

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

SALE OF THE SCHOONER "SWALLOW"

Capt. Daniel Mabe sells the schooner
SWALLOW, built at Point St.Peter, to
Capt. Jean-Baptiste Giroux. 1815.

KEN ANNETT

CAPTAIN DANIEL MABY (MABE) SELLS THE SCHOONER "SWALLOW"

FOREWORD

The long sandbar that extends westward from the mouth of the River Barachois stretches for some four miles to end in the scenic cove named Corner of the Beach. It is from this cove at sea level that the highway begins its dramatic climb over the mountains that lie between Corner of the Beach and Percé.

Of the early settlement of this scenic cove the late Margaret G. MacWhirter wrote in her TREASURE TROVE IN GASPE AND THE BAIE DES CHALEURS:

"...In 1797 Adjutant Mabe, an U.E. Loyalist from Rhode Island, settled at Corner of the Beach, the British Government having granted him and each of his sons a tract of land. The Adjutant's sword is still a treasured heir-loom in the home of one of his grandsons, Capt. Dan Mabe. The sons followed the sea. One of them, Dan, built a top-sail schooner—the first built at Corner-of-the-Beach, and carried a cargo of fish to Barbados. He was captured by a Spanish pirate, who compelled all on board to "walk the plank". Eighteen months later, a British gun-brig in turn captured the pirate, and the mystery surrounding the fate of the Gaspé seamen was solved.

The present Captain Dan Mabe has spent his life in the coast trade between Nova Scotia, Quebec and Montreal. He is very observant, intelligent and courteous and much interested in the early history of his native country, responding readily to the writer's request for "story". He described the old houses, with their large chimneys and the huge birch back-log and cod-oil lamps. But these have disappeared, and only remain in the memories of those who still look back to the days of childhood..."

HUGUENOT BACKGROUND OF MABE FAMILY

Ancestor of Mabe families in America, Seigneur Pierre Mabile de Neve, was born circa 1550 in Anjou, France. Huguenot in faith and practice Pierre Mabile was obliged to flee from his native land following the massacre of St. Bartholomew's Day and general persecution of Huguenots throughout France. He found refuge in Noorden, Holland.

Gaspard, son of Pierre Mabile, served in the Dutch Navy. He was a signer of the Leyden petition of 1621 which was presented to the British Ambassador to Holland, Sir Dudley Carleton, asking permission to emigrate to the British Colonies in America. His brother, John, also emigrated, settling at Schenectady, New York. A son of Gaspard, Pierre Mabile, Jr., died in New York in 1665.

It is particularly interesting for Gaspesians that in the years preceding the American Revolution there was intermarriage of the Huguenot families of Mabile and Second. Interesting, as descendants of these families would settle in Gaspesia as United Empire Loyalists. The name, Mabile, changed its form with time and can be found recorded as : Maybee; Mabee; Mabile; Maby or Mabe.

Considering their strong convictions and loyalty to the Crown it is not surprising that many Huguenot families of the American Colonies became United Empire Loyalists. Members of the Mabe family, uprooted from hearth and home as had been their ancestors, came to Canada. Their descendants can recall such Loyalist experience in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Ontario in addition to the family of Pierre Mabe Sr. of Corner-of-the-Beach.

Proceedings of the Gaspé Land Claims Commission of 1819 record the claim of Peter Mabe, Sr., for three Lots of 495 acres on the South side of the "Barachoi" of Malbay. One Lot of this claim was to be in the names of John and Jacob Packwood. Other Corner-of-the-Beach claimants included Peter Mabe, Jr.

CAPTAIN DANIEL MABY (MABE) SELLS THE SCHOONER "SWALLOW"

(Translation of Deed Of Sale from the French)

OCTOBER 5th., 1815

Present was Captain Daniel Maby, Mariner, of this City of Québec at this time, who, acting both in his own name and as attorney for Messrs John Packwood and Jacob Packwood, Mariners of Gaspé, sells, cedes and hands over to Captain Jean Baptiste Giroux, Mariner of this City, also present and accepting -

That is to say, the schooner, SWALLOW, of the burthen of twenty-seven and 81/94 tons together with all her rigging, equipment and sails with which the said purchased is content and satisfied having visited and inspected the schooner before the drawing up of these presents.

The record of the said schooner in accordance with Law is transcribed below:

Number Fifty Seven

In pursuance of an Act passed in the twenty-sixth year of the Reign of King George the Third, intituled An Act for the further Increase and Encouragement of Shipping and Navigation, Daniel Maby of the District of Gaspé in the Province of Lower Canada, Mariner, having taken and subscribed the Oath required by this Act, and having Sworn that himself, together with Jacob Packwood and John Packwood, also of Gaspé aforesaid, Mariners, who are at present upwards of twenty miles Distant from this port but have not absented himself to avoid taking the said Oath, are sole owners of the ship or vessel called the SWALLOW of Quebec, whereof the Deponent is at present Master -

That the said ship or vessel was built at Point Peter in the District and Province aforesaid in the year one thousand eight

hundred and thirteen and not before registered, which appears by Certificate of the Builder, to us produced, bearing date the 3rd August, 1813, and Chas. G. Stewart, Surveyor for the Act of Navigation having Certified to us that the said ship or vessel is British Plantation Built, has one Deck and two Masts; that her length from the fore part of the Main Stem to the after part of the Stern Post aloft is Forty one feet, her depth of Hold is Five Feet Six Inches and admeasures Twenty Seven 81/94 tons. That she is a square sterned schooner without a break on Deck, has no Gallery, no Head, and the subscribing owner having consented and agreed to the above description and admeasurement and having caused sufficient security to be given as is required by the said Act, the said schooner SWALLOW has been duly registered at the port of Quebec.

Given under our Hands and Seals of Office at the Custom House in the said Port of Quebec this fourth day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.

Recorded at the Custom House, Quebec.

Recorded at the Naval Office

Certificate of British Plantation Registry.

This Sale is thus made in consideration of the sum of Fifty Pounds Quebec currency, which sum the said Captain Daniel Maby acknowledges by these presents to have received and whereof he gives quittance.

Thus done and passed in the Office of Mr. Campbell, one of the undersigned Notaries the fifth of October one thousand eight hundred and fifteen.

And the said Daniel Maby signed with us, the said Notaries, the said Jean Baptiste Giroux declaring himself unable to write his name. The above having been read.

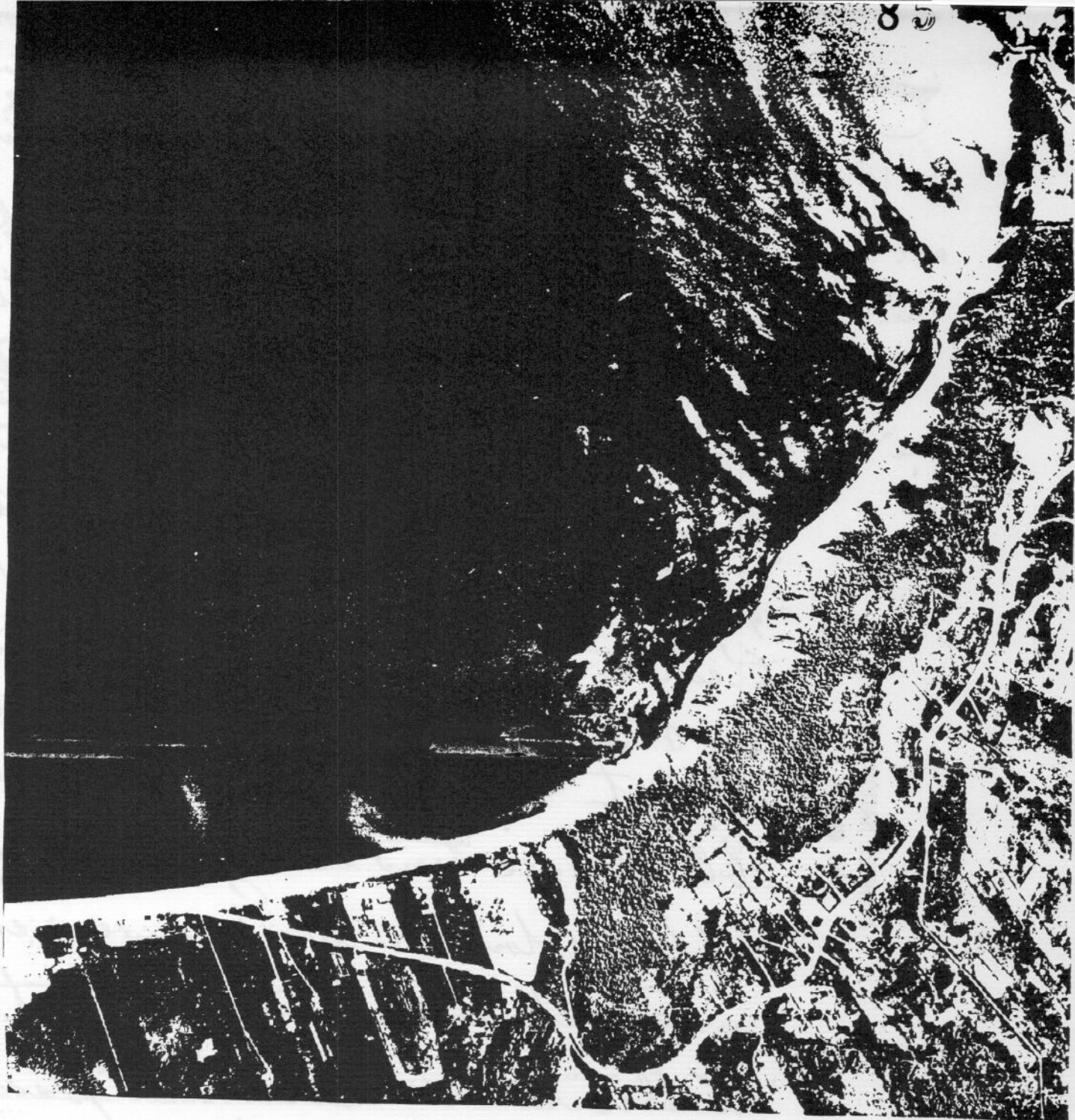
(Signatures)

Daniel Mabe

Jean Baptiste X Giroux.

Arch. Campbell, N.P.

B. Farbault, N.P.



THE "CORNER" AT CORNER-OF-THE-BEACH

At the lower edge of this aerial photo the bend in the white ribbon of the highway marks the end of the flat, sea-level lands of Corner-of-the-Beach and the start of the mountain road to Percé.

~~226-1023~~
made by the Governor copy 5/1815

was present the Sieur Daniel
Mayby demourant en cette Ville
de Quebec navigateur lequel pour
obtenir son nom et comme promoteur des Sieurs John Parkwood
et John Parkwood de Gaspe & Maritimes
en ont cede & transporte a Jean
Baptiste Giroux de cette Ville
d'acteurs a ce present et acceptant
C'est a savoir la Goëlette nommée
la Challow du Port de Bonport
Dixt Sept 1/94 Tonnes ensemble
ensemble et avec tous ses agrès appareaux
Voiles &c dont le dit Acquerement en est
content et satisfait les ayant vue
et visitée des avant la passation
des présentes.

ARCHIVES NATIONALES
DU QUÉBEC

La Feuille de la dite Goëlette
et cy transcrite Surant la
Number fifty seven
in pursuance of an Act passed on the twenty

57
1815
G.D.

Fifth Year of the Reign of King George the
Third, intituled, An Act for the further
increase & Encouragement of Shipping &
Navigation.

Daniel Maby of the District of Gaspe
in the province of Lower Canada Mariner
having taken & subscribed the Oath required
by this Act, and having sworn that himself
together with Jacob Packwood and John
Packwood also of Gaspe aforesaid Mariners,

L.S.

Wm. Perivale

who are at present upwards of twenty
miles distant from this port but have not
presented himself to avoid taking the said
Oath are. Sole Owners of the Ship or Vessel
called the Swallow of Quebec whereof
the Defendant is at present Master
that the said Ship or Vessel was built
at Point Peter in the District of Province
aforesaid in the year one thousand eight
hundred & thirteen and not before registered
which appears by Certificate of the Builder
to us produce bearing date the 3^d August

1813 and Chas^y Mervat Surveyor for the
Act of Navigation having Certified to us that
the said Ship or Vessel is British Manufacture. Built
has one Deck and two Mast; that her Length from
the fore part of the Main Mast to the after part
of the Main Mast a'ft, is Forty one feet
her Depth of hold is Five Feet Six Inches

And admeasure Twenty Seven $\frac{1}{2}$ Tons,
That she is a Square Sterned

~~Schooner with a break on Deck, has no~~
G. D. Gallery, no Head, and the subscribing
A. J. G. Owner having consented and agreed to the
W. Scott above Description & admeasurements, and
Comp^{ts} having caused sufficient Security to be
given as is required by the said Act, the
said Schooner "Swallow" has been duly

registered at the port of Quebec
Governor under our Hand & seal of office
at the Custom House in the said port of

Quebec this fourth Day of October in
G. 18 the year one thousand eight hundred and
fifteen

Recorded at the Customs House, Quebec

Mr. [unclear]

Recorded at the Naval Office

(Sigs) W. H. C.

Certificate of British Plantation Registry

~~(Sigs) [unclear]~~

Cette vente est ainsi fait
~~la charge de payer de la~~
~~de la somme de~~
 Daniel Maby la somme de
 cinquante Louis au cours actuel
 de Quebec. La quelle dite somme
 le dit sieur Daniel Maby reconnoit
 avoir recue des avant la pas-
 sation des presentes et lui en
 donne quittance. Cdt d'inscr
 et transportant de fait
 et passe a Quebec en l'etude
 de M^r Campbell l'un des Notai

Le 10 Octobre Mil huit cent quinze
A la Citoyen Daniel May
Signé avec nous Notaires la Citoyen
Jean Baptiste Grouse ~~qui~~ requi
de le faire a déclaré ne le sçavoir a
lecture faite /

Daniel May
Daniel May
Jean Baptiste Grouse
notaire

