

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

A 1777 MAGDALEN ISLANDS DIARY

A remarkable, day by day, account of life on the Magdalen Islands more than two hundred years ago in the era of the sea cow or walrus killing.

Ken Annett.

1777 MAGDALEN ISLANDS DIARYINTRODUCTION

A previous issue of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY (No.134) recalled the learned and fascinating account of the Magdalen Islands by the late Dr. John M. Clarke. That article traced the origin of the killing, by Europeans of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, of the vast herds of "morse", "sea cows" or walrus that frequented the Islands - a bloody hunt that continued until the species was extinguished on the Magdalens in the eighteenth century. The contemporary Canadian author, Farley Mowat, has provided us with a dramatic account of that era in his book, "SEA OF SLAUGHTER". Recently there has come to the attention of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY a remarkable 1777 DIARY that permits a view of life at an Island station when the sea cow killing was still in progress. That DIARY, from the Archives Division of the New Brunswick Museum, is presented, as written, below.

A family name that recurs in the 1777 DIARY is that of Gridley. As Richard Gridley (1710-1796) and his sons were active and influential on the Magdalens in their time, a brief note on them is in order.

A resident of the British colony of Massachusetts, New England, Richard Gridley studied military engineering and was a leading officer of the 1745 expedition of Sir William Pepperrell that captured the French base of Louisbourg. Ten years later, as Colonel of the Massachusetts Regiment, Gridley saw action in the Crown Point - Lake George region on the border with New France. In 1758 he was with the British forces that captured Louisbourg and the following year was with the forces of General James Wolfe at the capture of Québec.

Upon the Fall of New France in 1760 Richard Gridley petitioned for a grant of the Magdalen Islands to pursue a sea cow and seal fishery. Though granted a temporary permit only, he and his sons

proceeded to build up an establishment on the Islands, to erect homes and buildings, bring in Acadian and Canadian workers and to maintain a fleet of schooners and other boats in the sea cow hunt and fishery. Prominent among the Gridley sons was Samuel, a merchant, who divided his time between his home base at Bristol and the Magdalens.

On the outbreak of the American Revolution Richard Gridley served with the American forces as a Major General. He was wounded at the historic battle of Bunker Hill but survived to live on long after the end of the Revolutionary War.

The DIARY OF 1777, kept by a manager of the station on Amherst Island, and presented here as written, is a unique window upon life on the Magdalens more than 200 years ago.

1777

- July 1. Tuesday. Pleasant breezes from the S.W. and fine weather. People employed as usual. Sailed the REDLAND after Sea Cow.
- July 2. Wednesday. Light airs from the S.S.W. and fair weather. The REDLAND came down from Point West and isin the Bay. People employed cutting brush, covering the Herring, etc.
- July 3. Thursday. Fresh breezes from the S.W. and fair weather. People employed as usual.
- July 4. Friday. Brisk gales from the S.W. and fair weather. People employed cutting brush for gardens.
- July 5. Saturday. Fresh gales from the S.W. and overcast weather. At night pleasing showers. People employed hauling brush for the garden.
- July 6. Sunday. Strong wind from the N.W. and clear weather. Tpwads evening large flying clouds with some showers.
- July 7. Monday. Moderate breezes from the N.W. and fair weather. Spread and housed the two piles of fish. People employed in the garden.
- July 8. Tuesday. Pleasant breezes from the S.W. A fine day. People employed variously.
- July 9. Wednesday. Fresh breezes from the Southward and overcast weather with some rain in the afternoon and evening. People employed manureing the garden.
- July 10. Thursday. Moderate breezes from the Northward and hazy weather with some slight showers. People employed brewing In the evening arrived Mr. J.G. from Pittsboro.
- July 11. Friday. Fresh breezes from the N.E. and fair weather. People employed as usual. In the evening arrived the LOVELY SALLY having been at Pittsboro to melt down the fat of 79 Cows taken the last trip.

- July 12. Saturday. Moderate wind from the Westward and a very fine day. Cha. Boudro at work on the LOVELY SALLY, mending her windlas. SALLY's people employed on repair of her boats. Rest of people employed to clear away the dirt behind the
- July 13. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the Westward and a fine day. Arrived the REDLAND with 45 Cows. Saw a small schooner standing into the Bay.
- July 14. Monday. Pleasant breezes from the S.S.W. and a very fine day. Arrived a schooner from New London for salt. Sailed the LOVELY SALLY for Cow killing. REDLAND people landed the skins of 45 Cows. Captain Coffin and Captain Roach making Gigg Shanks. People employed loading the above schooners. Coopers trimming Oil the other side.
- July 15. Tuesday. Fresh breezes from the Eastward and cloudy with some small showers. Cha Boudro, with our own people, employed cutting the.....of the traces belonging to the REDLAND. Coopers employed making casks.
- July 16. Wednesday. Variable winds from the S.E. and Southward. People with Cha Bourdo and some people employed as yesterday. Sailed the St.John's schooner with Mr. J.G. passenger for St.John's. Our two schooners at anchor at Entree.
- July 17. Thursday. Moderate breezes from the S.W. and a fine day. People employed as yesterday. Sent the LITTLE WILL to try for fish - did not return until midnight when she brought about 100 cod. Charles Boudro at work.
- July 18. Fresh breezes from the Westward and very fine day. Charles Boudro and the people employed as yesterday about the traces and finished them.
- July 19. Fresh gales from the W.N.W. and a very fine day. People employed upon the new stage and pickeling the herrings. Coopers at work as usual. Arrived the LOVELY SALLY with 50 Cows.

- July 20. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the S.W. and a very fine day. Mr. S. Gridley, Chris't and Lewis set off for the Gross Isle.
- July 21. Monday. Moderate winds from the S.W. in the morning and very foggy. The afternoon very pleasant. The coopers employed trimming oil casks and cutting staves. The farmer and ? Britan ? cutting brush for the garden. Saw a Sloop off Entree moving away to the Eastward.
- July 22. Tuesday. Moderate breezes from the W.S.W. and a fine day. People employed as yesterday. This morning sailed the LOVELY SALLY.
- July 23. Wednesday. Light breezes from the Eastward and cloudy weather with some small showers. People employed variously. Arrived the Cutter from Pittsboro with S.G. and others.
- July 24. Thursday. Fresh breezes from the Westward and very fine weather. People employed about the garden. Sent the Cutter out in the evening and brought in about 30 or 40 mackrel. Saw a small schooner standing off to the Eastward.
- July 25. Friday. Fresh breezes from the S.W. and a very fine day. The people employed hilling the potatoes. Coopers at work as usual. Saw four schooners standing to the Westward.
- July 26. Saturday. Moderate breezes from the S.W. and fine weather. People employed as yesterday. In the morning arrived two French schooners from St.Johns. Sent the Cutter to Island Entree - brought home about 100 very fine cod. A schooner, ATWOOD, under Entree killing Sea Cows. Received a lamb from Charles Boudro.
- July 27. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the S.S.W. and cloudy with some showers of rain. Arrived the LOVELY SALLY with 90 odd Cows. Also arrived three French fishing schooners from St.Johns.
- July 28. Monday. Light airs from the Southward and very warm weather. Sent the Cutter to Little Echourie with casks -people having killed 25 Cows last week. In the evening sailed the 5 schooners for Isle St.John. Also sailed in the morning the LOVELY SALLY after Cows. People employed in the garden.

- July 29. Tuesday. Light airs round the compass with fog and drizzly rain. People employed weeding and cleaning the garden. Coopers as usual. the 5 French schooners at anchor under Entree.
- July 30. Wednesday. Fresh breezes from the W.N.W. and a very fine day. People employed scraping the seal skins. Coopers at work as usual. The French schooners at Entree came to sail this afternoon. The REDLAND stretching into the Bay.
- July 31. Thursday. Moderate breezes from the S.S.W. and overcast weather. The REDLAND arrived from Pittsboro where she had been to try out her oil. Took her provisions on board and sailed immediately. People employed upon the new stage. Cooper trimming oil casks.
- August 1. Friday. Brisk gales from the N.W. and high flying clouds but fair weather. Sent a boat with casks to the Little Echourie. In the morning arrived a French schooner from New London with Mr. Jos. Gridley on board. People employed loading her. Coopers employed as usual.
- August 2. Saturday. Moderate breezes from the S.W. and a fine day. People employed loading the above schooner for Québec. The LOVELY SALLY standing into the Bay.
- August 3. Sunday. Moderate breezes from the S.W. and cloudy with some drizzly rain. At night, hard rain.
- August 4. Monday. Fresh breezes from the N.E. and cloudy weather. The LOVELY SALLY sailed in the morning. People employed on sundry jobs. Coopers at work as usual.
- August 5. Tuesday. Light breezes from the Eastward and fine weather. People employed loading the French schooner for Québec.
- August 6. Wednesday. Small winds from the Southward and fine weather. Arrived the REDLAND with 7 Cows only. Landed 7 skins. People variously employed.

- August 7. Thursday. Fresh breezes from the N.W. and fair weather. Sailed in the morning the REDLAND. Left Captain Leard on shore to carry the French schooner to Québec. People employed variously.
- August 8. Friday. Pleasant breezes from the Southward and fair weather. In the morning sailed the PEGGY, Captain Leard, for Québec. Discharged Jo, William Britain and Charles Boudro who went in her to Québec. The REDLAND at Entree. Coopers at work as usual. Lewis and farmer preparing for mowing. Arrived the people from Pittsboro.
- August 9. Saturday. Fresh breezes from the N.W. and fair weather. At night, hard rain. Arrived in the Harbour the LOVELY SALLY from Cow killing - having killed 30 Cows since last in. Arrived also two schooners and a shallop from Island St. John with hoop poles. People employed the REDLAND traces and the coopers trimming oil.
- August 10. Sunday. Strong gales from the N.W. with high flying cloud. The REDLAND and two schooners at anchor the other side of Sand Hills.
- August 11. Monday. Brisk winds from the Northward and fine weather. The REDLAND and the two schooners above at anchor still. Mr. J.G., Captain Coffin and two skippers from the schooners came on shore. They prove to be fishing schooners from Micquelon (sic). People employed as usual. Jo. Boudro and two French cleaning traces.
- August 12. Tuesday. Pleasant breezes from the Eastward and fair weather. The LOVELY SALLY sailed. French schooners discharging their hoops. Our people employed variously.
- August 13. Wednesday. Light airs from the Eastward and fine weather. Sailed the two French schooners and the shallop. Three French to Entry to mow. People employed as usual.
- August 14. Thursday. Fresh breezes from the Southward, dark, rainy weather. Coopers at work as usual.
- August 15. Friday. Light breezes from the S.W. and dark with some rain.

- August 16. Saturday. Fresh breezes from the Northward and fair weather. Arrived the SALLY with 58 Cows. People employed discharging her and melting out the fat. People over from Entree. The REDLAND passed by to Point West.
- August 17. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the N.W. and fine weather. The REDLAND came from Point West and anchored at Entree.
- August 18. Monday. Small breezes from the S.W. and cloudy weather. The REDLAND left Entree and went to the Eastward. People employed variously. 5 French men employed caulking the MAGDALEN.
- August 19. Tuesday. Light breezes from the S.W. and fair weather. Employed 5 French men and our people carrying out an anchor to the MAGDALEN in order to get her off. Skiff caught in evening about 200 mackrel.
- August 20. Fresh breezes from the S.W. and fair weather. 5 French men and our people set off for Entree to secure the hay cut last week.
- August 21. Thursday. Moderate breezes from the S.W. and cloudy weather with small showers. Coopers being the only labourers on the Room, at work as usual.
- August 22. Friday. Light airs from the Southward and hot, close weather. Hay makers returned from Isle Entree having secured all the hay. Coopers at work as usual. At night hard rain.
- August 23. Saturday. Brisk wind from the N.W. and fine, pleasant weather. Charles Boudro skinning seals and Louis employed melting the fat. In the evening arrived the REDLAND and LOVELY SALLY - no success with Cows this week.
- August 24. Sunday. Pleasant breezes from the Northward and very fine weather.
- August 25. Monday. Small breezes from the N.W. and fair weather. The LOVELY SALLY sailed in the morning. Detained the REDLAND and seven French men to endeavour to heave over the MAGDALEN in order to float her off the land with casks. To no effect - the tide not serving. In the evening the REDLAND sailed Cow killing. The French caught near a barrel of mackrel.

- August 26. Tuesday. Small winds from the Eastward and fine weather. The REDLAND, having had little or no wind, was still in the Bay in the morning. In the afternoon she stood to the Westward. Two hands employed weeding the potatoes.
- August 27. Wednesday. Slight breezes from the S.E. and fine warm weather. People employed pickling Herrings.
- August 28. Thursday. Small breezes from the N.W. and fine seasonable weather. French people cutting their grain at Demoiselle. Our people and the coopers employed repacking and pickling the Herrings.
- August 29. Friday. Light breezes from the S.W. and fair weather. People employed as yesterday.
- August 30. Saturday. Moderate breezes from the S.E. and cloudy weather. A schooner standing to the Westward. People employed as yesterday.
- August 31. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the S.E. and overcast weather. Arrived a French schooner from St.Peter's.
- September 1 Monday. Fresh breezes from the Northward and fine weather. The LOVELY SALLY and REDLAND arrived with about 70 Cows. Employed discharging the skins from the LOVELY SALLY and REDLAND. Killed a sheep.
- SEPTEMBER 2 Tuesday. Fresh breezes from the Northward and Eastward and squally weather. People employed as yesterday. Coopers trimming oil. The French schooner sailed fishing.
- September 3 Wednesday. Moderate breezes from the N.W. and fair weather. The LOVELY SALLY preparing for sea. People employed as usual.
- September 4 Thursday. Moderate breezes from the Westward and fair weather. The REDLAND people employed making Cord (?) for getting off the MAGDALEN. The LOVELY SALLY sailed in the morning.
- September 5 Light airs from the Westward and in the evening very warm, calm weather. People employed making hoops. The REDLAND people employed knitting yarns and on to the MAGDALEN. These springs (tides) have been so bad that there is little prospect doing anything to effect until the next springs. Coopers at work trimming oil.

- September 6. Saturday. Small winds round the compass and fair weather. The REDLAND people knitting yarns and making Cords. Coopers at work trimming oil and our people splitting hoop poles for hoops.
- September 7. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the Northward and dirty weather.
- September 8. Monday. Fresh gales from the N.E. and flying cloud. The SALLY arrived with about 70 Cows. People employed cutting and changing the REDLAND traces.
- September 9. Tuesday. Fresh gales from the Northward and some showers. The people employed as yesterday and trying out the REDLAND oil. The SALLY people landed some skins and the REDLAND people employed cutting a road to P. au Tremble.
- September 10. Wednesday. Moderate breezes from the Westward and fine weather. The SALLY sailed in the morning and in the afternoon, the REDLAND. Coopers employed yesterday and today trimming oil.
- September 11. Thursday. Pleasant breezes from the W.N.W. and fair weather. Louis and farmer employed for the day finishing the new road. Coopers finished trimming oil.
- September 12. Friday. Pleasant breezes from the N.W. and fair weather. People employed splitting hoop poles. Coopers at work as usual.
- September 13. Saturday. Moderate wind from the Northward and fair weather. The REDLAND arrived in the morning from Little Echourie with the oil and traces from there. In the afternoon arrived the LOVELY SALLY from ISLE BRION.
- September 14. Brisk wind from the N.W. and a fine day.
- September 15. Monday. Light breezes from the S.W. and fine weather. The LOVELY SALLY people employed landing her skins and fat and melting it out. Arrived in the morning a schooner from Malpec, Peter Cormea, Master, loaded with timber. Our people employed splitting and shaving hoops. Killed a bullock bought of the Widow of Jos. Arseneau.

- September 16. Tuesday. Small breezes from the S.W. and fair weather. People variously employed. The SALLY's people melting fat.
- September 17. Wednesday. Light airs and calm. REDLAND people employed on board the MAGDALEN preparing for fixing casks to float her. The coopers and other people employed as usual.
- September 18. Thursday. Moderate breezes from the S.E. and fair weather. Went off to the Brig MAGDALEN with casks but the tide not ebbing enough could not fix them. People employed as yesterday. The SALLY's people finished trying out the fat and are now cleaning traces.
- September 19. Friday. Fresh gales from the E.S.E. and stormy weather with high tides. People employed splitting hoops.
- September 20. Saturday. Gales continued to blow hard with dirty weather. People employed splitting and shaving hoops.
- September 21. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the N.W. and cloudy with rain in the afternoon. Saw 5 schooners standing to the Eastward, Schooner CHARLOTTE sailed for Malpec.
- September 22. Monday. Moderate breezes from the Southward and Eastward and fair weather. Arrived the schooner PEGGY, Captain Leard, from Québec. People employed discharging her. Coopers employed trimming oil. They went on board the LOVELY SALLY and assisted (? Quan ?) and others to break open the locker and got drunk and (? Mand ?) being very quarrelsome gave him a douse.
- September 23. Tuesday. Hard gales from the Eastward with some rain. People employed splitting hoops on the Room. Three fishing vessels drove into the Bay and came into the Harbour.
- September 24. Wednesday. Fresh gales and stormy weather with hard rain. People employed in the woods.
- September 25. Thursday. Fresh breezes from the Northward with some rain. People employed splitting hoops.

- September 26. Friday. Small breezes from the Southward and fair Weather. The French schooner sailed. Captain Leard in the PEGGY and the people went to Island Entree for hay. The LOVELY SALLY sailed.
- September 27. Saturday. Strong wind from the N.W. and showers of rain. The PEGGY was obliged to put to sea. REDLAND people at work on shore mending sails, knitting yarns, etc. The SALLY returned again.
- September 28. Sunday. Fresh gales from the Northward and fair weather. The PEGGY seen about 5 leagues off.
- September 29. Monday. Moderate winds from the Westward. Sailed the REDLAND to assist the PEGGY with provisions. The LOVELY SALLY sailed.
- September 30. Tuesday. Fresh breezes from the S.W. and a fine day. The REDLAND and PEGGY at anchor under Entree taking in hay. In the evening the PEGGY arrived.
- October 1. Fresh gales from the Northward and small showers. The REDLAND arrived with hay. The SALLY came back into the Harbour without any success. People employed at the Winter house.
- October 2. Thursday. Fresh breezes from the Westward and a fine day. The SALLY sailed again. People employed discharging the PEGGY and REDLAND. Two coopers sent to Pittsboro in the SALLY to trim the oil there.
- October 3 Friday. Calm pleasant weather. The REDLAND in the Harbour. People waiting for a low ebb in order to put casks under the Brig but was disappointed with the tides, this being the height of the Springs and the REDLAND being now a month waiting to get off the Brig and no prospect of doing it this year, the season being so far advanced, gave over all thought of it and intend taking up her anchors and stripping her tomorrow if the weather permits. (Brig MAGDALEN)

- October 4. Saturday. Fresh breezes from the Westward and cloudy. People employed stripping and bringing on shore the things from the MAGDALEN.
- October 5. Sunday. Moderate breezes from the N.W. and a fine, pleasant day. Saw the SALLY standing up into the Bay.
- October 6. Monday. Fresh breezes from the Westward and cloudy weather. The SALLY at anchor in the Bay having met with no success. The REDLAND, with all the people, sailed for Entree to bring up the hay.
- October 7. Tuesday. Fresh breezes from the Southward and rainy. REDLAND at anchor at Entree. The SALLY into Harbour and broke up her voyage.
- October 8. Wednesday. Fresh breezes from the Northward and fair weather. Began to strip the LOVELY SALLY and prepare to take in oil for (?) Bristol. The PEGGY sailed for Island St. John - Mr. J.G. went in her. The REDLAND still at Entree, not having had any weather to take the hay on board.
- October 9. Thursday. Light airs from the N.W. round to S. and a fine day. The REDLAND at Entree loading hay. Anchored off Madmoiselle at night.
- October 10. Friday. Hard gales from S. in the afternoon N.W. with heavy cloud and rain. The REDLAND at anchor off Madmoiselle with both anchors ahead.
- October 11. Saturday. Brisk gales from the W.N.W. and fair but cold weather for the season. The REDLAND, in coming into harbour, got on the Bar and swung upon the flats.
- October 12. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the W.N.W. and fair weather. Unloaded the REDLAND and took out all her ballast and when the PEGGY returned, not being able to get to St. Johns, got her off the flats.
- October 13. Monday. Brisk wind from the S.W. and rainy, dirty weather. People employed mending sails.

- October 14. Tuesday. Hard gales from the N.W. and showers of hail. People employed getting the ballast out of the SALLY. 3 French men employed on board REDLAND, caulking.
- October 15. Wednesday. Brisk winds from the Westward and rainy weather. People employed mending SALLY's sails, splitting hoops, etc.
- October 16. Thursday. Fresh breezes from the N.W. and fair weather with some small showers of hail. People employed preparing to heave down the two schooners.
- October 17. Friday. Moderate breezes from the Northward and fine weather. Hove down the REDLAND and cleaned part of her bottom. Jo Boudro and Charles on board the SALLY, caulking.
- October 18. Saturday. Light airs from the Southward and Eastward. The PEGGY sailed for Pittsboro. Completed the REDLAND's bottom and ? graved ? one side of the LOVELY SALLY. Took up the MAGDALEN's anchors and cables.
- October 19. Sunday. Small breezes from the Eastward. The PEGGY returned, not having had wind enough to carry her to her port. Hove down the other side of SALLY and finished her bottom.
- October 20. Monday. Fresh breezes from the S.W. and hazy weather. The PEGGY sailed again for Pittsboro before day. People employed splitting staves and preparing the SALLY for taking in oil, making a new Bowsprit for the SALLY. Got out the REDLAND's foremast and put in another.
- October 21. Tuesday. Fresh gales from the N.E. and dirty, wet weather. People variously employed but to little purpose.
- October 22. Wednesday. Gale continues and blows very hard with much rain. High tides. People employed splitting and shaving staves.
- October 23. Thursday. Fresh gales from the N.E. and cloudy weather. In the afternoon more moderate and fair. People employed as yesterday.

- October 24. Friday. Small breezes from the N.E. and a fine day. People employed digging the remains of potatoes and House garden.
- October 25. Saturday. Fresh breezes from the S.W. and cloudy, drizzly weather. People employed splitting staves.
- October 26. Sunday. Small winds from the W.S.W. and rainy weather.
- October 27. Monday. Light breezes from the Northward and fair weather. Employed shipping oil on board the REDLAND.
- October 28. Tuesday. Fresh breezes from the Northward and cloudy. Employed shipping oil on board the REDLAND. The PEGGY returned from Pittsboro.
- October 29. Wednesday. Fresh gales from the Eastward and hard rain and sleet. People employed splitting staves.
- October 30. Thursday. Light airs from the Southward with showers of rain. Employed shipping oil and staves on board the LOVELY SALLY and staves on board the REDLAND.
- October 31. Friday. Fresh breezes from the Northward and very hard frost with showers of snow. People variously employed.
- November 1. Saturday. Fresh gales from the N.W. and fair weather but very cold. People employed in the woods.
- November 2. Sunday. Moderate breezes from the Westward and fair weather. Shipped on board the SALLY all of the REDLAND's and part of the SALLY's and 100 quintal of fish on board the REDLAND.
- November 3. Monday. Light airs from the S.W. and fair weather. Shipped all the oil on board the REDLAND and filled up the SALLY with traces.
- November 4. Tuesday. Fresh breezes from the S.W. and fair weather. Employed packing furs and shipped them on board the REDLAND. The SALLY preparing for Pittsboro to take in the remaining casks of oil.
- November 5. Wednesday. Fresh gales from the S.W. and cloudy weather. The SALLY sailed for Pittsboro. Preparing the REDLAND for sea.
- November 6. Thursday. Small winds from the Eastward and fine weather.

- November 6. (ctd) People variously employed. Settled with the French people.
- November 7. Friday. Fresh gales from the Southward and Westward with rain. People employed as yesterday.
- November 8. Saturday. Hard gales from the Westward. People employed in the woods.
- November 9. Sunday. Light breezes from the Eastward and fair weather.
- November 10. Monday. Fresh breezes from the S.E. and small rain. People employed splitting hoopoles.
- November 11. Tuesday. Fresh breezes from the N.W. and overcast weather. People employed in the woods.
- November 12. Wednesday. Fresh gales from the Westward with hard frost. People employed variously. Drizly rain.
- November 13. Thursday. Fresh breezes from the S.W. and showers of snow. People employed fitting up the coopers' shop.
- November 14. Friday. Fresh gales from the Westward with hard frost and snow. People employed transporting staves to the coopers winter house. Shipped on board the REDLAND her final cargo and preparing for sea.
- November 15. Saturday. Fresh gales from the N.W. with continued flights of snow. Employed settling the Books and making ready for the REDLAND's sailing. Boudro came home from hunting with 9 geese.
- November 16. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the W.N.W. and squalls of snow all day. The SALLY not yet returned from Gros Ile gives apprehension of her being on shore. Agreed with the French people to go to Gros Ile for assistance if the weather is proper. The REDLAND sailed for Bristol, Captain Leard and Captain Coffin.
- November 17. Monday. Fresh breezes from W.N.W., flying clouds and continued snow - towards evening more moderate. Employed picking up things on the Beach. Carried out boards to Country house. Brought home the cow which is soon to calve. Bringing wood. The cold was too severe for the crew to go to Gros Ile - 9 inches of snow in the woods.

- November 18. Tuesday. Fresh breezes from the N.E. in the morning and fair weather. The French crew came to the Point to go to Gros Ile but the wind being unfavourable for any vessel to come from there and contrary wind to go, sent them home again except Louis who had hired a man in his place, the afore employed him and some of our own people picking up things on the Beach and housing things that won't answer to be out all winter, The last part (of the day) fresh gales from the Northward. Two hands bringing from the Cape to country house clay for stopping holes. The Bason froze acrost (sic) The SALLY not arrived, am afraid some accident has happened, therefore am determined to send a boat to Gros Ile first opportunity.
- November 19. Wednesday. This morning fresh breezes from the N.N.W. and squalls of snow. Towards noon the wind came round to the W.N.W. and moderate weather. The crew designed for Gros Ile declined setting off so late in the day, therefore employed preparing the Yawl to set off at any moderate time, also fixing the coopers' shop and sundry other things. The Harbour froze up. The Bay from Mademoiselle to the Brig.
- November 20. This morning moderate wind from the Northward and fine weather. Sent the Yawl with 4 men to Gros Ile. The last part (of the day) squally snow. Employed Lewis at the country house. The 4 people for Gros Ile are Mr. Moores, Chris't Redman, Louison Boudro and Peter L'habitant.
- November 21. Friday. Moderate winds from the Westward and showery. The ice in the Harbour and Cove towards evening grew rotten. Employed Lewis at country house. The ice in the Bay reaches from Mademoiselle to the end of Sandy Point.
- November 22. Saturday. Fresh breezes from the S.W. and rain the greater part of the day. The Bay free from ice and also the Harbour. The French people came home from cutting timber.
- November 23. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the N.E. Cloudy weather with misty rain. Employed digging roots out of the garden. This evening Captain Hockings arrived from the SALLY at the Gros Ile which was cast on shore between the

- November 23. Isle..... and the Prest Isle Friday the 7th instant
(ctd) in a hard gale of wind from the S.S.W. and a terrible sea. He was obliged to cut and slip, which carried him on the flats and unloaded his cargo. Since Sunday past has been entirely closed in the ice and the vessel in but 4 feet of water at high tide. He saw the 4 men sent down in the Yawl at Grand Entree who could get no further than Gros Island by reason of the ice, in coming up to Amherst (sic) for a boat capable of weighing his anchor, of which he says he was, his own boat at the flatt not being sufficuent and of which he never made tryal (sic)
- November 24. Moderate wind from the Eastward and smooth weather. The Yawl and 4 hands came back from Gros Ile - they say Captain Hockings didn't want them, therefore came back. Employed fixing the Red Boat to go to Gros Ile. Sent to Bason de Nieux for 4 men to go also.
- November 25. Tuesday. Light airs from the S.E. and cloudy, moderate weather. Captain Hockings and his crew set off for Gros Ile in the Red Boat also the SALLY's boat. Sent 7 hands to help him, 4 of which from Bason de Nieux with Anthony Michael and Mr. Moores. Chris't, Lewis and the cooper removing sundry things to winter house. If the weather continues moderate for a few days 'tis probable the SALLY will get off and be able to sail for Bristol.
- November 26. Wednesday. The first part fresh gales from the Eastward and cloudy weather. Removed the family to the country house. Just time enough to save the gale - got everything up in good order without any breakage. Last part (of the day) hard gales and rain at times.
- November 27. Thursday. Very hard gales from the E.S.E. and continued rain with a very high tide. The PEGGY floated and drove almost up on the top of the Beachy Point and am afraid grounded upon one of her anchors. Two boats of the Gundelo got off from their berths.

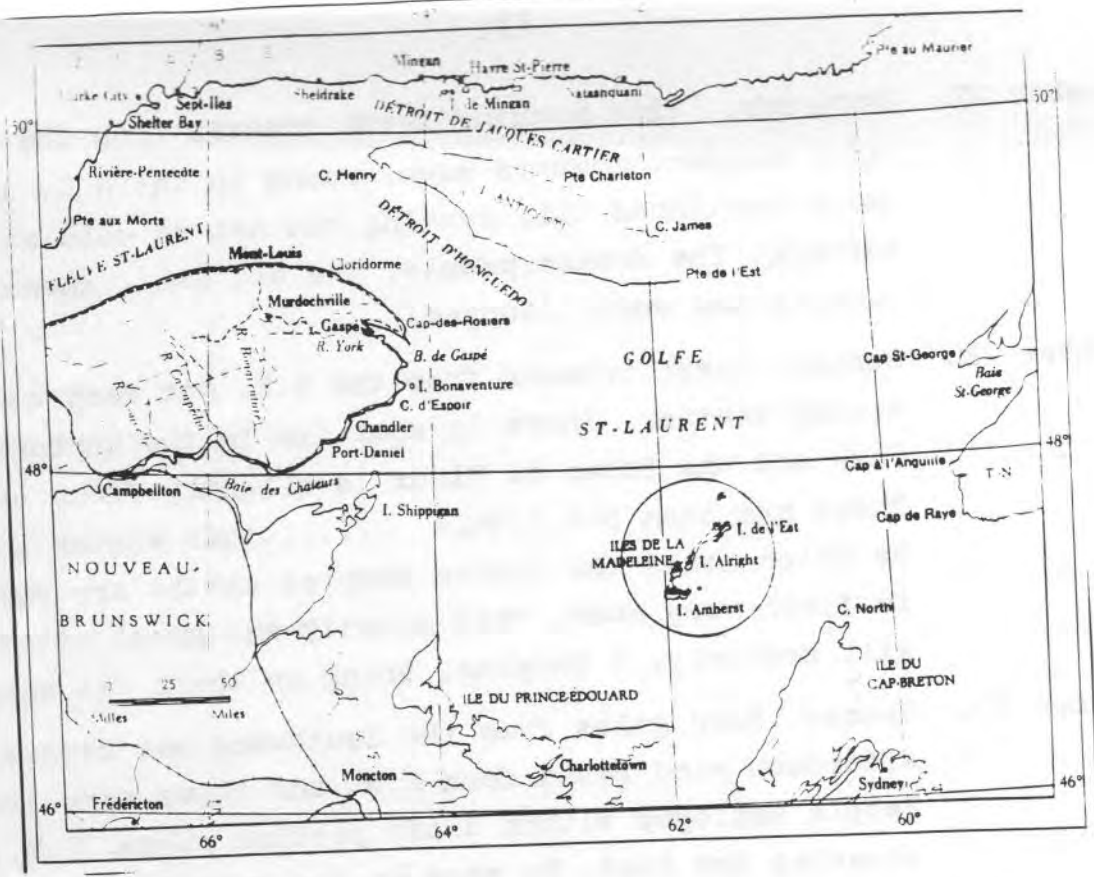
- November 28. Friday. The gale this morning still continues, towards noon more moderate. In the afternoon fine weather. Went with all hands to the Harbour and secured the two boats and gundelo. Likewise brought sundry things from the Point. The PEGGY drove over her small bower and broak the shank shaft off nigh the flocks (sic).
- November 29. Saturday. Light winds and variable - moderate some times - foggy. Variously employed the people.
- November 30. Sunday. Moderate winds from the N.E. and cloudy, overcast weather with rain.
- December 1. Monday. Fresh breezes from the E.N.E. and cloudy weather. Foggy and sometimes drizley rain. Employed variously.
- December 2. Fresh breezes from the Westward and sometimes sunshine, sometimes squalls of Hail and Snow. Employed about a new barn.
- December 3. Wednesday. Fresh breezes from the West and squalls of snow all day. Last night and this day froze very hard. Employed about the barn.
- December 4. Thursday. Moderate winds from the Southward and soft weather. The snow which fell yesterday almost all melted. Went to the Harbour - a very high tide. Employed about the barn.
- December 5. Friday. First part, wind from the Westward and fine. Still morning with a smooth sea but high tide. Last part, towards evening, strong gales from the N.E. and drifting snow, Employed as yesterday.
- December 6. Saturday. Moderate winds from the Westward - sometimes sunshine and sometimes showers. The Harbour and Bay, as far as the Brig., all froze over. Employed as yesterday. The schooner SALLY nor the crew sent down are not yet made their appearance. Am afraid Captain Hockings has not been able to get the schooner afloat.

- December 7. Sunday. Small winds from the Southward and soft weather. At night, rain. The ice in the Harbour and Bason melting fast.
- December 8. Monday. Light winds from the Southward with wet snow and very soft weather. Employed the people partly at the Harbour and partly at Windsor. In the last gale of Friday the gundelo broke her fast and drove over to the South side of the Harbour.
- December 9. Tuesday. Fresh gales from the W.N.W. and flying clouds with squally snow. Employed our own people stogging barn. The Harbour, Bason and down to Sandy Point all closed.
- December 10. Wednesday. Small variable airs and a very smooth sea in the Bay. The ebb tide carried off much ice as the two boats which arrived from Gros Isle could crowd through and got within the Cape. I hauled them on the Beach. Captain Hockings writes that the tides have not rose more than 3 feet and some inches at the Gros Isle, that the SALLY is closed in the ice, that as he could not get her off he is unrigging the vessel for winter quarters. They have tried every possible means to effect their purpose, but all in vain. The schooner at low water is entirely dry. This is a very misfortunate affair. Mr Roach, the two coopers, Quan and the boy Harry is come up as well as the French sent down the 25 ultimo to assist him, except Antoine Arseno, who stays Fox Hunting. Roach requires admittance in the House, that he promises to work for his living and that he requires no wages.
- December 11. Thursday. Light airs from the Northward and a fine moderate day. Employed at the Harbour unrigging the PEGGY, taking up the moorings, clearing the Beach, etc. Gave the coopers provisions and set them to work. A good deal of ice in the Harbour. Chris't and Jo Bourdo finishing the barn.
- December 12. Friday. Small winds from the N.E. and cloudy weather. Employed Mr. Roach and Lewis at the Harbour. Shoeing the mare. Chris't, Mr. Moores and Quan cutting wood and sundries.

- December 13. Saturday. Small winds from the Southward and changeable weather. Mr. Roach and Lewis at the Harbour. Shoeing the horse. The rest digging a well, stockading the end of the house and mending the sled. At night, hard gales from the S.E. and hard rain.
- December 14. Sunday. Fresh gales from the Eastward with rain - at night, snow. This morning a very high tide and rain. The PEGGY floated higher up the Beach and the gundelo drove back again but could not get to her for the ice.
- December 15. Monday. Fresh breezes from the Westward with squalls of snow. A disagreeable day. Employed the people cutting wood. The tide very high and carried the gundelo from where she was to I don't know where. Chris't mended sled.
- December 16. Tuesday. Fresh breezes from the N.W. Flying clouds and blustering. Employed as yesterday. Jo. Bourdo and Chris. Redman cutting timber for new gundelo. Sent the red cow's calf to Jo Cheason at Basen de Nieux which he is to have for 4 years to work him, at the expiration of which term he is to return him. Sent also the black cow's heiffer to Pierre LePierre, to pay 20 s. for her board till Spring. He is to give her good attention and plenty of hay.
- December 17. Wednesday. Moderate breezes from the S.W. and a delightful day of fine weather. Mr. Roach has cut himself yesterday and keeps the house. The others cut a road for sleding wood and cutting wood for the house.
- December 18. Fine, pleasant day. Wind at the S.W. Employed Boudro and Chris. cutting timber for gundelo. As yesterday, the others cutting wood. This evening found a calf in the road nigh the house which proved to belong to the black cow - she having calved before she was kept in for that purpose, being Sunday past, which was done in consequence of the several opinions of people that she would calve soon. The favourable weather we have had since has preserved the calf, otherwise in all propability should have lost it. The calf was a bull calf, very fat and strong.

- December 19. Friday. Small winds from the Southward. Employed Boudro and Chris. as yesterday - the others at the Harbour saving the gundelo which was found nigh the Brig. Brought her home and put her in the Cove.
- December 20. Saturday. Frezh breezes from the Westward and N.W. Overcast weather. Employed cutting and sledding wood. No ice either at sea, in the Bay or Harbour, even the Baron de Nieux is broke up. Scarcely ant snow on the ground, yet the ground is very hard froze.
- December 21. Sunday. Moderate winds from the Westward and a fine day. No ice to be seen anywhere, except a little in the Bason.
- December 22. Monday. Moderate breezes from the S.W. and a very fine day. Employed the people in the woods.
- December 23. Tuesday. Fresh breezes from the N.W., flying clouds but good weather for the season. Employed cutting and sledding wood. No snow on the ground but froze very hard.
- December 24. Light airs from the Southward and a fine day. Towards evening wind from E. and snow. Employed as yesterday.
- December 25. Thursday. Small winds from the Northward and East and fine, moderate weather for the season. The coopers with our own people keeping Christmas at home, enjoying a good dinner but little Audevie and were decent enough. Last night Captain Pairey behaved in too shocking and indecent a manner to bear repetition - was obliged to desire him to take his quarters else where - he therefore this day took away his bed and chest and has gone to Bason de Nieux.
- December 26. This morning wind at N.W. blows fresh and cold with little squalls of snow. At noon more moderate and fine weather. At evening very serene, pleasant weather for the season, such as is seldom known upon this Island. Part of the people from Bason de Nieux dined here. There has been little ice made for a considerable time past.

- December 27. Saturday. This morning fresh breezes from the N.W. and cold weather. Towards noon, round to the N.E. and snow which continued till evening but not as cold as in the morning. The French people, the old ones, spent the evening and supt. (supped)
- December 28. Sunday. Fresh breezes from the N.E. Not very cold but cloudy weather. There is some ice in the Harbour and Cove and the Bason de Nieux is slightly froze over. There has been but littlethis winter as yet, by which means the French peoples cattle are reduced in flesh very much, that aplenty and great attendance will scarcely, I imagine, bring up their fat again.
- December 29. Monday. Hard gales from the Southward and stormy rain. Afternoon wind round from N.W. and blows very fresh. People employed within doors picking oakum. P.M., clearing the road. No snow on the ground.
- December 30. Tuesday. Fresh gales from the N.W. and flying clouds with squalls of snow and very cold. Employed in the woods and sledding out the wood cut for use at the house.
- December 31. Wednesday. Fine, pleasant day. Wind at W.S.W. and sunshine. Employed Lewis and the coopers at sledding staves to coopers shop - the others cutting wood. The Harbour and Bason all froze over and much ice in the Bay but none at sea.



The location of the Magdalen Islands in relation to Gaspesia.

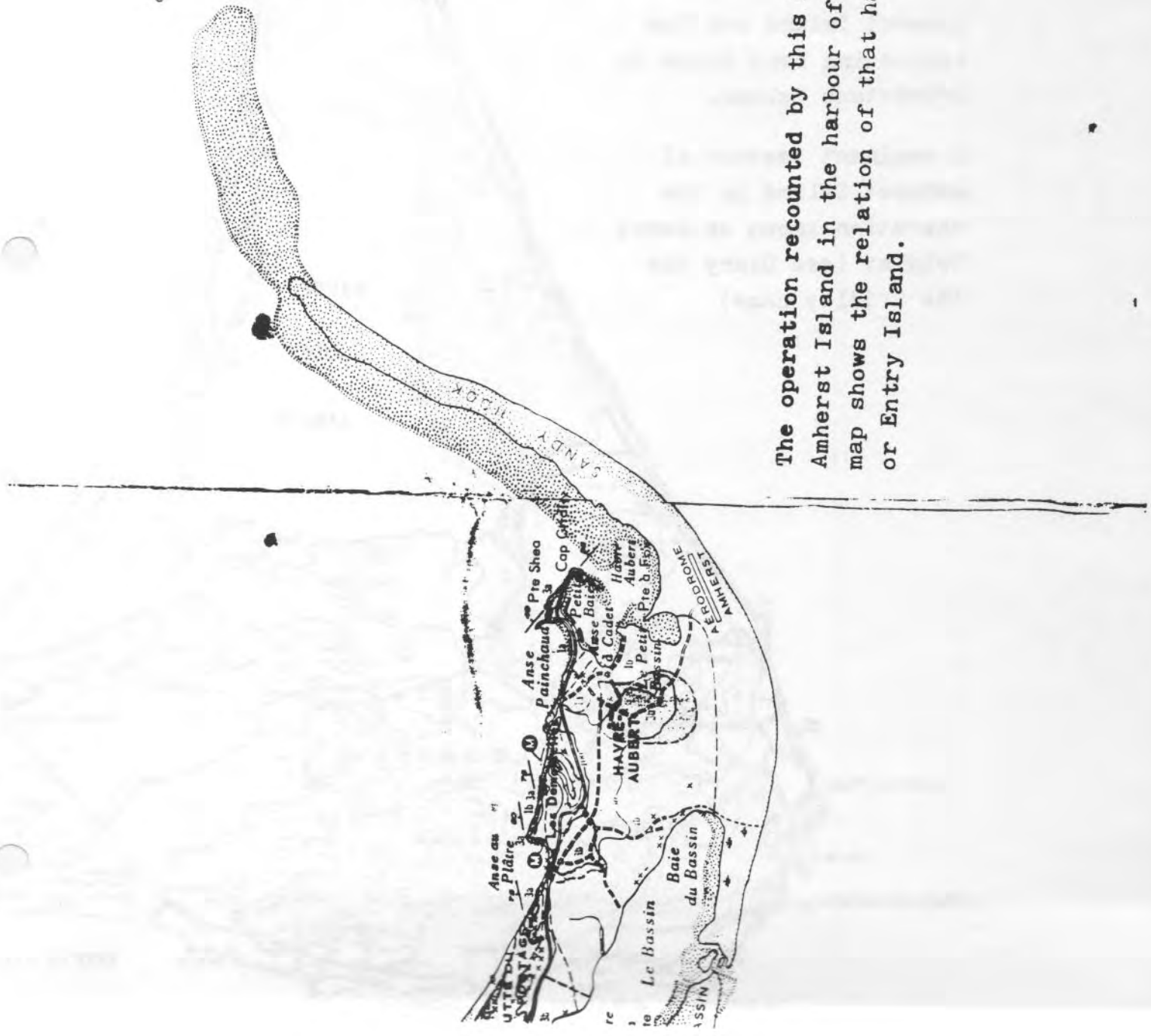


Brion Island - Ten miles to the North of Grosse Isle.

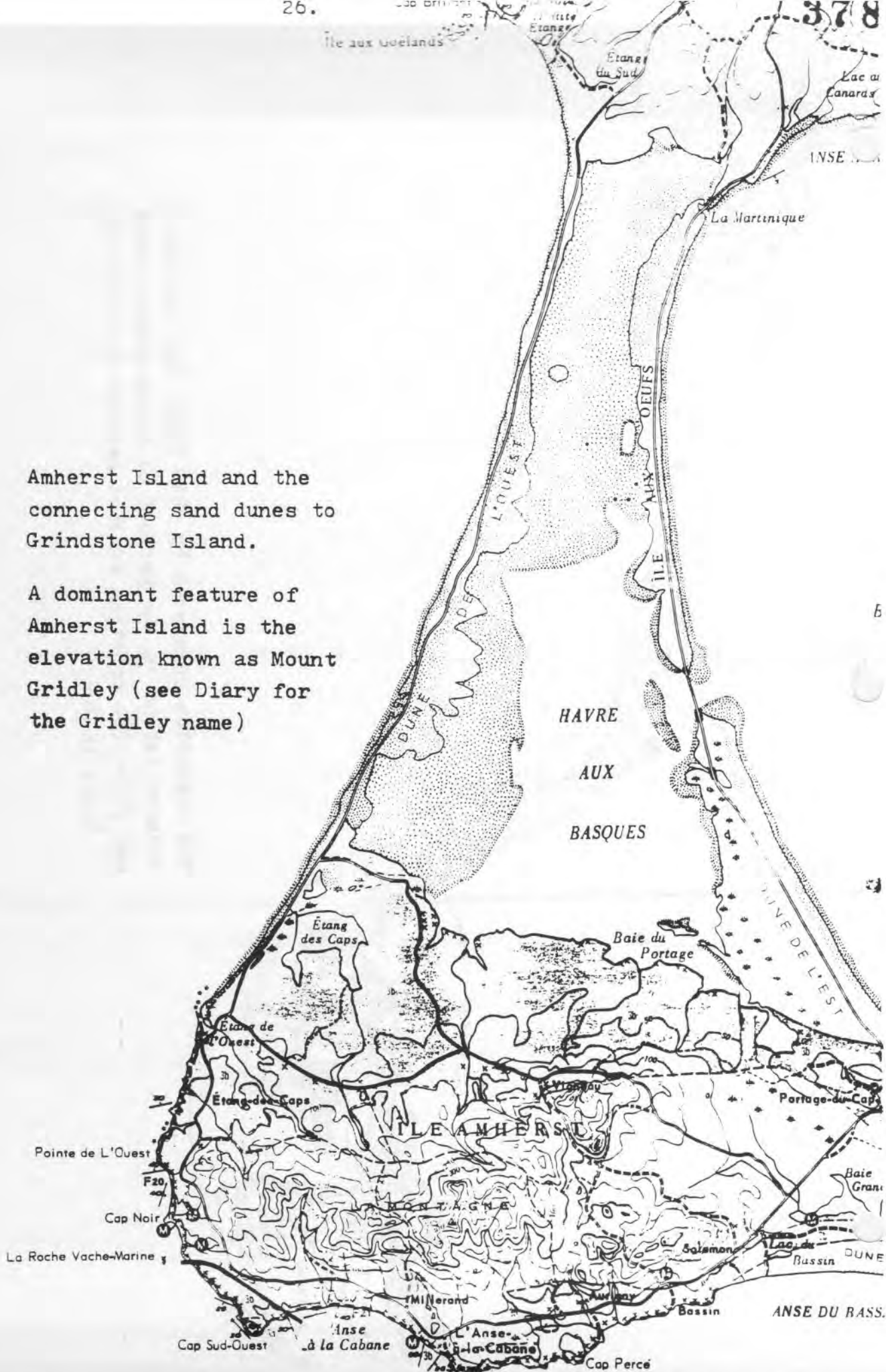
PL. II. ISLAND



Chenal Sandy Hook



The operation recounted by this Diary was located on Amherst Island in the harbour of Havre Aubert. This map shows the relation of that harbour to Ile Entree or Entry Island.



Amherst Island and the connecting sand dunes to Grindstone Island.

A dominant feature of Amherst Island is the elevation known as Mount Gridley (see Diary for the Gridley name)

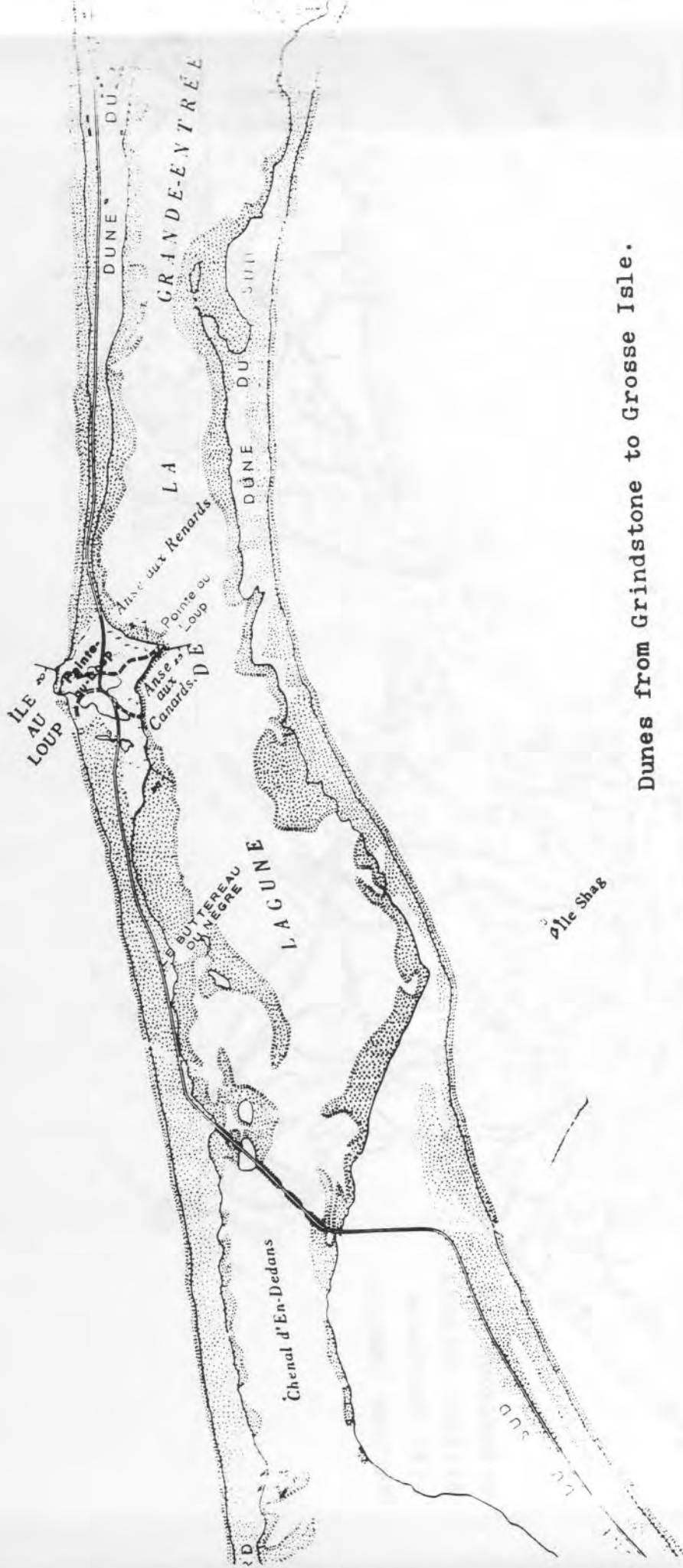
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ANSE DU BASS.



Grindstone and
Alright Islands
with the House
Harbour Lagoon.



Dunes from Grindstone to Grosse Isle.



Grosse Isle and Coffin Island with the Grand Entrée Lagoon.

THE NEW BRUNSWICK MUSEUM

277 DOUGLAS AVENUE
SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK
CANADA E2K 1E5
TELEPHONE (506) 658-1842

LE MUSEE DU NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

277, AVENUE DOUGLAS
SAINT-JEAN, NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK
CANADA E2K 1E5
TELEPHONE (506) 658-1842

February 23/87

Mr. Kenneth Annett
12225 Lavigerie
Ste. Foy
Quebec
G2W 3W8

Dear Mr. Annett:

Unfortunately, we do not have any information on the author of the Magdalen Islands Diary. The Museum received the Diary in December 1960 as a gift from Mr. Lawrence B. Romaine, an Americana book dealer in Middleboro, Massachusetts. Mr. Romaine did not provide the Museum with any details regarding the diary.

We regret that we are unable to be of service to you.

Yours truly,

Jane Lodge Smith
(Mrs.) Jane Lodge Smith
Library Assistant
Library/Archives

JLS/jb