

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE LATE SCHOONER "CAROLINE"

The PROTEST of Captain John Bryant, Master of the CAROLINE, who with his crew, abandoned the sinking schooner off the "Bird Islands" in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

KEN ANNETT

THE LATE SCHOONER "CAROLINE"

MARTIN SHEPPARD, N.P. #72 31st MAY, 1826. PROTEST

JOHN BRYANT, MASTER OF THE LATE SCHOONER "CAROLINE"

By this Public Instrument of Declaration and Protest, Be it known and made manifest unto all to whom these presents shall come or whom the same may in any wise concern -

That on this Thirty first day of May in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty six, Before the under- signed Notary Public, duly admitted and sworn for the Province of Lower Canada and residing at the place called Paspebiac in the District of Gaspé and Province aforesaid and the Witnesses herein after named, personally came, appeared and were present John Bryant, Master Mariner and late Master of the schooner or vessel called the CAROLINE of Quebec of the burthen of one hundred and one and $42/94$ Tons register measure, and William Harris, Mate and John Robertson, Seaman, of and on board the said vessel, who of their own free will and voluntary accord, in the presence of the said Notary and Witnesses, did, and by these presents do, jointly and severally, allege, affirm, declare, protest and say -

That the said vessel called the CAROLINE, being tight, staunch and strong, well and sufficiently manned, provided, equipped and furnished with all things needful and necessary for a voyage to sea and her hatches well and sufficiently caulked and covered, they, the said Appearers set sail on board the said vessel from the Port of Quebec on the seventeenth day of May, instant, loaded with a full and complete cargo of Deals and Staves on a voyage to the Port of Cork in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland.

That they, the said Appearers proceeded on with the said vessel on the said voyage without anything very particular or extraordinary occuring till the twenty fifth day of the said month of May when it came on to blow a very heavy gale from the North East (then in the Gulf of St. Lawrence) which caused their said vessel to strain and labour very considerably and to make a great deal of water. And owing to the heavy swell of the waves and the extraordinary pitching of their vessel, one of the anchors of the said vessel was

washed off from the gunwale altho' secured with the greatest care and in order to prevent the anchor from getting foul of the vessel's bottom and striking her they were obliged to cut the cable made fast thereto whereby the same was totally lost. Worked at the pumps night and day without intermission, but notwithstanding the unremitted exertions and labour of the said Appearers and the rest of the crew of the said vessel the leak still continued increasing and gaining upon them to an alarming degree; inasmuch that the crew were in momentary expectation of seeing the said vessel capsize; the pumps having become choaked and absolutely useless and unserviceable.

At daylight of the twenty sixth of the said month of May the leak had so far gained upon them that the water had risen as high as the cabin deck - tried the pumps again but without effect, they being rendered entirely useless from the cause before expressed - and their vessel being by this time water logged and unmanageable and the lives of the crew in the greatest danger of perishing by shipwreck.

At eight o'clock A.M. of the same day a vessel was perceived standing to the Westward. Made signals of distress which were obeyed and the vessel bore down to their said vessel and proved to be the Barque, PRINCE OF ORANGE, Captain Johnason, bound to New Richmond in the Bay of Chaleur. Appearers and the remainder of the crew were taken on board by the said Barque and rescued, in all likelihood from a watery grave.

The said Appearers further declaring that they remained on board of the said schooner, CAROLINE, as long as there was the least chance of saving their said vessel and cargo, and did not leave the same till obliged to do so by the peril of their situation; and that they, the said Appearers and the remainder of the crew of their said vessel arrived at New Richmond aforesaid on board of the said Barque, PRINCE OF ORANGE on Monday morning last, the twenty ninth day of the month of May, instant, without anything further particular occurring.

The said Appearers and the remainder of the crew were obliged to abandon the said vessel near the Bird Islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and in getting from their said vessel on board of the said Barque, PRINCE OF ORANGE, a fine new boat belonging to the Barque was staved and entirely lost and some of the men of the said Barque at the time in the said boat were with difficulty saved from drowning.

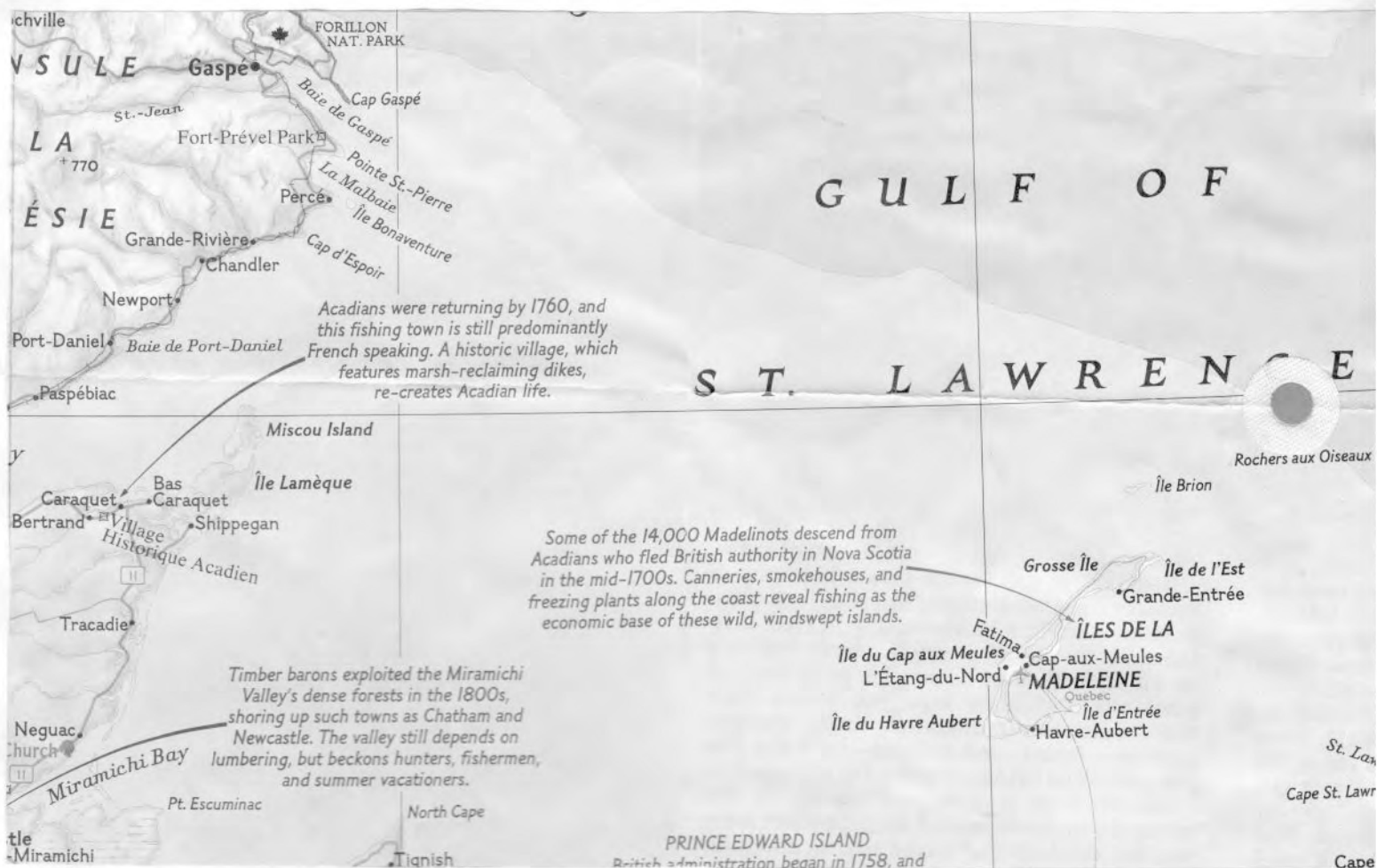
And all the said Appearers do further jointly and severally allege, affirm, declare, protest and say that all and singular the injuries, losses, damages and detriments which have happened to the said vessel and the cargo loaded on board of her; and the total loss thereof were in no way owing to or occasioned by any unseamanship, mismanagement or neglect of any of them, the said Appearers, or of any of the rest of the crew of the said schooner, CAROLINE, but solely and entirely to the causes and perils before mentioned, and that during the said time they and the remainder of the crew of the said vessel used their utmost endeavours and exertions to preserve the said vessel and her cargo from loss and damage.

Now therefore that these presents may enjoy full force and effect, I, the said Notary, did protest, and by these presents do most solemnly protest against all and every person or persons whom the same doth, shall or may in any wise concern, and do declare that all injuries, losses, damages and detriments which have happened to the said vessel and cargo and the total loss thereof, are and ought to be borne by the Merchants and Freighters interested or the underwriter or underwriters of the same or whomsoever it shall or may in any wise concern, the same having occurred as before mentioned and not by or through insufficiency of the said vessel or neglect of the said John Bryant, his Officers or any of the crew of the said vessel.

To the Truth of all which said several matters and things herein before alleged and declared they, the said Appearers, have duly and severally made Oath on the Holy Evangelists before me the said Notary and the undersigned Witnesses.

Thus Done, Protested and Sworn to at Bonaventure in the Bay of Chaleurs, District of Gaspé, at the residence of Mr. James McCracken, on the day, month, and year first above written. In Faith and Testimony Whereof the said Appearers have to these presents, first duly read and explained to them, set and subscribed, that is to say - the said John Brtant and John Robertson their names and signatures and William Harris his ordinary mark (being a Cross) in the presence of me the said Notary and Mr. James McCracken and James Waddell, Witnesses to these presents also hereunto subscribing.

(SIGNATURES) M. Sheppard, N.P.; John Bryant; John Robertson;
William X Harris; James McCracken; James Waddell.



IT WAS OFF THE "BIRD ISLANDS" (ROCHERS AUX OISEAUX) NORTH-EAST OF THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS IN THE GULF OF SAINT LAWRENCE THAT THE SINKING SCHOONER "CAROLINE" WAS ABANDONED BY CAPT. JOHN BRYANT AND HIS CREW. THE RESCUE SHIP, "PRINCE OF ORANGE", TOOK THEM TO NEW RICHMOND IN BAY CHALEURS.