

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAYVOLUME VFOREWORD

The publication of Volume V, GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY, is a particular satisfaction insofar as it provides continuity to a retirement project begun ten years ago. This series, which attempts to recall and record something of the rich heritage of Gaspesians, has found a wider audience than could have been hoped for, thanks to the Gaspesian newspaper, SPEC, and the CBC community radio program, QUÉBEC A.M. The interest expressed by many readers and radio listeners has been both gratifying and encouraging. The information on Gaspesia's past that has been forwarded and the many inquiries that have been made have served to extend and to enrich the series.

On looking back to the FOREWORD of Volume I one can find in the following quotation the basic motivation for the series:

"In such measure that an awareness and appreciation of the personalities and events of the past influence the future, it is hoped that this volume of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY will make a contribution to an understanding of the Gaspesian heritage."

As an educator the author knows only too well that our youth often express an aversion to history as a mere listing of countless dates and irrelevant wars. How unfortunate that such an attitude should persist! How can the significant events of the past be made more meaningful and interesting to these citizens of tomorrow? It is obvious that youth has a keen sense of the social dimension of life and a deep bond to their particular generation. This bond may be the key to induce youth to consider the experiences of those other generations that comprise their heritage.

FOREWORD
(ctd)

Among the definitions of the word, generation, given by the Oxford Dictionary is to be found the following:

"...in reckoning historically, a generation is the interval of time between the birth of parents and that of their children (usually reckoned at about thirty years..."

While recent novels such as THE CLAN OF THE CAVE BEAR and the MAMMOTH HUNTERS are being widely read and acclaimed in response to their brilliant portrayal of pre-historical generations, it would be rash to even try to estimate the many generations of humans in the pre-history of Gaspesia. However, it appears feasible and useful to apply the concept of generations to the vast sweep of recorded history from the year 1500 A.D. onward. The following table attempts to do this by reference, where possible, to the link of a particular article of the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY series to a given generation.

<u>GENERATION</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>
1500-1530	JEHAN DENYS OF FRANCE CHARTED THE ENTRANCE TO THE BAY CHALEUR. "THE DENYS FAMILY IN GASPEZIA"
1530-1560	JACQUES CARTIER LANDS AT GASPÉ. "THE LANDING PLACE OF JACQUES CARTIER AT GASPÉ - 1534"
1560-1590	BASQUE, BRETON AND NORMAN FISHERMEN IN GASPEZIA. "PENINSULA POINT."
1590-1620	SAMUEL CHAMPLAIN IN GASPEZIA AND THE GULF AND RIVER ST. LAWRENCE. "GASPESIAN TRAVELOGUE-PART II."

- FOREWORD
(etd)
- 1620-1650 NAVAL BATTLE IN GASPÉ BAY WHEN THE KIRKE BROTHERS CAPTURE THE DE ROQUEMONT SUPPLY FLEET DESTINED FOR THE QUEBEC COLONY.
"HUGUENOT INFLUENCE IN QUEBEC."
- 1650-1680 THE MISSIONARY-AUTHOR, FATHER CHRESTIEN LE CLERCQ, IN GASPEZIA.
"NEW RELATION OF GASPEZIA".
- 1680-1710 THE SEIGNIORY OF MATANE DEVELOPED BY D'AMOURS AND RIVERIN.
"THE SEIGNIORY OF MATANE."
- 1710-1740 DR. MICHEL SARRAZIN'S EFFORTS TO DEVELOP GRAND ÉTANG AS A SLATE QUARRY.
"GRAND ÉTANG".
- 1740-1770 THE BRITISH CONQUEST ENDS THE FRENCH REGIME.
"THE GASPEE EXPEDITION"
- 1770-1800 THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION RESPONSIBLE FOR LOYALIST SETTLEMENT IN GASPEZIA.
"NEW CARLISLE IN INFANCY".
- 1800-1830 WOODEN SHIPS AND IRON MEN.
"THE GASPÉ WHALERS."
- 1830-1860 REPRESENTATION-SEPARATION-ANNEXATION.
"GASPEZIA ROCKED BY A TEMPEST OF CONTROVERSY."
- 1860-1890 CONFEDERATION
"FATHERS OF CONFEDERATION VISIT GASPÉ."
- 1890-1920 WORLD WAR I -"THE GREAT WAR."
"THE EIGHTY SEVENTH."

The generation 1890-1920 brings one to living memory. Though the accumulated experiences and memories of the preceding generations may tend to intermingle and blur in the time sweep of almost five centuries, the concept of generation is valid and helpful in recall of the Gaspesian heritage.

OFF TO THE FISHING GROUND

There's a piping wind from a sunrise shore
 Blowing over a silver sea,
 There's a jovous voice in the lapsing tide
 That calls enticingly;
 The mist of dawn has taken flight
 To the dim horizon's bound,
 And with wide sails set and eager hearts
 We're off to the fishing ground.

Ho, comrades mine, how that brave wind sings
 Like a great sea-harp afar !
 We whistle its wild notes back to it
 As we cross the harbour bar.
 Behind us are the homes we love
 And hearts that are fond and true,
 And before us beckons a strong young day
 On leagues of glorious blue.

Comrades, a song as the fleet goes out,
 A song of the orient sea,
 We are the heirs of its tingling strife,
 Its courage and liberty !
 Sing as the white sails cream and fill,
 And the foam in our wake is long,
 Sing till the headlands black and grim
 Bring us back our song !

Oh, 'tis a glad and heartsome thing
 To wake ere the night be done
 And steer the course that our fathers steered
 In the path of the rising sun.
 The wind and welkin and wave are ours
 Wherever our bourne is found,
 And we envy no landsman his dream and sleep
 As we're off to the fishing ground !

Lucy Maud Montgomery



HAVEN FOR GASPE FISHERMEN'S BOATS.