

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

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INTRODUCING MARTIN SHEPPARD

An introduction to a notable Gaspesian
of Channel Islands (Guernsey) descent.

Martin Sheppard (1800-1884), widely and
well known to Gaspesians through a career
spanning the years 1825-1884, practiced
as a Notary Public for 59 years and was
Sheriff of Gaspé for 45 years.

KEN ANNETT

INTRODUCING MARTIN SHEPPARDINSCRIPTION

The visitor to the beautiful and historic cemetery that surrounds St. Andrew's Anglican Church, New Carlisle, may well have paused to read the following inscription that is carved into the marble slab over the Sheppard tomb:

Sacred
to the Memory of
MARTIN SHEPPARD
A Native of the Island of Guernsey
Who departed this life
On the 22nd of February, 1884
In the 84th year of his age
Born on the 18th June, 1800
He was for 45 years Sheriff of Gaspé
And Practiced as a Notary Public for 59 years
Sincerely regretted by all who knew him
Revelations Chapter VII, 9th to 16th verse.

The visitor may reflect that though four hundred seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter have succeeded each other since Martin Sheppard was laid to rest in 1884, his name and those of his descendants remain as a significant part of the Gaspesian heritage. Lest we forget, GASPE OF YESTERDAY, considers this Introduction to Martin Sheppard appropriate.

GUERNSEY - 1800

Martin Sheppard, the 6th son of William and Ann Grut Sheppard, was born at St Peter's Port, Guernsey in June, 1800. It is of interest to place in context the place and the times of his birth.

Guernsey, the second largest of the Channel Islands, lies some 30 miles from the coast of France to the east. Tiny by Canadian standards, the island has an area of only some 25 square miles. The western coast is exposed to the Atlantic so that the two main seaports, St. Peter's Port and St. Sampson are found on the more sheltered eastern shores. The climate of Guernsey is mild and equable with a high average of annual sunshine.

Prior to the conquest of England in 1066 A.D. by Duke William of Normandy, Guernsey had been colonized by monks from the adjacent Duchy of Normandy and reflected Celtic, Norse and Norman-French influence. From its traditional fishery Guernsey developed in the 17th and 18th centuries a tradition of maritime adventure and privateering against the French. Guernsey shipyards built and repaired the sturdy vessels that carried Guernseymen far beyond their island waters. Gaspeians will recall that fishermen of Guernsey were established on the Forillon slopes of Gaspé Bay before the year 1800.

Martin Sheppard was born at a time when momentous events were in progress on the European continent, in Great Britain, and on the high seas that washed the Channel Islands. In France, Napoleon Bonaparte had been in power for some five years and was changing the map of the continent through his ambitious military conquests. Britain's Royal Navy, led by such men as Horatio, Lord Nelson, was vigilant and firm in opposition to French expansion beyond Europe. For the Channel Islanders it was a time of tension and difficulty - a situation that has been recalled by GASPE OF YESTERDAY in the article, PHILIP BECHERVAISE - GASPE SHIPBUILDER. There is little doubt that it was the harsh circumstances of the Napoleonic Wars behind the migration of at least three of the sons of William and Ann Grut Sheppard to America and careers in Québec.

THE BREHAUT-SHEPPARD CONNECTION

In the month of May, 1817, the old fortress city of Québec was distressed and saddened by the accidental, tragic loss of one of its leading citizens. This was reflected in the following record of the Anglican Parish of Québec -

"1817 Peter Brehaut, Esq. of the City of Québec, Merchant and Member of the Provincial Parliament of Lower Canada for the County of Québec, aged 53 years, who was

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accidentally drowned by falling from his wharf into the River St.Lawrence on the second day of May Instant and was buried on the fifth day of the same month in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventeen by me,

(signed) H.Parker

Chaplain to H.M.Forces

A Guernseyman, son of Pierre and Marie Postevin Boehaut, Peter Brehaut, at the time of his death, was in partnership with William Sheppard, a son of William and Ann Grut Sheppard of St.Peter's Port, Guernsey. The business was a prosperous one for Brehaut's property included a Water Lot in Lower Town Québec of some 250,000 superficial feet and historic Kent House that he had purchased a year prior to his death for £ 3000. His widow, Therese LeMaitre Bellenoy and their four children were the heirs of what was described as "une succession opulente" - a rich inheritance.

In September of the following year, 1818, the records of the Québec Metropolitan (Anglican) Church show that William Grut Sheppard of Québec, Merchant, 32 years of age, bachelor, was married by license to Mrs. Therese Brehaut, widow of the late Peter Brehaut, Esq., aged 42 years.

William Grut Sheppard was not the only member of his family in Québec. His brother, Peter Sheppard, had been present at the funeral of Peter Brehaut and was active in the business life of Québec. And now, in 1820, William and Peter Sheppard took steps to provide for the professional training of their younger brother, Martin, as evidenced by the following Deed of Engagement:

8 Fevrier 1820 ENGAGEMENT--MARTIN SHEPPARD TO L.T. McPHERSON

On the Eighth day of February in the Year of Our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and twenty, Before us the undersigned Notaries Public duly admitted and sworn for the Province of Lower Canada and residing in the City of Quebec in the said Province, personally appeared and were present Messieurs William Grut Sheppard and Peter Sheppard both of the City of Quebec and Martin Sheppard their Brother a minor of the age of sixteen years and upwards, of the one part, And Laughlan Thomas Macpherson, Esquire of the City of Quebec, Notary

Public for the said Province, of the other part. Which said parties did, in the presence of us the said Notaries, declare, covenant, promise and agree and as these said presents do witness, as follows, that is to say; The said William Grut Sheppard and Peter Sheppard, considering the future benefit and advantage of the said Martin Sheppard their said Brother did and doth hereby, with the free will and accord of their said Brother, put and bind him as an apprentice to the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson to be taught and instructed in the profession, practice and business of a Notary Public for the space and term of five years, to commence and be computed from the day of the date hereof and fully to be complete and ended which will be on the like day in the Year of our Lord one Thousand Eight Hundred and twenty five, whom the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson did and doth by these presents take and accept for the said space and term of five years under the guarantee of them, the said William Grut Sheppard and Peter Sheppard herein after expressed, which said Martin Sheppard, the said William Grut Sheppard and Peter Sheppard do hereby promise, covenant and agree, shall and will during the said term well and truly serve him, the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson as his apprentice aforesaid, without embezzling or purloining any of the estate, money, goods, writings or chattels of the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson or any of his household, that the said Martin Sheppard shall regularly attend upon and serve the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson in his aforesaid capacity everyday during the continuance of this indenture, at such hours as shall be made known to and directed him by the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson and shall not at any time or times during the same under any pretext whatsoever absent himself from the service of the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson without his express permission therefore, and directly or indirectly disclose or make known any secrets of the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson, but shall and will in all things study to promote the interest and advantage of the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson and behave and conduct himself as a good and faithful apprentice ought to do; that they the said William Grut Sheppard and Peter Sheppard shall and will during the term aforesaid find and provide for the said Martin Sheppard decent and proper apparel and also find and provide

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him in board, lodging and all other necessaries.

For and in consideration of the premises, he, the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson doth on his part hereby promise and agree to with the said William Grut Sheppard and Peter Sheppard that he shall and will during the said term hereof, in the best manner that he can, inform and instruct the said Martin Sheppard in the science and practice of a Notary Public as far as the said Martin Sheppard shall be susceptible of learning; and shall and will at the expiration of the term of this indenture, at the request and at the proper costs and charges of the said Martin Sheppard, use his best endeavours to procure the said Martin Sheppard to be commissioned and admitted as a Notary Public.

And the said William Grut Sheppard and Peter Sheppard do hereby promise, bind and oblige themselves jointly and severally solidairement under the different remunerations required by law towards the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson accepting being for the due, faithful and entire execution of these presents by and on the part of Martin Sheppard and for the full effect thereof do hereby oblige themselves toward the said Laughlan Thomas Macpherson under the penalty or sum of one hundred pounds current money of the said Province of Lower Canada.

Thus done and passed in the said City of Quebec at the office of Edward Glackemeyer, one of us the said Notaries, in the day and year first above written.

In Faith and Testimony Whereof the said parties have to these presents, first duly read and remaining of record in the said Office, set and subscribed their names and signatures in the presence of us the said Notaries also hereunto subscribing.

(Signatures)

W.G. Sheppard
 Peter Sheppard
 M. Sheppard
 Ed. Glackemeyer, N.P.
 L.T. McPherson, N.P.

APPRENTICE NOTARY

The foregoing Deed of Engagement of young Martin Sheppard to Notary Public Laughlan Thomas Macpherson is of particular interest to Gaspesians as Macpherson, the son of Daniel Macpherson, was Gaspesian by birth and youthful experience. As noted in other articles of this GASPE OF YESTERDAY series, many Gaspesians came to Notary Macpherson for notarial work. As a youthful apprentice of Macpherson Martin Sheppard would have had the opportunity to meet such Gaspesian clients of his patron and to gain insight into the affairs of the District of Gaspé.

As his apprenticeship advanced and the question of his career as a Notary Public arose it is quite possible that L.T. Macpherson may well have suggested to Martin Sheppard that Gaspesia offered an interesting opening for a young, resident Notary Public. Martin likely discussed his future with his older brothers, William and Peter, who had sponsored his apprenticeship. On graduation from the notarial study of Macpherson and commissioning as a Notary Public, Martin Sheppard established his practice in Gaspesia where his Record of Deeds date from the year 1825. His notarial records are a unique and precious source of information on the people and events in the District of Gaspé for nearly sixty years.

FAMILY NOTES

An account of the long and interesting career of Martin Sheppard in Gaspesia must await future issues of GASPE OF YESTERDAY. However, this Introduction will add, in conclusion, the following notes:

MARRIAGE - Records of St. Andrew's Anglican Church, New Carlisle.

Martin Sheppard, Esquire, of New Carlisle, Sheriff of the Inferior District of Gaspé, of major age, Bachelor, 6th son of William Sheppard, in his lifetime a resident of St. Peter's Port in the Island of Guernsey, now deceased, and of Ann, his widow, maiden name, Grut and Jane Adams of New Carlisle, of major age, Spinster, 4th daughter of William Adams of Cox Township, Farmer, and of Ann, his wife, maiden name McKenzie were married in the presence of John Wilkie, Esquire, one

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of the prothonotaries of the Provincial Court, and Ann Adams, sister of the above named Jane Adams

By me

(signed) Andrew Balfour

[Ann McKenzie Adams, the mother of the bride, was a daughter of Patrick McKenzie of New Carlisle. Her first husband was Louis Beaker of Bonaventure Island. Shortly after the birth of their daughter, Charlotte, Louis Beaker was drowned. Subsequently, the Widow Ann McKenzie Beaker became the wife of William Adams, Keeper of His Majesty's Gaol and Court House at New Carlisle. Charlotte Beaker married John Imhoff, son of Louis Imhoff, Sr. of New Carlisle (Ref: THE IMHOFF FAMILY - GASPE OF YESTERDAY)]

Jane Adams Sheppard survived her husband for twelve years. She died and was buried at St. Andrew's, New Carlisle, in 1896 at the age of 85 years.

Thomas Grut Sheppard, the eldest son of Martin and Jane Adams Sheppard died in 1860 at the ealy age of 23 years. His brother, William Mancel Sheppard followed in the footsteps of his father to become the Sheriff of Gaspé.

REVELATION 7
CHAPTER 7

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,

12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

No 21
8. Fevrier 1820

Engagement
Martin Sheppard

à
J. L. Macpherson

1. Sheppard

2. M. G.

3. M. G.

4. M. G.

M. S. G.
A. P.
et

On the Rightth day of February in the
Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and twenty, before us the undersigned, Notaries
Public duly admitted and sworn for the Province
of Lower Canada and residing in the City of Quebec
the said Notary personally appeared and was
present, Messieurs William Sheppard and Peter
Sheppard both of the City of Quebec and Martin
Sheppard Clerk Brother-in-law of the said
sixteen years and upwards of the one part
Viz. Saughlan Thomas Macpherson Esquire
the City of Quebec Notary Public for the said
Province of the other part. Which said parties
in full presence of the said Notaries declare
and certify that the said parties as above said
presented and read as follows that is to say: The
said Martin Sheppard the said Peter Sheppard
and the said six years and upwards of the
said Mac. Sheppard their said Brother-in-law
and all being with the free will and accord of their said
Brother-in-law and the said six years and upwards of the
said Saughlan Thomas Macpherson to be taught
and instructed in the service of the said
business of a Notary Public for the space and
term of five years to commence and be computed
from the first day of the date hereof and fully to be
complete and ended which will be on the like day
in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred
and twenty five over the said Saughlan Thomas
Macpherson and doth by these presents take
and accept for the said space and term of five
years under the guarantee of them the said
William Sheppard Peter Sheppard
hereafter expressed which said Martin Sheppard
the said Peter Sheppard and Peter Sheppard
do hereby promise, covenant, and agree shall
and will during the said term with and truly serve
himself with the said Saughlan Thomas Macpherson as he

his attorney in law, or his attorney in law,
or his attorney in law, or his attorney in law,
writing as aforesaid of the said land, the said Thomas
Mackinson as one of his trustees, that he the
said Mackinson shall and lawfully attend
upon and follow the said land, the said Thomas
Mackinson, unless aforesaid, in every day
during the term of years of the said lease, at such
hours as shall be made known to and directed by
his trustee, and that he shall not be bound
to attend upon the said land, during the same
term of years, but at such times as his trustee
in writing shall direct him to attend upon
the same of the said land, the said Mackinson
without his trustee, to have and receive, or to collect,
or receive the rents or any other income or profits
of the said land, the said Mackinson, he
shall and will in all things do and do as to promote the
interest and advantage of the said land, the
said Mackinson, and behave and conduct himself
as a good and faithful trustee ought to do,
that the said Mackinson, the said Mackinson,
the said Mackinson, shall and will during the term
of years of the said lease, for the said Mackinson
of the said land, the said Mackinson, also
for and provide in the said land, and also
for the same purpose, the said Mackinson, of the
premises to the said land, the said Mackinson,
the said Mackinson doth on his part hereby promise and
agree to and with the said Mackinson, the said Mackinson,
the said Mackinson, that he shall and will during
the said term of years, in the best manner that
he can, in full and strict obedience to the said Mackinson,
the said Mackinson, in the science and practice of a
Notary Public, as far as the said Mackinson,
the said Mackinson shall be susceptible of learning, and
shall and will at the expiration of the term

Witness

terms of this indenture, at the request and at
the proper costs and charges of the said Martin
Shelton use his best endeavors to procure
the said Martin to be commissioned
and admitted as an Attorney at Law.

And the said William and Shepherd and
Peter Sheppard do hereby promise bind and
obligate themselves jointly and severally solidaire
inure of and in discharge of all remuneration re-
muneration to be paid to the said Thomas
Nelson as such Attorney accepting term for the
said full and complete satisfaction of the same
and for the full effect thereof do hereby oblige themselves
to sign the said indenture of Thomas Nelson on
behalf of the said Nelson in the presence of
Edward Jackson at the office of Edward Jackson
and also the said office in the day and year
above written. In witness whereof
the said parties have
to their respective parts duly read, and remain
in witness of record of the said Office set and subscribed
with their names and signatures in the presence
of us the said Notaries also hereunto subscribing.

Two marginal notes are good -

Charles ...
personally of the ...
bound ...
of the said ...
lower ...

M. H.
[Signature]

M. S.
C. G.
A. P.
[Signature]

[Signature]

M. Sheppard

Peter Sheppard

M. Sheppard

Ed: Jackson
[Signature]