

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

TALE OF THE BRIG "MARGARET"

Declaration and Protest by Captain John
Jones and others of their trials and
tribulations on the shores of Gaspesia
in May, 1811.

KEN ANNETT

TALE OF THE BRIG "MARGARET"

RECORD OF JAS. VOYER, N.P.

By this public Instrument of Declaration and Protest, Be it known and made manifest to all to whom these presents shall come or may in anywise concern,

That on the eighteenth Day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eleven, Before me, James Voyer, Notary Public duly commissioned and sworn for the Province of Lower Canada, residing at the city of Quebec in the said Province, came and appeared John Jones, Master of the Brig MARGARET of the burthen of Ninety Seven tons for Register belonging to the port of Quebec, Robert Bigrie, Chief Mate of the said Brig, and John Joseph, Mariner on board, who, in pursuance and extension of a Protest noted with me, the aforementioned Notary on the twelfth day of June, Instant, by the said John Jones, the Master of the said Brig, declared, affirmed, protested, testified and said and hereby do and each of them doth declare, affirm, protest, testify and say in manner following -

That is to say, that the said ship being tight, staunch and strong, well-manned, equipped, provided and furnished with all things needful and necessary for a Vessel of her burthen on her intended Voyage, They, the said Appearers, did set sail in the said Brig on the sixth day of April now last past from the port of Liverpool with a Cargo of Salt bound to this Port of Quebec. That they proceeded on the said Voyage without anything material happening until Friday the tenth of the Month of May last, the said Vessel being then in the Gulph of Saint Lawrence and the Weather being remarkable thick and hazy.

At about three quarters past Ten P.M., as they were steering about North by West, they were hailed by a person from on Board of a Vessel which had a light up, who called out to them, the Appearers, to keep the said Brig away or they would run her on shore and were informed at the same time that they were near the coast above Gaspé.

Whereupon the said Master immediately altered the Course and steered North North East, the wind being then about South. That at half past Eleven O'Clock P.M., the wind becoming moderate, they found the said Vessel in broken Water and the Sea running very high, she struck almost immediately on the Rocks. That she continued to strike very heavy till about six O'clock A.M. of the next day, when the Water beginning to Ebb, she laid more easy; that at nine o'clock A.M., the sea being more moderate, they, the said Appearers and the rest of the Brig's company bot out the Boat and pulled through the surf and landed at a small fishing Cove about two Leagues to the Westward of Percé.

That on Saturday the Eleventh, in the Morning, the Weather being more moderate and the Sea being much smoother, the Appearers and the rest of the number of the crew returned to the Vessel with the Long Boat and another Boat from the Shore finding then three feet of water in the Hold they determined, as well for the preservation of the Brig as that of the Cargo, to discharge and land the latter and immediately set to work in landing the sails, rigging, stores etc.

That on Sunday the twelfth of the said month the said John Jones went to Percé to procure assistance in order to land the Salt. That on the Day after they, with the assistance of some Boats from the shore, landed some Salt and got an Anchor and Cable to heave off by. That they were employed in landing Salt to Friday the sixteenth of the said month when, at about Nine A.M. they hove the said Brig off and got her on float but not being able to get her off far enough she grounded again at low Water, That they then run the Kedge out and hauled the Bower Anchor further off. That on Friday the Seventeenth of the same month they got the Vessel into four fathoms and half of Water but it blowing fresh with a heavy Swell and the Vessel making a great deal of Water they remained there until the following day. At day break they hove up the Anchor, got the Boat ahead to tow, hoisted some sail and ran down to l'Ance au beau fils where they came to with the Kedge and Hawser. That at Noon they got the Rudder shipped, parted the Hawser and came to with the best Bower, one Pump having been kept constantly going.

3.

Next, on Sunday the nineteenth they put a few Boat Loads of Ballast on Board and the sails, running rigging and stores, bent the sails, hoisted the Boat, weighed Anchor and made sail for the Harbour of Gaspé and came to Anchor in the Bason of the said place at half past eleven o'clock P.M. of the same day.

That on Saturday the twenty fifth day of the month of May the Master of the said Brig MARGARET, one of the said Appearers, caused her to be surveyed by three skilful and experienced shipwrights who reported her to be unfit and incapable of proceeding from thence of her said, intended voyage without undergoing thorough and complete repair as reference being had to the Surveyor's Report bearing date at Gaspé aforesaid the twenty fifth day of the said month of May last will more fully and at large appear.

Wherefore, finding after inquiry that the said brig MARGARET could not be repaired at the said place of Gaspé, the said Appearers and the rest of the crew took their passage on Board a certain schooner called SWALLOW, Capt. Dumas, Master, bound for this port, and on the first day of June following, Instant, set sail and arrived at this port of Quebec on the eleventh day of the same month.

Therefore the said John Jones, Master of the said Brig MARGARET, requested me, the said Notary to protest and I do hereby most solemnly protest against all and every person or persons whom it shall or may concern and do declare that all damages, losses and detriments that have happened to the said Brig called the MARGARET and the goods of her lading, are, and ought to be borne by the Merchants and Freighters interested or whomsoever else it shall or may concern, by way of average or otherwise, the same having occurred as aforesaid and not by or through the insufficiency of the said Brig or neglect of the said Appearers or any of the said Brig's company .

To the Truth of all which matters and things so declared and alleged as aforesaid, each of them, the said Appearers, hath respectively made Oath before me, the said Notary.

4.

Thus done and protested at the City of Quebec (where no stamps are used) the Day, Month and Year aforesaid. In Witness hereof the said Appearers have hereunto set and subscribed their Names in the Presence of us the said Notary and of Archibald Campbell and John Miller, Witnesses, who have also to the same set and subscribed Our Names in faith and testimony of the Premises.

(Signatures) John Jones
 Robert Bigrie
John Joseph
 Jas. Voyer, N.P.
 Archibald Campbell
 John Miller

REPORT OF SURVEY OF BRIG "MARGARET" AT GASPE.

We the Subscribers, being called upon by Mr. John Jones, Master of the Brig MARGARET of Quebec to Survey and examine the said vessel with regard to damage she has received in consequence of her having run on Shore at L'Ance au Beau fils, give it as our Opinion that the said Brig MARGARET has received so much damage that she is not in a State to proceed on her voyage to Quebec until her bottom has had a thorough repair, she having her Keel entirely tore away, her Stern and Stern Post much shattered, and we have reason to suppose that some of her floor Timbers are broke. Given under our hands at Gaspé this 25th day of May, 1811.

(Signed) Joseph Babin, Shipwright and Ship Master.
 John Poingdestre, Ship Carpenter.
 John Annett, Ship Carpenter.

In presence of Hugh O'Hara, J.P.

N. 162
Declaration & Protest

du Cap.
John Jones et al.
18^e Juin 1811.



By this Public Instrument of
Declaration and Protest. Be it Known
and made manifest to all to whom these presents
shall come or may in anywise concern that
on the eighteenth Day of June in the year of our Lord
one Thousand eight Hundred and Seven, Before
Mr James Voyu (Notary Public & Commissioner
and Sheriff for the Province of Lower Canada
Residing at the city of Quebec in the said
Province, Personally came and appeared John
Jones Master of the Ship ~~Torie~~ Margaret of the
burthen ad. Twenty seven tons or Registre
belonging to the port of Quebec

John Joseph
J. B.
J. H.

Robert Bowie, Chief Mate
of the said ~~Ship~~ ~~Torie~~ ~~Margaret~~ Marm
on board, who in pursuance and Extension
of a protest noted with me the Aforenamed
Notary ~~on~~ the ~~15~~ day of June Instant by the said
John Jones, the Master of the said Ship, doth
Affirm, protest, testify and swear and hereby
do and each of them doth declare, Affirm, protest
testify and swear in manner following. To wit
to say, That the said Ship being tight
 staunch and strong well manned equipped
provided and furnished with all things useful
and necessary for a Vessel of her burthen on
her intended Voyage, They the said Appear
ants did sail in the said Ship on the sixth
day of ~~the month of June~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~port~~

Expicé
J. H.

done

Day of April last now last past from
 the Port of Liverpool, with a Cargo
 of Salt bound to this Port of Quebec.
 That they proceeded on the said Voyage
 without any thing material happening until
 Friday the tenth of the said Month of May
 last the said Vessel ^{then} being in the Gulph
 of Saint Lawrence and the Weather being re-
 markable thick & hazy at about three
 Quarters past Ten P.M. as they were
 Steering about North by West they were hailed
 by a Vessel person from on Board of a Vessel
 which had a Light up who called out to them

Apparant to keep the said Brig away on they would
 on Shore ^{when} ~~touch~~ the said Master imme-
 diately altered the Course and Steered North
 North East the Wind being about South
 the Coast about
 Gaspe

John I.
 S. I.
 P. B.
 S. M.
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That at half past Eleven O'Clock P.M.

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on the Wind becoming Moderate they found
 the said Vessel in broken Water and the Sea
 running very high she struck almost imme-
 diately on the Rocks that she continued to
 strike very heavy till about Six O'clock
 A.M. of the next day when the Water begin-
 ning to Ebb she laid more easy, that at Nine
 O'clock with the Sea being more moderate they
 got out the Boat and with all of the crew pulled
 through the Surf and landed at a small fishing
 Cove about two Leagues to the Westward of Per-
 ce. That on Saturday the Eleventh in the Morning
 the Weather being more moderate and the Sea
 being much smoother the Crew returns to the Vessel
 with the Long Boat and another Boat from the
 Shore and finding there being
 three Feet of Water in the Hold that on Sunday
 the twelfth of the said Month the said John Jones
 went to Perce to procure assistance in order to land
 the Salt. That on that Day after they with the
 assistance of some Boats from the Shore, they
 landed some Salt, and got an Anchor and Cable
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 J. J. D.
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That on the Saturday the twenty fifth day of May
 the said month of May the Master of the said Brig
 Margaret one of the said Approvers, caused to be
 employed by three Skips Skilful and experienced
 Shipstyes who reported him to be unfit and inca-
 pable of proceeding from thence in the prosecution of her
 said Voyage and that the said Skips repaired as aforesaid
 and being after the said repairs as aforesaid being had to
 the said place of destination the twenty fifth day of the said month of May last
 will more fully and at large appear. Wherefore
 I took them the said Approvers and the rest of the Crew to
 passage on the said Brig Margaret and the rest of the Crew to
 the said place of destination
 Schooner called the said Brig Margaret requests me the said
 Notary to protect and do therein most solemn
 Banns solemnly protect against all and every person or
 person and make and do declare that all damages losses and
 detriments that have happened to the said
 Brig called the Margaret and the Goods of
 Merchants and Freighters interested or whomsoever
 here at this she it shall or may concern by way of av-
 said point of - wages or otherwise to the intent of all
 which matters and things I do declare and attest
 the same as aforesaid each of them the said Approvers
 having sworn and made Oath before
 me the said Notary. Thus done & proved
 at the City of Quebec (where no Stamps are
 used)

J. J. J.
 Notary



[Handwritten signature]

To leave off by ^{that they were employed in landing}
 Salt from to Friday until the sixteenth of the said
 month ^{bound to the} ^{Month} ^{at about} ^{Nine AM} They hove
 # and kept ^{the said} ^{Boat} off and got her on float but not
 constantly ^{being able to get her far enough off the again}
 to work ^{at low Water, that they then ran the}
 J. J. ^{Hedge} out and hove the Bower Anchor further
 J. G. ^{off.} That on Friday the seventeenth of the same
 M. P. ^{Month} they got the Vessel into four fathoms and a
 L. H. ^{half of Water} but it blowing fresh with a heavy
 swell and the Vessel making a great deal of
 Water they remained there until the following
 day when at day break they hove up the Anchors
 got the Boat a head to tow, hoisted some sail and
 ran down to L'Ance and ^{when they} ^{came too}
 with the Hedge and Lawser that at Noon they got
 the Rudder shipped, parted the Lawser and came
 too with the best because Bower one Pump
 having ^{been} ^{kept} ^{constantly} ^{going.} That on Friday the
 nineteenth of the ^{same} ^{Month} ^{at} ^{about} ^{noon} ^{loads} ^{of} ^{Ballast}
 on Board and the Yards ^{running} ^{rigging} and
 Yarns ^{but} ^{the} ^{Yards} ^{hoisted} ^{the} ^{Boat} ^{weighed}
 Anchor and made sail for the Harbour of
 Gaspe and came to Anchor in the ^{harbour} of
 the said ^{place} at half past eleven o'clock P.M. of the
 same day

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Done the Day Month & Year aforesaid. In Wit-
 ness whereof the said Apppearers have hereunto set
 and subscribed their Names in the Presence of us
 the said Notary and of Archibald Campbell
 and John Miller Witnesses who have also to the
 same set & subscribed Our Names in faith
 testimony of the Premises. *Notary Marginal Notary*
approved. for the said words containing the Nullity of

Archibald Campbell
John Miller

Witnesses

John Jones
Robert Biggins
John Joseph

In testimonium veritatis

Las roys
Notary