

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE DE MONTMOLLIN REGISTER
1768-1794

The first clergyman appointed to serve the Protestant Parish of Quebec City was the Rev. David Francis De Montmollin. His Church Register for the years 1768-1794 contains some interesting entries to persons with links to the early days of Gaspesia.

KEN ANNETT

THE DE MONTMOLLIN REGISTERPREFACE

At a time when search is proceeding on a number of fronts to locate records of the baptism, marriage and burial of early settlers in Gaspesia, GASPE' OF YESTERDAY considers it to be of some interest to note the 1768-1794 Register of the Reverend David Francis De Montmollin, the first Rector of the Protestant Parish of Quebec City. While the number of references to Gaspesians is limited, those to be found therein are of interest. However, as the arrival of the Rev. de Montmollin at Quebec was eight years after the Fall of New France and four years after the end of Military Rule in 1764 a brief resumé of prior Protestant presence in Quebec is in order.

QUEBEC UNDER MILITARY RULE. 1759-1764.

Before the British Conquest of New France Protestant clergy had been "persona non grata" in Quebec. The first Protestant clergy sailed up the St. Lawrence in 1759 with the expedition of General James Wolfe or accompanied the land forces under General Amherst as chaplains of the British forces. They included:

15th Regiment.....	John Lloyd
43rd Regiment.....	John Bourne
78th Regiment.....	Robert McPherson
63rd Regiment.....	Richard Kendall
48th Regiment.....	Michael Houdin
28th Regiment.....	Ralph Walsh
47th Regiment.....	Lewis Bruce
60th Regiment.....	John Ogilvie
35th Regiment.....	Edward Whitty
58th Regiment.....	Henry Walker

Of these clergymen, the Rev. Michael Houdin remained in Quebec until 1761 and the Rev. Dr. John Ogilvie had a distinguished career as chaplain to the Mohawk Indians and minister in Montreal and Quebec until 1764. The Rev. Dr. J. Brooke came to Quebec almost immediately after the Conquest and remained until the summer of 1768. His title, as granted by General Murray, was "Chaplain to

2.

the Town of Quebec and as Parish Priest to all His Majesty's Protestant subjects in the Government". His appointment dated from December, 1760. He was preparing to leave Quebec when the Rev. de Montmollin arrived in the summer of 1768.

REV. DAVID FRANCIS DE MONTMOLLIN - SOME BACKGROUND.

David Francis de Montmollin was born at Neuchatel, Switzerland, in 1721, son of Louis de Montmollin. His father was not only a member of the Grand Conseil and the Conseil Etroit but served as Secretary of Neuchatel. At age eighteen he was admitted to the study of medicine at Basle University, which he attended for three years. Two years later he moved to Leyden in Holland and from there migrated to London, England. There, in 1762, he married Jane Bell. In 1768 he was ordained a clerk in Holy Orders in the Church of England. That de Montmollin had the support of someone in authority was reflected in:

- . The ceremony of ordination in the Chapel Royal of St. James' Palace.
- . His letters of ordination issued under the hand and seal of the Lord Bishop of London.
- . A Royal Mandamus appointing him Minister to the Church and Parish of Quebec, signed by the Earl of Hillsborough, Secretary of State for the Colonies.

In June, 1768 the Rev. de Montmollin, his wife, Jane Bell, and their sons, John Samuel and John Frederic, reached Quebec in a British ship carrying personnel of the 8th Regiment of the garrison.

SOME SELECTED ENTRIES FROM REGISTER OF REV. DE MONTMOLLIN

* MANWARING Baptism in October, 1774 of Rebecca, daughter of Edward Manwaring.

The career of Edward Manwaring has been traced by Prof. David J. McDougall in the SPEC historical article - "EDWARD MANWARING-GASPE'S FIRST CUSTOMS OFFICER", published October 13, 1983.

Four years later, a Deed of Lease by Antoine Parent, Notary Public, made reference to Dame Rebecca Manwaring, the widow of Edward Manwaring. Thus we know that the

MONTMOLLIN

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Daughter bore the given name of her mother.

In October, 1792, Rev. de Montmollin officiated at the marriage of Rebecca Lanwarins (18 years of age) and Joseph Stilson, by trade a sadler. The wedding followed the traditional reading of banns. In the signing of the Register the bride made her mark.

As Joseph Stilson remarried in 1794 with Jane McKenzie it is presumed that his first wife, Rebecca had died.

*COX

Baptism in 1777 of Deborah, daughter of Major Nicholas Cox, Lieutenant-Governor of Gaspé and his wife, Mrs. Deborah Cox.

The career of Nicholas Cox as recalled by the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY article - "THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NICHOLAS COX. 1724-1794" was published by SPEC April 15, 1981.

It was the Rev. de Montmollin that conducted the funeral service on the death of Nicholas Cox in January, 1794.

*LANE

Baptism in 1789 of Daniel, son of John Lane, "discharged soldier in ye Bay of Chaleurs" and his wife, Catherine.

*MAN

Buried on July 28, 1780, Isaac Man, Esq., "Judge of ye Common Pleas"

Reference to the Loyalist Man (Mann) family has been made in a number of articles of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY and research on family history is being carried forward by descendants.

*VAN FELSON

Burial on June 24, 1770 of Sarah, aged 7 years, 1 month, daughter of John Van Felson and Josette la Croix.

The story of William Van Felson, pioneer Merchant of Bonaventure, by Doris and David McDougall was published by SPEC on August 21, 1980. The article makes reference to Sarah.

*RIMPHOFF At the baptism in 1776 of John, son of John and Ann Saul, Henry Gaspar Rimp hoff was a God Parent, together with John and Magdalene Chisholm. Rimp hoff has been recalled by GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY as an early Merchant-Trader in Bay Chaleur.

*JESSUP In April, 1782 at the baptism of George Edward Hyde, son of Colonel Ebenezer Jessup, Royal Yorkers Regiment, the God-Parents were Major Nicholas Cox, Lieutenant-Governor of Gaspee and Mrs. Deborah Cox, his wife.

*COFFIN The baptism in 1786 of Robert, son of James Grant, Merchant and his wife, Susannah was witnessed by Adam Mabane, Counsellor and Judge of Common Pleas, John Coffin, Justice of the Peace and Inspector of Police and Mrs. Ann Coffin Callbeck of St. John's Island. (now P.E.I.)

Reference has been made remarkable out-migration of the Coffin family to P.E.I., Gaspé and Quebec in an unpublished article, THE COFFIN FAMILY.

*LE MAISTRE The baptism in 1788 of Francois Guillaume, son of Captain Francis Le Maistre and his wife, Margaret. The God-Parents were William Le Maistre, uncle,; George L'Empriere (in absentia); Elizabeth Le Maistre, aunt, of Jersey.

The career of Capt. Francis LeMaistre, in the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY series, was published by SPEC on November 15, 1979.

William, brother of Captain Francis Le Maistre, lived and died in Gaspesia.

*DOBSON The baptism of William, son of John Dobson, "Clerk of ye Store Keeper Office" and Elizabeth, his wife, in 1789 was witnessed by Captain George Lawe, Sr., Augustin Kuhn and Jane Hay.

* DOBSON
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A GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY account of the life and times of Captain George Lawe, Jr. was published by SPEC on January 24th., 1980. As Superintendent of Loyalist Settlement in Bay Chaleur Capt.Lawe knew the Loyalists and veteran soldiers that settled in Gaspesia, including members of the Dobson family. In 1792 the Rev. de Montmollin baptised another son, Robert, of John and Elizabeth Dobson.

* McCAMBRIDGE

Among those who drew land grants at New Carlisle in August, 1784 was Archibald McCambridge who had as dependents his wife and three sons.

In 1787 McCambridge was in Quebec City where the Rev. de Montmollin baptised daughter, Catherine, and son, Andrew, of Archibald and Mary McCambridge.

Edmond Hall, described in the Register as " an inhabitant of Chaleur Bay" was a God-Father to the McCambridge children.

* MAN

In 1786 John Man of New Carlisle, Bay Chaleur and his wife, Elizabeth, had their son, Isaac, baptised by the Rev. de Montmollin.

The God-Parents that signed the Register were:

Thomas Man, "ye Uncle"

Edward Man, "ye Uncle"

Elizabeth Man as proxy for Ann Man, "ye Aunt".

* LE MAISTRE

William, son of William Le Maistre and Jeanne Simon was baptised by the Rev. de Montmollin in 1788.

* BREHAUT

A wedding of interest was celebrated on January 30th 1792 when Rev. de Montmollin officiated at the marriage of Peter Brehaut and Therese Bellenoy, dit Le Maitre.

Born in the Island of Guernsey, son of Pierre and Marie Tostevin Brehaut, Peter had business links with the Channel Islanders of Gaspé Bay. His partner in business was Pierre LeMesurier who had relatives in Gaspé.

6.

* BREHAUT
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Following the tragic death by drowning of Peter Brehaut in 1817 the Widow Theresese Brehaut remarried with William Brut Sheppard, elder brother of Martin Sheppard, Sheriff of Gaspé and a resident of New Carlisle.

POSTSCRIPT

The Register of the Rev. David Francis De Montmollin is equalled in interest only by the biography published privately by the Hon. George C. Marler in 1963 under the title:

DAVID FRANCIS de MONTMOLLIN. 1721-1803

The interest of the Hon. George Marler arose from the marriage in 1810 of his ancestor, Leonard Marler with Charlotte Marguerite de Montmollin, granddaughter of David Francis and Jane Bell de Montmollin.

Though the entries in the de Montmollin Register end in 1794 he continued to reside in Quebec until his death in December, 1803. He was buried by the Rev. Salter Jehosaphat Mountain, the new Rector of the English Church at Quebec in the presence of two friends, George Allsopp and Dr. George Longmore. The latter had been the first doctor to serve the Loyalist settlement at Bay Chaleur in the District of Gaspé.