

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

WRECK OF THE SCHOONER "HEMATOPE"

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Edward Renouf, Master Mariner and Captain of the schooner, HEMATOPE, with members of his crew, recount the sudden and total wreck of their vessel on Paspebiac Point in 1845.

KEN ANNETT

WRECK OF THE SCHOONER "HEMATOPE"

PREFACE

As the Captain of the Schooner HEMATOPE was Edward Renouf and the Second Mate was Nicholas Renouf some brief notes on this Jersey family, long established in Gaspesia, is in order.

That members of the Renouf family have long association with New Carlisle is evident from the 1811/1812 Register of the Rev. John Young. He was in New Carlisle and baptized Mary Ann, born 1809, and Elizabeth, born 1810, children to Nicholas Renouf of New Carlisle, Carpenter, and Sarah Mann, his wife, on October 26th, 1811.

In her book, "THE QUIET ADVENTURERS IN CANADA", Mrs. Marion Turk includes some thirty references to members of the Renouf family. From these the following, chosen at random, may be of interest:

- \* Dr. Charles Renouf of Newfoundland who recalled -  
"My great grandfather was a corsair doing business between St. Malo and the Channel Islands..."
- \* George P. Renouf who wrote - " I hired with Robin, Collas and Co. in 1896 as a carpenter at 1 pound per month for 18 months. We sailed from Jersey.. on the brigantine ROBIN, Capt. Le Ruez, and it took us 47 days to Paspebiac..."
- \* Charles Renouf was a member of the Gaspé Militia in the 1850's.
- \* Herbert Philip Renouf, born in Jersey, came to Percé as an apprentice for the ROBIN firm and served some 40 years. Buried at St. Paul's, Percé.
- \* Frank G. Renouf of St. Boniface, Manitoba - "My mother's father was Captain Le Seilleur and my father's father was Captain Renouf, both captains of sailing ships.

EXTRACT FROM A DEED OF MARTIN SHEPPARD, N.P. DATED THE TWENTY SECOND OF SEPTEMBER, 1845.

PROTEST OF EDWARD RENOUF, MASTER OF THE SCHOONER "HEMATOPE" OF JERSEY.

There came and appeared before Martin Sheppard, N.P. Edward Renouf, Master Mariner and Master of the Schooner or Vessel called the HEMATOPE of Jersey, of the burthen of eighty one tons or thereabouts, register measure, now lying sunk and wrecked on the point of the beach of Paspebiac, and John Le Blancq, Chief Mate, Nicholas Renouf, Second Mate and Philip Vincent, Carpenter and Seaman, of and on board of the said vessel.

#### TESTIMONY

That the said schooner or vessel called the HEMATOPE, being then tight, staunch and strong, and in all respects in good order and condition for sea and in every way fit and capable for her intended voyage hereinafter mentioned, and other purposes of navigation, and well, properly and sufficiently manned, victualed, watered and appareled and provided, and her hatches well, sufficiently and securely caulked and covered, they, the said appearers and the rest of the crew set sail on board the said vessel from Caraquet in the Province of New Brunswick on the day of yesterday at about six of the clock A.M. of Sunday last, the 21st day of September instant, on a voyage to the port of Cadiz in Spain, intending to call at Paspebiac for Orders, loaded with a full and complete cargo of dry codfish, consisting of sixteen hundred and eighty eight cwts...

#### OUT TO SEA

That the said vessel after leaving Caraquet, as aforesaid, proceeded on her said intended voyage with a pilot on board, whom they discharged at about the distance of six miles from the shore, and with a favorable breeze from the South South Westward, which afterwards became at times squally, the crew making and taking in sail as the weather permitted between the squalls.

Arrived off the South West Point of Paspebiac aforesaid at about noon of the said twenty-first instant (yesterday), the wind having then considerably increased and veered round to the North Westward with squalls and the vessel under close reefed topsail and reefed mainsail, foresail and jib, when the wind suddenly shifting from the South West to the North Westward, with dark clouds and squally weather, upset their said vessel in about three fathoms of water on the point of the beach of Paspebiac aforesaid. She immediately filled and sank with her masts in the water in about one quarter of an hour after upsetting. The upsetting and sinking of the said vessel was so sudden and unexpected that the crew saved themselves therefrom with great difficulty, in a boat hanging astern of the vessel and providentially unhooked from the davits, leaving their clothes and all they had on board, which, with the ship's papers, register, log book and other documents are irrevocably lost.

#### VAIN ATTEMPTS TO HELP

When the perilous situation of the said vessel was perceived from the shore a number of boats were sent and came to their assistance but failed in nearing the wreck owing to the tempestuous state of the weather and the heavy sea which beat on the vessel with the utmost violence.

#### SALVAGE ATTEMPTS

In the afternoon of the same day (yesterday) the weather having moderated some, succeeded in stripping the topmasts and saving and landing parts of the sails, topmasts and yards, but could not save any part of the cargo or anything in the hold or belonging to the crew of the said vessel, the same lying sunk and useless without the slightest prospect of ever being saved. The tide having risen with the approach of night compelled all to leave the wreck, the vessel lying sunk on her side with only the tops of her masts appearing out of the water, with the sea making a clear breach and flowing over her, and in such a dangerous situation as to preclude the possibility of raising the said vessel or of saving any part of her cargo as therein laden.



SIGNATURES TO DEED OF PROTEST

(WITNESSES)

George Jenne

Felix Briard

Edward Renouf

John Le Blancq

Nicholas Renouf

Philip Vincent

M. Sheppard, N.P.

