

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

FOR SERVICES IN 1775

Richard Commins, Seaman, of Gaspé Bay
has his "true friend" Thomas Kennedy
arrange the sale of his land rights
for 1775-76 service during the Siege
of Québec.

KEN ANNETT

FOR SERVICES IN 1775FOREWORD

A number of the previous issues of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY have referred to the impact, both directly and indirectly, of the War of the American Revolution on Gaspesia. The fishery was disrupted by the privateers from New England who ranged the coast from Gaspé Bay to the Restigouche. Percé was sacked, Bonaventure raided, and the life of Gaspesian settlements kept in alarm and fear. Following the war the Loyalists and disbanded soldiers came to claim lands and to settle in Gaspesia. New place names, CARLETON, MARIA, COX, HAMILTON, HOPE, HALDIMAND, etc. serve still to remind Gaspesians of those linked with those years of 18th., century strife.

Thomas Kennedy whose name appears in the following DEED OF SALE is no stranger to the pages of SPEC. Two articles by Doris and David McDougall on "DOUGLASTOWN BEFORE 1800" (the latest of which was published May 29th., 1980) provide interesting information on the Loyalist, William Kennedy, and to his sons, including Thomas.

The first witness to the LETTER OF ATTORNEY of Richard Commins, John Annett, was one of the four sons of William and Elizabeth Siddon Annett, early settlers at Peninsula. It is tempting to presume that the second witness was John Annett's brother, George, but there may well be other evidence of a GEORGE BINNET in Gaspé. The origins of Thomas Fitzgerald have yet to be established.

POWER OF ATTORNEY - RICHARD COMMINS TO THOMAS KENNEDY

Know all men by these presents that I, Richard Commins, Seaman, Inhabitant of Gaspee Bay, by these presents do Make, Ordain and Constitute and Appoint my True Friend, Thomas Kennedy, Farmer, in the same County, my true and lawful Attorney for me, And in my name and for my use to Ask, Demand and Receive Whatsomever Lands that His Most Gracious Makesty shall please to give me for my Loyalty.

Giving and hereby Granting unto my said Attorney full and whole power to take, pursue and follow such legal Ways and Courses for the Recovery of the aforesaid Lands as I myself might or could do, were I personally present.

And I do hereby Ratify, Allow and Confirm all and whatsoever ny said Attorney shall lawfully do or cause to be done, By Virtue of these presents.

In Witness, this 26th day of July and in the year 1800.

Given under my Hand In Gaspee, Before Witnesses.

(Signed) Richard Commins

Witnesses:

- (Signed) John Annet
- George Binnet
- Thomas Fitzgerald

3.

DEED OF SALE BY THOMAS KENNEDY AS ATTORNEY FOR RICHARD COMMINS
TO GEORGE CHAPMAN. FEBRUARY 12th.

Before James Voyer and Roger Lelievre, Public Notaries, as such duly admitted and sworn for the Province of Lower Canada, residing at Quebec, personally came and appeared Thomas Kennedy of the County of Gaspee, Farmer, being now at Quebec, Who, as Attorney to Richard Cummins, residing in the said County of Gaspee as appears by his Letter of Attorney hereunto annexed and for the consideration herein after mentioned, acknowledged to have sold and bargained and by these presents doth grant, bargain, sell, alien, convey and confirm unto Mr. George Chapman of this City of Quebec, Shop Keeper, hereby accepting of the said sale for himself, his heirs and assigns for ever, that is to say -

All and every the Lots, parts, portions or parcels of land which shall or may be hereafter granted unto him, the said Richard Cummins, on account of his services as a Private in the British (sic) during the Blockade of this City of Quebec the Winter one thousand seven hundred and seventy five and six, and also all and every the Estate and Estates, property, rights, titles, claims and demands which the said Richard Commins shall or may have in or to all and every such lots or parcels of Land which may be granted unto him on account of his said services by virtue of the Letters Patent which may issue from Government for the same, as soon as they shall have been obtained.

To have and to hold the said Lots of land and all other the premises hereby granted, bargained, and sold, or mentioned so to be, unto him the said George Chapman and his heirs and assigns, from the day of the date of the said Letters Patent, for ever; subject nevertheless to the terms, provisoes, restrictions and reservations which in the said Letters Patent may be set forth and contained.

This sale and assignment made for and in consideration of the sum of ten pounds of this Province of Lower Canada which the said Thomas Kennedy acknowledged to have received from the said George Chapman before the execution of these presents and for which he exonerates and discharges the said George Chapman.

And the said Thomas Kennedy, in the presence of us the said Notaries, for himself and his heirs and assigns, and each and every of them, did and doth hereby promise, covenant and agree to and with the said George Chapman, his heirs and assigns and to and with each of them, that he, the said Thomas Kennedy shall cause the said Richard Cummins, his heirs and assigns, or any other person or persons and his or their heirs having or claiming any Estate, title or interest of, in or to the aforementioned Lots, parts or portions of land to be granted unto him, the said Richard Cummins on account of his said services as aforesaid or of, in or to any part or parcel thereof, SHALL and WILL, as soon to sign, deliver, and execute all and every such further and other lawful and reasonable Act and Acts, thing and things, conveyance and conveyances in the Law whatsoever for the further, better and more perfect granting, conveying and assuring unto the said George Chapman and his heirs and assigns forever the said lots of land and premises hereby granted, bargained and sold, or mentioned so to be with their and every of their appurtenances, as by the said George Chapman, his heirs or assigns, or any of them shall be reasonably devised, advised or required.

And that at the first demand of him, the said George Chapman, as soon after as the Letters Patent shall have been obtained for the said Lands.

Thus done and passed at Quebec in the Office of James Voyer, one of the subscribing Notaries, this twelfth day of February in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred. The said parties having to these presents, first duly read according to Law, in the presence and hearing of them the said parties, set and subscribed their names in the presence of the said Notaries, who have also to the same set and subscribed our names, in faith and testimony of the premises.

(Signed) Thos. Kennedy
 G. Chapman
 Jas. Voyer, N.P.
 Roger Lelievre, N.P.