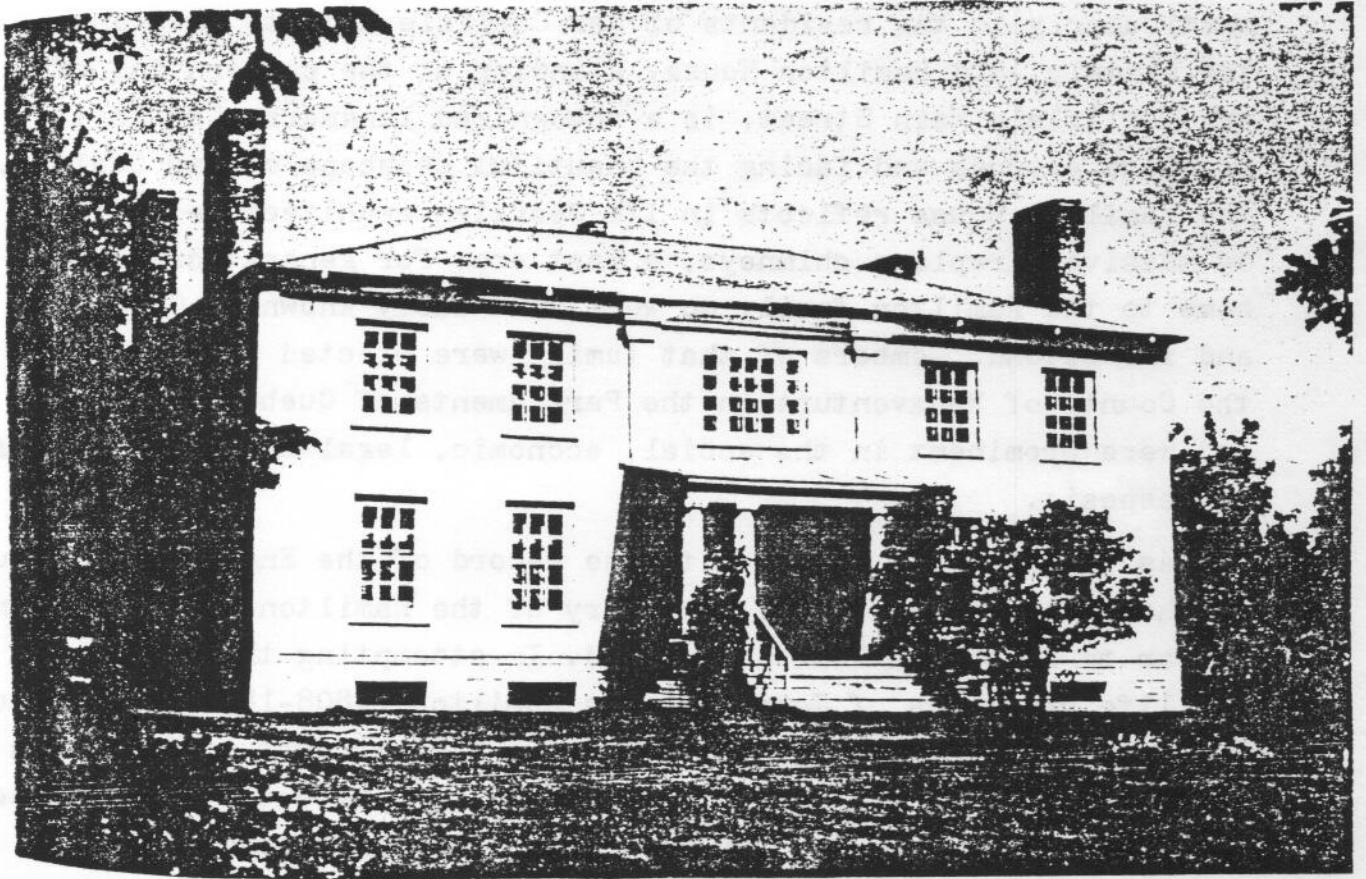


GASPE OF YESTERDAY

THE LIFE AND TIMES
OF
JOHN ROBINSON HAMILTON
1808 - 1870

KEN ANNETT

As the traveller along the Bay Chaleur Highway and so on.



HAMILTON HOUSE

CHRONOLOGICAL REFERENCES TO THE HAMILTON AND RELATED FAMILIES

BY THIS REVIEW

1785 John Facey born.

1787 David Major Hamilton born.

1788 John Andrew Thompson born.

1805 David Major Hamilton married Mary Robinson. Their children

included John Robinson Hamilton, born 1808.

1807 John Facey married Sarah Robinson. Their children included

John Facey, born 1809.

1808 Elizabeth Facey born.

1812 James Facey married Sarah Robinson. Children of this union

were Elizabeth Robinson Facey

Suzanna Robinson Facey

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOHN ROBINSON HAMILTON.

To the traveller along the Bay Chaleur Highway and more particularly to the residents of New Carlisle and its environs, the stately, old Hamilton House, standing at the eastern end of New Carlisle's Main Street, is a recognized landmark. Set in its spacious grounds and facing the beautiful seascape of Bay Chaleur, the Hamilton House reflects in its Georgian architecture, marked by massive fireplace chimneys, a past era. For generations it was home to the Hamilton family so well and widely known in Gaspesia and far beyond. Members of that family were elected to represent the County of Bonaventure in the Parliaments of Quebec and Canada and were prominent in the social, economic, legal and military life of Gaspesia.

As it is all too common with the record of the English contribution to the Gaspesian heritage, the story of the Hamilton family does not appear to have been well documented. In attempting this review of the life and times of John Robinson Hamilton (1808-1870), recourse to various, scattered records was made. This account, which makes no claim of being definitive or complete, is presented in the hope that readers of SPEC who may have additional information on the Hamilton family will make it available, in order that a more complete record of the interesting and significant contribution of the Hamilton family to Gaspesia be preserved.

CHRONOLOGICAL REFERENCES TO THE HAMILTON AND RELATED FAMILIES OF THIS REVIEW.

- 1785 John Racey born.
- 1787 Gavin Major Hamilton born.
- 1788 John Gawler Thompson born.
- 1805 Gavin Major Hamilton married Mary Robinson. Their children included John Robinson Hamilton, born 1808.
- 1807 John Racey married Sarah Robinson. Their children included John Racey, born 1809
- 1808 Eliza Racey born.
- 1812 Joseph Wyse married Margaret Robinson. Children of this union were: Elizabeth Robinson Wyse
Susanna Withington Wyse

- 1819 Gavin Major Hamilton died - 32 years of age.
 1820 Joseph Wyse died.
 1822 Judge John Gawler Thompson of New Carlisle married the
 Widow Margaret Robinson Wyse.
 (Uncle and Aunt of John Robinson Hamilton)
 1831 John Robinson Hamilton, Advocate, married Eliza Racey.
 Children of this marriage were:
- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Laura - 1832 | Charles - 1842 |
| Clarence - 1833 | Eliza Louisa - 1843 |
| Rosalie Isabella - 1836 | Herbert - 1846 |
| John Robinson Jr. | Emma Mary - 1847 |
| | Gavin Francis - 1850 |
- 1833 John Racey married Susanna Withington Wyse
 1837 Andrew Murison married Elizabeth Robinson Wyse. Their children,
 grand-children of Judge and Mrs. J.G.Thompson, were:
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Patrick - 1838 | Eliza - 1843 |
| John - 1840 | Mary - 1844 |
| Margaret - 1842 | Jacob - 1846 |
- 1840 Judge John G. Thompson granted Power of Attorney to Dr. John
 Racey of Quebec regarding Thompson property on Richmond Square,
 Grand Allee, Quebec.
 1846 Andrew Murison died - 42 years of age.
 1856 Edward Jones married the Widow Eliza Robinson Wyse Murison.
 1870 John Robinson Hamilton died - 62 years of age.
 1873 The Widow Eliza Racey Hamilton died

EARLY YEARS - JOHN ROBINSON HAMILTON

The founder of the Hamilton family of New Carlisle, John Robinson Hamilton, was born in Quebec City, March, 1808, the second son of Gavin Major Hamilton and his wife, Mary Robinson. His elder brother, William, had been born in 1806 and a sister, Elizabeth Hawkins Hamilton was born in 1810. John Robinson Hamilton was baptised privately by the Rev. Salter Mountain in 1808 and six years later was formally received into the Church (the English Cathedral of Quebec - Anglican) by the Rev. George Jeho. Mountain. The record of 1808 states that his father, Gavin, was a Merchant of Quebec.

Records of 1814 show Gavin Major Hamilton as Assistant Deputy Purveyor, Medical Staff, absent on duty in Upper Canada. His wife, Mary Robinson Hamilton, was the daughter of John and Sarah Robinson of Quebec City.

SOME HAMILTON FAMILY BACKGROUND

To recount the long and remarkable history of the Hamilton family and its various branches in England, Scotland and Ireland is quite beyond the scope of this review but some brief references may be of interest. In line of descent from William de Hamilton who died in 1307, Sir James Hamilton was enobled as the first Baron Hamilton. In succeeding generations the family produced such an array of remarkable men and women that no less than 100 pages of the authoritative DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY are devoted to outline of their careers and accomplishments. The personal name of GAVIN was recurrent in the family. Gavin (1561-1612) son of Sir John Hamilton became the Bishop of Galloway; Gavin (1723-1798) noted archaeologist and artist, on one of his many trips to Italy escorted to Naples the young English girl, Emma, who was destined to marry the British Ambassador to Naples, Sir William Hamilton, and later to be the great love of the life of Horatio, Lord Nelson; Gavin (1753-1805) distinguished solicitor and author, was a close personal friend of the great Scottish poet, Robert Burns. Thus Gavin Major Hamilton, the father of John Robinson Hamilton, bore a personal name of great family tradition. At the time of the American invasion and seige of Quebec in 1775, Captain John Hamilton, Royal Navy, was a member of the Council of War called into urgent session to consider the defence of Quebec. Another member of that Council was Captain George Lawe, Sr. Both men were subsequently honoured by the King for gallant conduct during the seige - Capt. Hamilton being created a baronet in 1776. Two of the sons of Capt. Hamilton, Charles and Edward, rose to the rank of Admiral in the Royal Navy. A branch of the Scottish family of Hamilton was established in Ireland by Hugh Hamilton in 1616. Descendents of the Irish branch later came to Quebec from County Meath, Ireland. The old Quebec homestead of "HAMWOOD" took its name from the Hamilton's Irish estates of Hamwood.

John Robinson Hamilton was only eleven years old when his father, Gavin, died in May, 1819, at the early age of 32 years. The record of burial by the Rev. George J. Mountain bears the signatures of Webb Robinson, John Campbell and John Racey, brothers-in-law.

The Rev. Michel Le Moignan, noted historian of Gaspé, has written that the Widow Mary Robinson Hamilton later remarried with M. Francois Pellet and noted that the mastery that John Robinson Hamilton possessed of both English and French may thus be accounted for.

Having chosen the Law as his career, John Hamilton was accepted by the outstanding legal firm of STUART AND BLACK as a clerk to read Law in preparation for admission to the Bar. During these formative years of study and preparation the environment of the STUART AND BLACK legal study would have had such an influence on his subsequent life and career that it is pertinent to comment briefly on the firm's senior partners, Andrew Stuart (1785-1840) and Henry Black (1799-1873). Admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1807, Andrew Stuart soon won the reputation as one of the most brilliant and sought after lawyers of his day. His services were employed in most of the important cases of the time and his clientele was a lucrative one. Early in his career he came to wide, public attention in the trial of Pierre Stanislas Bédard, Member of the Assembly and in league with Louis Joseph Papineau. From 1814 onwards Andrew Stuart himself was the Assembly member for Lower Town Quebec and in 1838 was appointed Solicitor-General of Quebec. His partner in the legal firm where John Hamilton Robinson took his training was Henry Black, born and educated in Quebec and admitted to the Bar in 1820. Undisputed authority in Maritime Law, Henry Black became Judge of the Vice-Admiralty Court of Quebec in 1836 and served in that key post for decades. Harvard University recognized his preeminence in Maritime Law by the awards of a D.C.L. With his partner, Andrew Stuart, he served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. He died at Cacouna in 1873.

The environment of the legal study of STUART AND BLACK, with its heady mix of Law and Politics was undoubtedly a stimulating one for young John Robinson Hamilton. The knowledge that he acquired on Civil, Criminal and Maritime Law and the insights that he gained into the intense political conflicts of the time would later be reflected in his later practice of Law and political participation in Gaspesia. In this he would not be alone as other

training received in the firm of STUART AND BLACK. Robert Bouchette, son of the Surveyor-General of Lower Canada, Joseph Bouchette, went on to a noted career as lawyer, cartographer and civil servant. William Felton went on to become Crown Attorney, Batonnier of the Bar of the District of St. Francis, Member of Parliament for Sherbrooke-Wolfe and worthy opponent of Alexander Tilloch Galt, a Cabinet member of the Cartier-Macdonald Government.

MARRIAGE AND START OF GASPESIAN CAREER

Admitted to the Québec Bar in 1830, John Robinson Hamilton began his law practice in Quebec City. In December of the following year, 1831, he married Eliza Racey, daughter of the late Charles Racey. Now it had so happened that three years earlier another Quebec City lawyer, John Gawler Thompson, had been appointed as His Majesty's Provincial Judge for the Inferior District of Gaspé to succeed Judge Alexis Caron who had died at Paspébiac in February, 1827. Judge Thompson was the uncle of John Hamilton and doubtless advised his nephew of the opportunities open to a young lawyer in the extensive District of Gaspé with its Sessions Courts at Douglas Town, Percé, New Carlisle, Carleton, etc. The appearance of John Hamilton before Gaspesian Courts as Attorney, Advocate and Prosecutor is recorded from the summer of 1830, when he was commissioned at Percé, and at the Fall Term of the Court of that year in New Carlisle.

THE CALL OF POLITICS

Politics would rival the Law in the interests of John Robinson Hamilton. In the Bonaventure election of 1831 he stood as a candidate in competition with Messrs Edouard Thibaudeau and John Gosset. Henry O'Hara was the Returning Officer and at the conclusion of the voting announced that Messrs Thibaudeau and Gosset were declared elected. This led directly to the following Petition to the Quebec Legislature:

"Petition of John Robinson Hamilton, Advocate of Quebec, presented to the House by Mr. Louis Bourdages.

That the petitioner in the early part of the first Session of the present Provincial Parliament presented a Petition

" to the House complaining of the irregularity of the Return of John Gosset, Esq., to serve in the Provincial Parliament for the County of Bonaventure, jointly with Edouard Thibadeau, Esq.

That the Poll Book not having been produced before the House, the House could not pronounce on the complaint contained in the said Petition.

That the said Poll Book is now in the hands of the Clerk of the House, by which it appears that a majority of the Vote given at the said Election is in favour of the Petitioner, the said John Gosset having polled ninety Votes only whilst the Petitioner received two hundred and twenty-eight.

That therefore the Petitioner persists in the conclusions of his first Petition, to wit:

That the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery appear at the Bar of the House with the Return of the said Election, and that he be instructed to efface therefrom the name of the said John Gosset, and insert in lieu thereof the name of the Petitioner, and to take such other measures which the House may deem meet".

This Petition gave rise to much debate and a whole series of votes in the Legislative Assembly. It was not until December 12, 1832, that the matter was finally settled and recorded, as follows:

" Thomas Douglass, Esq., Clerk of the Crown in Chancery, attended according to the Order of the House of the 7th instant and amended the Return for the County of Bonaventure by striking out the name of John Gosset, Esq., and inserting that of John Robinson Hamilton, Esq.

Thus Hamilton, only twenty-four years of age, took his Seat in the Quebec Legislative Assembly. He would serve as Member for the County of Bonaventure in a time of increasingly tumultuous political debate that was moving to a climax in the bitterness, strife and violence of the 1837 Rebellion in Lower Canada.

Defeated in the election of 1834 when Joseph Francois Deblois

was elected, together with Edouard Thibaudeau for Bonaventure County, John Hamilton returned to his practice of Law and bided his time. In the election that followed the passing of the Union Act of 1841 he again was elected as a Member for Bonaventure in the first Union Government.

GLIMPSES OF GASPEZIA OF THE 1830's

Fascinating glimpses of some personalities and events in those early years of John Robinson Hamilton in Gaspesia are to be found in the old Journals of the Quebec Legislative Assembly. In 1836 the Standing Committee on Grievances of the House began formal hearings on serious charges brought against the Honourable John Gawler Thompson, Judge of His Majesty's Provincial Court of the Inferior District of Gaspé in the Petition of Joseph F. Deblois, Esq., Advocate. During the course of these hearings a long parade of witnesses, residents of the District of Gaspé and others with particular knowledge of life on the Coast were examined and their testimony entered in the public record. They included:

- . Nicholas Boucher, Merchant, who had resided at Percé from 1826 to 1834, as a Clerk and then Partner of F. Buteau with the firm of Le Boutillier and Buteau.
- . Henry Bisset Johnston, Esq., J.P. of Point St. Peter, who testified regarding sessions of the Provincial Court at Douglstown.
- . John Bissin, Mariner, Point St. Peter, whose testimony referred to Samuel Ray and John Day as Baillifs and "Writers" for John Robinson Hamilton; to Mr. Wilkie, Prothonotary; Captain William Alexander of Point St. Peter and to the Case of Andrew Rooney.
- . Nicholas Allard, formerly of Carleton, recalled Court being held in a building on Carleton beach with Amasa Bebee as Prothonotary and that the Judge had boarded with Hilary Michaud while at Carleton.
- . Dr. George Mellis Douglas was examined twice by the Committee. He had resided in the County of Bonaventure from 1827 to 1833 and recalled travelling, in summer, from New Carlisle to Quebec on the schooner of Captain Thomas Caldwell. Once he had made the trip in winter via the Metis Portage - a trip of twenty days on snowshoes, sleeping at night in the forest. In his testimony Dr. Douglas spoke of Robert Sherar, Coroner of the District of Gaspé, John Montgomery,

Henry O'Hara, John Robinson Hamilton and Pierre (Peter) Duval of Bonaventure Island.

- . Patrick Enright, formerly of Cape Cove but then resident in Sherrington, testified at length. He spoke of Jacques Lamy of Paspebiac, Farmer, Trader and Tavern-keeper; James Shannon of Hope Town and Cape Cove; Martin Sheppard, Sheriff of the District of Gaspé; John McClellan, Gaoler, New Carlisle; Peter and Amice Duval, Partners in the firm of Peter Duval and Company of Bonaventure Island; Peter John Duval and Mr. Racey, brother-in-law of Judge Thompson.
- . Germain Durand, Trader, resident at Restigouche since 1830, referred to Frederick Bijeau (sic) of Carleton. He had often travelled the Metis Portage and recalled meeting there, "Mr. Armstrong and his Lady proceeding to the County of Bonaventure " at a point 9 leagues from Restigouche.
- . Etienne Lebreux of St. Thomas, Fisherman and Joiner, had lived at Percé from 1826 until 1829 and had returned there annually, in summer, for the fishing until 1834. In the winter of 1833 he had been employed by Jacques Lamy as a Joiner in the building of the "large, handsome house, costing £ 700 - £800 that Lamy had built at Paspebiac.
- . A number of other witnesses called upon to testify before the Committee included the Masters of vessels frequenting the ports of Bay Chaleur. In particular mention was made by more than one witness of the schooner, "LA REINE", Captain Charles Poirrier, Master.
- . James Ferguson Winter, late Sheriff of the District of Gaspé, gave much testimony that is of historical interest. He had resided at Paspebiac from May, 1815 until November 1832. As Sheriff he had succeeded Thomas Mann who had been appointed as the first Sheriff of the District of Gaspé by Governor Haldimand at the time of the settlement of the Loyalists in 1784. Thomas Mann was still living when John Robinson Hamilton arrived in Gaspesia and as the "old Sheriff" still commanded public respect. James Winter, by virtue of his role as Sheriff for the long extent of Coast from Gaspé to Restigouche, had wide knowledge of the people and events in Gaspesia.

He recalled some of the noted cases at law that had aroused wide public interest. Among the many personalities referred to in his testimony were: William Carter; Timothy Lefforgie; Germain Dionne; William Pickford; Edmund Flynn; Duncan Hay; Robert Caldwell, J.P.; John Marrett and his son, Daniel; Francois Langlois; John Hardeley; John Day; Thomas D. Munroe; John McClellan; Robert Sherar; John Whitton and R. William Fitton, " who gives himself out to be a Physician and Surgeon and who is a Law Clerk to John Robinson Hamilton".

Finally, the lengthy testimony of the Petitioner, Joseph F. Deblois, provides intriguing glimpses of the time. He went back to recall the role of James Gilker as Gaoler at New Carlisle; the influence of the "old Sheriff", Thomas Mann; the use of the Militia under Captain of Militia James Chisholm in aid of the Civil Authority and the duties of militiamen, Hector Morrison, William Rafter, Neil McKinnon, Daniel Hall, Hugh Caldwell and Hugh Morrison. He recalled the Rev. Mr. Doolittle as the Anglican Rector of New Carlisle; Robert Smollet and Henry Kempher as Bailiffs; legal cases involving David Smith, Adam Brotherton and Rufus Chamberlin; the remarriage of the Widow Jean Louis Laurent of Paspébiac with Francois Langlais.

It should be noted that while the lengthy hearing of the Standing Committee on Grievances provided, incidentally, for many interesting glimpses of Gaspesia of the day and more particularly as a safety valve for the thorough airing of grievances, the end result was not prejudicial to Judge John Gawler Thompson. In May, 1859, he was made Judge of the Superior Court for the District of Gaspé - a post that he held until his retirement from the Bench in August, 1868, a year before his death.

Many, if not most, of those who testified before the Standing Committee of the Legislature were contemporaries of John Robinson Hamilton in his early years in Gaspesia. Their evidence reflected a very different situation than that which prevails today in the District of Gaspé. The normal mode of travel from one settlement to another, and from Gaspesia to such centers as Quebec, was by sailing ship. The modern marvels of communication that we take for granted - the telephone, radio, and television - were unknown. Time, marked by distinct seasonal cycles, had a particular dimension.

THE SEA AND SHIPPING

It is not surprising, given the Maritime environment and activity of Gaspesia and the association of John Robinson Hamilton with Henry Black, authority on Maritime Law, during his apprenticeship for the Law with STUART AND BLACK, that Hamilton would become involved with shipping in Gaspesia. Some idea of how this came about is provided by the following:

" INDENTURE MADE 31 AUGUST 1842 BETWEEN JOHN ROBINSON HAMILTON, ESQ., ADVOCATE, ON THE ONE PART, AND JAMES CRAIG, FARMER, OF NEW CARLISLE ON THE OTHER PART.

Witnesseth : That whereas he, the said James Craig, is the owner and proprietor of the hull, keel and material of a certain schooner or vessel now on the stocks at New Carlisle aforesaid and is anxious to get the necessary supplies and advances to complete and finish the same, that the same may be built and launched, now therefore these presents are to the following effect, that is to say, he, the said John Robinson Hamilton, doth undertake and promise and oblige himself well and truly to supply the said James Craig with provisions, sails, rigging and money to the amount of £ 200 lawful current money of this Province and for and in consideration whereof the said James Craig doth promise and oblige himself in the manner following, That is to say - The said vessel to be registered in the name of the said John Robinson Hamilton and he, the said John Robinson Hamilton, to have the sole management and control of the same, with power to sell, exchange or dispose of the same on the stocks or off, at any time he may think proper, and repay himself the said advance to the amount supplied by him."

The extent and range of the maritime interests of John Robinson Hamilton should be the subject of other research and report. It might however be noted that M.A. Achintree, writing of Clarence Hamilton, son of John Robinson Hamilton, referred to the magnificent fishing establishment that he had at Long Point in the Seigniory of Mingan and to his role as ship-builder and outfitter in addition to that of trader. Owner of a fleet of vessels he was engaged in the West Indian and South American trade.

WARDEN AND Q.C.

From 1842, John Robinson Hamilton was Warden of the Bonaventure Municipal District and was active on behalf of the County at a time when new municipal legislation was changing former patterns. Three years later, in August, 1844, he was named Queen's Counsel, a mark of distinction and service in the legal profession.

THE MILITIA

Though the interesting history of the Militia of Gaspesia must await a future issue of GASPE OF YESTERDAY its origins lay much further back in time than the Appendix to Mrs. MacWhirter's TREASURE TROVE suggests. For during the French Regime in New France the local Captain of Militia had a recognized and important role - a role that the early British Governor's of Quebec considered as valuable and to be retained and encouraged. As early as 1777 Sir Guy Carleton issued an important and detailed ordinance governing the Quebec Militia and prior to 1800 Captains of Militia had been appointed and were active in Gaspesian communities. A strong military tradition had been implanted in the District of Gaspé by the Loyalist settlement and the first Lieutenant-Governor, Nicholas Cox, shared with many former officers and soldiers, settled in Gaspesia, an appreciation of the value and role of a Militia. References to early Militia officers and militiamen are to be found, not only in the writing of Mrs. MacWhirter but in books and articles by Charles-Eugene Roy, D.D., and by Doris and David McDougall.

In the time of John Robinson Hamilton, Q.C., in Gaspesia the Militia of Québec was reorganized and expanded by a series of important Militia Acts in 1846, 1847, 1855, 1859, 1862 and 1863. Much of the interesting detail on the Gaspé and Bonaventure Militia recorded by Mrs. MacWhirter relates to this period. At New Carlisle, John Hamilton contributed to the reorganization of the local Militia following upon the Act of 1855 and when a second Militia Regiment was organized in Bonaventure County in the 1860's he served with the rank of Captain in the New Carlisle Company commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel F.D. Gauvreau. The military tradition that had come down to him from generations of Hamiltons would be passed on to his descendents.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF JOHN R. AND ELIZA RACEY HAMILTON

LAURA HAMILTON Born in August, 1832, Laura was the first child and eldest daughter of the family.

CLARENCE HAMILTON Born in 1833, Clarence was the second child and eldest son of the family. He was educated in Quebec and the U.S.A. As noted above he was involved in the fishery and shipping. He developed an important fishing post at Long Point, Mingan on the North Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence whence Hamilton ships traded with the West Indies and South America.

Clarence married and made his home at Long Point. His son, Frank Hamilton, grew up to enter his father's business. Following the death of Clarence in 1894 and of his son, Frank, in 1901, the Widow Hamilton continued to reside on the North Shore until 1905 when she went to live with another of her sons in British Columbia.

Like his father, Clarence had wide interests and throughout his life maintained close links with his Gaspesian family. An interesting glimpse of him is to be found in the following extract from Achintre's PARLIAMENTARY PORTRAITS (1871) -

"MR. CLARENCE HAMILTON - MEMBER FOR BONAVENTURE

... A son of the Sun by virtue of the magnificent gold colour of his hair...of superb build, ruddy of complexion, the Representative of Bonaventure is the finest type of the Anglo-Saxon race.

Son of the late Hon. J.R. Hamilton, who represented the County of Bonaventure in the first session of the Legislative Assembly following the Union of the Canadas in 1841. Clarence Hamilton studied at Quebec and completed his education in the U.S.A. He has a magnificent fishing establishment at Long Point in the Seigniorship of Mingan. Both merchant and Shipowner, Mr. Hamilton exploits the Seven Islands fishery. His principal agent has been Narcisse Têtu.

CLARENCE
HAMILTON
(ctd)

Mr. Hamilton represents in the Legislature the particular interests of Bonaventure - those of a sober, valiant, energetic population, almost exclusively made up of fishermen who exploit the rich fisheries of the Gulf, Labrador and Gaspesia. Mr. Hamilton has contributed to the development of this industry on the North Shore of the St. Lawrence. Owner of several vessels, he exports our fish to the West Indies and South America.

When the Member for Bonaventure speaks, it is in the interests of his County. Thus, he presented an address asking that the Procurer General be given instructions to annul the Charter of the Coal Mining and Fishing Co. of Gaspé. At the first session he seconded the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. A solemn beginning in an Assembly where he didn't yet know all the faces - this might have paralysed the bravest. But the emotion expressed by Mr. Hamilton is a tribute to his electors and proves the importance that the young member attaches to his mandate"

Clarence Hamilton died at Long Point, Mingan in January, 1894 at the age of 61 years. In May, when navigation opened, his son Frank brought his father's body back to New Carlisle for burial in the cemetery of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, where a marker in the Hamilton plot indicates his last resting place.

ROSALIE
ISABELLA
HAMILTON

Born in 1836, Rosalie Isabella married, in 1863, Alfred Payne Le Boutillier, Merchant, son of Amy Le Boutillier of St. Helier, Jersey and the late Esther Payne.

Signing as witnesses of the marriage were Clarence Hamilton, brother of the bride and Henry Sutton, cousin of the bridegroom.

The first child of this marriage, a daughter, Laura Adele, was born in 1864. God-parents at her baptism were John Robinson Hamilton, Eliza Racey Hamilton and Mrs. Adelaide Esther Godfrey, an Aunt.

CHARLES
HAMILTON

Charles grew up to follow in his father's footsteps in the profession of Law.

In the records of Notary (and Sheriff) Martin Shephard can be found a most interesting document of the indenture under which Charles Hamilton entered upon his legal apprenticeship with the same firm of Quebec lawyers with whom his father had studied - STUART AND BLACK. On admission to the Quebec Bar, Charles practiced Law in Quebec.

In 1869 he married Susan Goldstone. It is of interest to note that the second child of this marriage, a son, was named John Robinson Hamilton.

Charles Hamilton died in 1874 at the early age of 32 years.

ELIZA
LOUISA
HAMILTON

Born in 1843, Eliza Louisa grew up to marry, in 1870, John Lindsay, Civil Engineer.

The record of their marriage bears the signatures, as witnesses, of John Robinson Hamilton, Jr., and Gavin Francis Hamilton, brothers of the bride.

A son, born of this marriage, John Robinson Hamilton Lindsay, was christened in August, 1871. The God-parents were - Charles Hamilton, Uncle; John Robinson Hamilton, Jr.; and the Widow Eliza Racey Hamilton.

JOHN
ROBINSON
HAMILTON
JUNIOR

While public records reveal little of the life and career of this Hamilton son that bore his father's name, it appears that he resided at New Carlisle. In September, 1889, he was united in marriage with Jeanette Thompson of New Carlisle.

Children of their marriage were:

<u>SONS</u>	<u>DAUGHTERS</u>
Harold (Harry)	Emmeline Emma
Claude	Mabel Maud
Clarence Randolph	Gertrude Eliza
Charles Racey	
Gavin William	
McNeil	

HERBERT
HAMILTON

Born in 1846 but died in infancy.

An entry in the 1847 JOURNAL of the Rev. George Milne is thought to refer to the death of this son. Milne wrote: Oct. 8, 1847. Bapt'd pr Emma Mary (today) D. of John R. Hamilton of N.C., Esq., Advocate and Eliza Racey, w, Mrs. H. having particularly requested me to do so, she being much troubled that her last had died without being bapt'd, I not having been at home at the time - the Rom (Roman Catholic) Priest also being absent.

This Milne note may also throw light on the statement of the Rev. M. LeMoignan that the baptism of Charles Hamilton was recorded in the Roman Catholic records of the Parish of Bonaventure.

EMMA
MARY
HAMILTON

Born in October, 1847.

Record of baptism by Rev. Milne, above.

Died May, 1924.

GAVIN
FRANCIS
HAMILTON

Born in 1850, Gavin bore the name of his paternal grandfather - a name recurrent in generations of the Hamiltons.

At his baptism the sponsors were his sister, Laura and brother, Clarence.

Gavin Francis Hamilton married, in 1884, Edith Caroline Borlase. Their children were:

George Charles Reginald	Augusta Mary Maud
Rosalie Eunice	Walter Clarence
Gwendoline Eliza	Kenneth Francis
Basil Moreton	Gavin Major

EPITOME

In her hauntingly evocative novel, FRENCHMAN'S CREEK, set in Cornwall, England, Daphne Du Maurier opens her story with nostalgic recall of old NAVRON HOUSE, where -

"...all the whispers and echoes from a past that is gone teem into the sleeper's brain, and he is with them and part of them; part of the sea, the ship, the walls of NAVRON HOUSE..."

An ocean away from Cornwall, on the scenic shores of Bay Chaleur, Hamilton House also stands as witness to " a past that is gone". Well might its walls echo the voices of the generations of Hamiltons to whom it was home.

It is GASPE OF YESTERDAY'S hope that this review may, in some measure, recall to Gaspésians the past of a family that contributed in the heritage of Gaspé.