

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE TUZO FAMILY

A recall of the family background of Joseph Stowe Tuzo and his wife, Mary Eve, of Percé and L'Anse au Beaufils and reference to the first generations of the descendants of this distinguished Gaspesian family.

KEN ANNETT

THE TUZO FAMILY

For more than 160 years the family name of TUZO has been widely and well known in Gaspesia. Joseph Stowe Tuzo and his wife, Mary Eve, both of the Island of Bermuda, settled at Percé and L'Anse au Beaufils circa 1820 and ever since that time the Tuzo name has been widely and well known in Gaspesia and far beyond.

In recalling this distinguished Gaspesian family, GASPE OF YESTERDAY acknowledges with gratitude the Tuzo family information supplied by the following:

- . The late Francis M.Gibaut in his MEMOIRS OF A GASPESIAN.
- . Mr.H.H.Gibaut and Miss R.Radley-Walters of Québec City.
- . Mr. Francis Annett of Gaspé.
- . Dr. J.Tuzo Wilson of Toronto.

This account also reflects information gleaned from the following sources:

- . The Québec Archives - in particular the Notarial Records of the late L.T.McPherson, N.P.
- . The Archives of the Anglican Diocese of Québec.
- . The United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, London, England.
- . The Bermuda Historical Society.

TUZO FAMILY ORIGINS

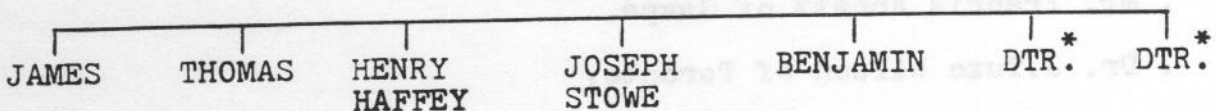
The TUZEAU family of France were noble and seigneurial, bearing the family crest of three wheat ears in a crescent. Members of the family in the 16th century were Huguenot in faith and religious practice and as a consequence of the Massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day and the terrible persecution of Huguenots in France, the common ancestor of the Tuzo families of Bermuda and North America fled France to find refuge in England. Over time the name, TUZEAU, took the modern form of TUZO. In England the Huguenot refugee worked as a sailmaker and as a tutor until such time as he succeeded in obtaining some funds from property left behind in France. He then took ship to the British North American colony of Virginia to establish his family and start a new life.

On the outbreak of the American Revolution, the Tuzo family, in common with many other colonists of Huguenot descent, were Loyalists. Faced with persecution anew, the Tuzo family, uprooted from their Virginia lands, sought refuge in the West Indian Island of Antigua. From there a move was made to the Island of Bermuda. It was there, in May, 1792, that Joseph Stowe, son of Thomas and Alice Tuzo was born.

TUZO CHART - I

THOMAS AND ALICE TUZO

Island of Bermuda



[The names of the sisters of the five Tuzo sons remain to be determined]

The maritime environment of Bermuda and the links of the Tuzo family with the West Indies were evidently dominant factors in the careers of the sons of Thomas and Alice Tuzo. Henry Haffey and Benjamin became Master Mariners and Masters of vessels sailing from Bermuda to the West Indies and the Port of Québec. In 1817, when he would have been only twenty-five years of age, Joseph Stowe was supercargo on the Brig. "ADIONA" on a voyage from Québec to Jamaica and Rum Key. The year previously, his brother, Captain Henry had been in Québec with his 95 ton schooner "SARAH", and in 1822 Captain Benjamin Tuzo, Master of the Brigantine "SUPERB" was in Québec loading cargo for the West Indies. Three years later, in 1825, Captain Benjamin, Master of the Brig "FRANCIS RUSSELL", of Bermuda, 105 tons, almost lost his ship in the St. Lawrence River, off Kamouraska, as the result of being struck by another vessel.

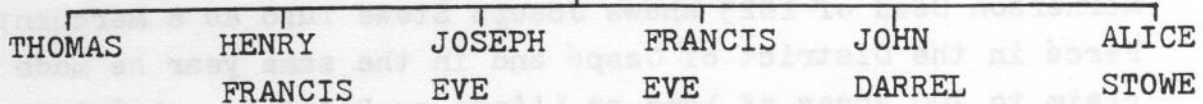
TUZO IN GASPESIA

While the reasons that led Joseph Stowe Tuzo and his family to move from Bermuda and settle in Gaspesia remain obscure they may well be related to contacts with Gaspesians that he had while visiting at the Port of Québec.

His Québec City Notary, L.T.McPherson, was a Gaspesian by birth, being a son of Daniel McPherson who developed a flourishing Fishery at Douglastown and Point St.Peter in the days of Charles Robin and Company. He had grown up in the District of Gaspé and his clientele as notary included members of such Gaspesian families as O'Hara, Boyle, Baker, Miller, Sherar, Le Gresley, Berte, Sivret, Dugas, Brown, Ferguson and Pritchard . In any case, a McPherson Deed of 1823 shows Joseph Stowe Tuzo as a Merchant at Percé in the District of Gaspé and in the same year he made claim to 200 acres of land at L'Anse au Beaufils, claiming occupancy, the said land being "adjacent to the Glebe".

Throughout the two decades, 1823-1843, Joseph Stowe Tuzo was a prominent member of the Gaspesian community. He served the Anglican Church as Catechist and his correspondence with the Lord Bishop of Québec is on record in the Diocesan Archives. In one such letter of 1833 to Archdeacon Mountain he noted that he had attended John, son of William Annett, Gaoler of Percé, in his terminal illness and recorded his tragic death at early age of twenty-one years. His letters reveal that he was a well-educated man and indicate why he was sought out to be one of the pioneer schoolmasters of the District schools. His sons and daughter were sent to Bermuda to complete their education - a family action that must have entailed considerable sacrifice in those distant days. Further testimony to his status in the District is seen in his appointment as a Justice of the Peace at a time when there was much justifiable concern about the state of Justice in Gaspesia arising from the lack of an adequate system of Courts. It should be noted that Mary Eve Tuzo had charge of the first Post Office at Percé, a post that she retained following her husband's death in April, 1843 until her own death in December, 1852. The post then was held by their son, Joseph Eve Tuzo for many years.

Far from their native Bermuda, Joseph Stowe and Mary Eve Tuzo were laid to rest in the Cap au Canon Protestant Cemetery at Percé. Joseph died at age 52 years and Mary Eve at age 59 years.

TUZO CHART - IIJOSEPH STOWE AND MARY EVE TUZOBermuda and Gaspesia

- . Thomas Tuzo, 1821-1897, was a Mariner and Sea Captain. His wife was Rebecca Dill, 1824-1907. Their home was in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. They did not have children.
- . Henry Francis Tuzo, 1823-1845, unmarried, was drowned in 1845.
- . Joseph Eve Tuzo, 1825-1890, served as Gaoler and Postmaster at Percé. In 1850 he married Louisa Languedoc, daughter of Joseph and Eliza Ann Boyle Languedoc of Gaspé. Their family of nine children will be shown in TUZO CHART - III.
- . For Francis Eve Tuzo, only a birthdate of 1828 has been found. It is presumed that he died in childhood.
- . John Darrel Tuzo, 1830-1879, married Maria Languedoc, a sister of Louisa Languedoc Tuzo above, and settled in Gaspé. Their family will be shown in TUZO CHART-IV.
- . Alice Stowe Tuzo, 1833-1906, married Sam Watson of Bermuda. The marriage was held in Percé at the request of the bride's parents. The Watsons lived in Bermuda where Sam Watson became Attorney-General of the Island. Alice survived her husband to die at the home of her son, Harry Watson, Demerara, West Indies, in Dec.1906.

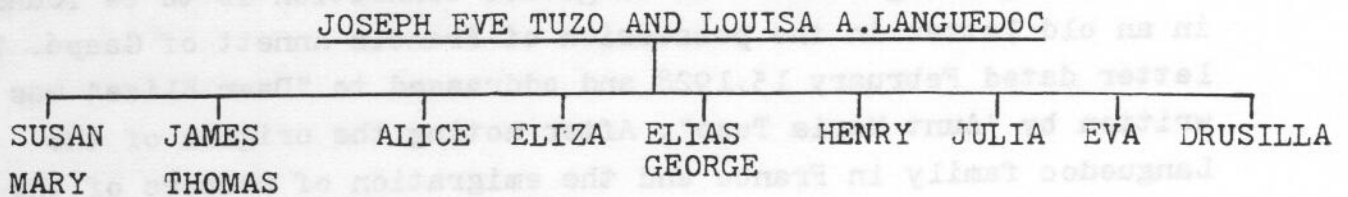
With reference to CHART II and the marriages of the Languedoc sisters, Louisa and Maria, with Joseph and John Tuzo, respectively, interesting insight into the Languedoc connection is to be found in an old letter in the possession of Francis Annett of Gaspé. This letter dated February 15, 1928 and addressed to "Dear Eliza" was written by "Aunt Maria Tuzo". After noting the origins of the Languedoc family in France and the emigration of members of the family to Canada, the letter continues:

" My father's name was Joseph Languedoc and he had a brother, Francis, who was a Member of Parliament, and two sisters.... Mother's brother was Captain Felix Boyle. He used to go whaling and do extremely well and in the autumn he used to take his oil to Quebec to sell. He met in with Joseph Languedoc and he came to Gaspé with him and married his sister, Eliza.(Boyle) She was my mother. They moved to Quebec and remained for some time. Then they moved back to Gaspé and settled here. My Grandfather Boyle was a Scotch man from Scotland and married Mrs. Dan Patterson's daughter, Mary.

I have written you all to the best of my knowledge.

I remain with much love,

Aunt Maria Tuzo "

TUZO CHART - III

- . Joseph Eve Tuzo, son of Joseph Stowe and Mary Eve Tuzo, and Louisa Languedoc, daughter of Joseph and Eliza Ann Boyle Languedoc were married in 1850.
- . Susan Mary Tuzo died in infancy.
- . James Thomas Tuzo, 1852-1947, was widely known in Gaspesia as Sheriff of Gaspé and the Magdalen Islands and Postmaster of Percé. His wife was Edith LeBrun. They had five sons and four daughters. A son, Captain Harold Tuzo, after a maritime career, became the Harbourmaster of the Port of Halifax, N.S.
- . Alice Tuzo married Francis Gibaut, formerly of the Island of Jersey and Manager in Gaspesia for the Robin Co. (C.R.C.) at Newport, Grand River, Percé, and Paspébiac (Assistant General Manager) Their son, Francis M. Gibaut of Québec City, recorded family history in his MEMOIRS OF A GASPESIAN.
- . Eliza Tuzo did not marry. On her death in 1955 she was the sole remaining member of her immediate family.
- . Elias George Tuzo remained a bachelor and resident of Percé. For many years he was assistant Postmaster of Percé, acting for his brother, James.
- . Henry F. Tuzo was living in Québec City at the time of his death in 1915.
- . Julia Tuzo became the wife of Clifford de Quetteville and was resident in the U.S.A. at the time of her death in 1934.
- . Eva Tuzo married Philip Syvret Hamon, formerly of St. Ouen, Jersey She survived her husband, who died at Truro, N.S. in 1927. She died in 1947 and was buried at Percé.
- . Drusilla Tuzo married Dumaresq Valpy. Following the loss of her husband on an Atlantic voyage the Widow Valpy resided at Percé.

TUZO CHART - IVJOHN DARREL TUZO AND MARIA LANGUEDOC

[Children below are not necessarily in sequence of birth]

CLAUDE EDITH SUSAN JOSEPH JOHN ELIZA MARIA ELIAS THOMAS THOMAS

- . John Darrel Tuzo was a son of Joseph Stowe and Mary Eve Tuzo and his wife, Maria Languedoc, was a daughter of Joseph and Eliza Ann Boyle Languedoc.
- . THE QUIET ADVENTURERS IN CANADA of Mrs. Marion Turk states that John D. Tuzo died in 1878 in the Magdalen Islands where he was Deputy Sheriff and Gaoler. After his death his family returned to live in Gaspé.
- . Two sons, each given the name of Thomas, died in infancy.
- . Susan Tuzo married Ralph Watson of Nova Scotia
- . Edith Tuzo became the wife of Alfred Falle.
- . Claude Tuzo was a bachelor.
- . Joseph Tuzo was the husband of Melessa Mullin.
- . John (Johnnie) Tuzo was lost at sea on the schooner "MIZPAH, Captain Tom Robson, Master. An account of the loss of the "MIZPAH" by Dr. and Mrs. David McDougall was published by SPEC in NOTES FROM OUR PAST.
- . Eliza Tuzo married Philip Bechervaise, son of Philip and Margaret Coffin Bechervaise.
- . Maria Tuzo became the wife of Alphaeus John Annett, son of Felix Richard and Charlotte Eden Annett.
- . Elias Tuzo married Helena Eden.

CAPTAIN HENRY H.TUZO AND DESCENDANTS

As complement to the family story of Joseph Stowe Tuzo in Gaspesia, it is of interest to have an overview of that of his seafaring brother, Captain Henry H.Tuzo. In this, GASPE OF YESTERDAY, by courtesy of Miss Ruth Radley-Walters of Québec City, had access to a most interesting and informative letter written in June, 1918, by Henrietta Laetitia Tuzo Wilson of Ottawa to her Gaspesian cousin, Elias Tuzo. Henrietta was the grand-daughter of Captain Henry H.Tuzo and the mother of Dr. J.Tuzo Wilson who is now the Director General of the Ontario Science Centre, Toronto.

It was in June of 1830 at the Anglican Cathedral of Québec that Captain Henry H.Tuzo, widower, and Master of the Brig "GRENADA" married Mrs. Anna Maria Atkinson Clarke, widow of the late George Clarke. The Ven.Archdeacon Mountain officiated.

Of this union two children were born - a son, Henry Jr. and a daughter, Anna. The son grew up to graduate in Medicine from McGill in 1853 as gold medalist of his class. He then left for the Canadian West with the Hudson Bay Company Party of Sir George Simpson. Subsequently he was with Sir James Douglas in the early days of Victoria, British Columbia. He served there for some twenty years and was joined on Vancouver Island by his sister, Anna. Dr. Henry H.Tuzo retired in England.

Dr. Henry Tuzo and his wife, Laetitia Coxhead had a son, John Atkinson Tuzo and a daughter, Henrietta Laetitia Tuzo. John was killed in World War I leaving a son, Harry, now General Sir Harry Tuzo of England. Henrietta (Hetty) Tuzo became the wife of John Wilson. The Wilson family comprised two sons and a daughter.

In her letter of June, 1918, Henrietta Tuzo Wilson noted: "...My Father's sister, my Aunt Anna is still alive - she would be your Father's first cousin.... My father looked very French. He lived in Québec when a boy and went to school with the late Lady Lemoine and her brother, Henry Atkinson.... I hope that at some time we may meet, it is a great pleasure to me to know some of my Father's people...."

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN TUZO

As noted earlier in this account, Captain Benjamin Tuzo, brother of Joseph Stowe and Henry Haffey, was a Master Mariner and Master of Bermudian vessels engaged in the Canadian-West Indies trade. But unlike these brothers he returned eventually to live in the United States whence his Loyalist ancestors had fled at the time of the American Revolution.

The persistence of maritime tradition and family links is illustrated in an incident recounted to me by Miss Ruth Radley-Walters. Some years ago an American ship docked in the Port of Québec on a friendly visit and was open for visits by the public. A member of the Gibaut family, on such visit, met the Commander of the American ship, a Captain Tuzo. In conversation it was learned that he descended from Captain Benjamin Tuzo. As Mrs. Francis Gibaut of Québec City was the former Alice Tuzo, grand-daughter of Joseph Stowe Tuzo of Gaspesia, the family link and relationship was established then and there .

POSTSCRIPT

In presenting this brief account of the TUZO family as another in the series of recall of early Gaspesian families, GASPE OF YESTERDAY wishes to renew an earnest plea to readers of SPEC who may hold historical material on family history to make it available. The Gaspesian heritage is, essentially, the sum total of the background and experience of the District's people. It is sad and frustrating that some of that record has been lost beyond recall. Much however must remain that can be recorded for the information and benefit of the descendants of Gaspesian families. For its part, GASPE OF YESTERDAY, will welcome all comments, corrections and additions to its series and trusts that significant contributions will be made so as to record the Gaspesian Heritage.
