

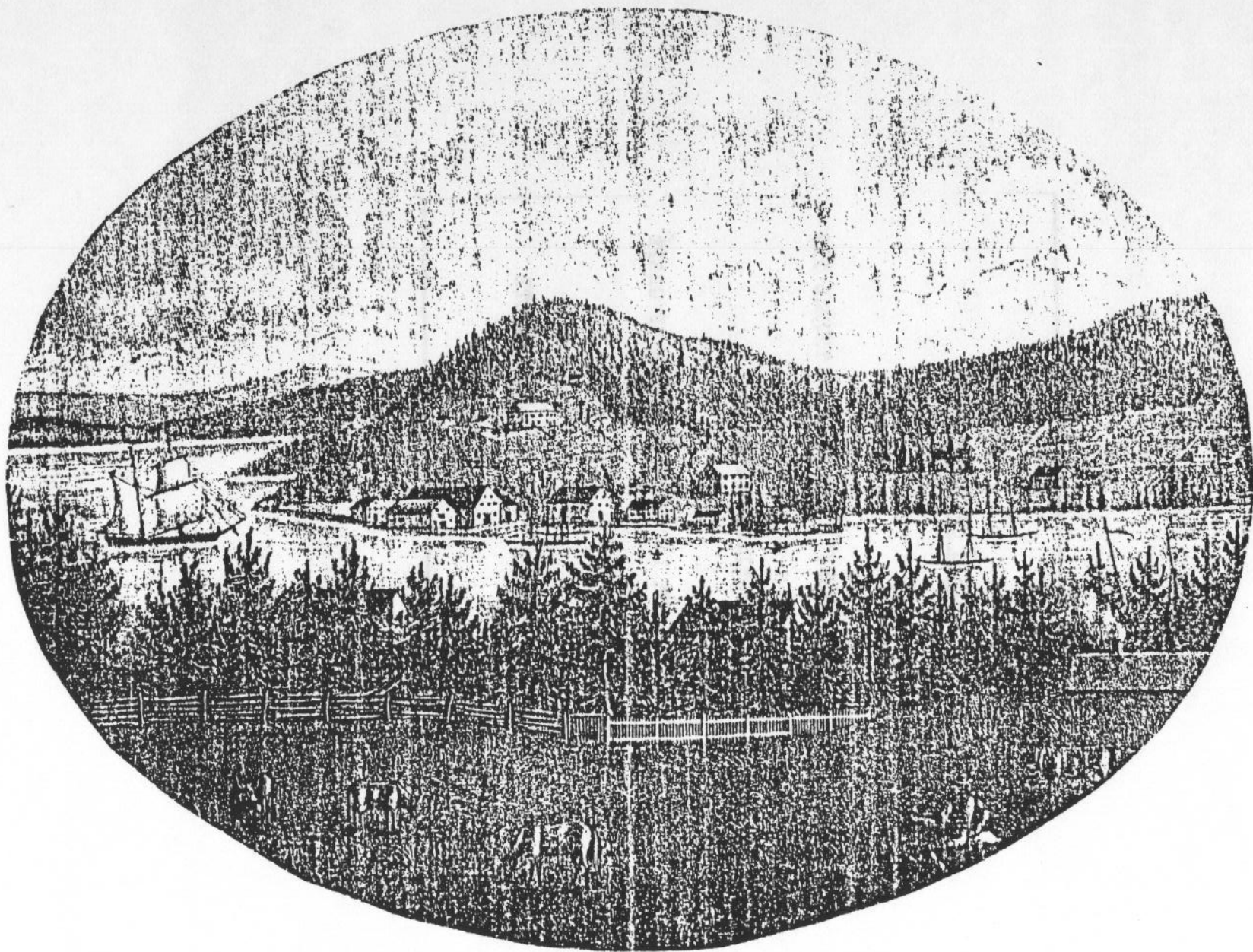
GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

"GASPÉ SCENERY", THE BOOK OF THOMAS PYE

Published 1866

PART OF THE LITERARY HERITAGE OF GASPÉ

KEN ANNETT



Thomas Pye - View of Gaspé Harbour from Gaspé Town. Fort Ramsay
overlooks the warehouses on the beach.

"GASPE SCENERY"

At Gaspe Basin in the month of October, 1866, the Gaspesian artist and author, Thomas Pye, drafted a DEDICATION for his book, "GASPE SCENERY", in these words:

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
CHARLES STANLEY VISCOUNT MONCK
GOVERNOR GENERAL, BRITISH NORTH AMERICA &
MY LORD,

THE WORK WHICH I AM NOW PRESENTING
TO YOUR LORDSHIP AND THE CANADIAN PUBLIC, WOULD,
IN ALL PROBABILITY HAVE REMAINED UNPUBLISHED, HAD
I NOT BEEN ENCOURAGED AND EMBOLDENED BY THE GRACIOUS
PERMISSION ACCORDED TO ME TO DEDICATE IT TO YOUR
LORDSHIP.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC ADMIRER OF NATURE IN HER
WILDEST AND MOST ROMANTIC GARB, I HAVE LONG CHERISHED
THE HOPE THAT I MIGHT ONE DAY BE ENABLED TO LAY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC A SERIES OF VIEWS OF THE GRAND
AND BEAUTIFUL SCENERY WHICH ABOUNDS IN THE DISTRICT
OF GASPE, AND THUS ASSIST IN MAKING MORE GENERALLY
KNOWN ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE, THOUGH HERETOFORE
LEAST APPRECIATED, PORTIONS OF THIS NOBLE PROVINCE.

SUCH BEING THE END I HAVE IN VIEW, YOUR LORDSHIP WILL,
 I TRUST, FORGIVE MY SHORTCOMINGS, AND MAKE EVERY ALLOWANCE
 FOR THE DIFFICULTIES AND DISADVANTAGES I HAVE HAD TO
 CONTEND WITH IN WHAT WAS ONCE DESIGNATED, "THE INFERIOR
 DISTRICT OF GASPE".

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BE
 MY LORD
 YOUR LORDSHIP'S TRULY GRATEFUL
 AND VERY HUMBLE SERVANT

THOMAS PYE

GASPE BASIN, OCTOBER, 1866.

Printed in Montreal in 1866 by John Lovell of St. Nicholas Street, the first edition of "GASPE SCENERY" was beautifully illustrated by twenty full page, tinted lithographs of Gaspe scenes (approx. 11 x 14 inches) produced by Roberts & Reinhold, Lithographers, Place d'Armes, Montreal. These interesting illustrations, combined with the author's related text, produce a fascinating account of the Gaspesia of more than a century ago.

Following the DEDICATION above, "GASPE SCENERY" presents a MAP OF GASPE, THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND PART OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND CAPE BRETON, prepared for the volume by P. Murison, Esq., of New Carlisle, Crown Land Surveyor.

It is of interest to note the names of the persons cited and thanked by Thomas Pye for their assistance in the preparation of his work:

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE THOMPSON

MR. SHERIFF VIBERT

MESSRS GIBAUT AND CARCAUD

NEW CARLISLE

PERCÉ

PASPEBIAC

W. BALDWIN, ESQ.	BATHURST
D. STEWART, ESQ.	DALHOUSIE
J.J.FOX, ESQ.	MAGDALEN ISLANDS
JOHN EDEN	GASPÉ BASIN
C.C.FOX	" "
MALCOLM SINCLAIR	" "
GEORGE DUMERASQ	" "
P.MURISON, ESQ. CROWN LAND SURVEYOR, NEW CARLISLE.	

In the INTRODUCTION the author outlined the situation, topographical features and population distribution of the Gaspesia of the time. Starting his account at St. Anne des Monts on the St. Lawrence he traced the seigniories and fishing stations eastward to Gaspé. The location of the various fishing firms was recorded and the names of individuals who pioneered in various localities recalled - e.g. the fishery at Newport Islands of Captain Philip Dean of Jersey. Interesting details of such abortive ventures as that of the GASPÉ FISHERY AND COAL MINING CO. at Great Pabos and Port Daniel were provided. In short, this vivid INTRODUCTION is a travelogue of the coasts of Gaspesia in 1866 with comment from a background that is no longer easy to duplicate.

As copies of the first edition of Thomas Pye's "GASPE SCENERY" are now among books classified as "rare", it may be of interest to the readers of SPEC to outline the subjects of the illustrations and related texts. These concern:

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| 1. PERCÉ ROCK | 5. GASPE BASIN |
| 2. FOX RIVER | 6. OIL WELL - GASPE |
| 3. GRAND GRÈVE | 7. POINT ST. PETER |
| 4. GASPE BASIN | 8. PERCÉ |

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 9. PERCÉ | 15. NEW CARLISLE |
| 10. CAPE COVE | 16. CARLETON |
| 11. GRAND RIVER | 17. DALHOUSIE, N.B. |
| 12. PASPEBIAC | 18. BATHURST, N.B. |
| 13. PASPEBIAC | 19. AMHERST HARBOUR, MAGDALEN ISLANDS. |
| 14. PASPEBIAC | 20. HOUSE HARBOUR, " " |

To indicate the historical and social interest and significance of Thomas Pye's book the following extracts from the text related to GASPE BASIN are cited herewith:

"THIS IS A VIEW OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE BASIN ON THE SOUTH SIDE. ON THE EXTREME LEFT IS A PENINSULA CALLED ADAM'S BLUFF WHICH, AS THE VIEW SHOWS, IS WELL SETTLED. THE COVE FORMED BY IT IS THE PORT BALLAST GROUND. THE HARBOUR OR BASIN PROPERLY COMMENCES AT THE FIRST WHITE STORE WHERE A BRIG IS SEEN LOADING DRY COD-FISH IN TUBS FOR THE BRAZILIAN MARKET. ALL THE WAREHOUSES IN THIS VIEW BELONG TO THE FIRMS OF MESSRS FRUING & CO. AND JOHN LE BOUTILLIER. IN THE BACKGROUND WHERE THE HILL RISES ABRUPTLY IS FORT RAMSAY, THE RESIDENCE OF JOHN LE BOUTILLIER, ESQ., M.P.P. A FORT STOOD HERE AT ONE PERIOD AND SEVERAL GUNS STILL REMAIN ON THE HIGH BANKS WHICH OVERLOOK THE WATER. THE LAND OF WHICH THEY STAND IS A GOVERNMENT RESERVE FOR PURPOSE OF DEFENCE. THE HOUSE ON THE EXTREME RIGHT IS THAT OF MR. A. PAINCHAUD, CROWN LAND SURVEYOR. THEN FOLLOWS THE RESIDENCE OF MR. HORATIO LE BOUTILLIER, CONSUL FOR ITALY AND VICE-CONSUL FOR BRAZIL AND THE UNITED STATES..... THE SCHOONER AT ANCHOR IS THE "LA CANADIENNE" EMPLOYED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FISHERY, UNDER THE COMMAND OF PIERRE FORTIN, ESQ."

The second view of Gaspe Basin was that of the present town of Gaspe as seen across the Basin from Gaspe Harbour:

"THIS IS A VIEW OF THE NORTH SIDE OF THE BASIN LOOKING UPWARDS TO THE WEST, AND SHOWS THE BEAUTY AND SECURITY OF THE HARBOUR. ON THE POINT JUTTING OUT ON THE LEFT IS A STEAM SAW-MILL ERECTED SOME YEARS AGO BY MR. SHAW BUT WHICH UNFORTUNATELY HAS NOT BEEN IN OPERATION FOR A LENGTH OF TIME. ON THE BROW OF THE HILL STANDS THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WITH THE PARSONAGE IN REAR. THE NEXT HOUSE NEAR THE SHORE IS THE RESIDENCE OF J.C. BELLEAU, ESQ., H.M. COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS, AND BELONGS TO THE ESTATE OF THE LATE JAMES PERCHARD, ESQ. THE HOUSE BEHIND IS THE RESIDENCE OF N. DUMERASQ, ESQ., THE LARGE HOUSE TO THE RIGHT IS THE GASPE HOTEL, THEN, FOLLOWING IN A LINE ARE THE RESIDENCES OF MESSRS GEORGE DUMERASQ, COLLAS & SLOUS, JAMES CARTER, CAPT. JOHN VIBERT, JOHN CARTER, J.J. LOWNDES, J. WILSON AND THEN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH; NEXT THE RESIDENCES OF MR. J.J. KAVANAGH AND MR. STUART AND, LASTLY, A TWO STORY STONE HOUSE, THE RESIDENCE OF MR. JOHN SHORT, THE MAYOR OF GASPE. THE POINT TO THE RIGHT IS WHAT IS TERMED THE BLUFF....."

As the above extracts from the text of "GASPE SCENERY" indicate, the book abounds, for each of the communities described, in fascinating references to the people and places of the Gaspesia of one hundred and fifteen years ago. In addition, those sections regarding Dalhousie and Bathurst on the New Brunswick shore of Bay Chaleur, refer to a number of interesting family and business links between those centers and Gaspesia. The text related to the views of Amherst Harbour and House Harbour in the Magdalen Islands, traces the story of the Islands from a time prior to the grant of the Magdalen Islands to Captain (later Admiral) Sir Isaac Coffin by Lord Dorchester, Governor of

British North America in 1798.

The life and career of Thomas Pye, a story in itself, must wait for a future issue of GASPE OF YESTERDAY. However, as a ~~postscript~~ postscript to the publication of his book, "GASPE SCENERY" in 1866, it does seem to be fitting to close this review with the following item from the DIARY of the Rev. George Milne for the year 1867:

March 13, 1867

"MARRIED BY LICENSE THOMAS PYE OF NEW CARLISLE,
ARTIST, BACHELOR OF MAJOR AGE, AND
ANGELIQUE DAY OF NEW CARLISLE, WIDOW
OF THE LATE THOMAS REES KELLY, IN LIFE OF
NEW CARLISLE, MERCHANT. AT PARSONAGE"

(Note - Angelique, the daughter of James Day,

Miller, and Maria, his wife, had been

married on August 4, 1850 to Thomas

Rees Kelly of New Carlisle, Mariner,

son of Robert Warren Kelly, Esq., and

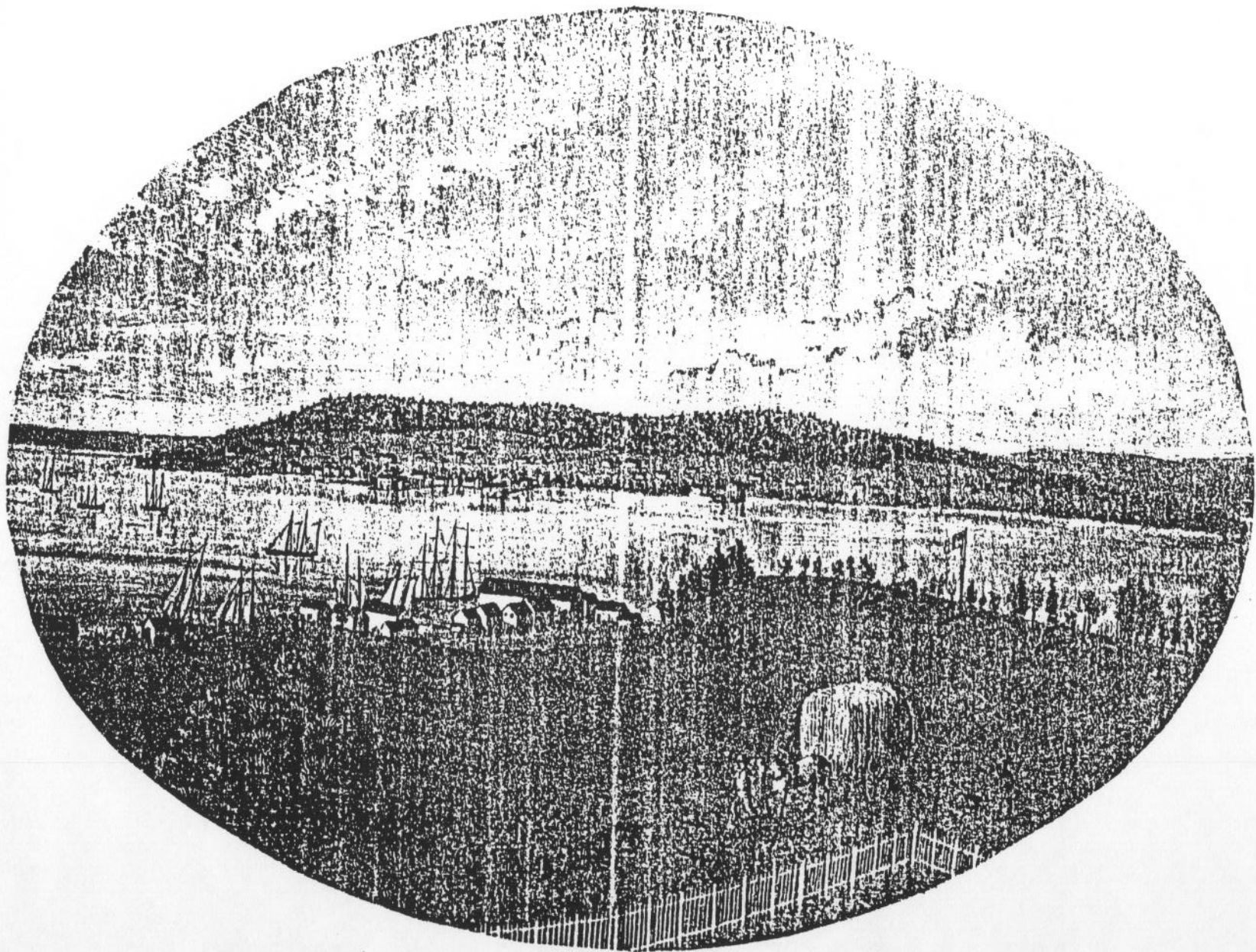
Jane Ann Coates, his wife.

As Anzelique was a Spinster of Minor

Age, the marriage, performed by the Rev.

George Milne, was by License and consent

of the bride's parents.)



Thomas Pye - View of Gaspé Basin from the grounds of Fort
Ramsay in Gaspé Harbour.