

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

APPLICATIONS FOR GASPÉ LANDS  
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FROM 1764  
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Extracted from "Orders for specific quantities  
of Land in sundry Townships", part of the Lower  
Canada Land Papers.

Ken Annett

APPLICATIONS FOR GASPÉ LANDSFOREWORD

Because of the long time-frame involved and the distance of the District of Gaspé from the seat of Government at Québec, the record of applications for lands in Gaspé was protracted and complex. From the Conquest and outset of the British regime to the formal hearings in Gaspesia of the GASPÉ LAND CLAIMS COMMISSION there was a period of sixty years - the span of time of three generations. As this article will show there had been applications and petitions for lands in Gaspé for twenty years prior to the settlement of the Loyalists in Bay Chaleur in 1784. It is only by examination of various records, many of which remain in manuscript and are difficult to decipher, that a picture of the various applicants begins to emerge.

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY is thankful to Sheldon J. Godfrey, M.A., LL.B., of Toronto, Barrister and Solicitor, for access to the LOWER CANADA LAND PAPERS from which the applications below have been extracted. As the biographer of Jacob Franks, Merchant-Trader of Montreal and the Great Lakes Region in the 18th Century, Mr. Godfrey was drawn to the career of Capt. George Lawe, Sr. whose second wife, Rachel Franks was a sister of Jacob Franks. Capt. Lawe and his sons held lands in Bay Chaleur and we now know that there was a Lawe home at New Carlisle.

To the remarks which appear in the LAND PAPERS, a number of comments [in brackets] have been added to help to identify the petitioner or provide a relevant reference. GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY will welcome further comment that will help to make more complete our knowledge of our Gaspesian heritage.

PETITIONS FOR LANDS IN GASPEY - (FROM LOWER CANADA LAND PAPERS)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PETITIONER</u>	<u>REMARKS AND COMMENT</u>
1764	HUGH MONTGOMERIE	TWO TRACTS OF LAND AT GASPEY FOR ERECTING STAGES, [ "Stages" were beach installations for the fishery.]
1764	HUGH FINLAY	LAND AT BONAVENTURE. [ As a member of the post-conquest English establishment at Québec, Hugh Finlay acquired large land holdings. Reference to this Bonaventure land can be found in the article, "Col. Francis Le Maistre", SPEC, 15-11-79.]
1764	BENJAMIN PRICE and WILLIAM KNUTTON	LANDS AT GASPEY [Likely veteran soldiers.]
1765	WILLIAM VAN FELSON	A TRACT OF LAND IN CHALEUR BAY WITH A PLAN. [ Reference article, "William Van Felson, pioneer Merchant of Bonaventure", by Doris and David McDougall. SPEC. 21-08-80. ]
1765	J.T. BONDFIELD FOR HIS SON, WILLIAM	LANDS, BEACH, ETC. AT PASPEBIAC. [ Charles Robin of the Jersey firm of Messrs Robin, Pison and Co. first came to Paspebiac, Bay Chaleur in 1766-67.]
1765	MARK YOUNG, SURGEON'S MATE.	2000 ACRES, CHALEUR BAY.
1765	JOHN McCORD AND OTHERS	LANDS AT GASPEY. [ John McCord, Sr. (1711-1793) born at Antrim, Ireland, was a Patentee of the undivided half of the Gaspé property known as the "O'Hara and McCord Patent"]

YEAR	PETITIONER	REMARKS AND COMMENT
1765	JOSEPH ?CHURKIN?	12 LEAGUES BETWEEN CAPE CHAT AND MT.LOUIS [ The Oxford Dictionary defines a league as usually about three (3) miles. ]
1765	JOHN DENNY	500 ACRES AT THE RIVER RENARD IN CHALEUR BAY. [ It is presumed that this petition was for land at Fox River which remains a major fishing station to this day.]
1765	DONALD McKINNON AND OTHERS. PRIVATES.	THEIR PROPORTIONS AT GASPEY. [ Land available to veteran soldiers.]
1765	WILLIAM HOLLUM, SGT. AND OTHERS.	THEIR PROPORTIONS AT GASPEY.
1765	JAMES FORAND, SGT.	HIS PROPORTION NEAR GASPEY.
1765	ALEX. McARTHUR AND JOHN SIMPSON, PRIVATES	THEIR PROPORTIONS AT GASPEY.
1765	SAMUEL ASKWITH, CAPT.	3000 ACRES AT GASPEY.
1765	ROBERT ?SHYMAN?,SGT., AND ROBERT JACKSON, PRIVATE.	THEIR PROPORTIONS AT GASPEY
1765	HENRY MOUNIER	10,000 ACRES AT CASCAPEBIAC. [ The Mounier family, Huguenots of La Rochelle, France, were Québec Merchants prior to the Conquest of 1760.]
1765	ALEX. McKENZIE	LANDS AT GASPEY.
1765	JOHN HUSEZ, SGT.	HIS PROPORTION AT CHALEUR BAY.
1765	DONALD WILLIAMSON AND OTHER REDUCED SOLDIERS.	THEIR PROPORTIONS AT CHALEUR BAY [ For the term,"reduced" read veteran soldiers.]
1765	HENRY SWEETLUND	200 ACRES AT CHALEUR BAY.
1765	PHILLIP PAYNE	LANDS AT GASPEY [ Payne and Alex.McKenzie, above, were partners in the fishery.]

3.

YEAR	PETITIONER	REMARKS AND COMMENT
1765	PETER FREDERIC HUTCHINSON, A REDUCED LIEUT.	2000 ACRES AT GRANDE RIVIERE NEAR PABEAU. [ Reference to the sack of the Seigniory of Grande Riviere by the forces of General James Wolfe is to be found in "THE GASPEE EXPEDITION AND OTHER MATTERS-1758". SPEC. 29 Sept. 1978.]
1765	JOSEPH BEETMAN, A SOLDIER.	HIS PROPORTION AT BONAVENTURE.
1765	JOHN COLLINS	500 ACRES AT BONAVENTURE. [ As Deputy Surveyor-General John Collins worked in Gaspé as early as 1764 on the orders of Governor James Murray. His early plans include those of the harbours at Gaspé and Bonaventure.]
1765	PETER STUART AND DONALD McDONALD.	150 ACRES AT THE HARBOUR OF GRAND RIVIERE.
1766	FREDERIC HALDIMAND	2000 ACRES SOUTHWARD OF PABEAU. [ Reference - GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY #100 "THE SEIGNIORY OF PABOS". From Haldimand the seigniory was acquired by Felix O'Hara of Gaspé Basin in 1796.]
1766	SAMUEL HOLLAND	500 ACRES AT THE MOUTH OF THE RIVER LITTLE BONAVENTURE. [ The active career of Major Samuel Holland as Surveyor-General of Québec is well documented, e.g. CANADIAN BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.]
1766	THOMAS JOHNSON	200 ACRES AT CHALEUR BAY.
1766	MONS'R ROUSSEAU	LANDS AT BONAVENTURE. [ Rousseau was a Notary Public at Québec. Reference - GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY. # 169. "ROUSSEAU AT BONAVENTURE". SPEC. 30-09-86.]

4.

YEAR	PETITIONER	REMARKS AND COMMENT
1766	HUGH FRASER, A SOLDIER.	LANDS AT GASPEY
1766	JAMES RUTHERFORD, A SOLDIER.	HIS PROPORTION AT CHALEUR BAY.
1766	ALEXANDER McKAY, A SGT.	HIS PROPORTION AT CHALEUR BAY.
1766	WILLIAM DICKINSON, A SOLDIER.	HIS PROPORTION AT CHALEUR BAY.
1766	ISABELLA BURNS, WIDOW OF A SOLDIER.	HER PROPORTION AT CHALEUR BAY.
1766	ACADIANS AT BONAVENT- URE.	LANDS IN CHALEUR BAY
1766	M. BILLIWINKLE	1000 ACRES AT FOX RIVER
1766	EDWARD MANWARING	1000 SPOT AT GASPEY
1767	EDWARD MANWARING	LANDS AT GASPEY [ Reference - "Edward Manwaring-Gaspé's First Customs Officer" by David J. McDougall. SPEC. 18 Oct. 1983.]
1767	MARIE-JOSEPH ?.....?	20,000 ACRES AT RISTIGOUCHE [HIS MAJESTY'S ORDER IN COUNCIL - 18 JUNE, 1766.] [The family name cannot be determined from the copy at hand. However, this grant was so important that efforts will be made to determine the grantee.]
1767	HUGH FINLAY, ESQ.,	LANDS NEAR RISTIGOUCHE. [ Petitioned for on behalf of a relative or friend whose name cannot be read.]
1767	PETER STUART	PART OF THE BEACH NEAR MONS'R TACHÉ.
1768	MATTHEW ARMSTRONG	HIS PROPORTION AT GASPEY.

5.

YEAR	PETITIONER	REMARKS AND COMMENT
1768	JOHN ?CHUSTROY?	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1768	LEON ROUSSEY	200 ACRES AT PASPEBIAC
1768	FRANCOIS PAGET	12 ACRES AT BONAVENTURE.
1768	JOSEPH ?PHILIBERT?	20,000 ACRES AT PASPEBIAC. [ This petitioner appears to be the same who petitioned for 20,000 acres at Restigouche - vide supra.]
1769	WILLIAM SMITH	1600 ACRES AT BONAVENTURE AND 400 AT PASPEBIAC. [ William Smith of Québec was contemporary with and competitor of Charles Robin. He had a fishing establishment at Paspebiac in 1768 and prior to that at Bonaventure.]
1770	ANDERSON AND SMITH.	1700 ACRES AT TRACADIE AND PASPEBIAC.
1770	HENRY MOUNIER	LANDS AT TRACADIE, CHALEUR BAY.
1771	JOHN BILLER	LANDS NEAR CAPE CHAT.
1771	JOHN THOMPSON	10,000 ACRES AT BONAVENTURE.
1771	HUGH FINLAY, ESQ.	20,000 ACRES AT BONAVENTURE.
1771	ZACHARY MACAULAY	2,000 ACRES AT FOX RIVER.
1771	ZACHARY MACAULAY	25,000 ACRES NEAR THE BOTTOM OF THE BAY. [Zachary Macaulay, active in business in Québec soon after the Conquest, acquired fishing stations and seigniorial lands from Gaspesia up along the St. Lawrence.]
1771	CHARLES GORDON	500 ACRES AT POINT PERCÉ.
1771	CHARLES GORDON AND ZACHARY MACAULAY	600 ACRES AT BONAVENTURE.
1771	DUNCAN ANDERSON AND WILLIAM SMITH.	10,000 ACRES AT CHALEUR BAY.

6.

YEAR	PETITIONER	REMARKS AND COMMENT
1772	B. ?ARTHUR? AND HUGH FINLAY, ESQ.	30,000 ACRES AT CHALEUR BAY.
1772	BAZIL TREMBLAY AND JEREMI GIRARD	LANDS NEAR MALBAY.
1772	FELIX O'HARA	LANDS AT GASPEY.
1772	DUNCAN ANDERSON AND COMPANY	6000 ACRES AT CHALEUR BAY.
1772	JOHN THOMPSON	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY
1773	DONALD MCKINNON	LANDS BEHIND THE SEIGNIORY OF MATANE. [ Reference- GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY: "The Seigniori of Matane". SPEC 27 May 1981.]
1773	HENRY MOUNIER	LANDS IN CHALEUR BAY.
1773	ANDERSON AND SMITH	LANDS IN CHALEUR BAY.
1773	ROBIN, PIPON AND COMPANY.	LANDS IN CHALEUR BAY.
1774	WILLIAM VAN FELSON	AUGMENTATION TO HIS LAND AT BONAVENTURE.
1774	DUNCAN ANDERSON AND WILLIAM SMITH	10,000 ACRES AT CHALEUR BAY.
1783	.....	THE ISLAND OF BONAVENTURE. [ Name yet to be determined. Two years later, in 1785, Lieut.-Governor Nicholas Cox was petitioner for the Island.]
1783	FELIX O'HARA	SUNDRY LOTS AT GASPEY.
1783	JOSEPH ?MENIYS?, A LOYALIST	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1783	JOHN CHISOLM, LOYALIST	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1783	EDMUND PURCELL	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1783	ALEXANDER BROTH- ERTON	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY. [ Reference - SPEC 16 Sept. 81. "Alexander Brotherton, A Gaspesian Pioneer" by D.R.Garrett.]



7.

YEAR	PETITIONER	REMARKS AND COMMENT
1783	THOMAS MORRIS	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY. [ Reference. SPEC. 29 May 1980. "DOUGLAS-TOWN BEFORE 1800" by Doris and David McDougall.]
1783	JOHN RITCHIE	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1783	DUNCAN MCGRAW	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1783	DUNCAN McLELAND	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY. [Reference. "THE McLELLAN FAMILY" by Helen Watson, New Richmond, 1981.]
1783	WILLIAM MILLAR	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1783	CAPT. ?DU FOUR?	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1783	HUGH FINLAY, ESQ.	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1783	THOMAS SCOTT, ESQ.	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY. [ The Canadian Biographical Dictionary has biographies of both Thomas Scott and his brother-in-law, Hugh Finlay. Scott was a Customs Officer at Québec.]
1783	HENRY AND MARK ECHELLE.	PLACE NOT MENTIONED. [ The remarkable story of these Echelle (Schell) brothers, befriended by Capt. George Lawe, Sr., Superintendent of Loyalist Settlement in Bay Chaleur, is on record in the SCHELL FAMILY HISTORY.]
1783	MEREDITH WILLS	LANDS AT PASPEBIAC.
1783	JOHN MELVIN	LANDS AT PASPEBIAC.
1784	MESSRS ROBIN, PIPON AND CO.	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1785	FELIX O'HARA	LANDS AT GASPEY
1785	MILES PRENTICE AND SONS.	LANDS NEAR MALBAY.

8.

YEAR	PETITIONER	REMARKS AND COMMENT
1784	MESSRS ROBIN, PIPON AND COMPANY.	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY (Vide supra) [ This entry of Company name is not correct as in 1783 the firm became CHARLES ROBIN AND COMPANY - the C.R.C. so familiar to generations of Gaspesians.]
1785	FELIX O'HARA	LANDS AT GASPEY.
1785	MILES PRENTICE AND SONS.	LANDS NEAR MALBAY.
1785	JOHN FRASER, A SGT.	LANDS IN CHALEUR BAY.
1785	LT.-GOV. COX	THE ISLAND OF BONAVENTURE. [ Reference - GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY: "The Life and Times of Nicholas Cox. 1724-94" SPEC. 15 April, 1981. and "CORRESPONDENCE OF THE COX PERIOD" GASPE OF YESTERDAY. VOLUME NO. I.
1785	WILLIAM ROSS	LANDS AT MITIS. [ The first evidence of possible Scotch presence at Metis prior to the purchase of the Seigniory by McNider in 1802.]
1785	MR. LONGMORE	LANDS AT GASPEY [ Dr. George Longmore went to New Carlisle to provide medical service to the Loyalist settlement in Bay Chaleur. Reference- GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY. "New Carlisle in Infancy - the 1785 Plans of William Vondenvelden" SPEC 23 NOV. 82.]
1785	GUSTAVUS ?LESLER?	LANDS AT CHALEUR BAY.
1787	HUGH SMITH	LANDS AT LITTLE GASPEY.

YEAR	PETITIONER	REMARKS AND COMMENT
1787	DAVID SHOOLBRED	LANDS AT BONAVENTURE AND PASPERIAC. [ The Shoolbred men, David and John, were contemporary with Charles Robin in Bay Chaleur. In 1788 John Shoolbred acquired the SHOOLBRED SEIGNIORY at the mouth of the Restigouche River.]
1787	WILLIAM AND EDWARD MAN	LANDS AT BONAVENTURE. [ Sons of Colonel Isaac Man, Loyalist, who was awarded a large land grant in the CROSS POINT area.]
1787	LA FONTAINE, DE	LANDS AT BONAVENTURE
1787	HAMILTON MAXWELL	LANDS AT BONAVENTURE.
1787	H.LA FOUR	LANDS AT BONAVENTURE.
1787	LOUIS FROMENTEAU	LANDS AT BONAVENTURE. [ Reference- GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY. "Reparation of Honor". "Early Judges in Gaspé" SPEC 21-02-80]
1787	MESSRS ROBIN, PIPON AND CO.	FURTHER PETITION CASCAPEBIAC (sic)
1787	M.HENRY MOUNIER	LANDS AT TRACADIE.
1787	LOUIS VALLEE	LANDS AT GASPE.
1787	THEOPHILUS FOX	LANDS AT PERCEY [ As a Justice of the Peace and leading citizen of Percé, Fox was widely known in the Gaspé District. His property is still identified in Percé as the FOX FARM.]
1787	CAPT. COFFIN	FOR THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS. [ Descendant of the noted Coffin family of Nantucket, Capt.Sir Isaac Coffin, R.N. was granted the Magdalens by Lord Dorchester, Governor-General of Canada.]

10.

YEAR	PETITIONER	REMARKS AND COMMENT
1787	N.VAN PELSON	CONCERNING THE LANDS ORDERED IN 1765 TO BE SURVEYED FOR HIM.
1787	M.BOURDAGES	TO BE MAINTAINED IN THE POSSESSION OF HIS LANDS AND MILLS. [ Reference - GASPE OF YESTERDAY - #133 "LOUIS BOURDAGES".]
1787	ISAAC MANN	LAND ON THE RISTIGOUCHE RIVER.
1787	CAPT. LAWE	FOR HIS SON'S SHARE OF LAND AT CHALEUR BAY. [Reference- GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY - "The Life and Times of Capt. George Lawe, Sr." SPEC. 24 Jan.1980.]
1787	JAMES SHOOLBRED	LANDS IN CHALEUR BAY.
1787	FELIX O'HARA, Sr.	1500 ACRES IN AND ABOUT THE BAY OF GASPE.
1787	M.HENRY MOUNIER, MERCHANT.	LANDS IN CHALEUR BAY.
1787	LOUIS FROMENTEAU	LANDS IN CHALEUR BAY.
1788	CAPT. GEORGE LAWE	LANDS ON THE PORTAGE OF TIMISCOUTA [ The Lawe Papers show that Capt.George Lawe had travelled this portage from the Maritimes to Québec. 1000 Acres.]
1788	REFUGEE LOYALISTS IN CHALEUR BAY.	TO BE REMOVED TO LANDS ON THE ?GRAND? RIVER NEAR VAUDREUIL.
1788	REFUGEE LOYALISTS AT NEW CARLISLE.	TO HAVE THE RESIDUE OF THEIR LANDS ON THE RIVER RISTIGOUCHE.
1788	SAMUEL LEE	2000 ACRES ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE RISTIGOUCHE. [ Reference - "A History of Campbellton" by John T.Reid. 1974.]
1788	<sup>JOB</sup> ISAAC MANN, Jr. AND THOMAS MANN	LAND IN CHALEUR BAY