GASPE OF YESTERDAY

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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 d fficulty 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 ressel, 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.

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 occured 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 barrels 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 barrels 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.

7 2 / se cerum 1020 | Charles Helsone solfin By this Fullic Instrument of Inforation and Sentist be it known and made ma Impost untoall to whom these presents that come or whom the same may inanyuch concern, that on this Swenty wist day of te -conter in the year of our Lord one thou -sand sight hundred and twenty sex . Be - fore us the undersigned Artaries Suth duly admitted and surone for the Six. Amont Lower banada, and residing in The City of Duele in the said From personally came, appeared, with was present Alraham Timoneau, the Muriner aus Muster of the late Schooner ir ved set called the Lofphin of the builtien of Tisty Sie tous or therea bouts, who of his own free win ambroluntary accord in the firesence of u The said Hotories, did and by These presents

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in the butbreach tow heavy, sea which beat on her with great ordence and can--sed her to fill with water in a few minutes and the sais a precurer with the crew and passengers with difficulty saved their live and get to the there they remained expe sed to the storm, Then bring no habita That is the following day they ale abates 3 Jour 25 Hle effectivity made at ne able he cances and passengers engloyed thenselves जीति श्री getting on there the cargo and Material, 1/2 of the said bessel, and after severallay labor they succeeded in getting on show most of The said Vessels Materials, and the following part of her cargo , bigt One hundred and that hands of Books and heef Eighty Ice 33 of hutter and Gardo

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