

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE FAMILY BACKGROUND AND THE CAREER  
OF THE REV. FELIX J. BOYLE, M.A.,

Recalling the remarkable Boyle family of the South-West Arm of Gaspé Bay and in particular the devoted career in Holy Orders of the Rev. Felix J. Boyle, M.A. 1823-1908

KEN ANNETT

THE FAMILY BACKGROUND AND CAREER OF THE REV. FELIX J. BOYLE, M.A.

FOREWORD

The visitor to the peaceful old cemetery adjacent to historic St. Paul's Anglican Church, St. Malachie, Quebec, overlooking the tranquil valley of the Etchemin River, will find there a granite gravestone with this inscription:

THE REV. FELIX J. BOYLE, M.A.

DIED NOV. 16, 1908

AGED 84 YEARS, 6 MOS.

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MARY ANN ROSS

WIFE OF FELIX J. BOYLE

1874-1941

There, far from the shores of his native Gaspé, rests a distinguished descendant of the pioneer Boyle family of the South-West Arm of Gaspé Bay. As work begins on this seventh volume of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY it is appropriate to recall something of the Boyle family background and of the career in Holy Orders of Felix of the third generation.

FAMILY  
BACKGROUND

For information on the first generations of the Boyle family in Gaspé, GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY, wishes to thank Mrs. Paulette Eden of Gaspé. Her records show that members of the Boyle family came to New England and were settled in the environs of Boston, Mass. prior to the outbreak of the American Revolution. James Boyle (c.1755 - c.1810) the first of the family to settle in Gaspé, came to Canada as an United Empire Loyalist, and with his wife, Mary Curtis and three children took up land on the South-West Arm of Gaspé Bay in 1789. It is of interest to note that the original land grant of Lot # 17 was approved by the Hon. John Collins. As Deputy Surveyor General, John Collins had been in Gaspé as early as 1765 when he had drawn up - " A PLAN OF THE BAY AND HARBOUR OF GASPAY IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC". (Ref. GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY - "FORT RAMSAY - ANOTHER GASPÉ BASIN PROPERTY".

2.

<u>FAMILY OF JAMES AND MARY CURTIS BOYLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>BIRTH</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
	JOHN	1780	S. DIED 1829.
	GEORGE	1782	S. DIED 1832
	JANE	1784	MRS.CAPT.Wm HALL
	MARY	1786	MRS.RICHARD ANNETT
	JAMES	1788	M. CHARLOTTE MCKINNON
	HELEN	1790	S.
	ELIZAH	1792	S.
	ANNABELLA	1794	MRS.ABRAHAM COFFIN
	FELIX	1797	
	ELIZA ANN	1799	MRS.JOSEPH LANGUEDOC
	ELLEN MARIA	1805	MRS.JOHN EDEN

The sons of James and Mary Curtis Boyle, together with their brother-in-law, Richard Annett were active as merchant-traders, shipowners, whalers and in maritime salvage. Their work and influence extended far beyond Gaspé Bay. Dr.David J.McDougall, Professor, Concordia University, refers to the Boyle brothers in his study of "SHIPBUILDERS, MASTER MARINERS and WHALERS OF GASPE BAY IN THE 1880's" (presented before the Maritime History Group/Atlantic Conference, Memorial University, 1978). Other references to this generation of the Boyle family of Gaspé continue to come to light and are reflected in such "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" articles as #148 - "SALVAGE BY GEORGE BOYLE" and #186 - "GASPESIANS WIN NOTABLE LEGAL CASE - ARNOLD vs BOYLE BROS." In the same series an article on the "DAVIS FAMILY OF GASPE" included an extract from an historic manuscript letter by "Aunt" Maria Languedoc Tuzo (Mrs.John Tuzo) in which she recounted how her father, Joseph Languedoc, came to Gaspé from Quebec on the whaling schooner of Felix Boyle, and met and married her mother, Eliza Ann Boyle. A very intimate glimpse of the Boyle household in 1815 is provided by the Court Record of Case #361 at Douglastown in September of that year, involving as Plaintiff, Christianna Annett, of Peninsula and James Boyle, Trader and Fisherman, of Gaspé.

BOYLE      The above generation of the Boyle family acquired extensive  
LANDS      lands in Gaspé beyond the original grant of Lot No.17. By  
1819, when the Gaspé Land Claims Commissioners sat at  
Douglastown, the following claims were made by the Boyle family:

<u>BOYLE</u>	<u>CLAIMANT</u>	<u>LOT(S)</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
<u>LANDS</u> (ctd)	Mary Boyle, Widow of the late James and her son, James	North side of the South- West Arm of Gaspé Bay- Lots 17 * 19 + 25	500
	John, George, James, Felix, Eliza, Anna- bella Boyle and Richard Annett.	On the South side of the South-West Arm. Lots 9 + 10 * 11 + 12 13 + 14 + 15	1400
	John, George, James, and Felix Boyle and Richard Annett.	On the North side of Gaspé Basin - Water Lots 19 + 20 + 21	
	John, George, James and Felix Boyle and Richard Annett	Gaspé Bay North. On the Forillon. Lot No.2 at St.George's Cove.	150
	George Boyle	At Great Fox River. Lot on North side.	100
	The husband of the late (d.1812) Mary Boyle - Richard Annett.	On the North side of the South-West Arm. Lot No.14	200
	Annabella Boyle's husband - Abraham Coffin.	On the North side of the South-West Arm. Lot No. 18	300

The above claims, while not necessarily exhaustive of the lands held within the orbit of the Boyle family, are indicative of the role and standing of members of the family in the growing Gaspé community of the early 19th century.

LINEAGE Of the sons of James and Mary Curtis Boyle this account is particularly interested in James as the father of the Rev. Felix J. Boyle. Born in 1788, James was twenty-five years of age when he married Charlotte McKinnon, daughter of Neil McKinnon, Sr., and his wife, Margaret, of New Carlisle. Their family, born over the period 1814 - 1836 comprised:

<u>LINEAGE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>BIRTH</u>	<u>NOTE</u>
(ctd)	THOMAS	1814	M. ELIZABETH VAUDIN OF JERSEY.
	JANE HALL	1815	MRS. REV. ROBERT SHORT.
	MELINDA	1816	MRS. GEORGE ASCAH (HALDIMAND)
	JAMES	1821	
	ELLEN	1822	MRS. REV. WILLIAM ARNOLD
	FELIX	1823	M.(1) JULIA LOUISA ARNOLD M.(2) MARY ANN ROSS
	CHARLIE	1826	S.
	JOHN ARTHUR	1828	M.
	ELIZA ANN	1829	
	WILLIAM	1831	S.
	MARY CHARLOTTE	1832	MRS. REV. JOHN SHORT
	LOUISA	1836	S.

"REMEMBRANCE"OF  
EDITH MILLS

With reference to the family above, the "REMEMBRANCE" of the Widow Edith Arnold Mills is a treasure-trove of family history. Mrs. Mills was the daughter of the Rev. William Arnold of "SPRING GROVE", Gaspé Basin and his second wife, Ellen Boyle. When she was ninety years of age she wrote this remarkable autobiography, "REMEMBRANCE", in Portland, Maine. In recall of her maternal Boyle grandparents, James and Charlotte McKinnon Boyle, and members of their family, Mrs. Mills wrote:

"...My mother's mother was Scotch, no doubt about that. Her name was McKinnon. I know that there is a McKinnon clan and a McKinnon tartan.

She was considered very beautiful as a girl, that must be true for she was an exceedingly handsome old lady with her wavy white hair and snapping black eyes. She was tall and very erect as long as she lived. She was 84 when she died. I have heard that she was 16 and grandfather 19 when they were married...

...My mother loved her people. She had five brothers; they were first Uncle Thomas. When in the Island of Jersey he met and fell in love with a Jersey lady, Elizabeth Vaudin. She was educated in Paris. Her father was a rich man. She did not always stay in Gaspé, but would return to Jersey for the winter, coming back to Gaspé in the Spring. Uncle Tom, I think, was not a whaler, but what

"REMEMBRANCE"OF  
EDITH MILLS

(ctd)

I remember of him was that he was beloved by all children and dogs and he seemed to me to be always going somewhere with his sled and dogs and gun. He used to carry his powder in a horn with a strap around his shoulders. He and Aunt Elizabeth used to always talk French. They were married in Jersey.

Uncle James did not go to sea but stayed on his own farm. He married a fine woman who was a widow. Uncle Charles died young. Felix was an Episcopal clergyman, a graduate of Lennoxville College, Quebec. My Uncle John came late in my life. My mother was very fond of him as she was of all her brothers. He was very handsome as were all of the Boyles...

...My mother's eldest sister married the Reverend Robert Short, a widower with one son. In after years my mother's youngest sister and that son (John) were married...

...My mother's brother, Uncle Felix...had been ordained priest of the Episcopal church. He was a fine looking fellow and all his relatives were proud of him. Julia ( Mrs.Mills' step-sister, one of the three daughters of the first marriage of the Rev. William Arnold and Maria O'Hara) later came home from school and of course they met in Gaspé with the usual result. They were also married by my father. My Uncle was appointed missionary to the Magdalen Islands.. They were twelve years on the Magdalens. They had five daughters and Julia eventually died there...

ANGLICAN BISHOP  
MOUNTAIN VISITS  
MAGDALENS -1850

From the "HEART OF GASPE" by Dr.John M.Clarke comes the following account of the impressions of the Bishop of Quebec, the Very Rev'd Dr. George Jehoshaphat Mountain, on his first visit to the Magdalen Islands in 1850 - just prior to the arrival there of the Rev'd Felix J.Boyle as pioneer missionary.

There is no better story of strenuous experiences in these islands and no such lively picture of the life there sixty and more years ago as that told by the Rev'd Dr. George Jehoshaphat Mountain, Third Lord Bishop of Quebec—the first Protestant prelate to visit them. This intrepid man was sixty-one years old when he felt it in the line of his duty to go to the Magdalens and look after the

Protestant communities on Grosse Isle and Entry whose existence had been reported to him. So in 1850 "he determined to see those few sheep in the wilderness with his own eyes" and took passage in a small brigantine bound for Halifax and whose captain undertook to put him off, on the islands. As it chanced, the skipper approached the islands in the night and knowing nothing of their coasts was about to lay to, but as a fishing schooner lay near by, the Bishop had himself and his baggage transferred to this vessel,

"an unpainted, roughly finished craft of thirty tons, abundantly redolent of cod and manned by six Acadian fishermen, as unkempt and dirty a set of beings as could well be pictured to the fancy. The wind was damp and chilly, but not relishing the idea of what was considered to be the cabin, I wrapped mine auld cloak about me and sitting down on the little hatchway remained conversing with the man at the helm. I could not help thinking, as he sat bestriding the tiller, with gleams of light thrown partially upon his figure from the mouth of the hatchway (there being a small fire and a miserable greasy, blackened lamp burning below), especially when Placide, a young lad belonging to the crew, brought him, at his command, a coal in the tongs to rekindle his pipe, which helped to discover his beard of about a week's growth;—I could not help thinking what a subject I had before me for the pencil. I felt myself, altogether, in rather a strange situation. I had come upon this occasion without a single companion or attendant, and here I was, now a grey-headed Bishop of the Church of England, having tumbled, as it were, into this rude little fishing vessel which crossed my way by chance, driving alone, in a dark night, upon the waters of the Gulf and seeking to effect a landing, where I knew not, but anywhere upon the islands, which I had never visited before, upon which I did not know a living soul, and after setting my foot upon which I should be at a loss how to proceed or what direction to take, in order to find the persons

who could put things in train for me to accomplish the objects of my visit. . . . When it approached eleven o'clock, I went below and saw, to my surprise, a rude stone chimney built into the vessel and a fire of fagots upon the hearth, which I was glad to approach. I sat before it upon a chest

occupying the little central space between a couple of berths looking most utterly repulsive. I sat up the whole night over the fire which I took care to keep in activity."

At half past four they ran inshore off Sou'west Point on Amherst Island, in a downpour of rain and nothing in sight but a black pig and two fish houses on a beach strewn with cod heads. Stowing the Bishop's baggage under an overturned flat, the sailors started off to find a horse and some sort of conveyance, for where they had come ashore was twelve miles from Amherst village and sixteen miles from Grindstone which he wished to reach. We can imagine the distinguished and devoted man on the sands of Sou'west Point as

"I took my post under my umbrella against one of the boats but presently espying a little cavity which would just fit me, sitting, in a low browed cliff of red sandstone, I proceeded to occupy it, coming out in the intervals between the showers. In an hour and a half the men returned bringing with them two or three people and a low cart of the rudest possible construction, drawn by a wretched looking little rat of a horse,\* whose harness, home made, was formed of strips of seal skin with the fur left upon it, the saddle however being worked into a sort of parchment and supported by a parcel of rags. The headstall was a piece of old rope and the reins were of the same

\* The Bishop thus had a chance, which no longer exists, to ride behind a *Magdalen island pony*. This breed of tough little beast is now practically extinct, there being to-day but one known to me and that is at Etang-du-Nord. The history of this horselet and how it got to the islands is not known now to any of the islanders, and, so far as I can find, is not a matter of record; at all events fifty years ago this "rat of a horse" was the only kind on the island and at that time had not been crossed with outside stock. There is pony blood still in many of the Acadian horses of the islands. There are good reasons for stating that the ponies were brought over from Sable Island, whose herd of horses dates back to an uncertain shipwreck of a French or Spanish vessel in the 16- or 1700's, from which a cargo of horses swam ashore and have ever since multiplied and flourished, now under government control. The Magdalen pony was in many ways unlike the Sable Island ponies one sees to-day in the Halifax markets where the government auctions off the increase of the herd every four years, but it would not be safe to say that such differences as now exist between them are not too great to have been developed in the course of a century, under the different physical conditions in Sable Island and the Magdalens.



material. Such a cart, it may be understood, had no springs, but there was a board across the middle of it for a seat. My baggage however quite filled it up. The cart was driven by a French lad."

And so the Bishop walked over the sands of Amherst Island in the early morning, umbrella spread against the pouring rain, without a house in sight, nine miles to the tidal gully, which separated him from Etang-du-Nord, and then at last to a house where he could dry his clothes and get a breakfast, "of which, having walked about nine miles after being up in the schooner all night, I was thankful to partake." And the bishop adds "with all gratitude" that he would have been much more exhausted by these exertions forty years before than he was then.

The bishop carried out his strenuous plans, reached House Harbor, there procured a boat which took him through the channel to his sheep in the wilderness of Grosse Isle of which he found about fifty, most of whom had never seen a Protestant minister or heard a religious service. The settlement, he says, "in this rude, sequestered, isolated corner," was twenty-two years old, that is, was begun in 1828, and the bishop was deeply impressed by the extreme poverty of the people.\*

The visit to Grosse Isle was followed by one to Entry Island, attended by lively experiences. Over on Entry "there was a little question about lights," for his evening service. A canvass of the island, however, produced three candles; "one was set in a candlestick, one forced into a lamp and one stuck in the neck of a bottle." The people heard him gladly and on his departure showed evidence of their better condition in life by loading the vessel bountifully with the products of their island.

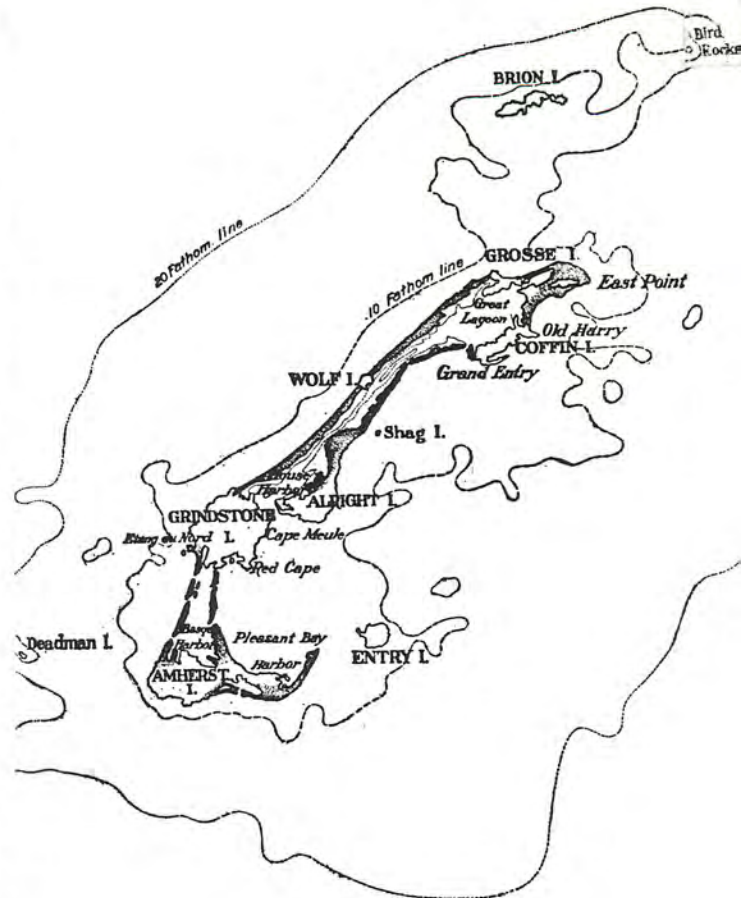
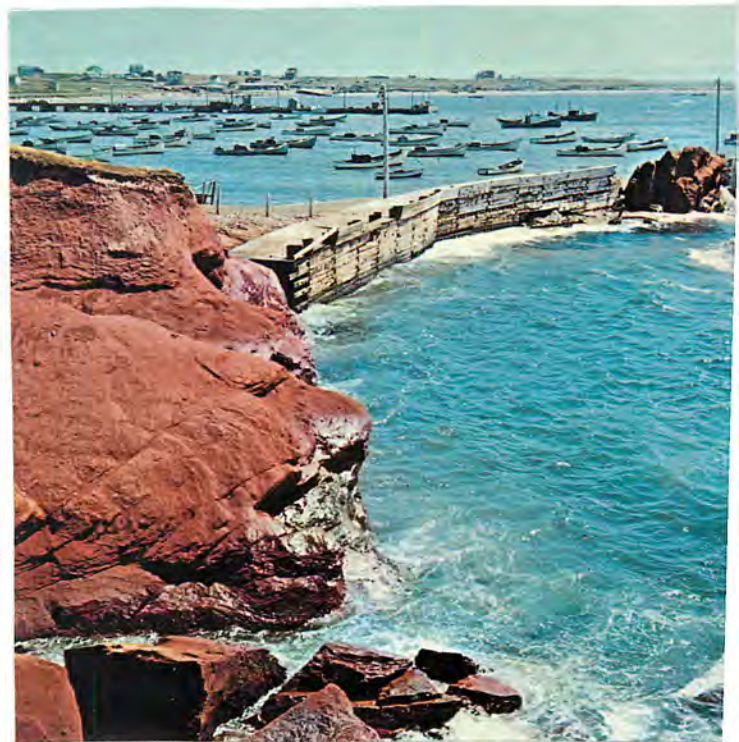


CHART OF THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS





FROM THE 125th  
ANNIVERSARY BOOK  
OF THE MAGDALEN  
ISLAND MISSION

prepared by Mr. Clark in 1975.

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY deeply appreciates the generosity of Mr. Byron Clark, the Magdalen Islands' Historian, in providing the following extract on the Rev. Felix J. Boyle from the 125th Anniversary Book of the Magdalen Islands Mission



Rev. Felix Boyle

The Rev. Felix Boyle was among the first students at Bishop's University, Lennoxville, from which he graduated with an M.A. (Honoris Causa).

Ordained deacon on June 14, 1851, the Magdalen Islands Mission became his first cure, and one which he served devotedly and faithfully for fifteen long hard years.

In 1852 he returned to Quebec for his ordination as priest which took place at Trinity Cathedral, on June 5, 1852, by the Rt. Rev. G.J. Mountain.

He married shortly before coming to the Islands Julia Louisa Arnold, daughter of the Rev. William Arnold and upon arriving they settled at House Harbour where he built the first parsonage.

This location was probably chosen for two reasons; first - because of its central location; secondly - a number of English speaking Protestants were living in this area at the time.

The Rev. and Mrs Boyle had six daughters born on the Islands, the youngest being named Julia Magdalen who was born November 15, 1863.

With great faithfulness he ministered to the spiritual needs of the people of the Islands and owing to his remarkable surgical skill was physician and surgeon to most of the inhabitants, visiting them by boat in summer which he manned himself, and by horse in winter. Sometimes he was away from home for as long as three weeks at a time due to foul weather.

He was responsible for building the first Anglican church on the Islands at Grosse Isle (North) and even though in unfinished condition, the first service was held in it, on September 11, 1853 during a visit by the Bishop of the Diocese. At this time two persons were baptized and several were Confirmed.

The churches at Amherst and Grindstone were also started during the last year of his incumbency, and quite possibly the first parsonage was built at Grindstone.

On April 21, 1864 death which was not unfamiliar to him, claimed the life of his youngest daughter Julia Magdalen at the age of six months. Ten months later, the Grim Reaper again visited the Boyle household, this time claiming his wife Julia Louisa. Both are buried somewhere on the Islands, whether at House Harbour or Grindstone we do not know, as the entries in the Register does not mention the location.

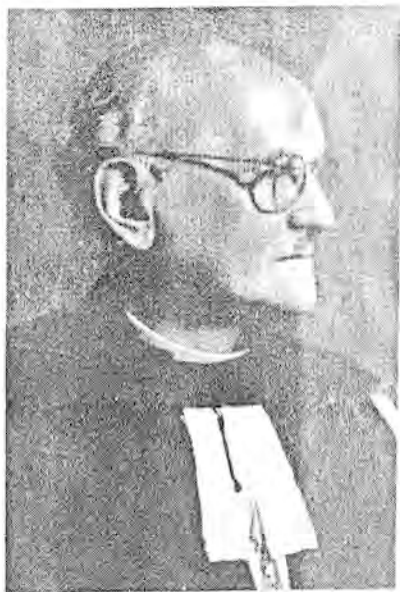
The following summer (1866) the Rev. Felix Boyle left the Islands after giving fifteen years of his life to the needs of its early settlers. He moved to Marbleton, Que., where he lived with his old colleague, Thomas Shaw Chapman for two years, later becoming curate of Frampton East (now St. Malachie) where he served for twenty-nine years until his retirement in 1898.

He was remarried after leaving the Islands to Mary Ann Ross, daughter of Robert Ross, Provincial Land Surveyor, and had four sons and three daughters by his second wife. The youngest daughter again being named after the Islands - Magdalen Olive, one of two surviving children, who is a music teacher and presently resides in Ottawa. The other surviving child is a son - Ernest, who lives in Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.

On November 16, 1908, at St. Malachie, Que., the Rev. Boyle passed peacefully to his rest, being almost 60 years in Holy Orders, and at the time of his death was the oldest clergyman in the Diocese.

His warm heart and kindly cheerful disposition had made him many, many friends during his long and fruitful ministry. Even after his retirement people still continued to seek his advice and help. They were never turned away.

The memory of his work and devotion remain today in the hearts of many Islanders who regard him as one of the founding fathers of our Anglican Church on the Magdalen Islands.



Archbishop Carrington

**TO THE PEOPLE OF THE  
MAGDALEN ISLANDS:**

I am very happy to be asked to address the Anglican congregation of the Magdalen Islands for their 125th Anniversary in July and to send my best wishes and the assurance of my remembrance and prayers on this wonderful memorial and thanksgiving!

I have the most happy remembrance of these beautiful Islands and the kindness and hospitality that I enjoyed there and often think about and thank God for.

I will be delighted to see the story of our Mission in these Islands which I understand you will publish. The Islands deserve a history.

I think of the visit from Judge Bowen who visited the Islands in 1847 and found 125 Protestants living there and created the church's interest. In 1848 he visited them again with the Rev. R. Short of Perce who conducted baptisms in Entry Island the records of which I have seen in his Register. It is with him the story begins.

In 1850 Bishop Mountain visited the Islands with Mr Arnold the famous vicar of Gaspé and began the plans for a Mission in the Islands, and in 1851 Felix Boyle arrived. He was one of the first students from Bishop's University, Lennoxville. He had married into the Arnold family, and Arnold had married into the Boyle family; for the Boyle's were Gaspésians. He worked there faithfully for twelve or thirteen years and suffered in health. He had five daughters one of whom died, and then his wife died, and he had to leave in a very broken up condition.

I wish we could know more about these Shorts and Boyles and Arnolds, to whom we owe so much, and of course the splendid laymen and lay women in the Islands who supported the church so well.

When Boyle left, Bishop Williams paid a visit and wrote for advice to the Coffins who sent John Walters. Another interesting family in the diocesan history.

We remember them, we thank God for them and bless their memories.

God bless you all as their successors.

Archbishop Philip Carrington



CHILDREN OF THE REV. FELIX BOYLE AND HIS WIFEJULIA LOUISA ARNOLD - BORN ON THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS.

Emily Maria	- born	1853	
Charlotte Kate	"	1855	
Florence May	"	1857	
Caroline Edith	"	1859	
Ada Maude	"	1861	
Julia Magdalen	"	1863	(Died 1864 - age 6 months)

BOYLE BURIED:

JULIA LOUISA, daughter of the late Rev'd.  
William Arnold, and wife of the Rev. Felix  
Boyle, died on the eighteenth day of February,  
in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight  
hundred and sixty-five, and was buried on the  
twenty-first of the same month,

by me:

John D. Tuzo.

William Johnston ( )  
John James Fox ) present  
James Cassidy ( )

The foregoing is an extract from the register  
book of baptisms, marriages and burials, for  
the Anglican Mission of the Magdalen Islands,





HOUSE HARBOUR

A VIEW OF HOUSE HARBOUR IN THE MAGDALEN  
ISLANDS AS DEPICTED BY THE GASPESIAN  
AUTHOR, THOMAS PYE, IN "CANADIAN SCENERY"  
PUBLISHED IN 1866.

FAMILY  
VISIT

In her previously mentioned account "REMEMBRANCE" Mrs.Edith Arnold Mills has also recalled with vivid memory a year long visit on the Magdalen Islands with the family of the Rev.Felix Boyle. The circumstances of that visit she explained as follows:

"...At about 14 years the question of (my) education became apparent. My mother was my first teacher...the next was my (step) sister, Julia, and after her my Aunt Elizabeth and later a French lady...

It was decided to send me to boarding school, but my mother thought it would be wise to send me first to my sister Julia (wife of the Rev.Felix Boyle) of whom I was very fond, on the Magdalen Islands, to get civilized a little before I faced the outside world. That was a great place to get civilized so I must tell you about it..."

From the Arnold home, "SPRING GROVE", in Gaspé Basin Edith Arnold went to Percé by schooner and stayed there with her mother's cousin, Mrs.Tuzo, to await the arrival of the Mail Packet- the schooner that carried the mail to the Magdalens every second week. She recalled her landfall in the Islands at Deadman's Island, her first view of Entry Island and arrival at Amherst where-"most business is done, the postoffice functions and there lived the Collector of Customs." From Amherst, where she left the Packet, she crossed Pleasant Bay by boat to the parsonage home of the Boyle family at House Harbour. At that time the Anglican Church at Grindstone had not yet been built so local services were held at the parsonage. There was a church at the larger English community of Grosse Isle and the Rev. Boyle travelled there by boat in season.

Edith recalled a visit of Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, proprietor of the Magdalen Islands from his home in London, England. She remembered him as a fine bluff old sailor with white whiskers who used to send lovely things from England to make the clergyman's family more comfortable. One such gift had been an Ayrshire cow - "a beautiful animal with wide spread horns"



FAMILY  
VISIT

(ctd)

Over the year that Edith Arnold visited with the Boyle family on the Magdalens she observed and commented on various aspects of life on the Islands. These included the speech, dress and ways of the majority French Acadian population, the predominant fishing and sealing industries, the English families of Entry Island and the unique Magdalen Islands ponies. Of the latter she wrote:

"...They had ponies peculiar to the Islands; they were small but larger than the Shetland pony. They were never shod and during the winter were in many cases not housed. They would browse or eat turnips or anything they could get. They were very hardy and their colour was gray. The larger ones were good for the saddle and everyone had two or three. My uncle gave his wife for a wedding present a saddle, a silver mounted riding whip, a habit and hat. Women did not ride astride at that time..."

What a story a full and detailed account of the fifteen years of the Rev. Felix Boyle and his family on the Magdalens would make ! The experiences of sixty seasons of Spring, Summer, Autumn and winter on those lovely but isolated Islands. Accounts of visitors received and of visits to home and families in Gaspé. Then, as Archbishop Philip Carrington has recalled above, the tragic loss of a daughter and her mother. Across the years the grief then felt is palpable and the " very broken up condition" of the Rev. Boyle, mentioned by Archbishop Carrington, understandable . But, in time, with a change of scene and new challenges, the career of the Rev. Felix Boyle would resume in devoted service. That story must await a sequel to this article of GASPE OF YESTERDAY.

A LETTER FROM THE REV. FELIX BOYLE TO THE REV. ARMINE MOUNTAIN

Parsonage House, Cape Chat  
Magdalen Islands. Aug. 20th.,  
1860

Rev. and Dear Sir,

I cannot let another opportunity pass without acknowledging the receipt and thanking you for the parcel of excellent Tracts you sent me last autumn. I received them about the first of July. So much for living out of the world. The parcel remained all winter in Percé and was forwarded this summer.

Things go on here as usual, very slowly, with our little ups and downs, which we must expect everywhere. Though I flatter myself that I can look forward to the day, which is not far distant, when the church will be pretty well established here. We raised the church frame on this Island last month. It will make a lovely church when finished.

Admiral Coffin still holds out encouraging promises i.e. he says he will order Fifty Pounds worth of boards, etc., from the Bay de Chaleur next winter, to be landed here in the spring. He further promises to send a plasterer from Pictou with material to plaster the inside of one or two of the churches. When these kind offers are fulfilled, with what little we can do ourselves, I hope I may soon take up the words of the Psalmist -

"I was glad when they said unto me, let us  
go into the house of the Lord."

The carpenter has promised me to raise the other frame which is at Amherst Harbour next month. So if you accompany the Lord Bishop the next time he visits the Islands you will see a little more done.

[... a paragraph regarding the poor health experienced by members of the family. Rev. Boyle had been out of action for two months...]

(ctd)

The week before last when on my way to Grosse Isle it came on a gale of wind. I had to run for the shore near where you and the Bishop spent that horrid night on the beach. I was out three days and two nights on the sand with scarcely anything to eat and nothing to drink but dirty, muddy bog water. I could not leave my boat for fear of losing her (it was blowing, raining and thundering so furiously) till the storm abated, then I had to walk home half-starved, in fact half-dead. It took my kind better half about a fortnight to bring me back to myself.

Mrs. B. joins me in kind regards to yourself and Mrs. Mountain.

Believe me ~~ever~~ to remain

Your Faithful, Humble Serv't

(Signed) Felix Boyle

THE CHURCH SOCIETY  
THE DIOCESE OF QUEBEC

June 20th, 1974.

BOYLE Felix (Januarine)

Deacon: June 14, 1851

Priested: June 5, 1852

1851 - Magdalens First Missionary  
1866 - at Marbleton  
1869 - Frampton (Assistant)  
1870 - Frampton East (Hemison)  
1898 - Retired  
Died Nov. 16, 1908

Christened FELIX. The JANURINE (?) was added later; after a Jersey family living in Gaspé.

He and Rev. Thomas Shaw Chapman were among the first students at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Que.

The Rev. Felix Boyle left the Magdalens in 1866 after the death of his wife and lived with Rev. Chapman at Marbleton for two years. He also married again. He had several daughters by his first wife, ten children altogether. One son went through college but was not ordained. He was much liked as a man and as a physician and surgeon.