GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

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MAGDALEN RIVER AND SEIGNIORY
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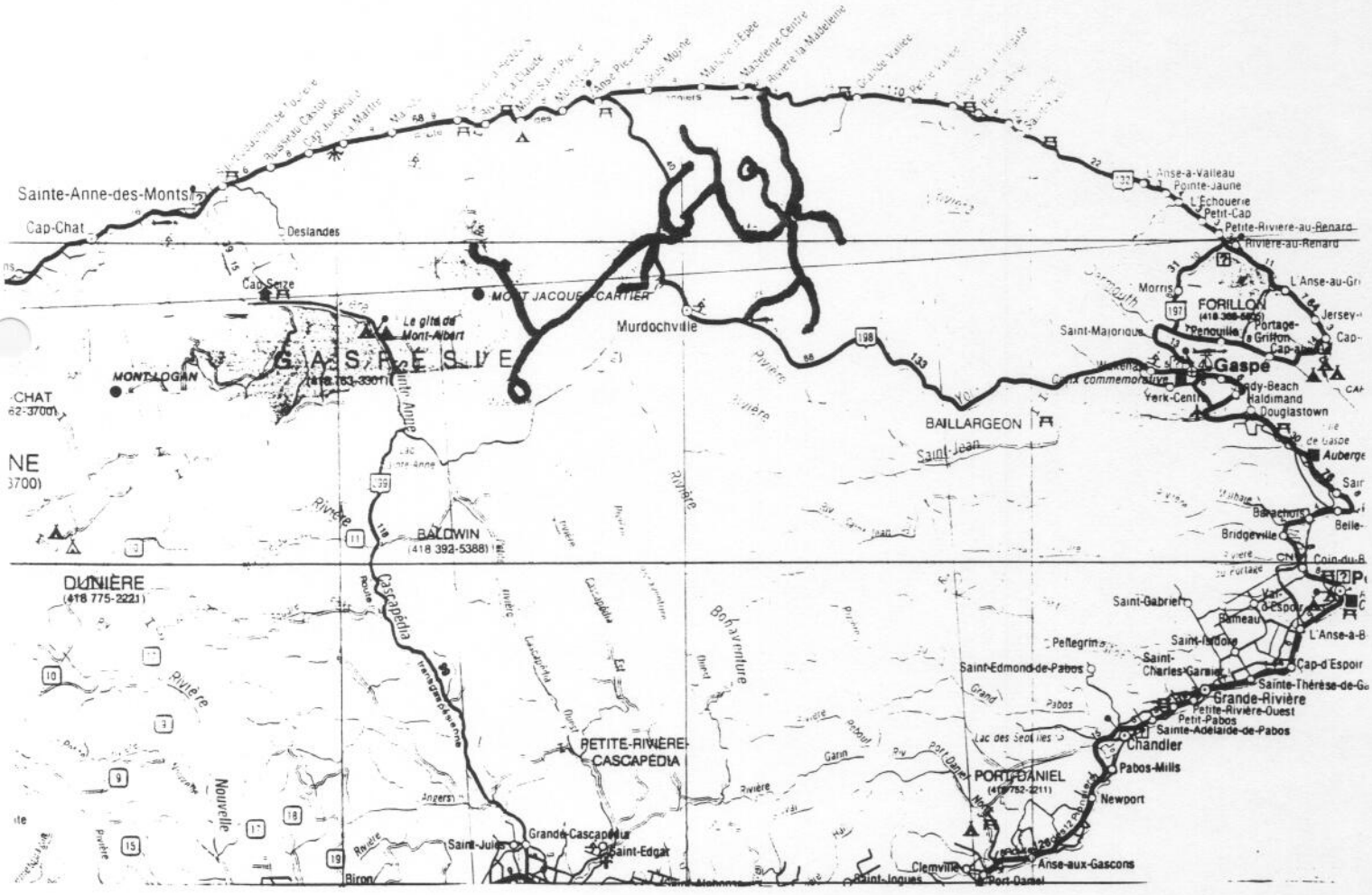
From the lofty, lonely mountains in the heart of Gaspesia the Magdalen River runs its course of some seventy-five miles to the Gulf of St.Lawrence.

At its mouth,on the scenic North Shore of Gaspesia,the Seigniory of Magdalen River dates from 1636.

Presented here are highlights of this major river of Gaspesia and of the seigniory over the past 350 years.

KEN ANNETT

LOCATION OF THE MAGDALEN RIVER
AND THE SEIGNIORY OF MAGDALEN
RIVER IN GASPESIA.



MAGDALEN RIVER AND SEIGNIORY

PREFACE

Toponymy, the study of the place names of a region, has some difficulty with the various appellations - MAGDALEN, MAGDELAINE, MADELEINE - that appear over time on maps, charts, plans, concessions, grants, seigniorial records and sheriff's sales to designate this Gaspesian river and the seigniory long associated with it. In fact, the same legal document may present different spellings of the name. However, the origin of the name would appear to be found in the ancient grant of 1636 by the Company of New France of a fief and seigniory on the St.Lawrence to Jacques de la Ferté, Abbé of Sainte Marie Madeleine de Chateaudun, Canon of the Sainte Chapelle, Paris, Seignior of Maranoux, Beaumont, Dravel, Champesay and Mainville, and an associate of the Company of New France. The title of this grant reads, FIEF ET SEIGNEURIE DE l'ABBÉ DE LA MADELEINE. It comprised the lands with frontage on the St.Lawrence of 10 leagues and a depth of 20 leagues. Apparently the Abbé did not develop his vast seigniory for it was repossessed by the Governor of New France in August, 1668. When next granted by Count Frontenac it was with the title, RIVIERE DE LA MAGDELAINE. During the British Regime the name MAGDALEN came into use.

THE MAGDALEN RIVER

The article, "EXPLORATION AND SURVEY OF GASPESIA'S INTERIOR", previously prepared in the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY series, referred to the interesting reports that were published in 1889 by the Commissioner of Crown Lands in the volume, DESCRIPTION OF THE SURVEYED TOWNSHIPS AND EXPLORED TERRITORIES OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC. It seems pertinent to include here the following DESCRIPTION OF THE MAGDALEN RIVER by James Richardson from that volume.

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

SURVEYED TOWNSHIPS

AND

EXPLORED TERRITORIES

OF THE

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

TAKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL REPORTS OF SURVEYS FYLED IN THE CROWN LANDS DEPARTMENT, AS WELL AS FROM THOSE OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA AND OTHER OFFICIAL SOURCES

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATURE

QUEBEC
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1889

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAGDALEN RIVER.

The Magdalen river falls into the St. Lawrence on the south side, in latitude 49° 15' 32" N. and longitude 65° 18' 36" W. nearly. Its mouth is about sixty miles above Cape Rosier, and about seventy below Cape Chatte. The entrance to it from the sea is on the west side of a not very deep bay, from which the right or east bank of the river is separated for about a mile by a narrow strip of fine gravel, but little elevated above the highest tides, while the left bank consists of an escarpment of stratified clay, about ninety feet in height, containing marine shells of the drift period. This escarpment continues out about a quarter of a mile beyond the mouth of the river, and, resting on black bituminous shale, forms Cape Magdalen. It extends up the coast for between two or three miles, and the clay of which it is composed, spreading for about a mile or a mile and a half inland, presents a gently undulating surface, well fitted for cultivation. Some patches of grain upon it, consisting of wheat, rye and barley, appeared to promise a fair average yield, and others of potatoes and turnips seemed to be in a thriving condition, though the style of husbandry was but indifferent. From the mouth of the river to the highest part reached by us, the distance in a straight line about S. W. is but thirty-one miles and a half, while following the sinuosities of the stream, it is sixty miles, and the distance actually measured by micrometer is 62 miles, 2 chains, 65 links.

The first stretch of the valley from the mouth of the river to Porcupine Bluff, (so called from our having killed the first porcupine upon its top) is about eleven miles, but the channel of the stream measures very nearly fourteen, the general upward bearing being S. 25° E. In this a serious impediment is met with in the ascent of the river about five miles from its mouth. It consists of two vertical cascades of twelve and sixty-two feet respectively, with a torrent above and between occurring in a narrow precipitous gorge, with banks so steep as to be impassable and rising to the height of 800 or 900 feet on each side of the stream. Over the summit of this height, on the eastern side, it became necessary for us to effect a portage, and the difficulties in transporting our canoes across were so great that seven days were consumed in the task, though the distance was not much over a mile. Not only had we to cut a clear road through very thickly growing though not large spruce trees, but, after the road was opened, we were obliged to use ropes, and to hold on by the trees in ascending and descending the hill, as well as to excavate foot holes with a shovel to avoid slipping.

In flowing through this gorge, the stream makes a turn out of the general bearing of about half a mile to the westward, its course presenting rudely three sides of a parallelogram, below which the valley continues narrow to the flat land at the mouth, while the hills rise irregularly on either bank to heights not much inferior to that of the portage. Above the portage the valley is less deep and somewhat wider, the land presenting a more gradual fall from the hills, the sides of which appear to be but thinly covered with soil, while coarse gravel composes such flats as are met with at the foot. The timber on the flats consists of balsam-fir, white birch and cedar, with now and then ash and elm, but the last two are by no means abundant, while the mountain sides, all the way up from the sea present balsam-fir, spruce, white birch and pine, the last being in some abundance about the portage.

For the next four and a half miles above Porcupine Bluff the general upward bearing of the valley is a little west of south, in which the stream measures rather over six miles and a quarter, to the junction of a tributary falling in on the right bank; to this from its temperature, in the absence of any known name, we gave that of Cold Water brook. This tributary was the first of any importance met with; it comes from the south through a valley which is a continuation of that of the Magdalen up to this point, and just before joining the Magdalen, it flows between two prominent mountains, for which their shape suggested the appellation of east and west Terrace Mountains. On their north sides, particularly that of the west mountain, and towards the top, several perpendicular escarpments of from fifty to a hundred feet each rise at irregular distances behind one another, and sweeping round into the valley of the Cold Water branch they slope to the south and converge, gradually becoming less marked, until they disappear altogether. By a rough measurement the summit of the eastern mountain was computed to be 1375 feet above the river, or 1957 feet above the sea. The summit of the other, about a mile to the westward, was not ascertained by measurement, but it is probably about 200 feet higher.

The soil and timber above Porcupine Bluff differ but little from those below, with the exception of an increasing abundance of white pine. It appears to me probable that between the portage and the Terrace Mountains about one-sixth of the wood seen on the slopes was of this species; most of it is large enough for saw-logs, and some may be of a size fit for square timber. How far back from the river it may extend, I am not prepared to say; but even what was in view would, in my opinion, be worthy the attention of lumberers. The only difficulty in getting it out would be the falls and rapids near the portage, but these might probably be improved, while they would afford unlimited water-power for mills; from the foot of the falls sawn timber might be sent with safety to the mouth, where there is a good harbour and deep water for two vessels, while, over the bar at the entrance, there is a depth of seventeen feet at the ebb of tide. From the Terrace Mountains, the upward course turns nearly west and continues so for very nearly five miles, presenting a succession of rapids, with a swift current the whole way. On the south side, west Terrace Mountain is continued for half the distance, but after the first mile it loses in elevation. On the north, for the same distance, the hills come close upon the river, presenting a height of about 500 feet. In the remainder of the distance the hills on both sides are more detached and less elevated.

The next stretch of the valley runs N. 25° W., and in this bearing, which continues for six miles, it presents a parallelism with that part between Porcupine Bluff and the mouth. The hills on each side are further apart than those lower down, and not so bold, the highest summits not exceeding 500 feet over the river. Just at the turn at the upper end of this part of the valley a tributary falls in on the left side; at its immediate junction, it is twelve feet wide, and its downward course south; but as it appears probable that it issues from a small lake, the position of which was described to me by one of the inhabitants at the mouth of the Magdalen, the general downward course of the depression in which it runs may be about south-west. In this case, it would be a continuation of the next and longest stretch of the valley of the main stream, and would apparently correspond with the depression on the south side of the portage mountain.

The next and longest stretch of the Magdalen valley has an upward bearing of about S. 55° W., and in this bearing a straight line of nearly twenty-four miles brings us to the end of our micrometer measurements. In this part of the valley, the only marked divergence from the bearing given is about six miles up, where the general course is nearly west for about two miles. The lower end of this divergence is marked by a tributary fifteen feet wide, which flows in on the right, and another half a mile above it, and twenty-four feet wide, falls in on the left, while the right side two miles still farther up presents an additional branch. This is twenty-eight feet wide, and its transparency suggested the name of Clear Water brook. The only other branch of any importance in the twenty-four miles also falls in on the right, about three miles below the termination of our micrometer measurements; at its mouth it was thirty feet wide.

The hills along each side of this stretch of the valley, although not so high over the bed of the river as those lower down, are more regular in their outline. They run in ridges parallel to one another. Those nearest the river, which are at no great distance, appear to be between 200 and 300 feet high, and those visible farther back gain upon them but slightly in elevation. These ridges appear to agree in their direction with the general course of the river, with the exception of one on the right side, the escarpment of which is seen three miles east of the Clear Water, and just south of the bend mentioned, at the junction of the lowest tributary. Facing the north, this escarpment rises rapidly to a height of probably 700 feet, and the surface, then sloping more gently in a contrary direction, gives the aspect of an isolated hill. The escarpment resembles the north side of east Terrace Mountain, and, bearing exactly for the position of that mountain, it is probably of the same formation.

From the Terrace Mountains upwards the timber of the valley is smaller than lower down. It consists of spruce, balsam-fir, white birch and cedar. Only a few trees of white pine were observed. The soil is thin both on the hills and on the flats. On the latter it is supported generally on coarse gravel, in which pebbles of reddish syenite abound. These pebbles were small at the lowest point at which they were observed, but appeared gradually to increase in size as we ascended, and, towards the end of our measurements the river found its way with a rapid current among large rounded masses of this rock. These masses much resemble some of the syenites of the Laurentian formation, and may have been transported from the north side of the St. Lawrence.

About a mile and a quarter above the termination of our measurements a large tributary joins the main stream on the left. The valley in which it flows is not deep, and can be traced by the eye in its upward course, which is N. 25° W. for between nine and ten miles. For a mile above its junction, with an average breadth of forty feet, it presents a rapid and broken stream, and probably runs with a swift current the whole distance. Beyond this, according to the description given me by a hunter well acquainted with this part of the country, its upward course turns west of south, and in about four miles reaches the base of a mountain which rises considerably above the table-land through which it flows; it is in several small lakes or ponds on the summit of this mountain, about two miles farther, that the tributary has its source.

About a hundred paces farther up the main stream than the mouth of the north branch, a tributary enters on the opposite side, shewing a breadth of about ten feet. It runs in a depression which appears to be a continuation of the previous one, its upward bearing being S. 10° E. The main stream from the end of our measurements to the junction has a breadth of from sixty to eighty feet, and its upward bearing is S. 70° W. or nearly at right angles to the two branches. This upward bearing it maintains until it reaches the base of the same mountain that gives origin to the north branch, the distance being about five miles. From this, as described to me by the hunter already mentioned, it bends round the southern base of this mountain, making an arc to which the last mentioned bearing of the main stream, if produced, would form a chord of five miles more, with a distance of about a mile and a half from the curve: about half-way from the western extremity of the chord the upward course is about north for three miles, when by a sharp bend it becomes east for about four more, the main valley splitting up into several subordinate depressions, each of which send a contribution from one or more small lakes at its source. These lakes are scattered among the tops of the same mountain in which originates the north branch, and the more southern of them are not far from its source, while the more eastern are not over one or two miles from the east end of the curve made by the main stream round the mountain's base.

This mountain rises boldly above the general level of the country around, its summits attaining a higher elevation by probably 1000 or 1500 feet. Approaching it, the size of the forest trees appear to diminish considerably, and occasional open spaces produce only short wiry grass. The sides of the mountain seem almost devoid of trees, and the top destitute of all vegetation whatever. Large areas below the summit appeared to be covered with huge detached masses of grey colored rock, and some parts were marked with stripes of red, while on the 20th of July along the whole length of the upper surface, as seen from the mouths of the north and south branches of the river, patches of snow were abundant. In a bearing parallel with the depression or valley of these branches, the measure of the mountain is about ten miles. According to Mr. Murray, the St. Ann river flows in a wide valley between Mount Albert of his exploration of 1845 and this mountain, which would therefore, from a favorable point of view, appear to be a great isolated hill, and it evidently constitutes the abrupt eastern termination of the Shick-Shock range of mountains, which from the Matane, where Mr. Murray places its western limit, would thus have a length of about sixty-five miles.

While we ascended the Magdalen, an endeavor was made to determine the rise of the valley. The river is so rapid in the whole of its length that we met with scarcely any reaches of smooth water to aid us in carrying forward ascertained levels from one part to another; and as we had no mountain barometer, it would have been necessary, in order to attain any reliable result, to use a spirit-level the whole of the way. We did not consider it prudent to expend upon the task the time this would have required. I contented myself therefore with measuring by means of the spirit-level of my clinometer the rise of only the more precipitous parts, and estimated others by the comparative aspect of the current, and the greater or less resistance offered to the progress of our canoes. With the exception of two short intervals, in which the canoe-men could use their paddles, they were compelled to resort to their poles the whole distance, or jumping out into the water to drag or push the canoes along with their hands. On such

occasions we were often obliged to land and scramble along the bank for considerable distances, and it was then I could sometimes ascertain the rise of parts by the clinometer. The result is given for what it is worth, without any great confidence in its accuracy, except as a very rude approximation to the truth.

This would give for the valley a rise of about thirty-two feet in a mile, but if from the result be deducted the mountain portage cascades and rapids, and the measured part of the Terrace Mountain rapids, both of which are perfect torrents, the rate of rise would be reduced to about twenty-five feet in a mile. On the St. Ann, though Mr. Murray met with no vertical falls, he ascertained by barometrical measurement that the rise in the part which he measured was about twenty feet in a mile, and from the description he gives me of its navigation, I am induced to suppose that his difficulties of ascent were by no means equal to ours, even when those of the mountain portage and Terrace Mountain rapids are excluded. The rise given to the Magdalen therefore does not appear extravagant. Taking the height of the valley at the north and south branches to be 2000 feet, and that of the mountain between the Magdalen and the St. Ann to be 1500 more, its summit would be 3500 feet above the level of the sea. Mr. Murray's barometrical measurement of Mount Albert made its summit 3778 feet above the sea; and as he states that, when standing on Mount Albert, the mountain to the east of St. Ann river bounded his view in that direction, it would follow that its height must have been at least equal to his own elevation, which would correspond nearly with the conclusion arrived at by myself.

(*James Richardson*, 21st December, 1857.)

DISTRICT BETWEEN MAGDALEN RIVER AND GASPÉ BAY.

The distance from the mouth of Cold Water brook to York river where we struck it on our traverse is nearly eleven miles in a straight line, bearing S. 25° E. We followed the valley of the Cold Water, which bends more to the west, but our greatest distance from the straight line was not over a mile and a half. It occurred when we had proceeded up the brook about three miles and a half, where a tributary ten feet wide joins it on the right, with an upward bearing south of east. From this the bearing of the Cold Water valley again gradually approaches the straight line, and about a mile and a quarter farther up another tributary joins on the same side as the former and runs nearly parallel with it.

A third falls in about three-quarters of a mile farther, on the opposite side; and the source of the main brook is met with about three miles and a half above it. The source consists of a great multitude of copious springs which issue over an area of from thirty to forty acres, and collecting together from at once a considerable stream. These springs were on the highest ground of our traverse, and were estimated to be about 800 feet above the Magdalen at the junction, which would be nearly 1400 feet above the sea. Immediately beyond them the descent to the York river commenced, the distance to the river being about two miles and a half, to which there was a fall of probably 800 feet.

THE MAGDALEN RIVER SEIGNIORY

PRE-HISTORY

Long before the sails of the first European ships appeared in the Gulf and River St.Lawrence the river that was to become known as the Magdalen was frequented, in season, by the Indians. There, at the river mouth, they camped and fished the rich run of fine Atlantic salmon that long made the Magdalen well known as one of the great salmon rivers of Gaspesia. The Indians would have known of the falls described by Richardson in his foregoing account and may have pioneered the trail that led from the St.Lawrence to Gaspé Bay via the Magdalen River - York River route.

EARLY EUROPEANS

The earliest visits of Europeans to the Gulf and River St.Lawrence are glimpsed dimly through the mists of time. E.T.D. Chambers, in the 1912 Introduction to his book, FISHERIES OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC, has noted:

> "More than four hundred years have passed away since Basque and Breton fishermen gathered the first harvest of the sea from the waters that wash the coasts of Labrador and Gaspé...it is necessary to go back for still another four hundred years if we would reach a period of time prior to the earlest pre-Columbian visits of Icelanders, Norsemen or Basques to the fisheries of our eastern coasts..."

Historical record of Europeans in the Gulf and River St.Lawrence dates from the voyages of Jacques Cartier in 1534 and onward.In the more than half a century from the time of Cartier to the founding of Tadoussac in 1600 and Québec in 1608 the fishermen and whalers of Europe who came annually to the St.Lawrence may well have used the mouth of the Magdalen River as a seasonal fishing station. It may not have been coincidentally that when the Company of New France was founded by Cardinal Richelieu in 1627 one of the associates, the Abbé de la Madeleine was granted there the extensive Fief et Seigneurie de la Madeleine in the year 1636.

ANNALS OF THE MAGDALEN RIVER SEIGNIORY

1636 The Abbé de la Madeleine apparently did nothing to settle and develop his vast seigniory of 200 square leagues (some 600 square miles) centered on the River Magdalen. During the three decades that he was an absentee seignior the mouth of the river likely continued to serve the Basque and French fishermen as a seasonal fishing station. In 1668 the Governor of New France, Rémy de Courcelle, repossessed the seigniory for the Crown.

1679 In May, 1679, the "Rivière de la Magdelaine" seigniory was granted by Count Frontenac, Governor of New France, to Antoine Caddé, a merchant of the City of Québec. The extent of the seigniory was, however, much reduced. Caddé's grant comprised half a league on either side of the mouth of the Magdalen River, with a depth of two leagues. In 1689, Caddé having died in the interval without developing the seigniory, his grant was cancelled and the seignior reverted again to the Crown.

1689 In March, 1689, as the troubled Governship of Brisay de Denonville was coming to an end, the Magdalen River Seigniory was again granted - this time to Sieur Denis du Riverin.

Riverin had come to New France in 1675 as secretary to the Intendant, Duchesneau, and had risen to become a member of the Sovereign Council of the colony. He had the patronage and support of prominent officials both in New France and France and in 1685 his "MEMOIRE SUR LA PESCHE" won for him the personal patronage of King Louis XIV. Royal orders came from the King to New France to lend every assistance to Riverin in his ambitious plans to develop the St.Lawrence fishery. That assistance included the grant of the Magdalen River Seigniory as one of Riverin's fishing stations.

1725 Seigniorial records for March,1725 show Dr.Michel Sarrazin swearing the required oath, FOI ET HOMMAGE, to the Governor of New France for the Magdalen River seigniory.
The wife of Sieur Denis Riverin, Angélique Gaultier, daughter of Philippe Gaultier, Sieur de Comporté, had as her guardian the prominent Québec merchant, Francois Hazeur. Riverin and Hazeur had been business partners in the St.Lawrence fishery and prior to the death of Hazeur in 1708 he had acquired from Riverin, by purchase, the Magdalen River seigniory.
Upon the death of Francois Hazeur one-third of the seigniory passed on to his daughter, Marie-Anne, the wife of Dr.Michel Sarrazin.

1760 + The formal sequence of ownership of the seigniory in the years following the British Conquest of 1760 remain to be documented. Research on this is currently in progress by M.Guy Richard of Ste-Foy, a native son of Magdalen River.
It is known that prior to 1783 the Seigniory of Magdalen River was acquired by the Québec merchant, Zachary Macaulay. In 1783 the seigniory was up for Sheriff's Sale to meet Macaulay's debts and was apparently bid in by his creditors, the firm of MELVEN AND WILLS.

In 1785 MELVEN AND WILLS sold the seigniory to Thomas Porvis, Silversmith and Jeweller. He would seem to have bought it on speculation for two years later, in 1787 he sold it to Simon Fraser,Jr. [For reference to Simon Fraser,Jr. see GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY - THE SEIGNIORY OF MATANE - SPEC. 27 MAY 1981]

1792 In 1792 the seignior again changed hands when it was purchased by the merchant-trader, James Tod, from Simon Fraser, Jr.

1795 The salmon fishing rights for the Magdalen River Seigniory were sold, in 1795, by James Tod to Joseph Freeman of Liverpool, Nova Scotia.

1810 Again in 1810 the Magdalen River Seigniory was sold by the Sheriff of Québec because of the business debts of James Tod. [The Dictionary of Canadian Biography, Vol.IV, has a record of Tod's career] It was acquired by the Québec merchant, John Blackwood, who, in July 1810 took the Oath of FOI ET HOMMAGE for the seigniory before Governor Sir James Craig.

1819 On the death of John Blackwood the Seigniory of Magdalen River devolved, by his Will, to his nephews, John and Alexander Greenshields of Scotland and Andrew Weir of Québec.

1826 An 1826 Deed drawn by L.T.MacPherson, N.P., shows John Greenshields as owning 2/3 of the seigniory.

1837 On behalf of John Greenshields and James Weir, the Québec merchant, Andrew Paterson swore FOI ET HOMMAGE to Governor Lord Aylmer for the Magdalen River Seigniory.

c.1852 By transfer that remains to be documented the Seigniory of Magdalen River was acquired, c.1852, by the prominent Québec merchant, Pierre Pelletier. It is interesting to note, in this connection, that the seigniory was not included in the cadastre records that were made following upon the Act of 1848 relating to seigniories.

c.1871 John Ross, member of the well-known Ross family of Québec acquired rights to the Magdalen River Seigniory c.1871. Well into the 20th century it remained in the hands of his Ross descendants who valued its potential for the sport of fly fishing for Atlantic salmon.It was, in fact, conflict over the salmon fishing, that obliged the American, Charles W. Mullen to locate the first Pulp and Paper mill on the Magdalen River some miles inland from the coast - at the Falls or "Grand Chute"

PERILS OF THE COAST

The north coast of Gaspesia, open as it is to the capricious storms of the St.Lawrence and with few safe havens for the mariner in the days of sailing ships, has known many a tale on marine disaster and hardship. Two such incidents, linked to the coast off Magdalen River, are cited here.

. In 1807 the 45 ton Gaspé schooner, "TRIAL", William Annett, Master, was wrecked at "Magdalene River" on November 7th. The hardships that ensued for the crew can be infered from such GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY accounts as THE SHIPWRECK AT CAP CHAT OF THE TRANSPORT "PREMIER" and THE WRECK OF THE SCHOONER "SWORDFISH" AT ANSE PLEUREUSE.

. In 1826 the Gaspé schooner "DOLPHIN" of 66 tons, Abraham Simoneau, Master, went ashore at Magdalen River in a fierce December storm. In a subsequent notarial PROTEST made before L.T.McPherson, N.P., are to be found most interesting references to the fears of the crew when cast upon what, in their opinion was an inhospitable shore

It was not until 1871 that a lighthouse was erected on Cape Magdalen for the guidance of mariners. This action may have been promoted by representations of the fishery firms of FRUING and of HYMAN who were established at Magdalen River in the 1860's.

WOODLANDS

In the last quarter of the 19th century large-scale lumbering was carried on at Magdalen River and environs by Edouard Vachon, known as the "Baron du Bois". In 1875 Vachon was employing some 300 men at Magdalen River and his industry was a contributing factor to the growth of the community.

About 1900 Charles W.Mullen of Bangor, Maine, acquired forest limits from the Vachon interests, incorporated the GREAT EASTERN PAPER COMPANY, built a mill at the Magdalen River Falls, the GRAND CHUTE, and began the production of paper in 1921. Construction activity, mill operation, and the building and operation of a rail-way linking the mill to the coastal wharf, provided employment for several hundred persons. But only a year after the mill began production it was partially destroyed by fire and the company failed

in 1923. Undaunted, Mullen proceded to form a new company, the CAPE MAGDALEN PULP AND PAPER COMPANY, had the mill rebuilt and resumed production by early 1926. But again, a serious accident on the vital railway and other problems led to the failure of Mullen's valiant venture. His Magdalen River interests were acquired by the Brown Corporation at a mere fraction of the investment costs. Though the new owners had ambitious plans for the development of Magdalen these went into limbo with the onset of the Great Depression that had such drastic effect on all of Gaspesia.

POSTSCRIPT

Three hundred and fifty years have gone by since the Seigniory of Magdalen River was first granted by the Company of New France. Throughout time the river and its basin has remained the focus of human effort and settlement. The story of the modern community of Rivière Madeleine is beyond the scope of this brief history but it is interesting to note, in closing, that the continuity of the ancient seigniory remains and is reflected in the holdings of the Domtar Company at Magdalen River.

THE MAGDALEN RIVER REACHES THE GULF

An aerial view of the river mouth with Cape Magdalen at the left of the photo.