

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

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THE SCHOONERS "TRYAL"

Recalling Gaspesian schooners
named "TRYAL" and men of Gaspé
linked with them.

KEN ANNETT

THE SCHOONERS "TRYAL"FOREWORD

The tradition of naming a schooner "TRYAL" would appear to have been handed on to Gaspé shipbuilders and owners from New England, if not from Old England itself. Some confirmation of this is found in a Library of Congress manuscript, THE JOURNAL OF A CAPTIVE -1745-1748, to be found in the interesting volume of Isabel Calder's COLONIAL CAPTIVITIES, MARCHES AND JOURNEYS. The New Englander, Captain William Pote, Jr., who was taken a prisoner at sea by a French warship and carried off to a Québec prison, noted in his JOURNAL for June 24th., 1745:

"...Midsummer Day; fell in with 3 Fishing Schooners, 2 of which they (the French) took, vizt, the ENDEAVOUR, John Cox of Salem, the TRYALL, Joseph Dennen of Marblehead, the 3rd got away. The TRYALL was sunk and the ENDEAVOUR was Taken in Tow..."

Subsequently, from prison in Québec, Captain Pote recorded, on April 17th., 1746, the death of Captain Joseph Dennen, late Master of the TRYALL schooner

THE SCHOONER "TRYAL" OF MAL BAY

The following Deed from the records of Notary Charles Stewart of Québec, dated 1798, will serve to recall not only the Gaspé schooner "TRYAL" but Gaspesian personalities of the time:

"Before the Notaries Public subscribing, personally appeared Mr. Daniel McPherson of Douglastown, District of Gaspé, at present in the City of Québec, of the one part and Messrs. Lymburner and Crawford of the same City of Québec, Merchants and Copartners in trade, of the other part - Which said Daniel McPherson did, of his own free will and accord, Declare - That for and in Consideration of the sum of Two Hundred and thirty pounds Current money of this Province, to be paid in the manner hereinafter mentioned, Hath Granted, sold, released and confirmed- and hereby doth Grant, sell, release and confirm with Guarantee against all former sales, Gifts, Debts, Demands and Incumbrances whatsoever, all that certain Schooner called

Tryal of the burthen of fifty four forty four ninety fourth Tons as she now lays at Mr. Blackwood's Wharf and which he promises to deliver to the said Lymburner and Crawford at their Dock immediately after the execution hereof, in the same state, together with her Hull, Masts, Sails, Yards, Anchors, Cables, Ropes, Tackle and Apparel to the said Schooner appertaining or belonging, by whatever name or names the same is or are called or known or of whatever kind or quality the same may be and consist of -

To Have and to Hold the said Schooner Tryal, with her Hill, Masts, Sails, Yards, Ropes and all and singular her appurtenances whatever hereby Bargained, Sold and Conveyed, or intended so to be, unto them the said Lymburner and Crawford, their Heirs and Assigns, to the only proper use, benefit and ... of the said Lymburner and Crawford, their Heirs and Assigns from henceforth for ever and to which they are hereby intended to have a Legal right and property.

And further, He, the said Daniel McPherson, hereby promises and engages to furnish the said Lymburner and Crawford with a Bill of Sale of the said Schooner from the person or persons from whom he purchased her whenever He shall be thereunto required, and elects his domicile at Mr. James Tod's, St. Peter street, Québec, and Lymburner and Crawford at their House, St. Peter's Street, Québec. The Consideration money to be paid as follows - to wit - One Hundred barrels of flour common at twenty six shillings per Barrel - to be delivered immediately after the execution hereof and the sum of One Hundred pounds Current money aforesaid Granted to the said Daniel McPherson by the said Lymburner and Crawford in their Note of hand of this date and payable to the said Daniel McPherson, or his order, on or before the fifteenth of October next ensuing.

Which said Schooner obtained a Register at the Port of Carleton, District of Gaspee, on the first day of June last and which is here transcribed according to Act of Parliament -

In pursuance of an Act passed in the Twenty sixth year of the reign of King George the Third, intituled An Act for the further increase and encouragement of Shipping and Navigation, William Lucas and Fitzhugh Lucas of Mall Bay in the County of Gaspee and Province of Lower Canada, Mariners, having taken and subscribed the oath required

3.

by this Act, and that they are sole owners of the ship or vessel called Tryal of Gaspee, whereof William Lucas is at present Master and that the said ship or vessel was Built at Mall Bay in the District of Gaspee and Province of Lower Canada this present year, One Thousand seven hundred and ninety eight

And James Durward having Certified to us that the said ship or vessel is British Plantation built, has one deck and two masts, that her length from the forepart of the main stem to the after part of the stern post aloft is fifty two feet, her breadth at the Broadest part, whether above or below the main wales, sixteen feet, and admeasures fifty four $44/94$ Tons, that she is a Square sterned Schooner, has no Gallery and no head

And the subscribing Owners, having consented and agreed to the above description and admeasurement, and having caused sufficient security to be Given as is required by the said Act, the said Schooner, Tryal, has been duly registered at the Custom House at the Port of Carleton, District of Gaspee.

Given under our hands and seals of office at the Custom House in the said Port of Carleton this first day of June, One Thousand seven hundred and ninety eight.

(Signed) Henry O'Hara, Acting Deputy
Collector of H.M. Customs

Robt. Prescott, Governor

INDORSED / We, the within mentioned William and Fitzhugh Lucas, have for valuable Consideration, sold, delivered and made over to Daniel McPherson of Gaspee our right, title and Interest of the within mentioned Schooner, Tryal. Witness our hands at Gaspee this Eighteenth day of June, 1798.

(Signed) William Lucas
Fitzhugh Lucas
Geo. McPherson
Abiel Lucas

Port of Gaspee - These Certify that James Maret is now become Master of the above mentioned Schooner, Tryal, in the room of William Lucas. Given under my hand at Gaspee this 8th day of June, 1798

(Signed) Henry O'Hara

4.

Which said Grant, Bargain, Sale and Conveyance they, the said Lymburner and Crawford did and heteby doth accept. This Done and Passed at Québec in the afternoon of the twenty sixth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and ninety eight, this Minute having been duly read to and subscribed by the parties in the office of Charles Stewart, one of the subscribing notaries, there to remain of record.

(Signed) Daniel McPherson
Lymburner and Crawford
Charles Stewart, N.P.
A. Dumas, N.P.

REFERENCES

Reference to Daniel McPherson, a contemporary and successful competitor of Charles Robin in the Gaspé fishery, is to be found in the article, DOUGLASTOWN BEFORE 1800, by Doris and David McDougall published by SPEC in the issue of 29 May 1980.

Reference to the Lucas family of Mal Bay will be found in the article, MAL BAY BEFORE 1801, by Doris and David McDougall, which appeared in the SPEC issue of 02 September, 1981.

THE SCHOONER "TRYAL" OF NEW CARLISLE

It is of interest to note that this account of the schooner TRYAL of New Carlisle is to be found in the records of Notary Public, L.T.McPherson, a son of the Daniel McPherson above. In 1802 Daniel McPherson had acquired the Seigniory of Crane Island in the St.Lawrence, off Montmagny. It was from there that his son Laughton Thomas went forth to complete his education, to qualify as a Notary Public, and to practice his profession in the City of Québec from 1816 onwards. The McPhersons maintained strong links with Gaspesia and the clients of L.T.McPherson included many Gaspesians, including James Sherar of New Carlisle, owner and Master of the schooner TRYAL of Bay Chaleur.

BILL OF SALE - 07 NOVEMBER 1817

" On the Seventh Day of November in the Year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, Before us the undersigned Notaries Public, duly admitted and sworn for the Province of Lower Canada and residing in the City of Québec in the said Province, personally came, appeared and were present James Sherar Esq., of New Carlisle in the Province of Lower Canada, Merchant, now in the City of Québec, sole owner of the schooner or vessel called Tryal of the burthen of forty and 57/94 Tons register measurement, now lying in the Port of Québec who for and in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred Pounds, Current money of the said Province of Lower Canada, to him in hand at and before the execution of these presents, well and truly paid by Mr. James Lampriere Marett of the said City of Québec, Merchant, receipt whereof he doth hereby acknowledge as Quittance, did and by these presents doth grant, bargain, and sell, assign, transfer and set over, with guarantee or warranty against all hindrances and pretentions, with the said James Lampriere Marret, hereunto also present and accepting hereof for himself, his heirs and assigns, as follows

That is to say; the said Schooner or vessel called Tryal, together with all and singular the masts, sails, yards, anchors, cables, standing and running rigging, hawsers, boats, oars, tackle, apparel, furniture, appurtenances and dependencies whatsoever to the said

vessel or Schooner belonging or in any wise appertaining, which said vessel hath been duly registered at the Port of Québec, a Copy of the certificate of which is as follows, vizt.-

Number Seventy two

In pursuance of an Act passed in the twenty sixth year of the reign of King George the third, intituled an Acr for the further Increase and Encouragement of Shipping and Navigation, James Sherar of New Carlisle in the Province of Lower Canada, Trader, having taken and subscribed the oath required by this Act and having sworn that himself is sole owner of the ship or vessel called the Tryal of New Carlisle, whereof the deponent is at present Master, and that the said ship or vessel was built at New Carlisle aforesaid this present year, one thousand eight hundred and fifteen, which appears by certificate of Henry O'Hara, Esq., Deputy Collector at New Carlisle, bearing date the 27th September last and Charles G. Stewart, surveyor for the Navigation Act, Mr.H.P. Cole having certified to us that the said ship or vessel is British Plantation Built, has one Deck and two masts, that her length from the fore part of the main Stem to the after Part of the Stern Post aloft is Forty five feet, six inches, her breadth at the Broadest Part above the main wales fourteen feet eight inches and admeasures forty and $57/94$ Tons; that she is a square sterned schooner with a quarter deck, has no gallery and no figure Head, and the said subscribing owner having consented and agreed to the above description and admeasurement and having caused sufficient security to be given, as is required by the said Act, the said schooner Tryal has been duly registered at the Port of Québec.

Given under our Hands and Seals of office at the Custom House in the said Port of Québec this Twenty fourth day of November in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.

Recorded at the Custom House, Québec H. Percival Cole
 Recorded at the Naval Office W. Scott
 Certificate of British Plantation Registry. Gorden Drummond

7.

To Have and to Hold the aforesaid vessel or Schooner and other the premises hereby bargained and sold unto the said James Lampriere Marret, his heirs and assigns to the only proper use and behooff of the said James Lampriere Marret his heirs and assigns, henceforth for ever.

This done and passed in the said City of Québec at the office of L.T.McPherson, one of us the said Notaries, on the day and year first above written, In Faith and Testimony.

Whereof the said parties have to these presents, first duly read, set and subscribed their names and signatures in the presence of us the said Notaries hereunto subscribing.

(Signed) James Sherar
Jas.Lre Marett
L.T.McPherson, N.P.
Ed. Glachemeyer, N.P.

LATER DEEDS

While it is beyond the scope of this article to follow the career of the schooner TRYAL of New Carlisle it appears that the above change of ownership was but the first of several sales. One of the more interesting is reflected in a Deed of Procuration dated 13 November 1833 when she became the property of Louis Gamache, John Clark and Francois Fortard, all of the Island of Anticosti, Fishermen. A year later another Deed of Sale reflected other ownership.

REGARDING JAMES SHERAR

A recall of the Sherar family of New Carlisle is planned for the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY series but it seems appropriate, in the context of the above, to provide a note on James Sherar. Eldest of the children of Thomas and Jeanne Melvin Sherar, James (1770-1846) was born in Scotland and was four years old when his parents emigrated to settle in New York Province in 1774. As a Loyalist, Thomas Sherar fled to Canada and joined the Loyal Rangers commanded by Major Edward Jessup. With his wife and family Thomas Sherar came to the Loyalist settlement in Bay Chaleur on the Brig. St.Peter in 1784.

In 1795 James Sherar married Margaret McVey at St. Andrew's

Presbyterian Church in the City of Québec. Their five sons and three daughters, would through marriage, link the families of Starnes, McNish, Hall, Ellis, McCabe, Enright and Smollett.

James Sherar, became widely known in Gaspesia and beyond as a merchant-trader, shipowner and Justice of the Peace for the District of Gaspé. He died in 1846 and was buried from St. Andrew's Anglican Church. His wife, Margaret, survived her husband for two decades and was 92 years of age when she died in 1866.

...the said parties have to these presents... and subscribed their names and signatures in the presence of... as the said Notary returns subscribing.

(Signed) James Sherar
James Sherar
J. I. Robinson, N.P.
Ed. Ducharme, N.P.

LATER DEEDS

While it is beyond the scope of this article to follow the career of the schooner TRIAL of New Carlisle it appears that the above change of ownership was but the first of several sales. One of the more interesting is reflected in a Deed of Indenture dated 13 November 1817 when she became the property of Louis Gaudet, John Clark and Francis Fortard, all of the Island of Anticosti, Bismarck, a year later another Deed of Sale reflected other ownership.

RECORDING JAMES SHERAR

A recall of the Sherar family of New Carlisle is planned for the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY series but it seems appropriate, in the context of the above, to provide a note on James Sherar. Eldest of the children of Thomas and Jeanne Melvin Sherar, James (1770-1846) was born in Scotland and was four years old when his parents emigrated to settle in New York Province in 1776. As a Loyalist, Thomas Sherar fled to Canada and joined the loyal Rangers commanded by Major Edward Jessup with his wife and family. James Sherar came to the loyalist settlement in Bay Chaleur on the Brig. St. Peter in 1784. In 1795 James Sherar married Margaret Mowry at St. Andrew's

24 June 98.

+ dated
14 June
1898

Before the Victoria Public Subscribing pers-
 onally appeared Mr. David McPherson of Victoria
 at present in the City of Quebec of the one part
 and Messrs. Lyman & Crawford of the same
 City of Quebec Merchants & Co-partners in
 title of the other part - Which said -
 David McPherson did of his own free will
 and accord receive that for and in con-
 sideration of the sum of Two hundred and
 thirty pounds Current money of this Province
 to be paid in the manner herein after mention-
 ed hath Granted said release and confirmed -
 and hereby doth Grant sell release and confirm
 with Guarantee against all former sales Gifts
 Debts Demands & Incumbrances whatsoever
 all that certain Schooner called Myrae of the
 burthen of fifty four forty four Ninety fourth
 Tons as she now lays at Mr. Blackwoods
 Wharf and which she promises to deliver to
 the said Lyman & Crawford at their Dock

+ in said immediately after the execution thereof together with
 State Hull Masts Sails Yards Anchors & Ropes
 Ropes Tackle & Apparel to the said
 Schooner appertaining or belonging by what
 name so called the same is or are called or
 known or of what kind & quality the same
 may be and consist of To Have and to
 Hold the said Schooner Tackle with her
 Hull Masts Sails Yards Ropes and all and
 singular her appertenance whatsoever now or
 hereafter Bargained Sold and Conveyed or intended
 so to be unto them the said Lymburner &
 Crawford their Heirs & Assigns to the only
 proper use benefit & behoof of the said
 Lymburner & Crawford their Heirs and Assigns
 from henceforth for ever and to which they are
 hereby intended to have a Legal Right of Property
 And further (As the s^d. Daniel McPherson
 hereby promises engages to furnish the said
 Lymburner & Crawford with a Bill of sale
 of the s^d. Schooner from the person or persons

from whom he purchased the same he
 shall be thereunto required and directed as aforesaid
 at Mr James Toles 5. Peters street ^{London}
 Lymburner & Grainger at their House 11. St. Dun-
 stons Street Dubu The said Carriation money to be
 paid as follows - To wit - One hundred and
 of flour common at twenty six shillings per
 Bushel - to be delivered immediately after the execution hereof.

And the sum of Ten Hundred pounds Current
 money to be paid Granted to the said Daniel
 McPherson by the sd. Lymburner & Grainger
 in their Note of hand of this date and payable
 to the sd. Daniel McPherson or his order
 on or before the fifteenth of October next
 ensuing - Which sd. McPherson obtained
 a Register at the Port of Carriation Dis-
 -tribut of Gaspee on the first day of June last
 and which is here transcribed according to Act
 of Parliament -

No. 1. In pursuance of an Act passed in the
17th year of the sixth year of the reign of King
George the Third entitled an Act for the
signed by the increase & encouragement of shipping
Robert Lucas and Fitzhugh
Providence of Lower Canada Mariners
having taken and subscribed the said measure
of this Act and that they are sole Owners
of the ship or vessel called "Royal of Gaspe"
whereof William Lucas is at present Master
and that the said ship or vessel was built
at Mall Bay in the District of Gaspe and
Province of Lower Canada this present year
One thousand seven hundred & ninety eight
James Durward having Certified to us the
said ship or vessel is British Built
has one Deck and two Masts that her length from
the fore part of the Main stem to the After part
of the Main Mast aloft is fifty two feet her beam
at the Broadest part whether above or below the
Main Wale sixteen feet her height between Decks
and measures fifty four ⁴⁴/₉₄ Tons that she is a
Square stern Schooner has no Gallery and no
masts

In witness whereof
 the said David Macpherson
 & John Macpherson
 have hereunto set their hands
 at Gashie this 8th day of June 1798

had and the subscribing Jurors having consulted & agreed
 to the above description & admeasurement and having
 caused sufficient security to be given as is required by
 the said Act, the said Schooner Royal has been
 duly registered at the Port of Charleston District &
 Gaspie. Given under our hands and seals of
 Office at the Custom House in the City of Charleston
 this first day of June in the second year of our
 said Majesty eight. — Certificate of British Patent
 Registry — Advised that the within mentioned
 Wm & Fitz Lucas have for valuable consideration
 sold divided & made over to Dan Macpherson —
 of Gaspie one eighth part & interest of the within
 mentioned Schooner Royal — which we have
 at Gaspie this Eighth Day of June 1798
 signed William Lucas Fitzhugh Lucas — Geo
 Macpherson — Abiel Lucas
 Port of Gaspie — These Certificates that James
 Macart has ^{now} become Master of the above
 mentioned Schooner Royal in the name of
 William Lucas; Given under my hand at
 Gaspie this 8th Day of June 1798 signed
 Henry J. Hays Atty. D. Coll.
 Which said Grant Bargain Sale & Conveyance
 they the said Lymburner & Brown did not read
 hereby doth accept. This Done & Executed
 at Oulge in the afternoon of the said 11th
 day of June one thousand seven hundred & 98

Ninety eight this Minute having been referred
to a subscribed by the printing of information & details
in the office of Charles Stewart, one of the Sec
= sealing "with" the "seal" of the

A. Murray
notary

David M. Thomson
Lyndburn Crawford
~~Charles Stewart~~
354 1/2 St.