

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

132

## WRECK OF THE SCHOONER "DOLPHIN"

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Vivid account by Abraham Simoneau, Master  
of the Schooner "DOLPHIN" of the perils of  
shipwreck, in November, 1826, at "the place  
called Magdelaine River"

Ken Annett

WRECK OF THE SCHOONER "DOLPHIN"

PROTEST - ABRAHAM SIMONEAU, MARINER AND MASTER OF THE SCHOONER "DOLPHIN"

By this Public Instrument of Declaration and Protest, Be it known and made manifest unto all to whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may in any wise concern, that on this Twenty first day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty six, 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 came, appeared and was present Abraham Simoneau, Mariner and Master of the late Schooner called the DOLPHIN of the burthen of Sixty Six tons or thereabouts; who of his own free will and voluntary accord, in the presence of us the said Notaries, did and by these presents doth allege, affirm, declare, protest and say -

That the said Schooner or vessel called the DOLPHIN, being tight, staunch and strong, well and sufficiently manned, provided, equipped and furnished with all things needful and necessary for a voyage to sea, loaded with a cargo of Beef, Pork, Flour, Butter and Lard, and with her hatches well and sufficiently caulked and covered, he, the said appearer set sail on board the said vessel from the Port of Quebec on the evening of the twenty fifth day of November last, on a voyage to the Port of Saint John in the Province of New Brunswick -

And on the first day of December, Instant, in the prosecution of the said voyage, by violent and tempestuous weather, the said vessel was lost by shipwreck on the South Shore of the river Saint Lawrence at the place called Magdelaine River, and of which the particulars here follow -

Vizt that the said vessel proceeded on her said voyage without anything particular or extraordinary occuring till the said first day of December, Instant, when, at about one o'clock in the afternoon, the said vessel, then about two leagues off Mount Louis, was overtaken with a tremendous gale from the Northward and Eastward and thick snow. Carried all possible sail and made every exertion to clear the land, the wind blowing hard on the shore, but without effect, and at about five o'clock in the afternoon of the said first day of December she struck the shore on the South West Point of Magdelaine River aforesaid

in the full reach of a heavy sea which beat on her with great violence and caused her to fill with water in a few minutes, and the said appearer with the crew and passengers with difficulty saved their lives and got to the shore where they remained exposed to the storm, there being no habitations within many leagues of them-

That as soon as the weather became sufficiently moderate the said appearer, with the crew and passengers of the said vessel, employed themselves getting on shore the cargo and materials of the said vessel, and after several days labor they succeeded in getting on shore most of the vessel's materials and the following part of her cargo, Vizt - Two hundred and fifty barrels of Pork and Beef  
One hundred and twenty five barrels of flour  
Eighty kegs of butter and lard

but which cargo was got out of the vessel much damaged and unavoidably sustained further damage afterwards from the rolling of the Casks a considerable distance over a rugged shore to the woods, where the same remains secured in the best manner that could be done, covered with branches of trees and some of the vessel's sails, and with the Mate and the whole crew of the vessel in charge of the same, which became necessary for its immediate preservation as well from the Indians who were hunting in considerable numbers in that part of the Country as from ill intentioned persons who make a business of ranging that part of the coast and making all like property their own; and numbers of such persons at the nearest small settlement along the River were fitting out for the purpose as the said appearer was credibly informed on his way up through the same and without there being any means of preventing them -

That after having secured the said cargo as before mentioned and doing all that could be done respecting the vessel, the same appearer on the eighth day of December, Instant, left the said place above for Quebec on foot, where he arrived this day; and at the time of leaving the said vessel she still lay at the place aforesaid, exposed to the wind and sea, with her hull very much bent, strained and broken the tide rising in and ebbing out of her the same as on the shore alongside of her, and in a situation and state affording the most distant prospect of her being got off and again navigated.

3.

And the said appearer doth further allege, affirm, declare, protest and say that all and singular the losses, injuries, damages and detriments which have happened to the said vessel and her Cargo were in no way owing to or occasioned by any unseamanship, mismanagement or neglect of any of him, the said appearer or of any of the rest of the crew of the said vessel, but solely and entirely to the perils before mentioned, and that he and the remainder of the crew of the said vessel used their utmost endeavours and exertions to preserve the said vessel and her Cargo from loss and damage -

To the truth of all which said several matters and things herein before alleged and declared, he, the said appearer, hath duly made oath on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God before the said Notaries-

Now therefore that these presents may enjoy full force and effect, we, the said Notaries, at the request of the said Abraham Simoneau, did protest against all and every person and persons whom the same doth, shall or may in any wise concern, and do declare that all damages, losses and detriments which have happened to the said vessel and her Cargo are and ought to be borne by the proprietors of or underwriters on the same or whomsoever else it shall or may in any wise concern, the same having occurred as before mentioned and not by or through insufficiency of the said vessel or neglect by the said Albert Simoneau, his officers or any of his mariners.

Thus Done, Protested and sworn to in the said City of Quebec, in the said Province of Lower Canada (where no stamps are used) at the office of L.T. MacPherson, one of the said Notaries, on the day and year first above written -

In Faith and Testimony whereof the said appearer hath to the original of these presents, first duly read and remaining of record in the said office, set his hand in the presence of us the said Notaries, also hereunto subscribing.

(Signatures) Abraham (x) Simoneau  
L.T. MacPherson, N.P.  
E. W. Linday, N.P.



DECLARATION

And on the Eighth Day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty seven, Before us, the said above and undersigned Notaries Public, personally came, appeared and was present Abraham Simoneau, Marinerm named in the foregoing Protest, who did allege, affirm, declare, protest and say that the cargo of the Schooner or vessel called the DOLPHIN, mentioned and referred to in the preceding Protest, consisted, with the goods therein described of Tongues in half barrells and that the number of kegs of butter and lard stated in the said Protest to have been got on shore, To Wit, Eighty in number, there is included six half barrells of Tongues or thereabouts and which the said appeared unintentionally omitted stating in the said Protest - To the truth of all which the said appearer hath made oath before the said Notaries.

Whereof having been requested to have granted granted these presents to serve and avail as of Law or right doth thereunto appertain.

Done at Quebec on the day and year aforesaid, In Testimony whereof the said appearer hath hereunto set his hand in the presence of the said Notaries, who have hereunto set and subscribed our names and signatures.

(Signatures) Abraham (x) Simoneau  
 L.T.MacPherson, N.P.  
 E.W. Lindsay, N.P.

(Signatures) Abraham (x) Simoneau  
 L.T.MacPherson, N.P.  
 E.W. Lindsay, N.P.

J. Simoneau  
Release Selfin  
E.D.

By this Public Instrument of Declaration  
and Protest, Be it known and made ma-  
nifest unto all to whom these presents shall  
come, or whom the same may in any way  
concern, that on this Twenty first day of De-  
cember in the year of our Lord one thou-  
sand eight hundred and twenty six. Be-  
fore us the undersigned Notaries Public  
duly admitted and sworn for the Pro-  
vince of Lower Canada, and residing in  
the City of Quebec in the said Province  
personally came, appeared, and was present  
Abraham Simoneau, ~~Master~~ Mariner, and  
Master of the late Schooner or vessel called  
the Dolphin of the burthen of Sixty Six  
tons or thereabouts, who of his own free will  
and voluntary accord, in the presence of us  
the said Notaries, did and by these presents

doth, allege, affirm, declare, protest and  
say that the said Schooner or vessel  
called the Dolphin being light draught  
and strong well and sufficiently man-  
ned, provided, equipped and furnished  
with all things needful and necessary  
for a voyage to sea, loaded with a cargo  
of Beef, Pork, Flour, Butter and Lard, au-  
ther hatches well and sufficiently caulked  
and covered he the said appeared set  
sail on board of the said vessel from the  
Port of Quebec on the evening of the twen-  
ty fifth day of November last, on a  
voyage to the Port of Saint John, in  
the Province of New Brunswick, and  
on the first day of December, Instant,  
in the prosecution of the said voyage,  
by violent and tempestuous weather, the  
said vessel was lost by shipwreck on the

South shore of the River Saint Lawrence  
at the place called Magdelaine River,  
and of which the particulars here follow  
vizt. that the said vessel proceeded on  
her said voyage without any thing par-  
-ticular or extraordinary, occurring till the  
said first day of December, Instant,  
when, at about one o'clock in the after-  
-noon, the said vessel, then about two lea-  
-gues off Mount Louis, was overtaken with  
a tremendous gale from the Northward  
and Eastward and thick snow, - carried on  
possible sail and made every exertion to  
clear the land the wind blowing hard on  
the shore, but, at about five o'clock in the  
afternoon of the said first day of Decem-  
-ber she struck the shore on the South  
West Point of Magdelaine River aforesaid

#  
without effect  
and  
O.T.M. D.D.  
O.T.M. D.D.  
O.T.M. D.D.  
O.T.M. D.D.



in the full reach of a heavy sea which  
beat on her with great violence, and cau-  
-sed her to fill with water in a few minutes,  
and the said appraiser with the crew and  
passengers with difficulty saved their lives  
and got to the shore <sup>when they</sup> remained expo-  
-sed to the storm, there being no habita-  
-tions within many leagues of them.

That ~~the following day, they~~ ~~at last~~

~~and~~ the said appraiser with the crew  
and passengers <sup>the crew</sup> employed themselves  
getting on shore the cargo and Materials  
of the said Vessel, and after several days  
labor they succeeded in getting on shore  
most of the said Vessel's Materials, and  
the following part of her cargo, Vizt  
Two hundred and fifty barrels of Pork and beef  
One hundred and twenty five barrels of Flour and  
Eighty kegs of butter and Tards

17  
3 seen as the  
rather because  
sufficiently moderate  
Time No.  
17  
17  
17

but which cargo was got out of the ves-  
sel much damaged, and unavoidably  
sustained further damage afterwards  
from the rolling of the Casks a consid-  
-rable distance over a rugged shore to the  
woods, where the same remain secured in  
the best manner that could be done, cov-  
ered with branches of trees and some of  
the vessel's sails, and with the ~~blot~~ <sup>blot</sup> an-  
# <sup>of the vessel</sup> the whole crew in charge of the same  
which became necessary for its <sup>immediate</sup> pre-  
-servation, from the Indians who ~~are~~ <sup>as well</sup> ~~are~~  
hunting in considerable numbers in  
that part of the Country as from ill intention  
Persons who make a business of ranging that part of  
the coast and making aboriginal property their own,  
and numbers of such persons at the nearest small  
settlement along the River were getting out for the  
purpose as the said appraiser was credibly informed  
on his way up the River of the same and without  
there being any means of preventing them, that after  
having the ~~said cargo~~ <sup>#</sup> secured as before mentioned  
and doing all that could be done respecting the

# The said cargo  
#  
#  
#

ing on the shore along  
the pier and in so  
much and still  
not clearing the port  
about sunset  
as being got off the  
have navigated -

Wm. J. C. H.  
C. H.

... vessel. The said vessel at the eight o'clock  
at anchor. Instantly left the said place alone and  
for Quebec where she arrived the day, and at  
the time, leaving the said vessel at the  
place above mentioned. The wind and sea were  
hulls very much beat to pieces and broken, and  
the tide rising, she and sinking out of her the same  
and the said Appraiser doth further  
legally affirm, declare, protest and say that all  
and singular, the losses, injuries, damages  
and detriments which have happened to  
the said vessel and her Cargo were in no way  
owing to or occasioned by any unseaman-  
-ship, mismanagement or neglect of any  
him, the said Appraiser or of any of the  
of the crew of the said vessel but solely  
and entirely to the perils before mentioned  
and that he and the remainder of the  
crew of the said vessel used their utmost  
endeavours and exertions to preserve the  
said vessel and her Cargo from loss  
damage - In the truth of all which



said several matters and things therein  
before alleged and declared by the said  
Appraiser hath duly made oath on the  
Holy Evangelists of Almighty God before  
us the said Notaries. —

Now therefore that these presents  
may enjoy full force and effect we the  
said Notaries at the request of the said  
Simoneau did protest as by these presents,  
we do most solemnly protest against  
all and every person and persons who  
the same doth, shall or may in any  
wise concern and to declare that all  
damages, losses and detriments which  
have happened to the said vessel and her  
Cargo are and ought to be borne by the  
proprietors of or underwriters on the same  
or whomsoever else it shall or may in any  
wise concern, the same having occurred as



before mentioned and not by or through  
insufficiency of the said vessel, or neg-  
lect of the said M<sup>r</sup> Jean Vinneau his officers  
or any of his Mariners. —

Thus Done, Protested and sworn  
to in the said City of Quebec in the said  
Province of Lower Canada (wherein  
stamps are used) at the office of L. J.  
Macpherson one of us the said Notaries  
on the day and year first above writ<sup>ten</sup>

In Faith and Testimony whereof the  
said appraiser hath to the original of  
these presents first duly read and re-  
maining of record in the said office so-  
lely set his hands in the presence  
of us the said Notaries also hereunto  
subscribing.

Monday 10th out at sea

Marginal state appeared

*M. J. Miller*  
M. J. Miller  
① - ②

Abraham <sup>by</sup> Simonsen  
mate

OTM Plensen C. D.

Declaration

And on the Eighth day of January in  
the year of our Lord one thousand eight  
hundred and twenty seven. Before us the  
said shore and undersigned Notary Public  
personally came appeared and was present  
Abraham Simonsen, Danish name, with  
Joseph Christ, who did solemnly affirm declare  
protest and say that the cargo of the Schooner or  
Vessel called the Sealpin mentioned and referred  
to in the preceding protest consisted, with the  
~~description~~ goods therein described, of Manqueez  
in half barrels and the number of kegs  
of butter and lard stated in the said protest to have

is included in all hand of language <sup>12</sup> ~~with~~ =  
stipulations and that the said appear ~~with~~ =  
with ~~with~~ stating in the said ~~with~~ =  
the ~~with~~ of all ~~with~~ the said appear with  
made ~~with~~ before with the said ~~with~~ =

As it has been requested the  
have granted these presents to some and  
grants as of Ten or eight ~~with~~ ~~with~~  
appertain - Done at ~~with~~ on the  
day and year ~~with~~ In Testimony  
Where the said appear ~~with~~ ~~with~~  
set his hand ~~with~~ presence of the said  
acting No have ~~with~~ set  
Subscribed our name and signature.

And thus it is done.

Abraham <sup>his</sup> ~~with~~ ~~with~~

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten signature]*