

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE G.F.C.M. COMPANY

Recalling the Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company, with particular reference to its holdings of land in Gaspesia.

KEN ANNETT

THE G.F.C.M. COMPANYBACKGROUND

Previous articles of the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY series have made reference, directly and indirectly, to sources of capital and the experience of investors in Gaspesian ventures. Following the Peace of 1763 it was capital from the Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey that contributed to the development of the Gaspesian fishery. It would be British capital that was invested later in the vain search for petroleum in the Gaspé Bay region. And when the first train pulled into the new station at Gaspé Harbour in the year 1912, the railway connection of Gaspé with Matapedia and the Intercolonial Railway had been made possible in large part by the investment of British capital and the contribution of British railway expertise. Yet some of the Gaspesian projects that were financed from overseas remain but dimly remembered. It is such a one - that of the GASPÉ FISHERY AND COAL MINING COMPANY of the 1840's and 1850's that it is now proposed to recall.

To lend perspective to this particular project it may be helpful to recall that the Victorian era began on the world stage with the crowning of the youthful Queen Victoria in 1837. Her long reign would witness a great expansion of British influence and interests overseas - the building of Empire - and major investment of British capital throughout the Empire. In the District of Gaspé the fishery monopoly of the CHARLES ROBIN COMPANY (CRC) was under challenge by competitors such as Fruing, Fauvel, LeBoutillier, - men who had acquired their skills through the stern Robin apprenticeship. Shipyards in many a cove from the Bay of Gaspé to Restigouche were launching the sturdy vessels that equally sturdy Gaspesian mariners sailed to the Caribbean and to European ports. A whaling industry was centered on Gaspé Bay. The value of the timber resources of the Gaspé Peninsula had been recognized and a lumber industry provided new seasonal employment. The visits of Governor Lord Aylmer, Lieut. Baddeley, R.E. and others in the 1830's publicized the District of Gaspé. The early work of the great geologist, William Logan, made known potential mineral wealth. In short, Gaspesia became better known at a time when

BACKGROUND

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British investors were interested in colonial ventures. Thus it came about that the GASPE FISHERY AND COAL MINING COMPANY was incorporated in 1844 by the Imperial and Canadian Parliaments on behalf of London businessmen. Among the Company's aims was the expansion of British fishery in the Gulf of St.Lawrence, Bay Chaleur and other places on the coasts of Canada and the exploitation of the forest and mineral resources of Gaspesia.

The site chosen as the base of operations for this Company was in the Seigniorly of Pabos. Something of the story of that Seigniorly has been recounted by GASPE OF YESTERDAY in article No.100, "THE SEIGNIORLY OF PABOS" together with other references in article No.20, "THE O'HARA FAMILY OF GASPE". Within this Seigniorly alone, with its frontage of three leagues on Bay Chaleur and three leagues in depth, the Company possessed some 122,000 acres of land, the outlets of the Great and Little Pabos Rivers. At the mouth of the Great Pabos River a base was developed for the fishery. A lumber mill was established to process the timber cut in seasonal lumbering and a shipyard was put into operation. Buildings arose to provide housing for employees and staff, a store, and even a printing plant. The pioneer Overseer of the Fishery, Dr.Pierre Fortin, described the Company's establishment as "magnificent".

As detailed in the following pages, the amount of Gaspesian land acquired by the Company was impressive and included:

THE FIEF AND SEIGNIORLY OF GRAND PABOS.....	122,000	acres	(approx.)
THE TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON.....	35,000	"	"
THE TOWNSHIP OF COX.....	35,000	"	"
THE TOWNSHIP OF NEWPORT.....	10,000	"	"
THE TOWNSHIP OF PORT DANIEL.....	3,500	"	"

Yet, within a decade, the high hopes for success of the Company had faded and its operations, begun with such flourish, had petered out. As was the case of a number of other colonial ventures its overseas backers were left with little to show for their investment other than large blocks of land that proved difficult to sell. It was not until 1872 that the Québec Government bought back the Pabos

Seigniory and made its lands available for local settlement.

As a closing background note it may be recalled that the family name of KELLY was closely associated with the history of the GASPÉ FISHERY AND COAL MINING COMPANY. Charles Kelly, who served as Secretary and as Superintendant of the Company, was a resident of Pabos together with Robert Warren Kelly. Subsequently the Kelly men moved to New Carlisle. A son of Robert Warren Kelly, Thomas Rees Kelly, a Justice of the Peace and Merchant of New Carlisle, married Angelique Day. Their eldest son, Mancer Kelly, married Sarah Bridget Hall and a son of their marriage, John Hall Kelly, had a notable career that GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY has recalled in article No.136, "THE HON. JOHN HALL KELLY-1879-1941"



DECLARATION OF CHARLES KELLY

Charles Kelly of Dowgate Hill in the City of London, Secretary to the Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company, solemnly and sincerely declare that I am well acquainted with the Common Seal of the Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company and that the Seal affixed to the Deed, Poll or Letter of Attorney hereunto annexed, marked "A", is the Common Seal of the said Company and that the same was duly affixed by me as such Secretary aforesaid on the day of the date of said Deed, Poll or Letter of Attorney at the offices of the said Company in Dowgate Hill aforesaid, in the presence of Robert Gurney Barclay and Stephen Phillips.

And that the said Robert Gurney Barclay and Stephen Phillips are two of the Directors of the said Company And also that I was present and did see the said Robert Gurney Barclay and Stephen Phillips as such Directors as aforesaid sign their respective names to the memorandum of attestation at the foot thereof And that the names R.G.Barclay and Stephen Phillips subscribed to such memorandum of attestation are of the respective proper handwriting of the said Robert Gurney Barclay and Stephen Phillips.

And I make this solemn Declaration consciently believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of an Act made and passed in the Session of Parliament of the fifth and sixth years of the Reign of His late Majesty William the Fourth intituled "An Act to repeal an Act of the present session of Parliament intituled "An Act for the more effectual abolition of Oaths and Affirmations taken and made in various departments of the State and to substitute Declarations in lieu thereof, and for the more entire suppression of voluntary and extra-judicial Oaths and Affidavits and to make other provisions for the abolition of unnecessary Oaths".

Subscribed and Declared
at Mansion House in the
City of London.

(Signed) Charles Kelly

This 19th day of July
1850 Before me

(Signed) Tho. Farncomb

Mayor

"A"

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS MAY COME, THE GASPE FISHERY AND COAL MINING COMPANY incorporated by an Act passed in the Canadian Parliament in the seventh year of the reign of Her Present Majesty intituled " An Act to incorporate Charles Cuningham, Richard Newman, Samuel Amory, and others, forming a Joint Stock Company for carrying on the Fishery in the Gaspé District and Gulf of St. Lawrence and Coal Mining in the said District" which was confirmed by an Act passed in the Imperial Parliament held in the seventh and eighth years of the reign of Her Present Majesty intituled "An Act to confirm and extend the provisions of an Act of the provincial parliament of Canada passed in the seventh year of the reign of Her Present Majesty for incorporating the Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company" and which was approved by an Act passed in the Canadian Parliament in the eighth year of Her Present Majesty intituled "An Act to approve of and confirm an Act of the Imperial Parliament of Great Britain to incorporate the Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company, SEND GREETING -

WHEREAS the said Company are possessed of and well entitled to divers large landed Estates in the Township of Port Daniel and in the Townships of Cox and Hamilton and in the Fief and Seignory of Grand Pabos severally situate in the District of Gaspé in the province of Canada in North America And also to divers Beach lots and parcels of land situate in the said Townships and Fief or Seignory And also to certain large tracts of land or estates in the Town of Newport and elsewhere in the said District of Gaspé hereinafter more particularly described -

AND WHEREAS the said Company have agreed to make and execute for Robert William Barclay of Clarges Street in the County of Middlesex, Esquire, and John Routh the younger of Dowgate Hill in the City of London, Esquire, a good and valid Mortgage and Security of and upon the said Estates, lands and hereditaments belonging to the said Company for the purpose of securing the repayment of certain monies advanced, and to be advanced, by them or at their instance to or on account of the said Company, not exceeding in the whole the principal sum of NINE THOUSAND POUNDS together with interest thereon, And for that purpose to authorize and empower William Stevenson of Québec in the province of Canada, Esquire as the Attorney

for and on behalf of the said Company to make and execute such mortgage and security accordingly -

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that the said Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company HAVE nominated, constituted and appointed, and by these presents DO nominate, constitute and appoint the said William Stevenson to be their true and lawful Attorney for and in the name and on behalf of the said Company to charge, mortgage and hypothecate to and in favor of the said Robert William Barclay and John Routh the younger ALL those the several tracts, lots, parts of lots, **parcels** of land, Fief ans Seignory hereditaments and premises situate in the several Townships of Port Daniel, Hamilton, Cox and Newport in the Counties of Bonaventure and Gaspé in the District of Gaspé in that part of the province of Canada heretofore constituting the province of Lower Canada, as the same are more particularly set forth and described in the Schedule hereunder written or hereunto annexed, And all other, if any, the lands, estates and hereditaments of and belonging to the said Company in the said province of Canada with the rights, members and appurtanences thereunto respective, belonging or appertaining in such manner as may by the law or usage of the said District or province be necessary, and as to the said William Stevenson may appear proper and for that purpose for and in the name and on behalf of the said Company to sign, seal, execute and deliver all and every deed or deeds, mortgage or mortgages, assignments or other assurance or assurances of the said lands, hereditaments and premises or any of them or any part or parts thereof respectively with such covenants, conditions, powers, provisos and agreements as the said William Stevenson shall consider necessary and as may appear to be usual and proper in similar cases.

And to do allover necessary acts and things for effectual conveying or assuring the same lands, hereditaments and premises unto...the said Robert William Barclay and John Routh the younger and the several of them and the heirs, executors, administrators and assigns the repayment of the said sum of NINE THOUSAND POUNDS on the eighteenth day of January next with interest thereon in the meantime after the rate of five per cent per annum. And generally to do, perform and execute all and every acts and act, deeds and deed, things and thing which shall or may according to the laws or usage of the said District or province or considered necessary or expedient to be done in or about the premises and effectually to all intents and purposes as the Directors of the said Company for the time being could or might do

if personally present, the said Company hereby allowing, ratifying and confirming and agreeing to allow, ratify and confirm all and whatsoever their said Attorney shall lawfully do or cause to be done in or about the same by each hereof -

PROVIDED ALWAYS that nothing herein contained shall tend to vitiate, revoke or annul a certain other deed, poll or Letter of Attorney bearing date on or about the fifteenth day of April one thousand eight hundred and fifty whereby the said Company appointed Thomas Pipon Champion therein named to be their Attorney and Agent for the purposes therein particularly mentioned -

IN WITNESS whereof the said Company have caused their Common Seal to be hereunto affixed this eighteenth day of July one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

THE SECEDULE HEREINFORE REFERRED TO -

All that the said Tract of land, lands and tenements situate in the Township of Port Daniel in the County of Bonaventure in the District of Gaspé in that part of the said province of Canada heretofore constituting the province of Lower Canada containing three thousand five hundred acres of land and consisting of Lots No. 18,19 and 20 in the sixth Range; 15,16,17,18,19 and 20 in the seventh Range; 13,14,15,16 and 17 in the eighth Range; 10,11,12,13,14,15 and 16 in the ninth Range; 10,11,12,13,14,15 and 16 in the tenth Range; 10,11,12,13,14,15 and 16 in the eleventh Range of Lots in the said Township.

And also all those certain lots or parts of lots, tracts, parcels of land and premises situate in the Township of Hamilton in the County of Bonaventure in the District of Gaspé in that part of the province of Canada formerly constituting the province of Lower Canada aforesaid known and distinguished as follows - All the Lots from No.1 to No.13 inclusive and from No.24 to No.27 inclusive in the second Range-being seventeen lots containing together three thousand five hundred and ninety six acres more or less and the usual allowance for Highways, the West half of Lot No.14 containing one hundred and twenty acres more or less and the East half of Lot No.23 containing one hundred and fourteen acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways-both in the second Range. All the Lots from No.1 to No.27

inclusive being twenty seven lots in the third Range containing together five thousand two hundred and forty-seven acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways, the West half of Lot No.20 and the East half of Lot No.27 containing each ninety six acres and one half acre more or less and the usual allowance for highways both in the said third range. All the Lots from No.8 to No.31 inclusive in the fourth Range being 24 lots containing together five thousand six hundred and fifty nine acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways - All the lots from No.10 to No.16 inclusive and from No.21 to No.30 inclusive in the fifth Range being seventeen lots containing together three thousand one hundred and fifty eight acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways. All the lots from No.8 to No.13 inclusive and from No.19 to No.28 inclusive in the sixth Range being sixteen lots containing together Two thousand nine hundred and eight acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways. All the lots from No.1 to No.12 inclusive and from No.18 to No.26 inclusive in the seventh Range being sixteen lots of land containing together two thousand nine hundred and fifty four acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways- All the lots from No.6 to No.11 inclusive and from No.16 to No.24 inclusive in the eighth Range being fifteen lots containing together two thousand nine hundred and twenty acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways. All the lots from No.6 to No.24 inclusive in the ninth Range being nineteen lots containing together three thousand six hundred and ninety one acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways.- All the lots from No.6 to No.24 inclusive in the tenth range being 19 lots containing together three thousand six hundred and ninety one acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways.- And all the lots from No.16 to No.24 inclusive in the 11th Range being nine lots containing together one thousand seven hundred and forty nine acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways, forming in the aggregate one hundred and seventy nine lots and parts of lots in the said Township of Hamilton and containing together thirty five thousand and seven acres of land more or less and the usual allowance for highways. (35,007 acres in Hamilton)

And also all those certain lots of land and premises situate in the Township of Cox in the said County of Bonaventure lying West of Paspebiac line, to wit - All the lots from No.1 to No.11 inclusive and from No.18 to No.28 inclusive in the first Range of lots being twenty-seven lots containing together two thousand four hundred and

seventy three acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways.- All the lots from No.1 to No.28 inclusive in the 2nd Range being twenty eight lots containing together two thousand six hundred and ninety eight acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways. - All the lots from No.1 to No.25 inclusive in the third Range of lots being twenty five lots containing together Two thousand five hundred and eighty seven acres of land more or less and the usual allowance for highways. - All the lots from No.3 to No.25 inclusive in the fourth Range of lots being twenty three lots containing altogether two thousand two hundred and seventy two acres of land more or less and the usual allowance for Highways. All the lots from No.3 to No.25 inclusive in the fifth range of lots being twenty three lots containing together two thousand two hundred and eight acres more or less and the usual allowance for highways. All the lots from No.1 to No.25 inclusive in the sixth range of lots being twenty five lots containing together two thousand three hundred and fifty three acres of land more or less and the usual allowance for highways. All the lots from No.1 to No.25 inclusive in the seventh range of lots being twenty five lots containing together two thousand four hundred and twenty eight acres more or less and the usual allowance for Highways.- All the lots from No.1 to No.26 inclusive in the ninth range of lots being twenty six lots containing together two thousand five hundred and ninety six acres more or less and the usual allowance for Highways.- All the lots No.8 to No.26 in the tenth range being nineteen lots containing together one thousand eight hundred and forty acres of land more or less and the usual allowance for Highways. -All the lots No.8 to No.26 inclusive in the eleventh range of lots being nineteen lots containing together one thousand eight hundred and forty acres more or less and the usual allowance for Highways.- And all the lots from No.8 to No.26 inclusive and lot No.33 in the twelfth range being twenty lots containing together one thousand nine hundred and ninety four acres of land more or less and the usual allowance for Highways.- All the lots from No.8 to No.26 inclusive and lot No.33 in the thirteenth range of lots being twenty lots containing together one thousand nine hundred and forty four acres of land more or less and the usual allowance for Highways.

And all the lots from No.8 to No.26 inclusive in the fourteenth range of lots being nineteen lots containing together one thousand eight hundred and forty acres of land more or less and the usual allowance for Highways forming in the aggregate three hundred and twenty four lots in the said Township of Cox and containing together about thirty one thousand four hundred and eleven acres of land more or less and the usual allowance for Highways.

And also all that certain tract of land, lands and tenements known and distinguished as the Fief and Seignory of Grand Pabos situate and lying in the County of Gaspé and District of Gaspé in that part of the province of Canada heretofore constituting the province of Lower Canada containing two leagues and one half league in front to the East of the river Grand Pabos and one half league to the West of the said river by three leagues in depth, bounded in the East by the seignory of the Grand River and in the West and in rear by the waste lands of the Crown described in the original Grant or Concession thereof as extending "de la riviere du Grand Pabo, autrement dite la riviere Duvall situe dans la Baie des Chaleurs avec deux lieues et demi de front (approx.06.25 miles) du coté de l'Est de la dite riviere et demi lieue du coté de l'ouest entrant vers la riviere du Petit Pabo icette comprise pour pareille profondeur".

And also divers tracts of land in the said Township of Newport containing five thousand one hundred and fourteen acres thereabouts formerly belonging to George Mellis Douglas, Esquire. And all that other tract of land in Newport aforesaid belonging to the said Company containing five thousand two hundred and eighty acres or thereabout in the said District of Gaspé.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED, Robert Gurney Barclay and Stephen Phillips, being two of the Directors of the said Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company truly attest that the Common Seal of the said Company was on the day and year last above written affixed to the above written Schedule in our presence and by Order in writing of the Board of Directors of the said Company for that purpose.



(Signed) R.G.Barclay
Stephen Phillips

London, 19 July 1850

To (Michael)? Stevenson, Esq.,
Quebec.

Dear Sir,

The Gaspé Fishery and Coal Mining Company being about to make and execute unto us, the undersigned Robert William Barclay of No. 11 Clarges St., London, Esquire and John Routh the younger of Dowgate Hill, London, Esquire, a good and effectual Mortgage of and upon their Estates and premises in the Townships of Port Daniel, Cox, Hamilton and Newport and in the Fief or Seignory of Great Pabos in the district of Gaspé and the province of Canada in North America, for securing to us the repayment of certain Monies advanced, or to be advanced by us at our instance to or on account of the said Company not exceeding in the whole the principal sum of £ 9000 with Interest thereon at five per cent per annum - We hereby request and authorize you to accept such Mortgage on our behalf and to do all such other Acts and things as may be necessary according to the law, usage or custom of the said province or district for well and effectually vesting the said Estates and premises in us by way of Security for repayment of the said principal Monies and Interest as aforesaid.

We remain,

Sir,

Your obed't Servants,

(Signed) Robert W. Barclay
John Routh, Jun'r

CERTIFIED that the foregoing letter is the one referred to in the DEED OF MORTGAGE.

(Signed) W. Stevenson
J. Clapham, N.P.