

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

REV. JOHN SUDDARD SELLS GASPÉ PROPERTY

The first resident Protestant clergyman in the District of Gaspé disposes of property at Gaspé Basin following dismissal from his missionary post by the Lord Bishop of Quebec in 1825.

KEN ANNETT

REV. JOHN SUDDARD SELLS GASPÉ BASIN PROPERTYFOREWORD

- . Though settlement of English Protestant families on the shores of Gaspé Bay dated from the arrival in 1764 of Felix O'Hara, it would be fifty-five years before the communities about Gaspé Bay had a resident clergyman.
- . The settlement of the Loyalists in Bay Chaleur in 1784 had led to requests for resident Protestant clergy but without results. No doubt Felix O'Hara had discussed the situation in June, 1789, when he dined with Bishop Charles Inglis on board H.M.S. DIDO in Gaspé Bay. Bishop Inglis noted in his DIARY, "...There is no place of worship at Gaspee... the number of Souls there and at Pierce (sic) Island about 400 or 500 and in a state of heathenism..."
- . It was in the autumn of 1793 that the Right Reverend Jacob Mountain, the first Anglican Bishop of Quebec, reached Quebec on All Saints Day after a voyage from England of thirteen weeks.
- . In 1801 the people of Paspébiac in Chaleur Bay wrote to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in London for a clergyman. Though Bishop Mountain approved the request nothing came of it.
- . In 1807 Judge Crawford of the District of Gaspé asked that a clergyman be sent. His request was forwarded by Sewell to the Bishop who was then in England but nothing came of it.
- . In 1813 Henry Johnston of Douglstown sent to Bishop Mountain a long letter describing the industry, trade and population of the District and requesting in the most earnest terms that clergy and teachers should be sent.

FOREWORD
(ctd)

. Finally, in the Spring of 1819, while the Bishop was again in England, the Rev. John Suddard was adopted by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel and placed at the disposal of Bishop Mountain.

A native of Whitehaven, Cumberland, England, the Rev. Suddard with his wife and two of his brothers arrived at Quebec in the autumn of 1819. Suddard was the first Anglican clergyman to be stationed in the extensive District of Gaspé. He and his family took up residence at Gaspé Basin.

. Reference to the work in Gaspesia of the Rev. John Suddard occurs in a number of "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" articles including "GASPÉ VISITS OF ARCHDEACON GEORGE JEHOSHAPAT MOUNTAIN" in Volume I published in 1981

. "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" does not propose to publish the details of the "fall from grace" of the Rev. John Suddard as Missionary Priest in Gaspesia. That story is to be found in the Archives of the Diocese of Quebec. Suffice it to say that the Bishop of Quebec found it necessary to dismiss the Rev. Suddard in 1825.

. The following details of the sale of the Rev. Suddard's home and lands at Gaspé mark the end of a career that began with anticipation and high hopes in 1819.

RESUMÉ OF DEED OF SALE.

- DATE OF DEED . SEPTEMBER 4th., 1828
- VENDOR . REV. JOHN SUDDARD AND ELIZABETH, HIS WIFE.
- BUYER . THOMAS SUDDARD, YEOMAN, OF LOBSTER COVE.
- WITNESSES . CHARLES DAVIS, J.P.
BENJAMIN COFFIN
JOHN DE PATRON
- PROPERTY
#1 . "THE LOT OF LAND ON WHICH HE, THOMAS SUDDARD RESIDES, SITUATE AT LOBSTER COVE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF GASPÉ BAY, FRONTING THE NORTH-WEST BAY, ...WHICH LOT WAS FORMERLY THE RESIDENCE AND IMPROVEMENT OF ABRAHAM HADEN AND BY THE SAID JOHN SUDDARD PURCHASED FROM HIM, ABRAHAM HADEN, WHO HAD OCCUPIED IT FOR FOURTEEN YEARS WITHOUT MOLESTATION AT AND BEFORE THE YEAR ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETEEN. THE SAID LOT IS ABOUT TEN ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AND BOUNDED ON THE FRONT BY GASPÉ BAY, ON THE EAST BY LAND IN THE OCCUPATION OF JOHN ADAMS AND A LATERAL LINE RUNNING SOUTH MAGNETICALLY, ON THE WEST BY LAND OCCUPIED BY MICHAEL DORMAN AND A LINE RUNNING SOUTH MAGNETICALLY, AND IN THE REAR BY WASTE LANDS OF THE CROWN... TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS AND APPURTENANCES THERE-UNTO BELONGING..."
- SALE PRICE . THE SUM OF FIFTEEN POUNDS (£ 15) CURRENT MONEY OF THIS PROVINCE OF LOWER CANADA.
- PROPERTY
#2 . "THE LOT OF LAND ADVERTISED NO.1 OF THE LOTS AT AND ON THE PLACE COMMONLY CALLED SANDY BEACH ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF GASPÉ BAY AND NUMBERED IN THE LIST OF CLAIMS LXXI, CONTAINING TWO HUNDRED ACRES ON A FRONT OF NINETEEN CHAINS. WHICH LOT OF LAND CAME INTO THE POSSESSION OF THE SAID JOHN SUDDARD BY PURCHASE FROM WILLIAM BAKER OF SANDY BEACH, THE FIRST CLAIMANT THEREOF, TOGETHER WITH ALL BUILDINGS, PRIVILEGES AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING..."

RESUME OF DEED OF SALE

<u>PROPERTY</u> #2 (ctd)	<u>SALE</u> <u>PRICE</u>	. THE SUM OF FIFTEEN POUNDS (£ 15) CURRENT MONEY OF THIS PROVINCE OF LOWER CANADA.
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<u>DATE OF DEED</u>	. SEPTEMBER 23rd., 1828
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<u>VENDOR</u>	. REV. JOHN SUDDARD AND ELIZABETH, HIS WIFE.
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<u>BUYER</u>	. MICHAEL DORMAN, YEOMAN
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<u>WITNESSES</u>	. CHARLES DAVIS, J.P.
	. BENJAMIN COFFIN
	. JOHN DE PATRON

<u>PROPERTY</u>	. " A LOT OF LAND WHICH THE SAID JOHN SUDDARD BOUGHT OF SAMUEL MASON AND WHICH HAS NOW BEEN OCCUPIED BY THE SAID MICHAEL DORMAN SIX (6) YEARS BEFORE THE DATE OF THESE PRESENTS. BOUNDED IN FRONT BY THE SOUTH SIDE OF GASPE BAY NEAR THE ENTRANCE INTO THE HARBOUR (GASPE BASIN), ON THE EAST SIDE BY LAND CLAIMED AND OCCUPIED BY THOMAS SUDDARD AND A LATERAL LINE RUNNING SOUTH MAGNETICALLY, ON THE WEST BY LAND OCCUPIED BY JAMES DOUGLAS McCONNELL, ESQ., AND A LINE RUNNING SOUTH MAGNETICALLY, AND IN THE REAR BY WASTE LANDS OF THE CROWN. THE SAID LOT OF LAND CONTAINS ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY ACRES (180) MORE OR LESS, ON A FRONT OF SIXTEEN CHAINS, MORE OR LESS...WITH ALL BUILDINGS, PRIVILEGES AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING..."
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<u>SALE PRICE</u>	. THE SUM OF NINE POUNDS (£ 9) CURRENT MONEY OF THE PROVINCE OF LOWER CANADA.
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POSTSCRIPT

It is the hope of GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY that the Suddard family history, extending over some 170 years in Gaspé Basin, will be recorded and published.

As the foregoing resumé of Deeds of Sale reveal the Rev. John Suddard was still resident in Gaspé in 1828, some years after his dismissal from his pioneer missionary post by Bishop Mountain. It appears that he was living on Lot #5 of 200 acres which he bought in 1827 from Timothy Spruen for ten pounds (£ 10) [Reference Deed No.170 of Martin Sheppard, N.P. of August 25th.,1827.]

His neighbour on Lot #4 was J.D.McConnell, Esq. An account of McConnell will be found in "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" #113 - "FORT RAMSAY":

In passing it might be noted that Timothy Spruen, who married a daughter of Col. Henry B.Johnston of Douglstown and Point St.Peter, had acquired Lot #5 in 1820 from Robert Weir who held it by virtue of a Gaspé Land Claims Certificate.