

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

"POOR FOX"

Recall of the death in 1872  
at Gaspé Basin of Charles C.  
Fox, Clerk, Her Majesty's  
Customs.

KEN ANNETT

## "POOR FOX"

FOREWORD

The family name of FOX is not common in the past of Gaspesia. Apart from that redoubtable personality of early Percé, Theophilus Fox, Justice of the Peace, and members of his family, the name is relatively rare. Attention was drawn therefore to the following letters and deeds of the 1860/70 period concerning Charles C. Fox of Gaspé Basin. In presenting them here, GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY hopes that other information from the records of Gaspé families on Fox may come to light.

Of the persons involved in these letters and deeds a few notes may be helpful:

DR. WILLIAM WAKEHAM.

In May, 1981, SPEC published Part 1 of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY'S recall of the life and career of William Wakeham of "ONE ASH", Gaspé Basin, Medical Doctor and Overseer of the Fishery in the River and Gulf of St. Lawrence. In his time and throughout his long and distinguished career, William Wakeham was one of Gaspesia's most widely known and well respected citizens.

A second GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY monograph #098 "Expedition to Hudson Bay and Cumberland Gulf in the Steamship "DIANA" under the command of William Wakeham in 1897", submitted to SPEC some years ago, remains to be published.

ANDREW STUART

Of the distinguished STUART family of Québec City both Sir Andrew Stuart (1812-1891) and his son, Andrew Charles Stuart (1846-1883) were living at the time of the correspondence below. Both were lawyers and Sir Andrew became a Judge and the Chief

ANDREW STUART  
(ctd)

Justice of Québec. It would appear that it was Andrew Charles Stuart who was the friend of Charles C. Fox of Gaspé Basin.

It is of interest to note that Miss Adèle Stuart who died in Québec City in 1988, the daughter of James de Gaspé Stuart, was the niece of Andrew Charles Stuart and granddaughter of Sir Andrew Stuart.

MARTIN SHEPPARD

In July, 1985, SPEC published the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY article INTRODUCING MARTIN SHEPPARD, An introduction to a notable Gaspesian of Channel Island (Guernsey) descent.

Martin Sheppard (1800-1884) widely and well known to Gaspesians through a career spanning the years 1825-1884, practiced as a Notary Public for 59 years and was Sheriff of Gaspé for 45 years. His son and, in turn, his grandson, served as Sheriff.

JOHN LE BOUTILLIER

Several issues of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY have made reference to the remarkable career of the Hon. John LeBoutillier including - FORT RAMSAY- ANOTHER GASPÉ BASIN PROPERTY - published by SPEC in February, 1985.

A native of Jersey, John LeBoutillier came to Gaspesia with the Charles Robin Co. Subsequently he established his own Gaspé Fishery and had a fleet of vessels in the Import/Export trade. He married Elizabeth Robin. He served as Member of Parliament for Gaspé during most of the period from 1833 until Confederation.

JANE ARNOLD

Daughter of the first marriage of the Rev. William Arnold of "SPRING GROVE", Gaspé Basin and Maria O'Hara. An account of the Arnold family will be found in the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY article, SPRING GROVE, published by SPEC in July, 1982.

JOHN SHORT

The extract that follows is from the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY article "SPRING GROVE" published by SPEC in July, 1982.

"...After serving the parish of Sandwich the Rev. Robert Short.M.A., moved to Gaspesia as Rector of Percé. His son, John, was a young child at the time of this move. At Percé the Rev.Short would have come to know the Rev.Wm Arnold and his family of Gaspé.

Becoming a widower, Rev.Short later married Miss Boyle, elder sister of Mrs.Ellen Boyle Arnold. The inter-connection of the Arnold, Boyle and Short families was extended when the son, John Short, fell in love with and married Mary Charlotte, younger sister of Ellen Boyle Arnold.

After the tragic death of the Rev.Wm Arnold his widow sold "SPRING GROVE", including her own property rights to Arnold's Bluff, to her brother-in-law, John Short, Esq...."

It might be noted that John Short served as Mayor of Gaspé Basin.

GEORGE AND JANE  
DUMARESQ.

Dumaresq is an old and illustrious Channel Island family name. George Dumanesq of Gaspé Basin was a son of Daniel and Elizabeth Ann Dumaresq of Les Colombiers, St.Mary, Jersey,C.I. His wife was Jane Ellen Coffin of Gaspé.

CHARLES VEIT,Jr.

Members of the Veit family were prominent citizens and merchants in Gaspé Basin. In the 1920's the Veit home property adjoined that of the Lindsay family to the West of the present Cassidy Photo Shop. The Veit store and wharf on the Point at Gaspé Basin were later bought by John F.Davis and Sons.

Gaspé Basin,  
April 6, 1872

Andrew Stuart,  
Ross and Stuart - Advocates,  
Québec, P.Q.

Dear Sir,

My friend, Fox, has requested me to write you a few lines explaining why he has not written to your sister thanking her for the book that she was kind enough to send him. The work was doubly welcome as a few days after its arrival he was unfortunate to meet with an accident which broke his right arm and he now, and for some weeks, has nothing else to do but read and keep quiet.

To touch on a more pleasant subject and one that more materially affects you allow me, on his part, to congratulate you on entering into the Benedictine state, now wishing you all happiness, peace, and that your lives may be cast in pleasant places.

I remain,

Yours truly,

(Signed) W. Derbish

Gaspé Basin,  
11 July, 1872

Andrew Stuart,  
Ross and Stuart - Advocates,  
Québec, P.Q.

My Dear Stuart,

It has become my painful duty to inform you of the death of your old friend, Fox. He died yesterday after a Week's illness. He was either delirious or unconscious for four days before his end. His death was hurried at the last though of course we who lived with him had long expected it. Poor fellow, it seems hard to die and be carried to the ... of strangers far from home and friends. But should ever such a fate befall myself, I could wish for no kinder care than he had at the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Dumaresq.

I had him in my arms, moving him from his bed, when I noticed the change coming. His head fell against my shoulder. He seemed for an instant to become sensible, said- "Oh Wakeham.." and as I laid him back in the bed he died without a struggle.

I have taken the liberty of acquainting you in this way of his death as I have frequently heard him mention your name and others of your family.

We have written to his Mother by this week's mail. He is to be buried tomorrow afternoon.

Hoping you are well and intend coming this way this summer.

I am,

ever yours truly,

(Signed) Wm Wakeham

ENTRY FROM THE REGISTER OF ST.PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH GASPE.

(Courtesy of Miss Dorothy Phillips of Peninsula)

"Charles C.Fox, formerly of Warmouth (?) England, late of H.M.Customs, Gaspé Basin, aged 38 years, died on July 10, 1872."

New Carlisle,  
13 July, 1872

Andrew Stuart,  
Ross and Stuart - Advocates,  
Québec, P.Q.

Dear Stuart,

I am certain that you will much regret to learn that our friend, Charles C.Fox, died at Gaspé Basin on Wednesday last, the 10th instant, after a few days illness.

Yours truly,

(Signed) W.G.Sheppard.

ROSS AND STUART  
ADVOCATES

David A, Ross      Andrew Stuart

Québec, P.Q.  
July 18, 1872

Dr. William Wakeham,  
Gaspé Basin,  
P.Q.

My Dear Wakeham,

Many thanks for your kindness. The news of poor Fox's death gave us all great pain at the house. It is pretty hard lines for a fellow of his talent and accomplishments to die so young.

I was very near going to Gaspé early in July. I wish to God I had now.

What do you consider that he died of.

I suppose that you have his papers. There must be among them a book of my sister's called BALAUSTION. Would you kindly send it to me.

Fox had a vignette of himself taken later than the photograph that I have of him. I would very much like to have it copied. Could you send it to me for a week. I will promise to take good care of it and return it the following week.

I suppose that there will be a sale of his things at Gaspé, if so I wish you would let me know as long before as you can as I would like to get a few of his things "in memoriam".

I am not quite certain yet whether I will go to Gaspé this summer or not.

Yours in haste,

(Signed) Andrew Stuart



Gaspé Basin,  
1st August, 1872

Andrew Stuart,  
Ross and Stuart - Advocates,  
Québec, P.Q.

My Dear Stuart,

In answer to yours I beg to enclose two photographs. The vignette you may keep but as the other, by Notman, belongs to Mrs. Dumaresq and is the only one she has, you will please return it as soon as convenient.

The book you mention will be returned by Dumaresq.

We found among his (Charles C. Fox) papers a Will dated April, 1870, by which he appointed George Dumaresq his sole executor. He (Dumaresq) has written to his Mother asking instructions. When Fox's effects are disposed of I will attend to your request.

The poor fellow died from exhaustion after an attack of Delirium Tremens. He almost succeeded in poisoning himself with Hydrate of Chloral a week before his death.

Please take care of the photograph and return it when you are done with it.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) Wm Wakeham.

P.S. Old John LeBoutillier died yesterday afternoon.

ACQUITTANCE AND DISCHARGE BY CHARLES C.FOX FOR JANE MAY ARNOLD  
TO JOHN LE BOUTILLIER - DECEMBER 13, 1862

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On this thirteenth day of the Month of December in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty two, Before us, Antoine Painchaud, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the District of Gaspé, and Witnesses undersigned -

Personally came and appeared Charles C.Fox of Gaspé Basin in the County of Gaspé, Gentleman, in quality of Attorney for Jane May Arnold of the City of Hamilton in Upper Canada, Spinster, which said Charles C.Fox has acknowledged and confessed to have received before the execution of these presents of and from John LeBoutillier, Esquire, of Gaspe Basin, Fifty Pounds currency, being the principal sum mentioned in a certain Deed of Sale from Messrs Bruce McConnell and Brian McConnell to the said John LeBoutillier, passed on the fifth day of July of the present year, in the City of Montreal before J.H.Jobin and McCathry, Notaries, and five shillings being the interest accrued upon the said principal sum of Fifty Pounds currency, and for which principal sum and interest a full discharge and acquittance is hereby given and granted.

DONE AND PASSED at Gaspé Basin in the County of Gaspé in the day, month and year first above written - and the said appearer has signed with us the said Justice of the Peace and Witnesses called for the special purpose of these presents - these presents having been first duly read in their presence.

Witnesses

John Short

Charles Veit, Jr.

(Signed) Chas. C.Fox  
Attorney for Jane May Arnold  
Ant. Painchaud, J.P.  
In testîmonium veritatis

POWER OF ATTORNEY BY THOMAS FITNAM TO CHAS. C.FOX - 26th FEB.1867

Know all men by these presents that I, Thomas Fitnam, Consul for the United States of America, duly commissioned to the Island of St. Helena, and now acting here in that capacity, for divers good causes and considerations me hereunto moving, have and do hereby make, nominate and appoint and in my place and stead put Charles C.Fox, esq. of Gaspé Basin in the Province of Canada, Clerk in Her Majesty's Customs to be my true and lawful Attorney, for me and in my name, and to Deed, transfer and make over unto John Short, Esq. of Gaspé Basin, aforesaid, Bookkeeper, all that certain piece or parcel of land and premises, together with the improvements thereon erected and made, situated at Gaspé Basin aforesaid in the Township of York, purchased by me from the said John Short during my stay at Gaspé Basin aforesaid in the month of August, Eighteen hundred and sixty-five, the whole of which will more fully appear by reference being had to the Deed of Sale for said property, which is duly Enregistered in the Registry Office of the County of Gaspé -

To transfer and make over as aforesaid unto the said John Short, his heirs and assigns, all and singular what is included in said Deed of Purchase for said property, for and in consideration of the sum of nineteen hundred dollars current money of the said Province of Canada and interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum, being the balance due the said John Short as purchase money of said property, for which said sum or any further claim of any kind whatsoever the said John Short shall renounce and divest himself of to and in favor of the said Thomas Fitnam, his heirs and assigns -

And generally to do, execute and perform any other act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever relative to the premises, as fully to all interests and purposes whatsoever as I might or could do in my own proper person in case these presents had not been made, the said Thomas Fitnam hereby ratifying and confirming, and agreeing to ratify and confirm all and whatsoever the said Charles C.Fox shall lawfully do or cause to be done in or about the premises by virtue and in execution of these presents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I, the said Thomas Fitnam have hereunto set  
 mu hand and seal at Jamestown in the Island of St.Helena with  
 and in presence of the subscribing witnesses on this twenty-sixth  
 day of February, One Thousand Eight Hundred and sixty seven

Witnesses

Thomas E.Fowler

Thomas B.Knipe

(Signed) Thomas Fitnam

U.S.Consul

and

(ex.officio Notary Public)

I, the undersigned Justice of Peace of Jamestown in the Island of  
 St.Helena do hereby certify that the above signature of Thomas  
 Fitnam, Thomas E.Fowler and Thomas B.Knipe are the genuine signatures  
 of the said parties respectively and that they were signed in my  
 presence.

Witness my hand and seal on this Twenty-sixth of February, Eighteen  
 Hundred and sixty seven.

(Signed) Thomas B.Knipe, J.P.