

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

RECORDS OF BISHOP MOUNTAIN

FOR

THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS

1850

KEN ANNETT

BISHOP MOUNTAIN'S RECORDINTRODUCTION

One of the interesting aspects of searching the early church registers of Gaspesia is the unexpected record that turns up from time to time. This is the case for the Cape Cove-Percé church register for the 1850's where the resident minister's entries for baptism, marriage and burial of local folk is interrupted by a number of pages of records in the handwriting of the Right Reverend George Jehoshaphat Mountain, Bishop of Montreal - later, the third Anglican Bishop of Quebec. Bishop Mountain had visited the Magdalen Islands in the summer of 1850 and chose to record the baptisms he had performed there in the Cape-Cove-Percé register on his return voyage from the Islands.

A previous article in this "GASPE OF YESTERDAY" series (#134) recalled the superb account of Dr. John Mason Clarke of THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS. It is appropriate to recall here some highlights of that account relating to the 1850 visit of Bishop Mountain to the Islands. From his base in Quebec City Bishop Mountain had taken passage in a small brigantine bound for Halifax and on nearing the Magdalen Islands had transferred to a 30 ton fishing boat manned by Islanders of Acadian descent. He was put ashore on the beach of Amherst Island some twelve miles from Amherst village and sixteen miles from his destination at Grindstone. He waited in pouring rain until a rude cart drawn by a Magdalen Island pony arrived to transport his luggage. He walked beside the cart some nine miles through the pelting rain-storm before reaching a house where he could dry his clothes and get breakfast.

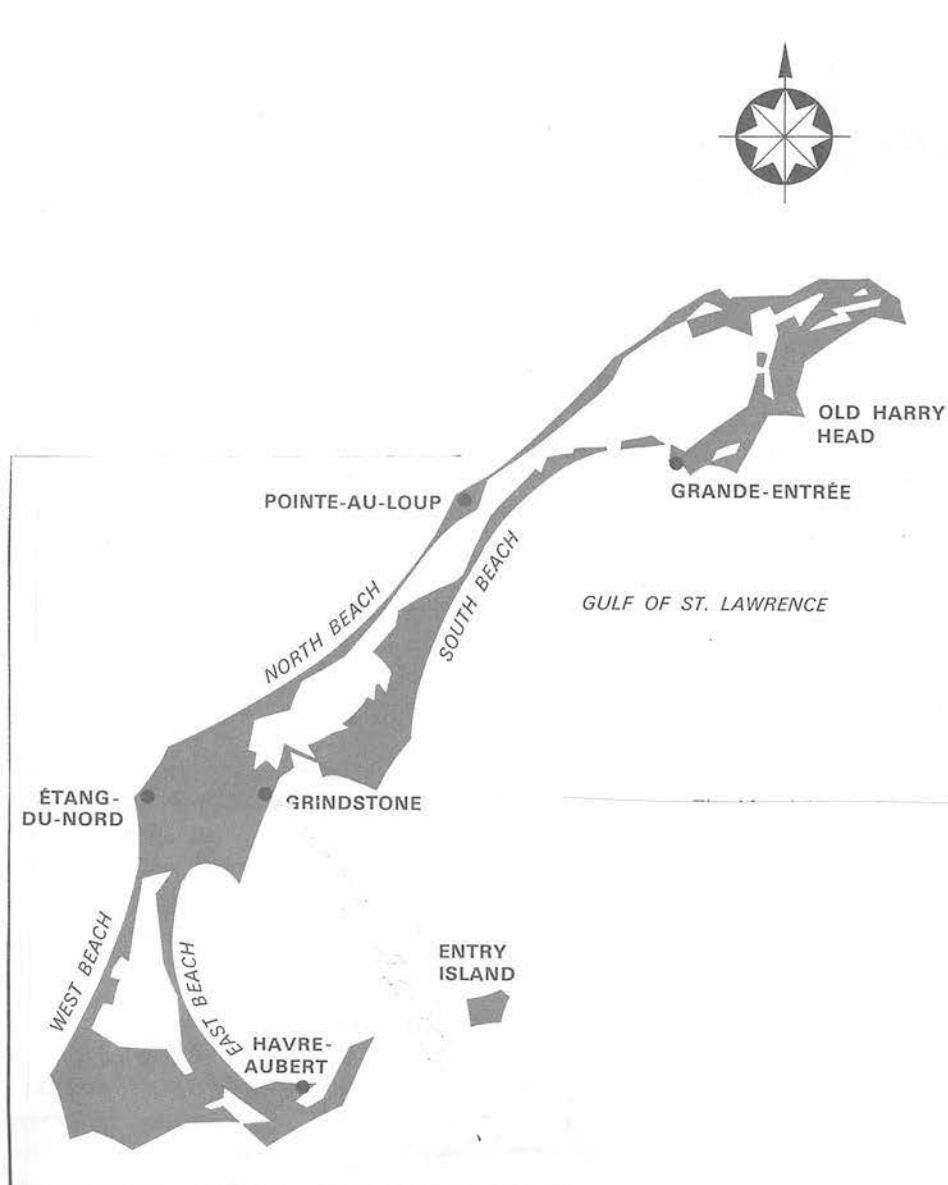
From House Harbour he went by boat to Grosse Isle where he found some fifty souls - "most of whom had never seen a Protestant minister or heard a religious service...". He noted in his JOURNAL that the Grosse Isle settlement dated from 1828.

From Grosse Isle he travelled to Entry Island where he held an evening service by the light of three candles that had been produced by a canvas of the local homes.

INTRODUCTION

(ctd)

The handwriting of Bishop Mountain, somewhat difficult to read at the best of times, has not been made any easier to read by the passage of 140 years since he wrote up the register and by the transfer of the original text to film by the Quebec Archives. Despite an honest attempt to identify the names involved those readers familiar with the families of the Magdalen Islands may spot obvious errors. In such case, notice of correction will be appreciated.



BISHOP MOUNTAIN'S RECORD OF BAPTISMS ON THE MAGDALEN ISLANDS,
DURING HIS VISIT OF 1850, FROM THE CAPE COVE-PERCE CHURCH REGISTER.

- AIKEN William, son of James Aiken of House Harbour in the
BAPT. Magdalen Islands, Shipwright, and of Sarah his wife
(by her maiden name, Burke) was born February 18 in
the year of our Lord 1849 and baptised July 7th in
the year following.
- CLARKE Nelson, son of (Harvey ?) Clarke of Grosse Isle in
BAPT. the Magdalen Islands, farmer and fisherman, and of
Catherine his wife (by her maiden name, McPhail) was
born October 13, 1849 and baptised July 9th in the
year following.
Godparents- Dan'l McLean; Alfred Rankin; (Lou ?) Rankin.
- RANKIN Alfred, son of Alfred Rankin of Grosse Isle in the
BAPT. Magdalen Islands, farmer and fisherman, and of (Lou ?)
his wife (by her maiden name, Keaton) was born October
26, 1849 and baptised July 9, 1850.
- CLARKE Hugh, son of (Henry ?) Clarke of Grosse Isle in the
BAPT. Magdalen Islands and of Flora his wife (by her maiden
name, Driscoll) was born August 29, 1849 and baptised
July 9, 1850.
Godparents: Nancy Driscoll; Isaac (...?..)
- CLARKE James, son of William Clarke of Grosse Isle in the
BAPT. Magdalen Islands, farmer and fisherman, and of Caroline
his wife (by her maiden name, Goodwin) was born June
26, 1843 and baptised July 9, 1850.
Godparents: Jane McPhail; Isaac B..?..
- CLARKE Margaret, daughter of William Clarke of Grosse Isle in
BAPT. the Magdalen Islands, farmer and fisherman, and of
Caroline his wife (by her maiden name, Goodwin) was born
June 28, 1845 and baptised July 9, 1850.
Godparents: Dan'l McLean; Hannah McLean.

CLARKE
BAPT.

Nancy, daughter of William Clarke of Grosse Isle in the Magdalen Islands, farmer and fisherman, and of Caroline his wife (by her maiden name, Goodwin) was born September 19, 1847 and baptised July 9, 1850.

Godparents: Elizabeth Goodwin; Jos. Burke.

CLARKE
BAPT.

Mary, daughter of William Clarke of Grosse Isle in the Magdalen Islands, farmer and fisherman, and of Caroline his wife (by her maiden name Goodwin) was born November 5, 1849 and baptised July 9, 1850.

Godparents: Maria Clarke; Jas Clarke.

MUNCEY
BAPT.

Townsend Coffin, son of John Francis Muncey, Esq., of House Harbour in the Magdalen Islands, Justice of the Peace, and of Anne his wife (by her maiden name, Madden) was born January 2, 1848 and baptised July 9, 1850.

Godparent: (Mathilda ?) Muncey; Jn Mas..?.

TURNBULL
BAPT.

Nancy, daughter of Peter Turnbull of Entry Island in the Magdalen Islands and of Eleanor his wife (by her maiden name, McLean) was born March 29 and baptised July 11, 1850.

Godparents: Jno Muncey; Catherine McLean.

McLEAN
BAPT.

William, son of John McLean of Entry Island in the Magdalen Islands and Margaret his wife (by her maiden name, Turnbull) was born July 14, 1849 and baptised July 11, 1850.

Godparents: Jno. Muncey; Abigail P. Brown.

PATTON
BAPT.

Henry, son of John Patton of Entry Island in the Magdalen Islands and of Eva his wife (by her maiden name, McLean) was born November 20, 1849 and baptised July 11, 1850.

Godmother: Jane Dickson.

WELSH
BAPT.

John Patton, son of James Welsh of Entry Island in the Magdalen Islands and of Eleanor his wife (unable to read her maiden name) was born April 10 and baptised July 11, 1850.

Godparents: John Patton; Anna N. Sargent

HAYNES
alias
McLEAN
BAPT.

Margaret Jane, daughter of Sarah Haynes (?) of Entry Island in the Magdalen Islands, Spinster, (and, according to the Oath of Sarah Haynes, of Samuel McLean of the same Island, now absent from the Province) was born June 15 and baptised July 11, 1850.

TURNBULL
BAPT.

Charles Edwin, son of Joseph Turnbull of Entry Island in the Magdalen Islands and of Deborah his wife (by her maiden name, Caldwell) was born January 14 and baptised July 11, 1850.

Godparents: John McLean; Joanna McLean.

CASSIDY
BAPT.

George Richard, son of James Cassidy of Entry Island in the Magdalen Islands and of Mary his wife, was born March 13, 1849 and baptised July 11, 1850.

Godparents: John Muncey; Benjamin Turnbull; Jane Dickson.



Magdalens