## GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

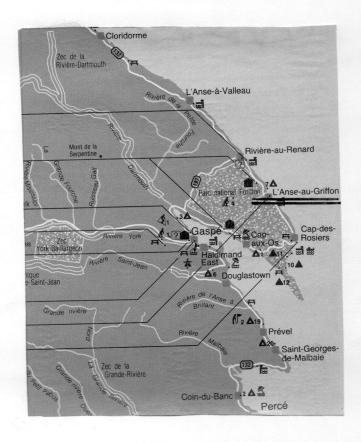
THE SCHOONER "GRIFFIN"

Built at L'Anse-au-Griffon in the year 1818 and sold by Isaac Dechene, Mariner and Trader to James Irvine et al.

KEN ANNETT

## THE SCHOONER "GRIFFIN"

## FOREWORD



L'Anse-au-Griffon, where the schooner that is the subject of this issue of GASPE OF YESTERDAY was built, is a fishing port on the St.Lawrence coast of Gaspé between Rivière-au-Renard and Cape Gaspé. While several theories have been advanced to account for its name, it is probable that it derived from the gray colour of the sea bottom - "Gris-fonds".

Over time a number of fishery firms operated from L'Anse-au-Griffon - both during and subsequent to the French Regime. Indeed one of the historical monuments of the L'Anse is the MANOIR LE BOUTILLIER built in 1840 by the cod merchant, John LeBoutillier.

Isaac Dechene, the vendor of the following Deed of Sale, was a prominent Trader in Gaspesia. In common with many Gaspesians of his time he was a man of many parts - Mariner, Trader, Justice of the Peace.

SALE OF SCHOONER BY ISAAC DECHENE TO MESSRS IRVINE, McNAUGHT AND CO. 20th. NOV.1818.

On this Day, the Twentieth of November in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighteen, Before Us, the undersigned Notaries Public, duly admitted and sworn for the Province of Lower Canada, dwelling in the City of Quebec in the said Province, Personally came and appeared Isaac Dechene of the Parish of Saint Louis de Kamouraska, Trader, who declared that whereas heretofore - To wit on the Tenth day of April last, the said Isaac Dechene did transfer unto James Irvine of the City of Quebec, Merchant, John McNaught and James Leslie, the hull of a certain Schooner then building at the place called L'Anse au Griffon, near Gaspé, the said transfer being made for the security of a certain debt due the said James Irvine, John McNaught and James Leslie and for the security of the payment of a certain Judgment obtained by Joseph Therun, for whom the said James Irvine, John McNaught and James Leslie are Agents, the said debt and Judgment amounting, with Interest and Costs and Charges to the Sum of Two hundred and ninety two Pounds, four shillings and ten pence.

And whereas it was at the same time agreed that as a further security for the Payment of the said Sum of Two hundred and ninety two Pounds, four shillings and ten pence, the Register of the said Schooner would be taken out in the names of the said James Irvine, John McNaught and James Leslie, In consequence of which the Register of the said vessel hath been taken out in the names of the said James Irvine and Donald Frazer, Merchants and Isaac Duchene, Mariner, John McNaught of Greenock and Donald Taylor of Glasgow, both in Great Britain, Merchants, and James Leslie of Montreal in this Province, Merchants, reference being had to the same will more fully appear.

And whereas since the passing of the said agreement the said Isaac Dechene hath sold and assisned unto the Persons above named the said Vessel with her rigging and all the appurtenances unto her belonging, for and in consideration of the Further sum of Three hundred fifty seven Pounds, fifteen shillings and two pence current

money aforesaid, making in all the Sum of Six hundred and fifty Pounds said current money.

Now therefore these presents witness that the said Isaac Dechene, in consideration of the further sum of Three hundred fifty seven Pounds, fifteen shillings and two pence current money aforesaid, to him in hand well and truly paid by the said james Irvine, Donald Frazer, John McNaught, Donald Taylor and James Leslie previous to the execution hereof, the receipt whereof he did and doth hereby acknowledge and discharge them of all and every charge thereof, hath granted, bargained, sold, assigned, transferred and set over and by these presents doth actually grant, bargain, sell, assign and set over unto the said James Irvine, Donald Frazer, John McNaught, Donald Taylor and James Leslie, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns forever, present and accepting hereof by James Irvine and Donald Frazer, all that good ship or vessel called the GRIFFIN of the burthen of Sixty nine and 21/94 Tons, now lying in this Port of Quebec and all and singular her masts, sails, sail-yards, anchors, cables, ropes, cords, Tackle, apparel, boats, oars and appurtances whatsoever to the said Shi or Vessel belonging or in any way appertaining.

Which said Ship or Vessel has been duly registered pursuant to an Act of Parliament for that purpose and a copy of the Certificate of such Registry is as follows:

## Number Twenty four.

In pursuance of an Act passed in the Twenty sixth year of the Reign of King George the Third intituled, "An Act for the further increase and encouragement of Shipping and Navigation", James Irvine and Donald Frazer, Merchants and Isaac Dechene, Mariner, all of the City of Quebec in the Province of Lower Canada, having taken and subscribed the Oath required by this Act and having sworn that themselves, together with John McNaught of Greenock and Donald Frazer of Glasgow, both in Great Britain, Merchants, and James Leslie of Montreal in this Province, Merchant, sole owners of the ship or vessel called the GRIFFIN of Quebec, whereof Charles La Jeunesse is at present Master and that the said ship or vessel was built at Gaspé in this Province in the present year, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, which appears by Certificate of the builder to us produced and bearing date the 25th of June last, and Charles Gray Stewart, Surveyor for the Navigation

Act having certified to us that the said ship or vessel is British Plantation Built, has one Deck and two masts; that her Length from the Forepart of the Main Stem to the after part of the Stern Post aloft is fifty four feet, ten inches, her Breadth at the broadest part above the Main Wales seventeen feet, six inches, her depth of Hold eight feet and admeasures sixty nine and 21/94 Tons; that she is a square sterned Schooner with a flush Deck, has no Gallery and a scroll Head; and the said subscribing Owner having consented and agreed to the above description and admeasurement, and having caused sufficient security to be given as is required by the said Act, the said Schooner, GRIFFIN, has been duly registered at the Port of Quebec.

Given under our Hands and Seals of Office at the Custom House in the said Port of Quebec this twenty ninth Day of July in the Year one thousand eight hundred and eighteen.

Recorded at the Custom House, Quebec.

Recorded at the Naval Office by Fred.East, Naval Officer.
CERTIFICATE OF BRITISH PLANTATION REGISTRY.

To have and to hold the said Schooner and all other the above bargained premises unto the said James Irvine, Donald Frazer, John McNaught, Donald Taylor and James Leslie, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns to their own use and uses and as their proper Goods and Chattels, from henceforth forever.

And the said Isaac Dechene hereby for himself, his Executors and Administrators doth hereby covenant, promise and agree to and with the said James Irvine, Donald Frazer, John McNaught, Donald Taylor and James Leslie, their Executors, Administrators and Assigns in manner following, that is to say:

That at the time of the execution hereof he hath good right, full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell, assign, and set over the said hereby bargained premises unto the said James Irvine, Donald Frazer, John McNaught, Donald Taylor and James Leslie their Executors, Administrators and Assigns in manner and form aforesaid.

And that the said hereby bargained premises and ever part thereof are free and clear and freely and clearly acquited, exonerated and discharged of and from all and all former bargains, sales, gifts, grants, titles, debts, charges and incumbrances whatsoever.

Thus done and passed at Quebec aforesaid the Day, Month and Year first above written.

In witness whereof the said Isaac Dechene, James Irvine and Donald Frazer have hereunto set their hands, these presents being first duly read according to Law.

