

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE IMHOFF FAMILY

Findings to date and the
continuing search of the
story of a pioneer family
of Gaspesia over the past
two hundred years,

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IMHOFF - A PIONEER GASPESIAN FAMILY

Through succeeding generations, members of the Imhoff family have been a part of the life of New Carlisle and other Bay Chaleur communities for the past two hundred years. But as is the case of many other pioneer Gaspesian families, their family story has not been well recorded and, indeed, poses difficulties of search. A serious complication in the particular case of the Imhoff family is the remarkable variety of the spelling of the name itself in church and legal records. The following are versions that have been noted to date:

AMCHOUGH

AYMOFF

AYMOUFF

EMOF

EMOFF

EMOFFE

EMHOFF

HEAMOFF

IMHAUGH

IMHOFF

The life of this family over two centuries of residence in Gaspesia has, through marriage, generated ever-widening ripples of alliance with other families of the Bay Chaleur region. In recording these findings of search of the family history, to date, it is the hope of GASPE OF YESTERDAY that some small contribution will be made to the social history of Gaspesia. Sincere thanks are in order to those members of the Imhoff family who have contributed information and to Gaspesian researchers, particularly Aldo Frochet, for assistance. Though progress has been made it will be obvious to the reader that major gaps of detail still exist. In order that the Imhoff family story be complete it is hoped that those with additional information will record and share it.

LOUIS IMHOFF, Sr. 1753-c.1830

It was Louis Imhoff, Sr., a veteran or "reduced" soldier of the Brunswick Dismounted Dragoons Regiment who was the first known member of the Imhoff family to settle in Bay Chaleur at the pioneer Loyalist settlement of New Carlisle. His name appears as a land-holder on the plans of TOWN, TOWN PARK and TOWNSHIP LOTS prepared in 1785 by the surveyor, Willian Vondenvelden. He signed the Petition of 1807 to the Government of Lower Canada as one of the "Inhabitants of the Inferior District of Gaspé and Occupiers of Certain Lands within the same, under and By Virtue of Location Tickets". The signers of this Petition sought security of Title to the lands they had occupied for more than two decades. They included the contemporaries and neighbours of Louis Imhoff, Sr. Nine years later, at the time of one of the distressing famines that afflicted the early District of Gaspé, an 1816 RELIEF BOOK, for residents of New Carlisle and area, recorded:

LEWIS IMHOUGH. RESIDENT OF COX. AGE 63
 HAS A WIFE AND 3 CHILDREN BY PRESENT MARRIAGE.
 AS WELL AS 3 CHILDREN BY A FORMER MARRIAGE.
 SERVED WITH GENERAL NICHOLS FOR 7 YEARS DURING THE
 AMERICAN REBELLION.

THE BRUNSWICKERS

It is relevant to recall briefly how the Brunswick Regiment of which Louis Imhoff, Sr. was a member, came to Canada.

At the close of the Seven Years War (1754-1763), the greatest and most far-flung war in which the nations of Europe had engaged to that time, Britain emerged supreme on the seas, in the New World and in the Far East. In North America the fall of New France in 1760 had removed from the boundaries of the American Colonies the hostile French power that had held them in check. The American Colonists, seething with grievances against Britain and burning desire for independence, now were free to move to open revolt. This new situation in North America found Britain at a low military

found dramatic and potentially tragic illustration in the lack of military force available to General Guy Carleton, Governor-in-Chief of Canada to stem the tide of American invaders who took possession of Montreal and whose armies, led by Arnold and Montgomery, threatened to wrest Fortress Quebec from Carleton and his inadequate garrison of experienced officers and men. Had the Americans succeeded in taking Québec in the winter of 1775 the whole history of our country might have been very different.

Britain was in urgent need of experienced troops. To that end the British Government, in 1776, concluded an agreement with the rulers of the German States of Hesse, Brunswick, Hanau and Anhalt for the services of a contingent of German troops to bolster the British forces in North America. These experienced officers and men were supplied by the respective German States as follows:

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| HESSE..... | 16,992 |
| BRUNSWICK..... | 5,723 |
| HANAU..... | 2,442 |
| ANHALT..... | 4,029 |

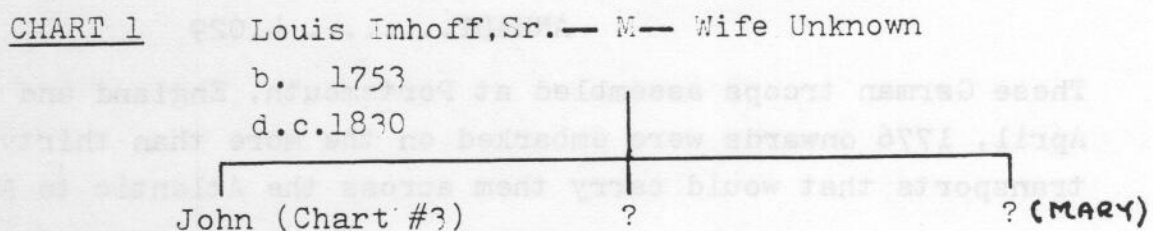
These German troops assembled at Portsmouth, England and from April, 1776 onwards were embarked on the more than thirty transports that would carry them across the Atlantic to America.

The majority of the 30,000 German troops dispatched to America, known collectively as the HESSIANS, were landed at New York. Their distinguished services against the forces of General George Washington during the Revolutionary War have been well documented. The experience of the BRUNSWICKERS, as the Brunswick Dismounted Dragoons Regiment and ancillary troops were collectively known, was different. Bound for Québec, the transports carrying the Brunswickers sighted Cape Gaspé on May 10th., 1776 and reached the Port of Québec on June 1st. The troops were under the overall command of Major-General Baron Frederick Adolphus Von Riedesel with Lieut.-Colonel Baum the officer commanding the Brunswick Dragoons. The arrival of

msrched out from Québec to take up temporary positions in key posts along the strategic St.Lawrence and Richelieu Rivers. A number of the wives and children of these soldiers accompanied them or came out in the following year when the Paroness Von Riedesel and her three young daughters arrived to join her husband.

The service of the Brunswickers, remarkably well documented, is beyond the scope of this brief review. They had the misfortune to be a part of the expedition of General Burgoyne against the Americans - an expedition that met with military disaster at Saratoga through no fault of the German troops. At the end of the Revolutionary War some 1500 of the officers and men of the Brunswick contingent chose to remain and settle in Canada. Among them was Louis Imhoff, Sr., who, his military service over, joined the Loyalists that sailed from Québec in June, 1784 bound for new homes in distant Bay Chaleur.

THE FIRST MARRIAGE OF LOUIS IMHOFF, Sr.



Reference was made above to the 1816 RELIEF BOOK which states that Louis Sr. had three children by a former marriage.

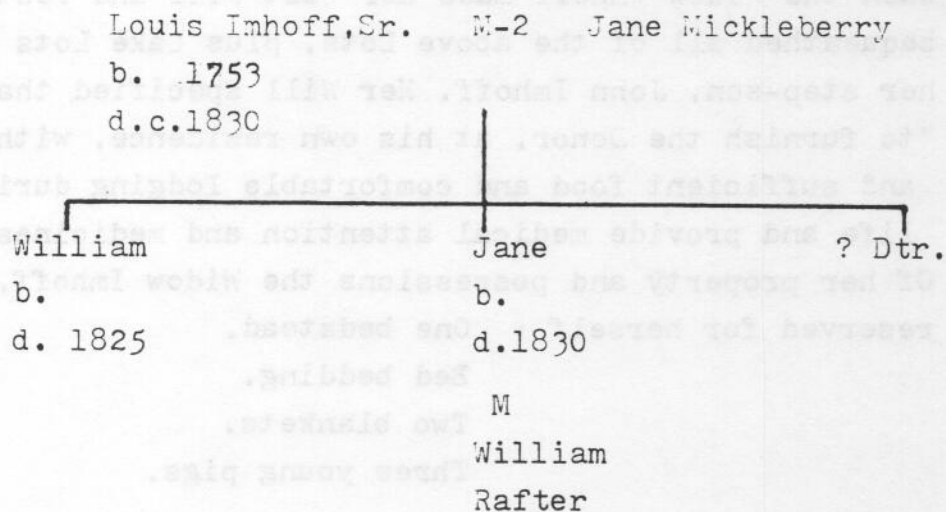
It has been established that his son, John, was one of the three children of the first marriage.

Again, the 1816 RELIEF BOOK has record of Edward Powers as the husband of the daughter of Lewis Imhaugh (Imhoff). A veteran soldier with more than 20 years of service with the Newfoundland Fencibles Regiment, Edward Powers had seen action at the Battle of York. Correlation of this information with that of Aldo Brochet to the effect that a son of Edward Poor (Power?) and Marie (Mary ?)

Yet to be determined is information regarding the first wife of Louis Sr. Their son, John, married c.1817 and assuming that he was then of the age of majority, his date of birth would fall c.1795. By that date his father had been settled at New Carlisle for some ten years and it would thus appear that his mother must have lived and died there.

THE SECOND MARRIAGE OF LOUIS IMHOFF, Sr.

CHART 2



Though little record of the first wife of Louis Sr. has been found to date, much documentation exists for his second wife, Jane Mickleberry.

The only son of the second marriage, William, died when a young man at New Carlisle in 1825. His mother, Jane Mickleberry Imhoff and his sister, Jane Imhoff Rafter were among those who were present at his funeral which is recorded in early Anglican Church registers.

By the year 1832 death had claimed both Louis Sr. and Jane Imhoff Rafter for it was then that the Widow Jane Mickleberry Imhoff signed a Deed of Gift by which she gave TOWN PARK LOT No.50 in Range 2 to her granddaughter, Martha Rafter, the minor daughter of William and the late Jane Imhoff Rafter. The Deed

We are reminded by other legal action taken by the Widow Jane Mickleberry Imhoff that in an age before Old Age Security cheques were known it was the possession of land that spelled security. Thus, in 1832, we find the Widow Imhoff leasing lands in New Carlisle to James Cassidy including TOWN LOTS Nos. 178; 190; 231 and TOWN PARK LOTS Nos. 11; 51; 106. The lease was to run for six years at \$ 20 per annum. Evidently this lease did not run to term, for two years later, in 1834, the Widow Imhoff sold some of the above land to Daniel Maret. Once again the land sold to Maret appears to have been repossessed for in 1835 when the Widow Imhoff made her Last Will and Testament she bequeathed all of the above Lots, plus Lake Lots 6 and 7 to her step-son, John Imhoff. Her Will specified that John was -

"to furnish the Donor, at his own residence, with wholesome and sufficient food and comfortable lodging during her natural life and provide medical attention and medicines in sickness" Of her property and possessions the Widow Imhoff, by her Will, reserved for herself :

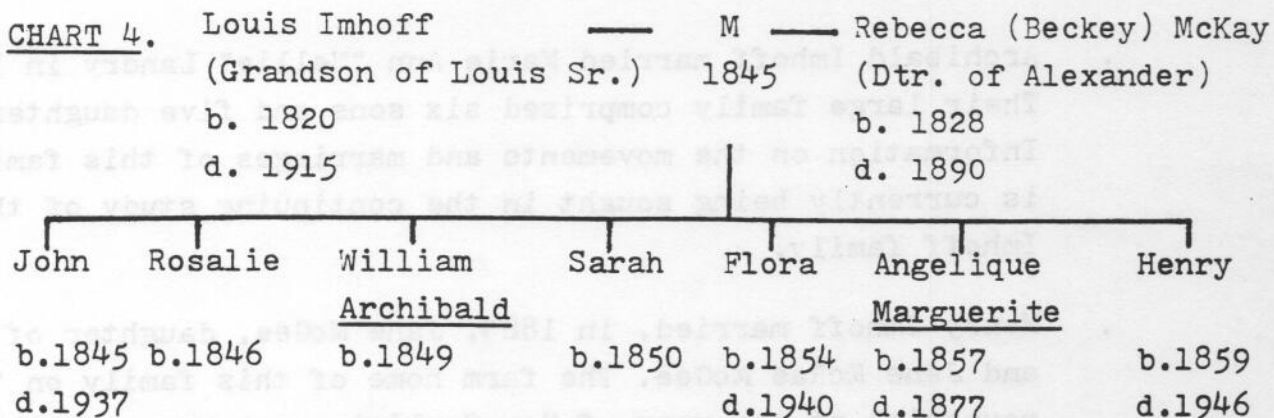
- One bedstead.
- Bed bedding.
- Two blankets.
- Three young pigs.

- . Anne Imhoff married Patrick McGinnis, fisherman of Percé. By Deed of Donation signed in 1846 she received from her father and mother the title to TOWN PARK LOTS #11 and #106 in New Carlisle, together with " a black cow about 4 years old and 2 pigs, 5 months old". The witnesses to this Deed were James Morrison and James Colville.
- . Louis Imhoff, whose life and career bridged the 19th and 20th centuries (1820-1915) married Rebecca McKay, daughter of Alexander and Marie Rose Le Page. Their family will be shown in a subsequent chart.
- . Mary Jane Imhoff became the wife of William James Astle. She lived until 1917 and the ripe old age of 96 years.
- . Sarah Imhoff married Henry Farrington, "Taylor" of New Carlisle. It was to Sarah and her husband that John and Charlotte Imhoff deeded their lands in 1860 in return for old age security. It is of interest to note that the TOWN, TOWN PARK and LAKE LOTS transferred by this 1860 Deed of Gift comprised all the lands that John Imhoff had received from his step-mother, the Widow Jane Mickleberry Imhoff, twenty-five years earlier. In return, Henry and Sarah Imhoff Farrington were to provide for John and Charlotte Imhoff for the rest of their natural life. Sarah Imhoff Farrington died in 1867 at the early age of 29 years.

Had John Imhoff kept a Journal of his life and times it would surely have been a priceless document of an era when Gaspesia was in rapid evolution. From his father, Louis Sr., and his own youth he would have had knowledge of the early years of New Carlisle and Port Daniel and from his wife, Charlotte, parallel knowledge of the Bonaventure Island-Percé area. He was witness to the major developments in Gaspesia through the first half of the 19th century. But John, in common with so many of our Gaspesian forbears, left little such record, and it remains for the searcher of today to try and reconstruct, from such scattered records as do exist, the

LOUIS IMHOFF (1820-1915) GRANDSON OF LOUIS Sr.

The imagination is stirred on consideration of the span of life of Louis Imhoff, grandson of the founder of the Imhoff family of Gaspesia, Louis Sr. At the time he was born the Gaspé Land Claims Commission was in session to consider the claims of Gaspesians from the Bay of Gaspé to Restigouche for the lands they occupied. He was a man of 47 years when the British North America Act created the new nation of Canada. In his lifetime Canada would expand its borders to the Pacific and Arctic Oceans to give reality to the Biblical phrase, "DOMINION FROM SEA TO SEA". He would have been aware, before his death in 1915, of the outbreak of World War I, and the sailing of the first contingent of Canadian troops from Gaspé Bay - past the rugged cliffs of Cape Gaspé that had been landfall for the Brunswick contingent of his grandfather, Louis Sr. in 1776.



This recall of earlier generations of the Imhoff family will conclude with brief notes on certain members of the family of Louis and Rebecca McKay Imhoff. The lives of these descendants bring one into the 20th century and the realm of living memory. The family trait of longevity, noted above, has persisted. Louis was in his 96th year when he died. His son, Henry, lived well beyond four score years. A daughter of Henry and his wife, Jane McGee, the Widow Mabel Imhoff Law of New Carlisle, is living at age 94 at this time of writing in September, 1983.

FROM CHART 4.

- . John Imhoff married Mary Cooper in 1862. They had a family of eight children. John, who survived his wife by a decade, died in 1937 in his 92nd year.
- . Rosalie Imhoff married the Widower Duncan McIntyre of Caplan. The first wife of Duncan was Mary Ann McClellan. A daughter of Duncan and Rosalie Imhoff McIntyre, Mary Emelia, married Jean Louis Babin of Caplan in 1901.
- . Archibald Imhoff married Marie Ann "Nellie" Landry in 1890. Their large family comprised six sons and five daughters. Information on the movements and marriages of this family is currently being sought in the continuing study of the Imhoff family.
- . Henry Imhoff married, in 1883, Jane McGee, daughter of Bernard and Jane McRae McGee. The farm home of this family on "the mountain" at the rear of New Carlisle, now vacant, will be remembered by many. One son and four daughters made up the family of Henry and Jane. Their grandchildren continue to live in Bay Chaleur communities of today.