

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

INVENTORY

In September, 1826, an Inventory was made of the effects of the late William Le Maistre at the Winter Dwelling of the Charles Robin Company, Paspébiac.

KEN ANNETT

INVENTORY

PREAMBLE

On June 24th.,1826 William Le Maistre, Grand Voyer for the District of Gaspé, died at his Paspébiac residence in the Winter Dwelling House of the Charles Robin Company. His remains were laid to rest in the nearby Anglican cemetery of St.Peter's. James Day of Cox Township was named as Curator of the estate of William Le Maistre and on September 29th.,1826, before Martin Sheppard, Notary Public, proceeded to inventory the effects. This formal Inventory, which follows, is a fascinating document of much historical and social interest. Its details provide us with a unique and sweeping view of life for one Gaspesian home those one hundred and sixty five years ago.

BACKGROUND

William, son of Francois Le Maistre, Ecurier, King's Advocate General of Jersey and his wife, Elizabeth Theodore, was baptised on November 12th.,1750 in St.Helier Parish Church of Jersey. His God-parents were the Hon. William Dean, Lieutenant-Governor of Jersey, Philip Lemprière, Esquire, His Majesty's Receiver for Jersey and Mrs. Anne Lemprière, the wife of Thomas Pipon, Esquire. William had an older brother, Francois / Francis (1743-1805) whose distinguished career has been recalled in "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" article No.14, published by SPEC on November 15, 1979.

THE CURATOR

Defined as one that has the care and superintendence of something, the choice of James Day as Curator of the estate was particularly appropriate in terms of his reputation. As a young shipwright he had come out to the Charles Robin Company's Paspébiac base in 1791 and had become the master builder of a veritable fleet of fine ships. References to his career and to the ships he built is to be found in David Lee's book, "THE ROBINS IN GASPÉ-1766-1825". James Day lived until 1833 and it is of interest to note that it was Martin Sheppard, N.P. that was responsible for an "INVENTORY OF THE PROPERTY AND EFFECTS OF THE LATE JAMES DAY" in June of that year.

THE APPRAISER

This Inventory, an extra-curricular activity for William Fruing, executive of the Charles Robin Company, testifies to ability and attention that had led to his rise in the Company's employ. He had come from his native Jersey to Gaspesia as a Company clerk but like John Le Boutillier he acquired the expertise and reputation to found his own company in due time. On a personal note, my maternal grandfather, Charles Brien, was a manager for the William Fruing Company and a visitor to the various fishing stations of the firm.

THE NOTARY PUBLIC

The "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" article, "INTRODUCING MARTIN SHEPPARD", published by SPEC in the issue of July 30, 1985, recalled the career of this notable Gaspesian of Channel Island (Guernsey) descent. Few, if any, of the men of his time were as widely and well known from Cape Gaspé to the Restigouche as Martin Sheppard. His records are a veritable treasure store of information on the Gaspesia of his time.

THE WITNESSES

Philippe Hamon and John McKenzie, both of Jersey origin, were employees of the Charles Robin Company at Paspébiac.

INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE WILLIAM LE MAISTRE

On the 29th day of September in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty six at the hour of half past ten of the clock in the forenoon, at the request of James Day, Esquire, of the Township of Cox, near Paspebiac, Curator duly elected and appointed in Law to the Estate of the late William Le Maistre, Esquire, in his lifetime of Paspebiac in the District of Gaspé and Province of Lower Canada, Grand Voyer in and for the said District, on the advice of the friends of the said late William Le Maistre taken before the Honorable Alexis Caron, Judge of His Majesty's Provincial Court in and for the said District, in the presence of the said James Day, Curator, as aforesaid, in order to secure and preserve the rights of all parties interested, is going to to proceeded by me, the undersigned Martin Sheppard, Notary Public, duly admitted and sworn for the Province of Lower Canada, residing at Paspebiac aforesaid, assisted by and in the presence of the Witnesses hereinafter named, to the Inventory and exact description of all and singular the moveable property, household furniture, ready money, books, titles, papers, memorandums (sic) and other effects and things belonging, or in anywise appertaining to the said Estate; all of which were found in the Dwelling House formerly occupied as a residence by the said William Le Maistre during his lifetime and being in the Winter Dwelling House of and belonging to Messieurs Charles Robin and Company at Paspebiac aforesaid, where the said William Le Maistre departed this life on the twenty-fourth day of June now last past; the whole according to representation which shall be made of the effects and things of the said Estate by the said James Day, guardian of the same, and who hath sworn on the Holy Evangelists faithfully to represent the same under the pains prescribed by Law, which were duly explained unto him, and that he hath not made away with or detained or caused any person or persons to make away with or detain any of the said effects and things; all which articles, effects and things were valued and appraised by William Fruing, Esquire, of Paspebiac, duly chosen to value and appraise the same in default of a "HUSSIER PRISEUR" (there being none in this part of the Province) who was duly sworn to value and appraise the same to the best of his ability and according to the present value thereof.

This Done and Passed at Paspébiac at the Winter Dwelling House of the said Charles Robin and Company on the day and year first above written. In Faith and Testimony Whereof the said James Day, Curator as aforesaid, and the said William Fruing have to these presents, first duly read, set and subscribed their respective names and signatures in the presence of Philippe Hamon and John McKenzie, Witnesses called for the express purposes of these presents, and of me, the said Notary, also hereunto subscribing.

(SIGNATURES)

Philippe Hamon
John McKenzie

Witnesses

James Day
William Fruing
M. Sheppard, N.P.

INVENTORYIN A LARGE TRUNK-NO.1

- Item: Thirty six (36) napkins of a good quality valued and appraised at the sum of one shilling three pence each.
- Item: Twelve (12) napkins and twelve (12) of an inferior quality valued and appraised at six pence each.
- Item: Eight (8) table cloths appraised at six shillings each and four (4) ditto of a superior quality appraised at eight shillings.
- Item: Three (3) table cloths of inferior quality appraised at three shillings six pence each.
- Item: Four (4) other table cloths of an inferior quality appraised at three shillings and six pence each.
- Item: Eighteen (18) sheets appraised at the sum of £ 4 s.10 for the whole.
- Item: Five (5) pillow cases appraised at four shillings and five bolster cases appraised at nine shillings.
- Item: Two (2) small dressing table cloths appraised at three shillings.
- Item: Three (3) table cloths appraised at six shillings each and three (3) pillow cases and one (1) sheet of inferior quality appraised at four shillings.

5.

- Item: Five (5) linen shirts appraised at twelve shillings each shirt and eight (8) cotton and inferior ditto appraised at six shillings each shirt forming altogether the sum of L 5 s 8.
- Item: Eight (8) neckcloths appraised at one shilling each, nine good silk pocket handkerchiefs appraised at two shillings each and one cotton ditto appraised at 1s 3p.
- Item: Six (6) good cotton night caps appraised at one shilling three pence each cap, one red woollen cap and one ditto comforter appraised at four shillings for the two, forming altogether 11 s 6p
- Item: One slip cotton cambric appraised at four shillings.
- Item: Two yards and one half yard fine linen appraised at six shillings and three pence and one yard and one quarter yard ditto appraised at one shilling three pence per yard, forming altogether the sum of 7 s 10 p.
- Item: Six yards and one half yard white cambric appraised at five shillings per yard.
- Item: One yard stout striped cotton appraised at two shillings and twelve yards fine white flannel appraised at three shillings per yard, forming altogether the sum of 38 s.

IN OTHER LARGE TRUNK (NO. 2)

- Item: One blue, two black cloth coats and one bottle colour surtout coat appraised altogether at the sum of L 11 10s.
- Item: One pair blue cloth pantaloons new and one new buff waist-coat appraised altogether at the sum of fifty shillings.
- Item: Two pairs nankeen pantaloons appraised at sixteen shillings and six pence for the two, one pair black cloth ditto at twelve shillings and six pence forming altogether the sum of L 1 9s.
- Item: Two other pairs nankeen pantaloons and one nankeen coat, ripped and cut, appraised at the sum of 25 s.

- Item: One new black cloth waistcoat appraised at eighteen shillings.
- Item: Eight waistcoats or vests of different patterns appraised at sixty eight shillings for the whole.
- Item: Two pairs serge Drawers appraised at ten shillings for the two pairs.
- Item: Six pairs of new woollen stockings appraised at five shillings per pair, four pairs of old woollen ditto appraised at five shillings for the four pairs, forming altogether the sum of thirty five shillings.
- Item: Four pairs of silk hose appraised at three shillings and six pence.
- Item: Eleven pairs cotton hose appraised at eleven shillings for the whole and four pairs flannel short hose appraised at two shillings for the whole, forming altogether thirteen shillings for the whole.
- Item: Four old wigs at five shillings each and two new ditto at twenty shillings for the two, forming altogether the sum of forty shillings.
- Item: One old camelot cloak appraised at fifteen shillings.
- Item: Two swords appraised at three pounds for the two, one pair pocket pistols and one horse pistol appraised at two pounds ten shillings for the three, forming altogether the sum of five pounds ten shillings.
- Item: Two spy glasses appraised at forty shillings for the two.
- Item: One silk umberella and cover appraised at twenty shillings.
- Item: One pair leather gloves and one clothes brush appraised at the sum of three shillings and six pence for the whole.
- Item: One fur cap appraised at twenty fice shillings.
- Item: Four parcels containing about three pounds and three quarters of a pound of snuff appraised at eighteen pence per pound, forming five shillings and seven pence.

7.

- Item: One shaving case and one dressing case appraised at fifty shillings for the two.
- Item: One small common mahogany case appraised at seven shillings and six pence.
- Item: One shot belt, one hone and one strap appraised at three shillings for the whole.

IN ANOTHER TRUNK (No.3)

containing Money, Plate, Trinkets etc.

- Item: The sum of Ninety six pounds, six shillings and ten pence, transferred to Messrs Charles Robin and Company of Paspebiac, an account of which they oblige themselves to render and to pay the same when called upon to so to do.
- Item: One small box containing two gold, thirty nine silver and one copper pieces of old coins, one gold chain in three ends, one thereof about two inches long transferred to Mr. William Fruing and which he obliges himself to deliver to Mr. Thomas Lemprière on his arrival in Jersey, and also one large gold ring and one gold buckle, one pair gold sleeve buttons, one smelling bottle, one seal and the the silver snuff box formerly belonging to the late William LeMaistre which were also left in the charge of the said William Fruing to deliver as above said Memorandum.
- Item: Three sauce boats, two mugs, one tankard with two handles, two salt cellars, one tea pot, six forks, seventeen table spoons, eighteen tea spoons, one ditto larger cream spoon, one sugar spoon with holes, two salt spoons, one nutmeg grater, one punch ladle, two pairs -?-, one cream stand, two pairs sugar tongs, all silver, one -?- case weighing about nine pounds and appraised altogether at the sum of Twenty eight pounds.
- Item: Two pinchback watches, one old and the other new and one silver watch appraised altogether at the sum of Ten pounds for the whole.

AMOUNTING TO THE SUM OF TWO HUNDRED POUNDS, TWO SHILLINGS AND FOUR PENCE CURRENT MONEY OF THE SAID PROVINCE.

And it being half past six of the clock of the afternoon we have postponed the continuation of the present Inventory till tomorrow morning at nine of the clock, all the said articles, effects and things herein enumerated having been left in the charge and care of the said James Day, Curator, aforesaid.

Thus Done and Passed as aforesaid on the day and year first above written. IN FAITH AND TESTIMONY WHEREOF the said parties before named have to these presents, first duly read, set and subscribed their names and signatures in the presence of the said Notary and Witnesses, also hereunto subscribing.

(Witnesses) Philippe Hamon
John McKenzie

(Signatures) James Day
William Fruing
M. Sheppard, N.P.

And on the thirtieth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty six at the hour of nine of the clock in the forenoon, at the request and in the presence of the aforesaid James Day, Curator, was again by me, the said above and under-signed Notary, proceeded to the continuation of the said Inventory until the close thereof, in the presence of the above named and undersigned Witnesses in the manner and form following, that is to say -

Item: Three blankets appraised at twenty two shillings and six pence.

Item: One Quilt appraised at nine shillings.

Item: One pair sheep skin yellow leather gloves appraised at two shillings.

Item: One yard Quilt, damaged, appraised at twenty five shillings.

A DEAL CASE CONTAINING AS FOLLOWS:

Item: Three Reams gilt, two Reams and fifteen Quires plain foolscap paper and three Reams and twelve Quires letter paper appraised altogether at the sum of Twelve pounds for the whole.

Item: One tin box containing wafers and a tea cady appraised altogether at three shillings six pence for both.

Item: One canister of powder and two bags containing about eight pounds of shot appraised altogether at six shillings.

- Item: Two pairs black silk hose appraised at two shillings for the two pairs.
- Item: Twenty one cakes of Windsor soap appraised altogether at four pence per cake as seven shillings for the whole.
- Item: Eight pounds and one quarter pound of coffee in a bag appraised at twelve shillings and six pence for the whole.

A LARGE OAK CHEST

Containing as follows-

- Item: One canister containing three pounds and one quarter pound green tea at five shillings per pound, and another canister containing one pound and one half pound old Lyson's (?) tea at seven shillings per pound, forming altogether the sum of twenty six shillings and six pence.
- Item: Another canister containing six pounds and one half pound loaf sugar at fourteen pence per pound, forming altogether seven shillings and seven pence.
- Item: Two pairs new shoes appraised at ten shillings per pair.
- Item: Seven loaves loaf sugar, each about eight pounds and one half pound, at fourteen pence per pound, forming altogether fifty nine pounds and one half pound, makes Three pounds, nine shillings and five pence.
- Item: Three canisters and one sugar ditto appraised at three shillings each.
- Item: One case containing about ten pounds figs at one shilling per pound.
- Item: One case containing about ten pounds Raisins at fifteen pence per pound.
- Item: One small liquor case containing five glass empty bottles, appraised at twelve shillings, six pence and one band box containing a hat appraised at seven shillings, forming altogether the sum of nineteen shillings and six pence.

- Item: One parcel containing about five pounds Almonds at one shilling per pound, one box and one jar containing both together about eleven pounds arrow root, appraised at three shillings per pound.
- Item: One box containing bedstead furniture, in bad order, appraised at twelve shillings and six pence for box and furniture.
- Item: One box containing a few tools, boot jack and hooks, appraised at one shilling and six pence for the whole.
- Item: One cork screw, one pair plated candlesticks, snuffer tray and broken snuffers, appraised at One pound five shillings for the whole.
- Item: One Cruet stand appraised at ten shillings.

ANOTHER CHEST AND CASE

With books etc. as follows-

- Item: One large folio Bible and octavo Prayer Book bound in red morocco and gilt edged appraised at Ten pounds for the two.
- Item: Six volumes octavo NICHILSON'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA, neatly bound, appraised at Three pounds for the whole.
- Item: BURN'S "JUSTICE" in five volumes octavo bound in calf, appraised at Three pounds ten shillings for the whole.
- Item: BLACKSTONE'S "COMMENTARIES" in four volumes, bound in calf, appraised at Three pounds for the whole.
- Item: BOUCHETTE'S "TOPOGRAPHY" and maps, the maps in thirteen parts, appraised at Two pounds ten shillings for the whole.
- Item: OEUVRES DE J.J.ROUSSEAU in thirty volumes (en brochures) in bad order, appraised at two shillings per volume, forming altogether the sum of three pounds.
- Item: PERRY'S "VOYAGE IN SEARCH OF THE NORTH-WEST PASSAGE", in boards, appraised at Three pounds.
- Item: FORSYTH'S "FRUIT TREES", in boards apparised at twelve shillings and six pence.
- Item: "THE COURT AND FAMILY OF (KING) GEORGE III", two volumes, in boards, appraised at twelve shillings and six pence per volume.

- Item: WILLICK'S "LECTURES" appraised at twelve shillings, six pence.
- Item: Two old Dictionaries, JOHNSON'S and BOYER'S appraised at ten shillings for the two.
- Item: UNIVERSAL GAZETEER and GUTHERIE'S "GRAMMER" appraised at thirty shillings for the two.
- Item: One small french bible and one small english prayer book appraised at seven shillings for the two.
- Item: LADIES' COMPANION in two volumes, one thereof defective, appraised at four shillings for the two.
- Item: ROYAL CALENDAR FOR 1809 appraised at one shilling, six pence.
- Item: OEUVRES DU PHILOSOPHE DE SANS SOUCI, one volume, appraised at five shillings.
- Item: THE BUONAPARTIAD, a small pamphlet appraised at one shilling, six pence.
- Item: REPORT ON THE TRIAL OF HY. HUNT et al, pamphlet, appraised at one shilling and six pence.
- Item: One morocco ALMANACH FOR THE ISLANDS JERSEY AND GUERNSEY appraised at one shilling.
- Item: Thirty nine defective pamphlets of the ACTS OF THE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT appraised at Two pounds for the whole.

~~Item~~

IN THE GARRET

- Item: One floor oil cloth containing about thirty three yards at three shillings per yard forming altogether the sum of Four pounds and nineteen shillings.
- Item: One plate warmer appraised at One pound, five shillings.
- Item: One tea tray appraised at three shillings.
- Item: One Harness, saddle and Bridle appraised altogether at Two pounds, ten shillings.
- Item: One small stove appraised at Three pounds.
- Item: Two hampers containing four dozen empty bottles appraised at fourteen shillings for the whole.

- Item: One case containing about five pounds pearl barley appraised at two shillings for the whole.
- Item: One case containing about one half minot of split pease appraised at five shillings for the whole.
- Item: One case containing about eighteen pounds rice at three pence per pound forming altogether four shillings and six pence.
- Item: One old case with an old cocked hat, appraised at one shilling.
- Item: One bed, bedstead, mattress, pillow and bolster appraised at four pounds for the whole.

IN THE SITTING ROOM

- Item: One sofa and cushions appraised at Three pounds ten shillings.
- Item: One Gun and Powder Horn appraised at Two pounds.
- Item: One large gilt frame with a full length portrait of the Duke of Wellington, appraised at Three pounds ten shillings.
- Item: One armchair appraised at two shillings.
- Item: One small deal table with drawers appraised at three shillings and one small deal ditto at two shillings six pence, forming altogether the sum of five shillings, six pence.
- Item: One writing desk with shaving instruments appraised at Three pounds ten shillings.
- Item: Three pairs silver mounted spectacles, one razor strop, a perspective glass, all contained in the above writing desk, appraised altogether at Three pounds, also the COMMISSION of the said William Le Maistre appointing him Grand Voyer for this District.
- Item: Portfolio containing several bundles of letters appraised at ten shillings.
- Item: One large deal liquor case containing seven large and four small empty bottles, appraised at fifteen shillings.
- Item: One bottle containing about one-half gallon Rum and another empty appraised altogether at six shillings, six pence.

Item: Three small square liquor glass bottles appraised at one shilling and three pence each, forming altogether three shillings nine oence.

IN THE PANTRY

- Item: One half barrel fine biscuit appraised at fifteen shillings.
- Item: One barrel containing about thirty pounds muscovado sugar appraised at fifteen shillings for the whole.
- Item: Nine pounds Butter and one case containing eggs, in bad order, appraised altogether at five shillings.
- Item: One barrel containing tongues appraised at forty shillings for the whole.
- Item: Two pairs old hereditary jack boots in such indifferent order that no balue was set upon them.
- Item: Several small vials in a basket appraised at three shillings.

IN THE CELLAR

- Item: Thirty four bottles porter appraised at thirty four shillings for the whole.
- Item: One barrel and nine kegs with wine in one about five gallons and about three gallons in two other kegs appraised altogether, including the said kegs and barrel, as Three pounds two shillings.
- Item: One empty jug and another with about one gallon vinegar appraised altogether, including the jugs, at ten shillings.

AMOUNTING ALTOGETHER TO THE SUM TOTAL OF THREE HUNDRED AND TWELVE POUNDS, FOURTEEN SHILLINGS AND ONE PENNY CURRENT MONEY OF THE PROVINCE OF LOWER CANADA.

A number of old Gazettes and Newspapers delivered to Mr. William Fruing.

And it being six o'clock in the afternoon and there being nothing further which could be found, on the most diligent research, belonging

to the Estate of the said late William Le Maistre, we have closed the present Inventory. All the property herein before Inventorised having been left in the charge and keeping of the said James Day, Curator as aforesaid. Who hath promised to represent the same whenever it may be required so to do and further hath obliged himself that should anything have been inadvertantly omitted or left out to have the same added to the present Inventory.

THIS DONE AND PASSED at the Winter Dwelling House before mentioned where all the said Effects herein before Inventorised were left, on the day and year first above written.

IN FAITH AND TESTIMONY WHEREOF the said James Day, Curator, and the said William Fruing have to these presents, first duly read, set and subscribed their respective names and signatures in the presence of the above named and undersigned Witnesses and of me, the said Notary, also hereunto subscribing.

(Signatures of)

Philippe Hamon

John McKenzie

Witnesses

James Day, Curator.

William Fruing

M. Sheppard, N.P.