

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

PASPEBIAC SCHOOL CONTRACT

School Commissioners James Day, William Scott
and James Ferguson Winter contract with David
Scott to build Paspébiac School.

KEN ANNETT

PASPEBIAC SCHOOL CONTRACTFOREWORD

"GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" has included, to date, several articles on early education in Gaspesia. These are entitled:

- . BENJAMIN HOBSON-PIONEER SCHOOL MASTER. SPEC 23-03-79
- . THE 1847 JOURNAL OF THE REV.GEORGE MILNE.
- . EARLY GASPÉ SCHOOLS. SPEC 06-01-82
- . THE FIRST SCHOOL INSPECTOR FOR GASPESIA. SPEC 03-01-84
- . JOSEPH MEAGHER. SECOND SCHOOL INSPECTOR IN GASPESIA.
- . THE TUZO FAMILY. SPEC 08-01-85
- . THE FIRST PROTESTANT SCHOOL INSPECTOR - REV.WILLIAM GORE LYSTER.
- . GASPÉ SCHOOLS IN 1859-1860. INSPECTOR BECHARD'S FIRST REPORT.

Reference is made to the ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING in the contract below and to the 1801 EDUCATION ACT (41 GEO.III,CH.17). Prior to 1800 the provision of schooling had been left up to the initiative of individuals and communities - the government doing nothing more than make infrequent and meagre subsidies to certain teachers. But in 1787, only three years after the settlement of the Loyalists and veteran soldiers in Bay Chaleur, an official COMMISSION ON EDUCATION was created under the chairmanship of Judge William Smith of Québec. This COMMISSION reported in 1789. In 1801 the above-mentioned EDUCATION ACT and the establishment of the ROYAL INSTITUTION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING marked the first real attempt to set up a true school system in Québec.

In the ROYAL SCHOOLS each religious denomination had the right to supervise and the authority to select textbooks. The Board of the Royal Institution had the task of overseeing the construction of schools, looking into the teaching qualifications and moral backgrounds of teachers, and issuing periodic reports on the operation of schools.

By 1829 Québec had eighty-four Royal Schools.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN MESSRS JAMES DAY, JAMES FERGUSON WINTER AND WILLIAM SCOTT, COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED FOR THE ERECTION OF A SCHOOLHOUSE, AND MR.DAVID SCOTT. NO.126 29th DECEMBER,1826 *****

On the Twenty ninth day of December in the Year of Our Lord One Thousand eight hundred and twenty six, Before me, the undersigned Martin Sheppard, Notary Public duly admitted and sworn for the Province of Lower Canada, and the Witnesses hereafter mentioned and hereunto subscribing, all residing at Paspébiac in the Inferior District of Gaspé and Province of Lower Canada, personally came and appeared and were present James Day, James Ferguson Winter and William Scott, three of the Commissioners appointed and named for the erection of a Schoolhouse with convenient apartments for a School Master, at Paspébiac aforesaid, under and by virtue of a ACT of the Provincial Parliament made and passed in the forty first year of His late Majesty's Reign, intituled "AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FREE SCHOOLS AND THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING IN THIS PROVINCE; of the one part; and Mr.David Scott of the Township of Cox, near Paspébiac aforesaid, Carpenter, of the other part - Which said parties, in their aforesaid several capacities, did and by these presents do covenant, declare. conclude and agree to and with the other of them in manner following, that is to say -

The said David Scott did for the consideration and on the terms and conditions hereafter mentioned covenant and agree to and with the said James Day, James Ferguson Winter and William Scott. Commissioners as aforesaid, and accepting thereof for and in the name and on behalf of the Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning, to plank and board the Schoolhouse now in part built in Paspébiac aforesaid, on the outside, front, back and ends with good, substantial and well-seasoned planks and boards- to put a good,neat and substantial ground or lower floor in the said house- to cover the said Schoolhouse with boards in such

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manner as to render the same proof or impervious to rain or wind - to make and fix three doors to the said house as shall be directed and pointed out to him the said David Scott; to make and fix five window sashes complete, each to have twenty-four lights and each square for panes to be seven and one-half inches in breadth and eight and one-half inches in height; to make and fix eight window shutters to suit the said frames - all the above materials which shall without any exception be furnished to the said David Scott as he shall progress with the said undertaking shall be of the best quality and description and the said boards to be well grooved and tongued and well joined together -

And all which said work the said David Scott doth hereby oblige himself, his heirs, Executors and Assigns to do, finish and complete in a proper, complete and workmanlike manner on or before the first day of the month of September, One Thousand eight hundred and twenty seven,

The Present Agreement and Contract is thus made and entered into for and in consideration of the sum of Twelve pounds, Current Money of the said Province of Lower Canada and which the said James Day, James Ferguson Winter and William Scott, in their said qualities, do hereby bind and oblige themselves and the said Institution which they represent, and for which they Act, to pay unto the said David Scott, his heirs, Executors or Assigns, bearer or bearers hereof in due form of Law, accepting thereof for himself and them, forthwith on the completion and entire fulfilment of the present Contract on the part of the said David Scott to be done and performed.

The said James Day, James Ferguson Winter and William Scott, in their aforesaid qualities, hereby further obliging themselves to procure for the said David Scott, free of any charge or expense to the said David Scott, decent board and lodging during three months as he may progress with the present undertaking.

And for the securing of the entire fulfilment of the present agreement and Contract by and on the part of the said David Scott,

at the period and in the manner herein before mentioned, he the said David Scott did and doth hereby oblige himself and his heirs and Assigns in the sum or penalty of Five pounds said currency, to be paid by the said David Scott in case of default by the said David Scott in the performance of the present Contract.

And for the Execution of these presents the said parties, acting as aforesaid, have made election of Domicile irrovocable at their several and respective residences aforesaid.

Thus Done and Passed at Paspebiac aforesaid at the house at present occupied as a Schoolhouse, on the day and year first above written. In Faith and Testimony Whereof the said James Day, James Ferguson Winter and William Scott, Commissioners as aforesaid, have to these presents, first duly read, set and subscribed their respective names and signatures in the presence of Francis LeBrun and Nicolas LeBrasseur, both of Paspebiac, and in the presence of me the said Notary, also hereunto subscribing.

(SIGNED BY) Francis LeBrun
Nicolas x LeBrasseur

James Day
J.Ferguson Winter
William Scott
David Scott
M.Sheppard, N.P.