are acknowledged.

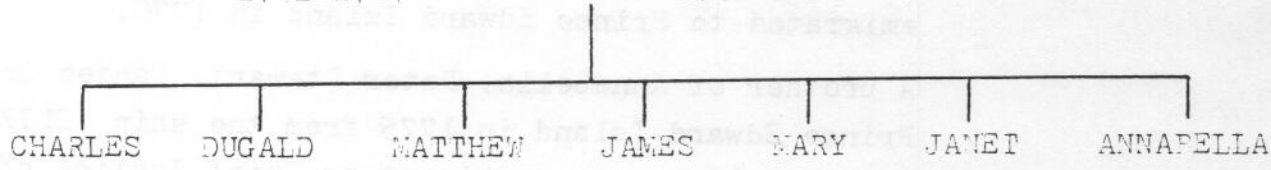
Any and all additional information on the life and times of the family of Robert and Annabella Stewart will be welcomed.

KEN ANNETT

ROBERT AND ANNABELLA STEWART AND FAMILY

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY attempts to search out and record the story of this Stewart family whose members were influential and well-known in their time in Prince Edward Island, Gaspesia and beyond. This account is far from being definitive and it is hoped that its publication by SPEC will lead to additional information from readers with knowledge of the Stewarts.

ROBERT STEWART M ANNABELLA STEWART
1731-1787 1732-1818



ROBERT
STEWART
1731-87

A native of Scotland, Robert was a son of James Stewart and a grandson of the Rev. Matthew Stewart of Rothesay, Isle of Pute.

Robert and his wife, Annabella, landed in Prince Edward Island in 1770 from the ship "ANNABELLA" The Captain of the "ANNABELLA" was Dugald Stewart who is believed to have been the brother of Annabella Stewart.

In the early years of P.E.I. Robert Stewart was a member of the Legislative Assembly and of the Executive Council. He saw service as Speaker of the Assembly.

The property of Robert and Annabella Stewart was LOT 18, Malpeque, P.E.I., on Shipyard River.

Robert Stewart was in business as a merchant-trader in partnership with his third son, Matthew. In 1782 Robert and Annabella were living in Québec City. Robert's health was failing and in 1783 he transferred to his eldest son, Charles, of Malpeque, P.E.I., his share in the business. The Deed of Transfer

has been found in the notarial records of Charles Stewart, N.P. of Québec City.

Robert Stewart died in February, 1787, at age 56 years. He was buried at Princetown, P.E.I.

ANNABELLA
STEWART
1732-1818

A native of Scotland, Annabella was a daughter of the Rev. Charles Stewart and his wife, Annabella Campbell of Kintyre. Her maternal grandfather had held the post of Chamberlain of Kintyre.

Annabella married Robert Stewart and the couple emigrated to Prince Edward Island in 1770.

A brother of Annabella, Peter Stewart, landed in Prince Edward Island in 1775 from the ship "ELIZABETH". Peter would become prominent as Chief Justice of P.E.I.

In 1782-83 when Robert and Annabella Stewart were living in Québec City, Annabella had Deeds of Sale drawn by Charles Stewart, N.P. for the sale of land from LCF 18 in Prince Edward Island. The impression gained by the reader of these old deeds is that Annabella was as independent and competent in business affairs as was her contemporary in P.E.I., Anne Coffin Callbeck.

Widowed from the death of Robert in 1787, Annabella Stewart made her home in the household of her son, Matthew, Seigneur of Shoolbred in Gaspesia. The Stewart manor house was located at Nouvelle. It was there that Annabella died and was buried in 1818

THE FAMILY OF ROBERT AND ANNABELLA STEWART

CHARLES
STEWART

The eldest son, Charles is remembered as the Colonel Charles Stewart whose home was the OLD STONE HOUSE at Malpeque, P.E.I.

His first marriage was to Barbara Stewart, daughter

of Captain Dugald Stewart of the "ANNABELLA".

The second wife of Charles was Annabella, daughter of Peter Stewart, Chief Justice of P.E.I. and his first wife, Helen McKinnon.

As noted above, Charles received his father's share of the Stewart business in 1783. His brothers, Matthew, Dugald and James were all involved in the business but Matthew appears to have been the dominant partner.

Links of the descendants of Charles Stewart with Dalhousie, N.B. remain to be documented.

DUGALD
STEWART
1759-1842

Son of Robert and Annabella Stewart, Dugald married Elizabeth Craig, daughter of William Craig, who was reportedly the first schoolmaster of Malpeque, P.E.I.

Their children included: Annabella; Jane; Alexander; James.

Dugald was evidently in Québec City on occasion when his parents were living there in the 1780's as his signature appears on various Deeds drawn by Charles Stewart, N.P., along with that of his brother, Matthew.

Dugald is cited by David McDougall as a part owner of the schooner "SNIPE" (1799 and 1800) and the schooner "MARY" (1800). The Stewarts were engaged in shipbuilding in Gaspesia from 1789 onwards. Among the ships built were the 139 ton brigantine, "RICHMOND", the large schooner, "SUSANNA CRAIGIE" (bearing the name of a daughter of the Hon. John Craigie who became the wife of George Hamilton. She was a niece of John Coffin, Deputy Commissioner General, Québec and relative of Anne Coffin Callbeck of P.E.I.), the 123 ton schooner "FLY". The Stewart shipbuilding was at yards located at Nouvelle, Carleton and New Richmond.

MATTHEW
STEWART

The third son of Robert and Annabella, Matthew Stewart bore the Christian name of his paternal great-grandfather, the Rev. Matthew Stewart.

Though the career of Matthew and his family has been recalled in my GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY article, THE SHOOLERED SEIGNIORY, published by SPEC on May 4, 1982, it seems appropriate to resume it here in relation with his parents, brothers and sisters.

Matthew married Sophia Prust of England. Their family of four sons and three daughters were:

Stephen Prust	Elizabeth Louisa
Edmund James	Mary Sophia
Charles Dugald	Annabella
Robert	

In partnership with his father, Robert, until 1783, and with his brothers, Charles, Dugald and James, Matthew appears to have been the dominant partner in the Stewart company of merchant traders, ship builders, ship owners and sea captains that operated in P.E.I., Gaspesia and the St. Lawrence.

Matthew travelled to England on business and had financial backing in the Stewart company's ventures from London. He was well known in the business and shipping circles of Québec City.

David McDougal, the leading authority on early shipping in Gaspesia, links Matthew Stewart with the following vessels:

The schooners "MARY"; "SNIPE"; "SUSANNA CRAIGIE"; "RECOVERY"; "AMELIA"; "CARLETON"; "PORPOISE"; "RANGER" ; "TRYAL" and the ships "RICHMOND" and "FLY".

MATTHEW
STEWART
(ctd)

In 1809 Matthew Stewart bought the Shoolbred Seigniory from James Shoolbred, the heir of John Shoolbred. The Deed of Sale was drawn up in Québec City by Charles Voyer, N.P. In addition to the extensive lands of this Seigniory at the head of Bay Chaleur this purchase gave bases of operation at Bonaventure and Percé.

It was at the Manor House of the Seigniory at Nouvelle that Matthew Stewart and his family, including his mother, the Widow Annabella Stewart and his unmarried sister, Mary Stewart, made their home.

In 1824 Archdeacon George Jehoshaphat Mountain was a guest at the Matthew Stewart family at Nouvelle and left an account of the family in his "JOURNAL"

Of significance in an attempt to recall the Stewart family history is the marital record of the family of Matthew and Sophia Prust Stewart.

- . Stephen Prust Stewart and his sister, Mary Sophia Stewart did not marry.
- . Edmund James Stewart married a cousin, Elizabeth (Betsy) Stewart and, reportedly, lived at Dalhousie, N.B.
- . Charles Dugald Stewart married Marie Louise Caissy. (Quesse)
- . Elizabeth Louise Stewart married William Donaldson.
- . Annabella Stewart married John U. Campbell

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On the death of Matthew Stewart, his widow, sister, and the above members of his family shared the nine divisions of the Seigniory of Shoolbred. The Archives of the County Court House (Bonaventure) at New Carlisle, Qué., has a wealth of fascinating notarial, church and court records relating to the Stewart family.

* Robert Stewart married Margaret Boyd

JAMES
STEWART
1768-1840

Son of Robert and Annabella, James Stewart was a partner with his brothers in the Stewart company. He not only shared the ownership of Stewart vessels but was a sea captain in his own right. From 1787 he was involved with the fishery at Bonaventure Island. In 1789 he appeared before the Court at New Carlisle to represent his brother Matthew who was absent from the Province. The Judges in this case brought by Henry Rimpfuff on behalf of Bowering, Trist and Co., of London, England, were Felix O'Hara, Charles Robin and Isaac Man, Jr.

James married Bridget, daughter of the Hon. Felix O'Hara pioneer settler at Gaspé Basin and made his home on a fine farm in Gaspé Harbour adjacent to the "Fort Ramsay" home of John D. McConnell. As merchant, Justice of the Peace and landowner James Stewart was a prominent citizen of early Gaspé. James and his wife, Bridget, were beneficiaries of the Will of Felix O'Hara on his death in 1805.

Two of the children of James and Bridget O'Hara Stewart were sons Robert and Felix. It is believed that they had a younger brother, Henry Stewart.

Among the Gaspesian lands held by James Stewart was the 800 acre "Stewart Patent" at Mal Bay.

Felix Stewart, one of the three grandsons of the Hon. Felix O'Hara that bore his Christian name, shared in the Seigniorship of Pabos as a bequest in the Will of his grandfather.

The signatures of James Stewart, J.P. and his son, Felix, appear on early Deeds in Gaspé including those relating to schools at L'Anse aux Cousins and Gaspé Bay South.

MARY
STEWART

Daughter of Robert and Annabella, Mary Stewart did not marry and made her home with the family of her brother, Matthew, at the Manor House of the Shoolbred Seigniory, Nouvelle. When Archdeacon Mountain was a guest of the Stewart family on his visit to Gaspesia in 1824 he described Mary in his "JOURNAL" as a maiden aunt.

On the death of Matthew Stewart, Mary inherited a share of the Seigniory.

Thirty years after the death of her mother, the Widow Annabella Stewart, and some two decades after the death of her brother, Matthew, Mary Stewart died in 1848. She bequeathed her share of the Shoolbred Seigniory to her brother's children - Mary Sophia; Stephen Prust; Charles Dugald and Edmund James.

JANET
STEWART

Daughter of Robert and Annabella, Janet Stewart bore Christian name of her paternal grandmother, Janet MacDonald, the wife of James Stewart of Scotland.

Janet married a Mr. Russel of England.

ANNABELLA
STEWART

Daughter of Robert and Annabella, Annabella Stewart became the wife of Oliver O'Hara, son of the Hon. Felix O'Hara of Gaspé Basin. As one of His Majesty's Customs Officers in Gaspesia, Oliver O'Hara was stationed for a time at Carleton.

A son of Oliver and Annabella, Felix O'Hara, died in childhood. His share in the Seigniory of Pabos, a bequest of his grandfather, Felix O'Hara, devolved to his sisters, Annabella and Martha Sophia.

Martha Sophia O'Hara married John Wilkie, Prothonotary of the District of Gaspé, resident at New Carlisle. It was at their home that the Widow Annabella Stewart O'Hara died in 1847.

Annabella O'Hara became the wife of Arthur Ritchie, prominent businessman and lumber dealer of the

Restigouche and Miramichi estuaries. Their children included sons Robert and William, and daughter, Martha Sophie.

OTHER CONTEMPORARY STEWARTS OF GASPEZIA

JOHN
STEWART

Gaspesian records show John Stewart, Mariner, as a resident of Cox Township (New Carlisle) circa 1800.

He married Mary McKinnon, a daughter of Neil McKinnon, Sr., and his wife Margaret Sheddon. Sisters of Mary included Flora (Mrs. John Ascah of Peninsula, Gaspé), Charlotte (Mrs. James Boyle of the South West Arm, Gaspé Bay), Margaret (Mrs. Joshua Feebe) and Jane (Mrs. Adam Protherton)

David McDougall has noted one record to John Stewart in shipping records. The bark "HERO", 310 tons, built at Mal Bay and registered at Québec in 1826, was owned by Jean-Baptiste Marcoux of Quebec, trader, and has John Stewart as Master. The "HERO" was registered "de novo" (i.e. it had been sold) in London, England, in April, 1829. David McDougall speculates that Captain John Stewart might have died on the voyage to England.

This speculation is reinforced by the fact that Mary McKinnon Stewart was a widow in 1831 and in the year following remarried with Samuel Christie of New Carlisle.

Donald Stewart of Charlottetown, historian of the Stewart families of Prince Edward Island, has found reference in the Will of John Stewart of Mount Stewart, P.E.I. to a natural son, John Stewart, for whom records are missing in P.E.I. There is speculation that this might be the John Stewart that came to reside in Cox Township and to marry Mary McKinnon. It is to be hoped that John's family background can be documented.

Children of John and Mary McKinnon Stewart included sons John, Adam and Charles (of whom more below)

CHARLES STEWART A son of John and Mary McKinnon Stewart of New Carlisle, Charles apparently inherited from his father an interest in and aptitude for seafaring. He became one of the noted whaling captains of Gaspé.

In the Gaspé census of 1842 Charles Stewart was single and resident on the South side of the South-West Arm of Gaspé Bay. It may be significant that his name on the census is followed by those of Oliver O'Hara and John D. McConnell because it is known from the report of Lieut. Baddeley, R.E., a visitor to Gaspé in 1833, that the fine farm property of James Stewart was located in Gaspé Harbour adjacent to that of John McConnell. It is normal to speculate what connection may have existed between James Stewart and the younger, Charles Stewart.

In the registers of St. Andrew's Anglican Church for 1848 there is the following entry by the Rev. George Milne, Rector:

"Charles Stewart of Gaspé Basin, Mariner, son of the late John Stewart, in life of Cox, Bonaventure, Mariner, and Mary McKinnon, his wife, now the wife of Samuel Christie of Cox, farmer, bachelor of major age, and Margaret Maria Starnes, daughter of Philip of Cox, farmer, and Mary Jane Sherar, his wife, spinster of major age, were married.

Present - Samuel Christie, Philip Starnes and other relatives"

It is of particular interest to note that one of the schooners that Captain Charles Stewart sailed as a whaler was the "JOHN STEWART" - named for his father.

The following details of Captain Charles Stewart's career have been supplied by David McDougall :

- 1851 Master of the schooner "PACKET OF NEW CARLISLE"
- 1851 Master of the "MAYFLOWER"
- 1852 Master of the schooner "ELIZABETH"
- 1855 Owner and Master of the schooner "JOHN STEWART"

CHARLES
STEWART
(ctd)

- 1858 Report in the writing of the Abbé Ferland of a large whale taken by Captain Stewart, assisted by Captain Coffin, and landed at La Tabatière on the North Shore.
Report of Commander Fortin for the same year that Captain Stewart had 330 barrels of whale oil.
- 1861 Captain Charles Stewart whaling in the schooner "JOHN STEWART".
- 1865 Captain Charles Stewart was still whaling in his schooner, "JOHN STEWART"
- 1867 Captain Charles Stewart whaling in the schooner, "RAMBLER"
- 1871 By this year Captain Charles Stewart appears to have ceased whaling but he subsequently made a voyage to the Mediterranean as Master of the brig "BROTHERS".

Dramatic details and incidents in the stirring career of Captain Charles Stewart, beyond the scope of this account, are to be found in the Official Reports of Dr. Pierre Fortin, Supervisor of Fisheries, and in Mrs. Margaret MacWhirter's book, "TREASURE TROVE IN GASPE AND THE BAIE DES CHALEURS"

MARY
STEWART
(STUART)
O'HARA
1791-1838

The family background of Mary Stewart (Stuart), the wife of Henry O'Hara of Gaspé Basin remains to be documented.

Mary died in 1838 and her burial by the Rev. William Arnold of Gaspé Basin was recorded in these words:

"Mary O'Hara, formerly Mary Stewart, wife of Henry O'Hara, Esq., Collector of H.M. Customs for the Port of New Carlisle in the County of Bonaventure, was buried by me, Rev. William Arnold.
Present - J. McConnell and John Eden. "

MARY
 STEWART
 (STUART)
 O'HARA
 (ctd)

Of the four known children of Henry and Mary Stewart O'Hara -Martha Eleanor; Helen Maria; Henry and Edward James, born from 1813 to 1826, Helen Maria and Henry were baptised at the Anglican Cathedral Church, Québec City in 1816.

The question remains open as to the possible connection of Mary Stewart (Stuart) O'Hara with:

- (a) The family of Robert and Annabella Stewart
- (b) The family of John and Mary McKinnon Stewart
- (c) One of the Stewart or Stuart families of Québec City and District.

It is hoped that this question can be resolved.

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SOME RANDOM STEWART RECORDS

- 1771 Marriage of Peter Stuart of Beauport with Jane Fraser of Malbay and the baptism at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Québec City, of their children - Anna-1772; Elizabeth-1774; Jean Margaret-1776; Mary-1778; John Peter-1780; Thomas Simon James-1784
- 1795 Baptism of Annabella, daughter of George Stuart and Helen Stewart, his wife.
 Godparents - Mr. Charles Stewart of Québec and Mrs. Catherine Grant.
- 1811 Baptism of Elizabeth Louisa and Robert, children of Matthew and Sophia Prust Stewart by the Rev. John Young.
- 1817 Mary Stewart, Godmother at the baptism of Susanna, daughter of John Stewart, Esq., Merchant of Québec. and Eliza Maria, his wife.
 Another daughter of this couple, Mary Frances Stewart was baptised in 1819.

- 1826 Marriage of William Donaldson Esq., of Upper Nouvelle to Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew Stewart, Seigneur of Shoalbred by Geo. Jeho. Mountain, D.D., Archdeacon of Québec.
Present - Matthew Stewart; William Dunbar; Annabella Stewart (Sister); Annabella O'Hara (Aunt of the bride - wife of Oliver O'Hara.
- 1828 Baptism of Margaret Elizabeth, daughter of Daniel Forbes of Maria, blacksmith, and Mary Stewart, his wife.
- 1830 Baptism of a son (illegit. and name unrecorded) of Dugald Stewart.
Sponsors were Peter Stewart and Annabella Stewart.
- 1831 Marriage of Dugald Stewart of Dalhousie and Catherine Harquoil. (Noted that they had son born out of wedlock)
Present - Peter Stewart; Annabella Stewart
- 1834 Baptism of Catherine, daughter of Robert Stewart of Restigouche and Margaret Eoyd, his wife.
- 1835 Marriage of Daniel McTaggart of Nouvelle and Elizabeth Stewart at Flora's Cove.
Present - Peter Stewart Sr., and Peter Stewart Jr.
- 1835 Baptism of Christiana and Sarah, daughters of Peter Stewart and Mary Ann Grant, his wife, at Flora's Cove.
- 1835 Baptism of James Norman, son of William Donaldson Esq., of Maria and Elizabeth Louisa Stewart, his wife, at Nouvelle
- 1836 Baptism of Annabella, daughter of Peter Stewart and Annabella Grant, his wife, at Escuminac.
- 1837 Baptism of Charlotte, daughter of Charles Dugald Stewart and Louisa Quesse, his wife
- 1844 Grant of land at Escuminac by the Widow Sophia Prust Stewart to Charles Brown - land adjacent to that held by Angus Carmichael and James Anderson.
- 1845 Baptism of Donald, son of Peter Stewart and Annabella Grant, his wife, of Escuminac.

- 1846 Peter Stewart Godfather at the baptism of Charles, son of Charles Brown and Susanna Grant, his wife.
- 1847 Signatures of Peter Stewart Sr., and Peter Stewart Jr., on record of baptism of George William Grant, son of Peter Stewart and Annabella Grant, his wife.
- 1852 Baptism of Mansfield, son of Charles Dugald Stewart and Louisa Quesse.
- 1852 Baptism of Elizabeth Sophia, daughter of Edmund J. Stewart and Elizabeth Stewart, his wife, of Maguocha.
- 1855 Baptism of Flora, daughter of Peter Stewart and his wife, Annabella Stewart Grant (now deceased)
- 1891 Baptism of Edith Alice, daughter of Matthew Stewart of Carleton and Louise Kelly, his wife.

RETROSPECT

This attempt to record the ongoing search of Stewart family history may serve to remind us of the interesting and complex links that bound early family and social life in Gaspesia and beyond. In searching the Stewart family one is led to other, associated families such as : McKinnon; Campbell; O'Hara; Craig; Grant; Starnes; Christie; Donaldson; Boyd; Wilkie; Forbes; Ritchie; Brown; Kelly; Quessy and others.

The Stewart story has great significance as an integral part of the Gaspesian heritage. Complex and difficult as the search may be, it is to be hoped that the record will be completed and preserved.