

084

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

GASPÉ LAND PETITIONS

PRIOR TO 1800

KEN ANNETT

GASPE LAND PETITIONS PRIOR TO 1800

Québec, 23 March 1793

Edward O'Hara - Inclosing 25 Petitions for lands in the County of Gaspé. Viz.

Wm Ennet.....	200	Acres
Saml Beaker.....	200	"
Mortaugh Moriarty.....	8	"
Geo.Sutherland.....	5	"
John Baker, Jr.....	200	"
Jas Calaghan.....	40	"
Thos Vidamour.....	8	"
Thos Fitz Gibbon.....	200	"
Josh Arbour.....	200	"
Jas. Reynolds.....	200	"
James Price.....	200	"
Aubin Chicouane.....	300	"
Peter Butler.....	24	"
Daniel Leavre.....	1.5	"
Wm Maloney.....	400	"
Robert Asketh.....	200	"
Peter Patterson.....	200	"
James Couper.....	200	"
Peter Thorndove.....	200	"
Hugh O'Hara.....	400	"
Edward Condon.....	6	"
Katherine Hanley	50	"
Abial Lucas.....	200	"
Patrick and Fitzhugh		
Lucas.....	200	"
Edward O'Hara.....	200	"

Rec'd and Ent'd upon the Minutes
of the Land Committee 25 March 1793.

[Details of each of these Claims follows.]

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A LETTER FROM ED. O'HARA ADDRESSED TO MR. SEC. COFFIN (THOMAS ASTON COFFIN, ESQ.) DATED 23 MARCH 1793 INCLOSING 25 PETITIONS FOR LANDS IN THE COUNTY OF GASPE.

REFERRED THE 25th MARCH AND REC'D THE SAME DAY BY THE LAND COMMITTEE.
THE PETITIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- * Wm Ennet (Annett) of Gaspe (no date) praying for 200 Acres of land beginning at the line bounding him and Samuel Beaker, running along the shore of the North side of the N.W. arm of Gaspé towards the red Creek.

It would appear that the Petitioner has taken possession of the spot he now lives on without permission from Government.
- * Samuel Beaker - no date - That he has cleared the spot on which he dwells on the N. side of the N.W. arm of Gaspé and he prays that it may be included in a Tract to make up 200 Acres, to begin at the boundary line of Wm Ennet running thence along the shore towards Boudry's creek, with the customary depth.
- * Mortough Moriarty of Percé, dated 28 March 1790, Stating that in 1785 he obtained permission from Gov.Cox to build upon and improve Land - he prays a grant of the eight acres he has improved at Percé.
- * Geo. Sutherland of Percé (no date) stating that he has cleared and fenced about five acres of the King's Land at Percé to the East of the High road , bounded to the North by Mortough Moriarty and to the South by Edmond condon.
- * John Baker Junr. dated at Percé 9 Sept. 1791, Praying for 200 Acres of Land at Percé, adjoining Governor Cox's Seignory at Malbay River.
- * James Callaghan, dated at Percé 8th Sept.,1791, Praying for 40 acres of land in little point Peters, adjoining Point Peters at Percé.
- * Thos Vidamont of Percé (no date) Stating that two acres of land had been laid off for him adjoining his fishing room, which Jos Plourd deprived him of and built thereon, and prays that Lord Dorchester would interfere therein, and further that he may obtain

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- six acres adjoining and at the back of the said two acres.
- * Thomas Fitz Gibbon, dated at Percé 30 Jan'y, 1791, Praying that 200 acres of land may be granted to him at l'ance à Buffa near Cape Dispair (sic)
 - * Joseph Arbour of Percé, dated 1st Nov'r 1790, Praying for a grant of 200 Acres of land at Mal-bay beginning at the bason adjoining the River Betty, running South West up the said River, to have a front of eight acres.
 - * James Reynold, dated at Percé 9 Sept., 1791, Praying for 200 acres of land in Mal-bay adjoining Point Peters.
 - * James Price dated Mal bay 7 Sept. 1791, Praying that he may obtain a grant of 200 acres of land, including the spot on which he now resides, beginning at a part of green point at Mal bay, running westward and bounded by the inclosures of James Henley and William Bond.
 - * Aubin Chicouane dated at Malbay River 8 Sept. 1791, Praying for 300 Acres of land on the River Malbay, beginning at the little Creek running westward.
 - * Peter Butler dated at Douglas Town 25 Oct'r 1790, Praying for 26 acres of the vacant land behind lot No.23 in Douglas Town.
 - * Daniel Leavre dated at Percé 9 Sept'r 1791, Praying for one acre and a half in front from the King's fence at the back of Thompson and Walkers room and extending back to the Mountain.
 - * William Moloney dated at Percé 8 Sept'r 1791 Praying for 400 Acres on the North East side of l'ance au beau fils.
 - * Robert Asketh (Ascah) dated at Gaspé 1st Sept'r 1792, Stating that he is in possession of a spot of land on the N. side of the Peninsula Creek in Gaspé Bay where he has by hard labour made considerable improvements, and Praying for a grant of Ten acres in front beginning at Asketh's brook and running along the Shore Eastward with such depth back ward as make 200 acres.
 - * Peter Paterson of Gaspé, (no date) Praying for 200 Acres of Land beginning on the East side of his Father's lot and adjoining the same, to run the sundry courses of the shore for front.

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- * James Coupar, dated at P. St.Pierre 8 Sept'r 1791, Praying for 200 acres of land at Malbay between Abraham Hayden and John McLeod.
- * Peter Thorndove dated at Point St. Pierre 8 Sept.1791,Praying for 200 acres from the West of James Rice's land to the line of James Reynold's land at lobster Beach.
- * Hugh O'Hara dated at Gaspé 10 Sept'r 1792, That he has for three years been in possession of a piece of land on the N. side of the bason of Gaspé and improved it and he prays it may be granted to him with as much more adjoining it as make up 200 acres, beginning at the Western-most part of the Lands now occupied by Felix O'Hara Esq., running along the shore westward 40 Chains and taking in such a depth backward as will make up 200 Acres and he prays further for a grant of 200 Acres on the South side of the York River about two miles above the bason, beginning at the West of Michel Newland's land and running up along the shore Eighty Chains and backward as far as to make up the 200 acres.
- * Edward Condon dated at Percé 15 Sept'r 1791, Praying for six acres of Land adjoining the lot of Michael Reardon.
- * Katherine Henley dated at Green Point, Dist. of Gaspé, 8 Sept'r 1791, Praying for fifty acres of land bounded by John Bond's enclosure on one side and running westward.
- * Abial Lucas dated at Malbay 6 Sept'r 1791, Praying for 200 Acres of land adjoining Point St.Peters where he has made large improvements.
- * Patrick and Fitzhugh Lucas dated at Malbay 7 Sept'r 1791 Praying for a grant of 200 Acres each between Mal-bay River and Bel ance.
- * Edward O'Hara dated Quebec 20 March 1793, Praying for 200 Acres of Land on the N. side of the South West arm of Gaspé Bay, to begin at the Westernmost bounds of the land applied for by Hugh O'Hara Esq., thence running the sundry courses of the shore Westward for the Customary front.

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TEXT OF THE FIRST OF THE PETITIONS ABOVE

To His Excellency Alured Clarke, Esquire, Lieutenant Governor and Commander in Chief of His Majesty's Province of Lower Canada, etc., etc.

The Petition of William Ennet

Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner with his family, consisting of a Wife and Seven Children, has for these four years last past dwelt on a spot of land situated on the North side of the North West Arm of Gaspee and by his Industry has made considerable improvement on the premises, wherefore, the better to secure to your Petitioner and family the fruits of their labour, humbly prays Your Excellency to grant him Two Hundred Acres of Land, to begin at the boundary line between him and Samuel Beaker and to run from thence along the shore towards the Red Creek with the customary depth backwards to make up the Two Hundred Acres above pray'd for, and your Honour's Petitioner, as in duty bound, will pray.

(Signed) Will'm Ennet

This particular Petition bears the following endorsement :-

The Petitioner is a Native of Old England, has resided in this Country near Twenty years, raised a Large Family, and always behaved in offensively~~y~~ and very Industrious and Certainly has merit to deserve.

(Signed) Felix O'Hara

LAND COMMITTEE

The Committee applied to Nicholas Cox, Esq'r for information touching the Claims of the 25 Petitioners mentioned in the foregoing, who referred the Committee to the Minutes of the Land Board for the District of Gaspé between December 1789 and May 1791, delivered by him to Mr. Secretary Motz; and having obtained the perusal thereof in the Council Office where the Minutes are filed but have not been referred to this Committee they do not find that any of the said 25 Petitioners have obtained Lands elsewhere to exclude them from holding

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the Tracts pointed out in their Petitions; but as it is impossible for the Land Committee to ascertain whether the sites described may or may not interfere with that part of the Beach and wood which by Law is reserved for the use of the Fisheries, they Humbly submit whether it might not be expedient to return the 25 Petitions to the Land Office Board for the District of Gaspé with direction to employ the Acting Surveyor there to lay down upon the Plan (to be returned with the Petitions to the Office of the Governor's Secretary) the Tracts applied for in order to exhibit their true situation in the Township in which they may be comprehended, in a manner so clear and distinct as to enable His Majesty's Attorney General to make out Patents for the applicants.

The Committee beg leave to observe that if the Townships upon the Fishing Coast of Chaleur and Gaspé Bays are to be subdivided as the Inland Townships into Lots of 200 Acres and that a seventh part of the lots in every range of concessions is to be set apart for the future disposal of the Crown and another seventh part for the maintenance of a Protestant Clergy (these Lots not to join each other) the Petitioners cannot obtain the spots they desire to possess - at least such of them as may not be in possession of location certificates for the Tracts prayed for.

NOTES AND REFERENCES ON SOME PETITIONERS

Peter Patterson. Peter was a son of John Patterson, a pioneer settler on the South West Arm of Gaspé Bay. The story of the Patterson family of Gaspé has been recalled by Andrew B. Patterson in his "ANCESTRAL RECORD" of 1976.

Robert Asketh. Robert was a son of Richard Ascah, a pioneer settler at Peninsula. "THE ASCAH FAMILY GENEALOGY - 1724-1974" by Elmer G. Ascah is the primary reference for the Ascah family of Gaspé.

Hugh O'Hara
Edward O'Hara Hugh and Edward were sons of Felix O'Hara, pioneer settler at Gaspé Basin. "THE O'HARA FAMILY OF GASPÉ" published by SPEC on 21 June 1983 in the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY series recalls the history of this influential Gaspé family.

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Abial Lucas
Patrick Lucas
Fitzhugh Lucas

The Lucas family of Malbay was of pioneer Gaspesian lineage and its members were widely married into other early families. In 1830 Abial Lucas testified before a committee of the Québec Legislature - having carried the mail from Gaspé Basin to Québec up along the St.Lawrence coast on foot (Ref. GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY - "TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH BARTH AND OF ABEL LUCAS").

Fitzhugh Lucas was a shipbuilder and mariner. For some years he and his family lived in Québec City.

William Ennet

The background and descent of the Annett family of Gaspé will be found in the 1978 volume of Annett family history by Ken Annett deposited with the Québec Archives and summarized by SPEC on 13 October 1978 and by GASPÉSIE, Vol.XX July-Sept. 1982.

THE READER WILL RECOGNIZE OTHER FAMILY NAMES OF LONG STANDING IN GASPESIA - BAKER; ARBOUR; PRICE; CHICOUANE; MALONEY; LEAVRE (LE LIEVRE) THE AUTHOR WILL WELCOME NOTES AND REFERENCES FOR THESE FAMILIES AND OTHERS.