

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

ABANDONMENT OF

\*\*\*\*\*

THE BRIGANTINE "BELLEROPHEN"

\*\*\*\*\*

Captain John Vibert abandons  
his Brigantine and Cargo from  
Cape Cove following shipwreck  
at Green Point, Bay Chaleur,  
in November, 1831.

KEN ANNETT

PREAMBLE

As Captain John Vibert, Master Mariner, is at the center of this issue of "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY", it is relevant to recall that interesting information on the well-known Vibert families can be found in the book, "THE QUIET ADVENTURERS IN CANADA", by Marion G. Turk (Harlo Press, Detroit, USA. 1979) and in George F. Le Feuvre's book, "JERRI JADIS", published by the Don Balleine Trust, Jersey, Channel Islands in 1973. Many individuals, including several Gaspesians, contributed Vibert family data to Mrs. Turk's book. In addition to genealogical records on pages 532 to 542 inclusive, there is reference in Chapter 3 to the "JOURNAL" of Captain John Arthur Vibert held by the Canadian Archives in Ottawa. This "JOURNAL" recounts the voyages of Capt. Vibert on the Atlantic, to the Mediterranean, to Denmark, to the United States and to many ports of the West Indies and South America in the years from about 1845 and on.

Some ten pages of "THE QUIET ADVENTURERS" are devoted to the genealogical descent of various Vibert families, beginning with that of Peter (Pierre) Vibert, born 1795 in Jersey and removed to Gaspesia's Corner-of-the-Beach about 1830. Other early members of the family included are Jean (John) Vibert, father of the Capt. John Vibert mentioned above; Philip Vibert, Sheriff of Gaspé; Philippe James Vibert of Cape Cove, Agent of the Charles Robin Co.; James Vibert who removed to Miscou Island at the entrance of Bay Chaleur. One of the oldest Vibert references is to Syvret Vibert who arrived in Gaspé from his native Jersey in 1777.

In "JERRI JADIS", George F. LeFeuvre, writing in "jèrriais", comments: "...Y'a des Vibèrts à Malbaie, d'scendants d'Jèrriais, tchi sont les pilièrs dé l'églyise à ch't heu. Ch'est seux tchi sont d'la fanmille Vibèrt des Palliéthes à St. Ouen, car i'lus r'sembl'yent comme deux d'goûts dg'ieau : Il' ont fait du bien à l'églyise toute lus vie..."

DECEMBER  
1831

On December 1st., 1831, an interesting group of men gathered in the New Carlisle office of Martin Sheppard, Notary Public. Present were Captain John Vibert, Master Mariner and late Master of the brigantine BELLEROPHEN of Jersey, Thomas Savage, Merchant, of Cape Cove, Francis Mauger, Merchant of Malbay and Philip Le Gallais, Ship Carpenter of Paspébiac. One could well imagine that preliminary greetings and conversation centered on the common homeland of these men - the distant Channel Islands of Jersey and Guernsey. But the occasion was more than a social one as they turned to consider the circumstances related by Captain Vibert and incorporated in the following DEED OF ABANDONMENT drawn up by Martin Sheppard, N.P.

DEED OF ABANDONMENT

1st December, 1831

John Vibert,  
late Master of  
the late brig-  
antine BELLEROPHEN  
of Jersey

to  
The underwriters  
of the said  
vessel.

By this Public Instrument of Declaration and Protest Be It Known that on the First Day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty one, Before me, the undersigned Martin Sheppard, Notary Public by Royal Authority duly admitted and sworn for the Province of Lower Canada, residing at New Carlisle in the County of Bonaventure in the District of Gaspé in the said Province, and in the presence of the Witnesses hereinafter named and hereunto subscribing, personally came and appeared and was present John Vibert, Master Mariner and late Master and sole owner of that Brigantine, Schooner brig or vessel called the BELLEROPHEN of Jersey of the burthen of Eighty five tons and fifty seven ninety fourth parts of a Ton, registered measure, Who did declare that the said vessel called the BELLEROPHEN, being tight, staunch and strong and in all good order, properly provided for, this Appearer, on the thirteenth day of November now last past proceeded in his said vessel from the Port of Gaspé Basin to the place called Cape De espoir in this District of Gaspé in order to complete the Cargo to be loaded on board of his said vessel thereat, when the said vessel was constrained to get under way from Cape

3.

Despair owing to a sudden squall and gale of wind from the Northeastward and a heavy sea which drove the said vessel very near the shore and obliged the said vessel to run from her anchorage at Cape Despair at about eight of the clock in the forenoon as of Monday the twenty first day of the month of November now last past whilst he, the said Appearer, was on shore preparing to load the portion of the Cargo to be loaded on board of the said vessel at Cape Despair aforesaid and which was required in order to load onboard of the said vessel a full and complete Cargo of dry and cured Codfish and Cod Oil in order to enable the said vessel to perform her then intended voyage to the Port of Cork in that part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain called Ireland and from the said Port of Cork to the Port of Saint Hélier in the Island of Jersey in the British Channel.

WRECKED That afterwards, to wit, on the twenty third day of the  
and said month of November now last past, by violent and  
LOST tempestuous weather and in a heavy snowstorm the said  
 Appearer's vessel was wrecked and lost, with the Cargo therein laden, on the coast of the place known and distinguished under the name of Green Point on the South side of the Bay des Chaleurs in the Province of New Brunswick, but that nevertheless by dint of indefatigable exertion of that person in charge of the said vessel and the ship's crew, a considerable quantity of the tackle, apparel and sails belonging to the said vessel was saved and placed in safe custody and which the said Appearer is ready and willing to ...unto whom it may appertain whenever he shall be called upon to do so, as appears more particularly by the Protest of him, the said Appearer, in that behalf made on the thirtieth day of the month of November then instant and now last past, passed before me, the said Notary, in the presence of Thomas Savage and Francis Mauger, Merchants, being both at the time of the Execution of the said Protest at New Carlisle aforesaid and witnesses to the due Execution of the said Protest and thereunto severally subscribing.

And he, the said Appearer, therefore requested of me, the said Notary, to declare and make known to all whom it shall or may concern that he, the said Appearer did and by these presents doth abandon, cede and leave unto the Underwriters on and upon the said vessel

all and every the rights, title, estate, property, profit, interests, claims and demands whatsoever of him this said appearer of and in the said Brigantine or vessel called the BELLEROPHEN, her tackle, apparel and appurtances and the Cargo loaded on board of the said vessel as aforesaid, and every part thereof, to and for the use, property, behoof and disposal of the Underwriters on and upon the said vessel, tackle, apparel and appurtenances and the Cargo on board of the said vessel, or others whom it may concern.

Whereupon I, the said Notary, at the instance and request and in the name of him, the said John Vibert, do hereby declare and make known to the Underwriters on and upon the said Brigantine or Schooner Brig called the BELLEROPHEN and the Cargo therein laden, and all others whom the same shall or may in any wise concern, and each and every of them, that he, the said John Vibert doth hereby abandon, cede, and leave to them, the said Underwriters on and upon the said vessel as therein laden, or others to whom it may concern, all the right, title, estate, property, claim, demand and produce of him, the said John Vibert, of and in the aforesaid ship or vessel called the BELLEROPHEN. all and every her tackle, apparel, furniture and appurtenances, and every produce thereof, and that he, the said Appearer doth claim reimbursement of the sum of SIX HUNDRED POUNDS STERLING MONEY OF GREAT BRITAIN as a total loss on his said vessel and her Cargo as aforesaid, he this said Appearer hereby declaring to be willing and ready to give, sign, seal and execute all and every such Act, Power or Deed under his hand and seal (as the case may require) and to and for the better enabling the said Underwriters on and upon the said vessel and the Cargo therein laden, or others whom it may concern, and each and every of them, to recover, possess, have, take and enjoy from whomsoever it may concern, all and whatsoever shall or may have been salvaged of the said shuo or vessel called the BELLEROPHEN, her Cargo, tackle, apparel, rigging and appurtenances whatsoever, or any part thereof, at Green Point, New Brunswick, as aforesaid.

Wherefore Act having been requested of me, the said Notary, I have granted these presents under my Seal of Office, to serve and avail, as occasion may require. THUS DONE AND PASSED at New Carlisle in the County of Bonaventure, in the District and Province aforesaid (where no stamps are required) at the Office of the undersigned Notary on the day and in the month and year herein first above written.

IN FAITH AND TESTIMONY WHEREOF the said John Vibert hath to these presents, first duly read, set and subscribed his name and signature and affixed his seal in the presence of Thomas Savage of Cape Cove and Francis Mauger of Malbay, both in this said District, Merchants, and Philip Le Gallais of Paspébiac, also in this said District, Ship Carpenter, being all at present in New Carlisle aforesaid, wherefore to the due execution of these presents, and in the presence of and with me, the said Notary, also herein to severally subscribing.

(SIGNATURES) John Vibert  
 Thomas Savage  
 Francis Mauger  
 Philip Le Gallais  
 Martin Shappard, N.P.

