

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAYGASPESIAN MARRIAGES AT LÉVIS

Church records for early Gaspesians are widely dispersed because of the lack of Protestant clergy in the District of Gaspé. The following marriage records from the Registers of former Protestant Churches at Lévis, Qué. are of interest.

KEN ANNETT

GASPESIAN MARRIAGES AT LEVISFOREWORD

Previous issues of the GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY series have referred to the dispersion of records of baptism, marriage and burial of early Gaspesians. In #166, THE DE MONTMOLLIN REGISTER - 1768-1794, certain Gaspesian records from the year 1774 onwards were recalled. In #167, A GASPÉ REGISTER OF THE REV. WILLIAM ARNOLD, some forty records for Gaspé Bay families that were found in the Registers of St. Andrew's Church of New Carlisle, were documented. More recently, GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY has advised Mr. Byron Clark, Magdalen Islands Historian, that a number of Magdalen Island records exist in the Registers of the Anglican Church of Percé. The Ste-Foy genealogist, M. Guy Richard, continues to find Gaspesian records in unsuspected places. It is not surprising, therefore, to find record of a number of Gaspesian marriages in the Registers of Protestant Churches of Lévis, Qué. Such record is presented below.

"Why at Lévis ?", the modern Gaspesian reader might well inquire. While no one answer may apply to all cases, it is probably that the very different lines of transportation available to our Gaspesian ancestors was a common factor. The District of Gaspé was relatively isolated. The road system was virtually non-existent and the main link with centers on the St. Lawrence was by sea. Sturdy Gaspé-built schooners brought goods and passengers from Gaspé and Bay Chaleur to the common port of Québec-Levis. Thus the Registers of the Metropolitan Church of Québec for the years 1806-1807 record the adult baptism of William and George Annett of Gaspé Bay and of Benjamin Coffin. These men had sailed their own, home-built schooners to Québec and, not having any Church or Clergyman in Gaspé Bay, had taken the opportunity to be baptised in the faith of their fathers. As Protestant churches existed at Lévis from 1820 it is not surprising that their Registers reflect Gaspesian marriages.

FOREWORD (ctd)

Of the Protestant Churches of Lévis the Anglicans were first on the scene - their HOLY TRINITY church dating from 1820. The original, wooden church building was replaced by one of stone in 1850. The first Rector of HOLY TRINITY, Lévis, (also referred to as the AUBIGNY church) was the Rev. R.R.Burrage, Master of the Royal Grammar School of Québec. He served the Lévis congregation from 1819 to 1836.

While the remarkable development of the communities to the West of Lévis, expansion related to the land-holdings and commercial activities of the influential Caldwell family of Belmont, Québec, is beyond the scope of this FOREWORD, it was responsible for the establishment of a second Anglican Church, that of CHRIST CHURCH, New Liverpool, in 1840. The first Rector of that parish was the Rev.F.J.Lundy of Lévis.

St.Andrew's Presbyterian Church of Lévis dates from 1855 and its records reflect a period of nearly 100 years - from then until 1948. As the South Shore communities expanded another Presbyterian congregation, that of CHAUDIERE-CHARNY was formed in 1921.

The following marriages also reflect records of TRAVELLING MISSIONARIES as registered at Lévis.

JANE ADAMS
GASPÉ

MARRIED
HOLY TRINITY
LÉVIS
NOV.11th
1872

JOHN BUCHANAN
LÉVIS

PHILIP AHIER
INDIAN COVE
GASPÉ BAY

MARRIED
BY
TRAVELLING
MISSIONARY
SEPT.16th.
1826

MARIE LE MESURIER
ST.GEORGE'S COVE
GASPÉ BAY

ELIZABETH H.BILLINGSLEY

MARRIED
ST.ANDREW'S
LÉVIS

JEAN-BAPTISTE SIMON
ADVOCATE

FRED.C.B.BILLINGSLEY
QUÉBEC

MARRIED
HOLY TRINITY
LÉVIS
MAY 10th
1866

ANN LONGMUIR
LÉVIS

EMMA BISSON,
ISLAND OF JERSEY
CHANNEL ISLANDS

MARRIED
HOLY TRINITY
LÉVIS
SEPT. 13th
1886

WILLIAM LE BROCK

JULIA CAMPBELL
METIS SEIGNIORY

MARRIED
BY
TRAVELLING
MISSIONARY
JULY 22nd
1836

ARCHIBALD McCOWAN
METIS SEIGNIORY

NORMAN McLEOD CARSWELL MARRIED
MARIA, BON. CO. ST. ANDREW'S
MERCHANT LÉVIS

OCT. 8th
1873

ELISA JANE HALL

SAMUEL HARRISON
MATANE SEIGNIORY

MARRIED
BY
TRAVELLING
MISSIONARY
JULY 20th
1836

MARGARET FOURNIER
MATANE SEIGNIORY

ANN GAUTIER
MATANE SEIGNIORY

MARRIED
BY
TRAVELLING
MISSIONARY
JULY 20th
1836

ALEXANDER SCOTT

DUNCAN HAY
METIS SEIGNIORY

MARRIED
HOLY TRINITY
LÉVIS
FEB. 16th
1828

MARGARET McARTHUR

5.

JOHN DAVID HOTTON
LATE OF ISLAND OF
JERSEY

MARRIED
HOLY TRINITY
LÉVIS
SEPT.22nd
1826

MARY LUCAS
MAL BAY

CORLESTE JONTILLE
METIS SEIGNIORY

MARRIED
HOLY TRINITY
LÉVIS
JULY 27th
1836

JOHN PAGE
METIS SEIGNIORY

THOMAS LE MESURIER
ST.GEORGE'S COVE
GASPÉ BAY

MARRIED
BY
TRAVELLING
MISSIONARY
SEPT.15th
1826

ELIZABETH LENFESTY
ST.GEORGE'S COVE
GASPÉ BAY

WILLIAM LINDSAY
GROSSE ILE
MAGDALEN ISLANDS
(POLICEMAN)

MARRIED
BY
TRAVELLING
MISSIONARY
JULY 16th
1844

MARY ANN BARR
BALLYSAKEARY, CO.MAYO
IRELAND

MALCOLM McGUGAN
GRAND METIS

MARRIED
HOLY
TRINITY
LÉVIS
FEB.14th
1828

CATHERINE McMILLAN
GRAND METIS

6.

ROBERT MILBOURNE
METIS SEIGNIORY
(JOINER)

MARRIED
HOLY TRINITY
LÉVIS
FEB.17th
1828

ELISABETH SIM

MARY MUCKLE
METIS SEIGNIORY

MARRIED
BY
TRAVELLING
MISSIONARY
JULY 27th
1836

SAMUEL SMITH
METIS SEIGNIORY
FARMER

HELEN JANE O'HARA
(OF MINOR AGE)

MARRIED
HOLY TRINITY
LÉVIS
SEPT.15th
1880

GEO.B.HALL
MERCHANT

MARY ANN REDMOND
PERCE, QUE.

MARRIED
HOLY TRINITY
LÉVIS
SEPT.19
1877

PIERRE GAMACHE
ST.THOMAS
(MARINER)

HENRY PAGE
METIS SEIGNIORY
(WIDOWER)

MARRIED
HOLY TRINITY
LÉVIS
FEB.7th
1828

MARGARET PROVAUX