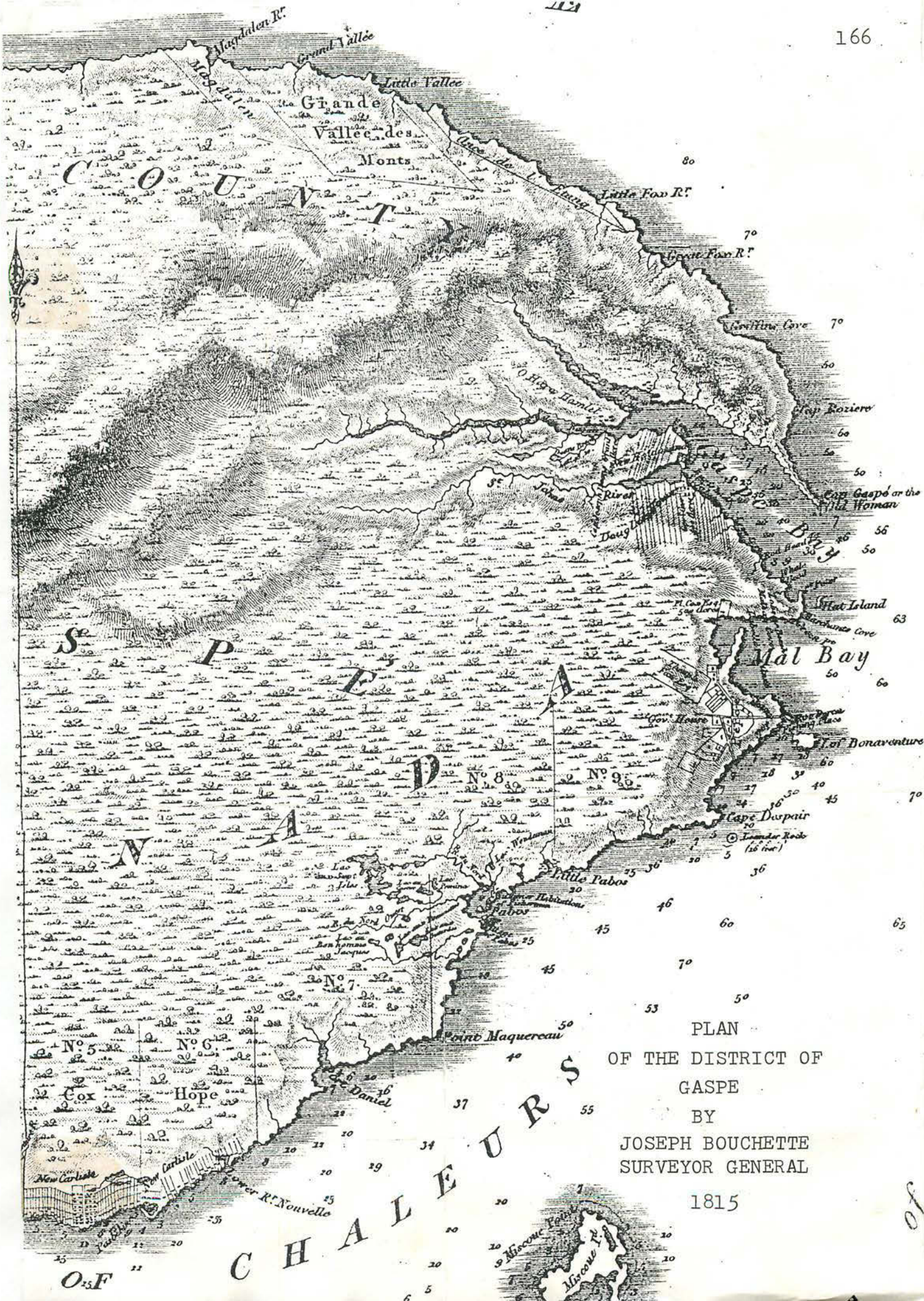


GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

MORE O'HARA LORE

The evolving story of the O'Hara
family of Gaspé Basin.

KEN ANNETT



PLAN
 OF THE DISTRICT OF
 GASPE
 BY
 JOSEPH BOUCHETTE
 SURVEYOR GENERAL

1815

of

MORE O'HARA LORE

PREFACE Use of the word "LORE" in the title above, given its meaning in Webster's Dictionary as, "something that is learned" or again, "knowledge gained through study or experience", is appropriate to the purpose of this article. More than eight years ago, on June 21, 1983, SPEC published the "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" article, "THE O'HARA FAMILY OF GASPÉ". A subsequent article, "O'HARA'S POINT", published by SPEC on April 25, 1989, opened with a recall of O'Hara family references in various articles of the "GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY" series before recounting details of the sale of the Gaspé Basin property of the late Henry O'Hara by his son-in-law, Duncan McCallum. Subsequent search and correspondence have contributed to the evolving O'Hara family history. However, many questions remain open and much work remains to be done before a complete and exact account can emerge. As a contribution to that process it is proposed to include in this article, "MORE O'HARA LORE", the following:

- * The 1760 Marriage Licence of Felix O'Hara and Martha McCormack.
- * The 1805 Last Will and Testament of Felix O'Hara.
- * Search for the family background of the wife of Henry O'Hara, Mrs. Mary Stuart/Stewart O'Hara.
- * Findings to date on the origin and career of Duncan McCallum, Husband of Helen Maria O'Hara.
- * Deed of Donation by which Duncan McCallum was given the Gaspé property of Henry O'Hara in 1851.
- * The O'Hara - Collas Connection.

2.

[MARRIAGE LICENCE OF FELIX O'HARA AND MARTHA McCORMACK]

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS

That we, Felix O'Hara of the city of New York and Jeremiah McCormack of the county of Middlesex in the province of New Jersey were holden and do stand indebted unto his excellency- Thomas Boone, Esq., governor and commander in chief of New Jersey- in the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds of current lawful Money of New Jersey; to be paid to his said excellency Thomas Boone, Esq., his Successors or Assigns: For the which Payment well and truly to be made and done, we do bind ourselves, our Heirs, Executors and Administrators, and every of them, jointly and severally, firmly by these Presents. Sealed with our Seals, Dated this twenty eighth Day of July, Annoque Domini One Thousand Seven Hundred and sixty.

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That whereas the above-bounden Felix O'Hara hath obtained Licence of Marriage for himself of the one Party and for Martha McCormack of Middlesex county aforesaid, spinster, of the other Party: Now, if it shall not hereafter appear, that they the said Felix O'Hara and Martha McCormack have any lawful Let or Impediment, of Pre-contract, Affinity or Consanguinity to hinder their being joined in the Holy Bands of Matrimony, and afterwards their living together as Man and Wife;

3.

[MARRIAGE LICENCE CONTINUED]

then this Obligation to be Void, or else to stand and remain in full Force and Virtue.

Sealed and Delivered

(Signed)

in the Presence of

Felix O'Hara

John Smyth

Jeremiah McCormack

EXTRACT FROM STATEMENT BY JOHN D. McCONNELL, J.P., OF GASPE
TO 1833 INQUIRY OF LIEUT. BADDELEY, R.E.

"... In the absence of other information I may state that the Basin (i.e. Gaspé Basin) was settled by the late Hon. Felix O'Hara. That gentleman was a native of Ireland, the descendant of an ancient and no less respectable family of the same name in the County of Antrim and nearly allied to the O'Neils of Shanes Castle, the ancient Kings of Ulster. Colonel John O'Hara of O'Hara's Brook is the near kinsman of the late Felix O'Hara of O'Hara's Hamlet at Gaspé Basin and possesses the paternal castle and demesne...

The Hon. Felix O'Hara was Provincial Judge for the District, had charge of the Revenue and being a Justice of the Peace exercised that trust for the regularity and well-being of his colony. He raised a numerous family of sons and daughters, lived an exemplary, moral and happy life diffusing peace and good fellowship around him and died at an old age much regretted.

LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF FELIX O'HARA

- I. I give and bequeath to my wife, Martha, One Hundred Pounds Currency now laying in the Hands of the Receiver General of this Province.
- II. To Hugh O'Hara, my eldest son, who owes me One Hundred and Thirty Pounds, I remit One Hundred Pounds thereof, provided that the residue be employed in putting young John Stanley to a Trade when it is thought the proper time is come for so doing.
- III. I give and bequeath to James Stewart, as a portion to his wife, Bridget (daughter of Felix and Martha O'Hara), Fifty Pounds to be raised upon John Young Esq. Note of Hand.
- IV. I give and bequeath to Francis Collas, as a like portion to his wife, Eleanor (daughter of Felix and Martha O'Hara) the Sum of Fifty Pounds Currency to be raised in like manner. What may yet remain of the said Note to lay in my son Henry's Hands for to answer exigencies.
- V. I give and bequeath unto Felix, the son of Hugh O'Hara, One Third of my Seigniorie of Pabo, One Third of the said Seigniorie to Felix, the son of Oliver O'Hara and the remaining Third to Felix, the son of James Stewart, and the whole to be held in Trust for them until they are of age by Henry O'Hara, and in case the said Seigniorie should not turn out to good account, they, with the consent of their three Fathers, Hugh O'Hara, Oliver O'Hara and James Stewart, may sell the said Seigniorie and divide the money arising therefrom equally among them.

- VI. To Charles, the son of Hugh O'Hara, I bequeath my lots in Percé containing One Hundred and Six acres.
- VII. I give and bequeath unto my son, Henry O'Hara, the Lot which I Improved from the woods and have resided upon for upwards of Forty years, with the stock thereon, and he is to keep his mother, she contributing out of the Hundred Pounds bequeathed her by me.
- VIII. My son, Oliver O'Hara, who owes me Three Hundred and odd Pounds, I remit to him Two Hundred Pounds thereof. The residue to be paid into the Hands of Hugh O'Hara and Henry O'Hara, my Executors.
- IX. Unto Robert, the son of James Stewart and to Jane, the daughter of Hugh O'Hara (subsequently the wife of J.D. McConnell of Gaspé) I bequeath my lots of Sandy Beach and L'Anse aux Cousins.
- X. Unto Mary, the daughter of Oliver O'Hara, I bequeath my Lot in New Carlisle, to be held in Trust for her until she is of age by Henry O'Hara.
- XI. Unto Lisette Morrice, my God Daughter, I bequeath my Lot at Melia's Point.
- XII. Unto John Stanley, Jr. I bequeath my Lot in the Township of Haldimand.
- XIII. Unto my wife, Martha, I bequeath my Lot known by the name of "Croans" (also shown in later Deeds as "Crowens") with all improvements thereon, and at her decease the same to devolve to Jane, the daughter of Hugh O'Hara.

XIV. I give and bequeath my pretensions to the marshes in the North West Bay of Gaspé (i.e. the Dartmouth River marshes) in common to my wife Martha and my sons Hugh and Henry O'Hara.

[Note: Formal opposition to the claim of O'Hara descendants to the Dartmouth marshes was filed before the Gaspé Land Claims Commission in 1819 "by divers inhabitants of Gaspé Bay, namely - Richard Miller, George Annett, Robert Ascah, Thomas Miller, John Annett, William Ascah, Richard Ascah, William Annett, Robert Simpson, Benjamin Coffin, Abraham Coffin, Philip Coffin and Charles Davis who claim commonage in the said Marshes".

XV. I hereby make and ordain my sons Hugh O'Hara and Henry O'Hara Joint Executors of this my Last Will and Testament and I also utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all and every other former Testaments, Wills, Legacies, Bequests and Executors by me in any wise before named, willed and bequeathed, ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my Last Will and Testament. IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-fifth Day of August in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Five.

(Witnesses)

James Mills

John Paterson

(Signed)

Felix O'Hara,

Prov. Judge.

SEARCH FOR THE FAMILY BACKGROUND OF MARY STUART/STEWART O'HARA

Despite more than ten years of intermittent search involving a number of authorities on the Stuart / Stewart families, such as the late Donald Stewart of Charlottetown, the Quebec author, Jacques Castonguay, A.J.H. Richardson and L.C. Audette, O.C., Q.C. of Ottawa, the family origin of Mary Stuart O'Hara still remains as tantalizing elusive as the famous Mona Lisa smile :

The established facts are few to date:

- * Though no record has been found, to date, of her marriage to Henry O'Hara it would appear that it was between 1805 and 1809 when her daughter, Helen Maria was born.
- * We have record of three other children, sons Henry, Jr. and Edward James and daughter, Martha Eleanor.
- * Mary was in Quebec City in 1816 for the baptism of her daughter, Helen Maria and her son, Henry Jr.
- * One of the more interesting of the documents that bear her signature, "Mary Stuart" is a Deed of Ratification of an Act of Indemnity executed at Québec between Henry O'Hara and Colin McCallum and Robert Hunter Gairdner. In this Martin Sheppard Deed #486 it appears that Mary had the Notary systematically cross out the word, "Stewart" and insert the name "Stuart" in reference to her. This Deed was drawn up in 1835.
- * The records of the Rev. William Arnold show that Mary died and was buried by him at Gaspé Basin in 1838.
Her husband, Henry O'Hara Esq. lived on until 1853 when he died at age seventy-three years and was buried at Gaspé Basin by the Rev. Francis De la Mare.

SEARCH RE MARY STUART O'HARA (CTD)

For the information of future researchers the following three hypotheses of Mary Stuart / Stewart O'Hara's family background have been considered:

- A. That Mary was a member of the family of Robert and Annabella Stewart and sibling of Matthew Stewart of Shoolbred, James Stewart of Gaspé and Duglad Stewart of Dalhousie. This hypothesis has been set aside as the brothers above had a spinster sister, Mary Stewart, whose life as a member of the Shoolbred household of Matthew Stewart is well documented.
- B. That Mary was the daughter of one of the well-known Stuart families of Quebec City. While this hypothesis has not been completely abandoned no definite proof has been found, to date, in support of it.
- C. That Mary was the daughter of George Stuart, Sr., Merchant, and his wife, Helen. The presence of this Stuart couple in Gaspé in the early years of the 19th century is documented in notarial Deeds and church records. In April, 1844, Helen Stuart, "relict of the late George Stuart, Sr. died and was buried at Gaspé Basin". It seems more than coincidence that Mary Stuart O'Hara named her eldest daughter, Helen.

But support for this hypothesis remains circumstantial to date as no records have yet been found on the origins of George and Helen Stuart.

It is hoped that some reader of SPEC can help with regard to this hypothesis.

DUNCAN McCALLUM - HIS FAMILY BACKGROUND AND LINKS TO GASPE.

Duncan McCallum, Quebec City Merchant, was so inextricably linked with the Henry O'Hara family of Gaspé that reference to him is imperative in recalling "MORE O'HARA LORE". Not only did Duncan marry Helen Maria, daughter of Henry and Mary Stuart O'Hara but he was later in time the devisee of the Gaspé properties of his father-in-law, Henry O'Hara Esq. As detailed in the "GASPE OF YESTERDAY" article No.228, "O'HARA'S POINT", published by SPEC the 25 April,1989, it was Duncan McCallum that later sold the Henry O'Hara property, the heart of the present Town of Gaspé, to the Rev. Francis De la Mare in 1854.

Duncan, the third son of the Quebec City merchant-trader, James McCallum Sr. and his wife, Janet, was born at Quebec in 1797 and baptised in the family's church, St.Andrew's Presbyterian. He grew up to join his father and two elder brothers, John and James Jr. in the firm of McCallum and Sons. Among the business interests of that firm was the St.Roch Brewery that James Sr. had purchased in 1813 for £ 16,000. Even prior to the death of the father, James Sr. in 1829, it appears that Duncan was the dominant partner in the family business.

In September,1835 Duncan McCallum had Notary Public, L.T. McPherson draw up a Will and Testament in which we find reference to his Mother, three sisters, viz. the Widow Ross, Catherine and Rosina, his brothers David, James Jr. and Colin and his nieces, Isabella, Mary Ann and Jane McGill. It is presumed that "the Widow Ross²" may have been his sister, Emelia, born 1805 and that the McGill nieces were children of his sister, Jane McCallum.

DUNCAN McCALLUM (CTD)

In the records of the joint parish of St.Paul / St. James Anglican churches of Gaspé we find the following entry:

" DUNCAN McCALLUM, ESQ., OF THE CITY OF QUEBEC, MERCHANT, BACHELOR OF MAJOR AGE, WAS MARRIED BY LICENSE TO HELEN MARIA O'HARA, SPINSTER, ALSO OF AGE AND DAUGHTER OF HENRY O'HARA ESQ., OF GASPE BASIN, WITH THE CONSENT OF HER PARENTS AND IN THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL WITNESSES AND FRIENDS AND THE SUBSCRIBING WITNESSES, OCTOBER 8th.,1835

REV. WILLIAM ARNOLD.

[At the time of marriage Duncan McCallum was 38 years of age and the bride, Helen Maria, 26 years of age.]

Turning yet again to the records of the Rev. William Arnold of Gaspé we find the following entry for the year 1838:

" MARY O'HARA, FORMERLY MARY STEWART, WIFE OF HENRY O'HARA ESQ., COLLECTOR OF HIS MAJESTY'S CUSTOMS FOR THE PORT OF NEW CARLISLE IN THE COUNTY OF BONAVENTURE, WAS BURIED BY ME."

REV. WILLIAM ARNOLD.

In the following year, 1839, we find reference to Duncan and Helen Maria McCallum in a Deed of Sale drawn up by E.B.Lindsay,N.P. by which a large Lot of land adjacent to the St.Roch Brewery in Lower Town Quebec City was sold by them to James John Lowndes,Esq. This Deed is of interest for yet another Gaspé connection as the family of Lowndes would become prominent merchants in Gaspé Basin.

Two years prior to his death in 1853 Henry O'Hara had the following Deed drawn up by James Perchard, J.P. of Gaspé Basin:

On the fifth day of February in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and fifty one, Before me, James Perchard, Esquire, Justice of the Peace in and for the District of Gaspé in the Province of Canada, and residing at Gaspé Basin in the said District, and with the Witnesses hereinafter named and hereunto subscribing - Personally came, appeared and were present Henry O'Hara of Gaspé Basin in the said District of Gaspé, Esquire, of the one part and Duncan McCallum of Gaspé Basin aforesaid, Esquire, of the other part. Which said parties did and do hereby promise, covenant and agree, to and with each other, in manner following -

The said Henry O'Hara for the consideration hereinafter mentioned did, and as by these presents he doth give, grant, alien, enfeoff and confirm, assign, transfer and set over unto the said Duncan McCallum, present as aforesaid and accepting hereof -

First as well all the right, title, property, interest, claim and demand which the said Henry O'Hara now hath as which he may at any time or times hereafter have, of, in, to and out of the following immoveable property now in his possession, that is to say. A certain lot or parcel of land situated, lying and being at Gaspé Basin aforesaid, containing about one hundred and forty acres, in superficies, bounded on one side towards the North East by James Carter, on the other side towards the South West by James Perchard, in rear by the L'Anse aux Cousins lots, and in front by the waters of Gaspé Basin aforesaid, together with the dwelling house and other buildings thereon erected and being. Also a certain other lot or parcel of land, situated, lying and being at the North West Arm of Gaspé Bay in the said District of Gaspé, containing about two hundred acres in superficies and known under the appellation of

the Big Meadow. Also a certain lot or parcel of land lying and being in Gaspé Bay aforesaid near Sandy Beach at the place called Amelia's Point, containing seventy-five acres in superficies or thereabouts. Also a certain other lot or parcel of land situated, lying and being in Gaspé Bay aforesaid, at the entrance of the said Basin of Gaspé, at the place known under the appellation of O'Hara's Bluff, containing about forty acres in superficies - together with all the dependencies and appurtenances, rights and members of the aforesaid lands and premises. Also of, in, to and out of all immoveable property whatsoever of which he, the said Henry O'Hara may now or hereafter be possessed or interested in, situated in the said Province of Canada or elsewhere and in whatever the same may consist. Secondly also all the right, title, interest, property, claim and demand which he the said Henry O'Hara now hath or which he may at any time or times hereafter have, of, in to and out of all moveable or personal property whatsoever, wherever the same may be found and more particularly all the household furniture, cattle, stock, personal property and moveables generally in the possession of him, the said Henry O'Hara, and lying and being in and about the dwelling house, farm and establishment of him the said Henry O'Hara at Gaspé Basin aforesaid - the whole without any exception or reserve, and with all which the said Duncan McCallum is acquainted and satisfied. To have and to hold the aforesaid described and mentioned property, real and personal, unto the said Duncan McCallum, to the only proper use, benefit and behoof of the said Duncan McCallum, his Heirs and Assigns forever.

13.

The present gift, grant and assignment is thus made and entered into for and in consideration that he, the said Duncan McCallum, shall and will maintain and support him, the said Henry O'Hara, for and during his natural life. And he, the said Duncan McCallum, did and doth hereby promise, bind and oblige himself and his heirs and assigns towards the said Henry O'Hara accepting thereof to maintain and support him, the said Henry O'Hara, for and during his life time in a becoming and suitable manner.

This done and executed at Gaspé Basin aforesaid at the house and residence of the said Henry O'Hara on the day and year first above written, and signed by the said parties in presence of me, the said Justice of the Peace, also hereunto subscribing and of Reverend William Arnold of Gaspé Basin and Horatio Le Boutillier, Esq., of Gaspé Basin, Witnesses called for the execution hereof also subscribing, these presents having been first duly read according to Law.

(Witnesses)

Wm Arnold

Horatio Le Boutillier

(Signatures)

H. O'Hara

D. McCallum

James Perchard, J.P.

THE O'HARA-COLLAS CONNECTION.

As a closing item of this recall of "MORE O'HARA LORE", "GASPE OF YESTERDAY" has to thank Dr. David J. McDougall. In working his way through microfilms of the Québec City newspaper, "MERCURY" for the year 1815, in search of the arrival of Gaspesian vessels at Quebec, he came across the following significant obituary:

DIED- At Gaspee on the 31st August, Mrs. Eleanor Collas, wife of Mr. Francis Collas of this place and youngest daughter of the late Hon'ble Felix O'Hara, Esquire.

Francis Collas was among the early members of the Collas family of the Island of Jersey active in the Gaspesian fishery. It is of interest to note that his brother, John Collas, was a Godfather at the baptism of Henry, son of Henry O'Hara and his wife, Mary Stuart O'Hara, at the Metropolitan Church (now Cathedral of the Holy Trinity) of Québec City on June 22, 1816. The Rev. J.L. Mills was the clergyman.

Dr. McDougall also recorded the following dates of baptism for the children of Francis and Eleanor O'Hara Collas:

- * Felix Francis Collas, buried Jan. 6, 1810.
- * Louisa Frances Collas, bapt. Dec. 8, 1813.
- * Martha Maria Collas, bapt. May 25, 1816
- * Susannah Julia Collas bapt. June 15, 1816

POSTSCRIPT

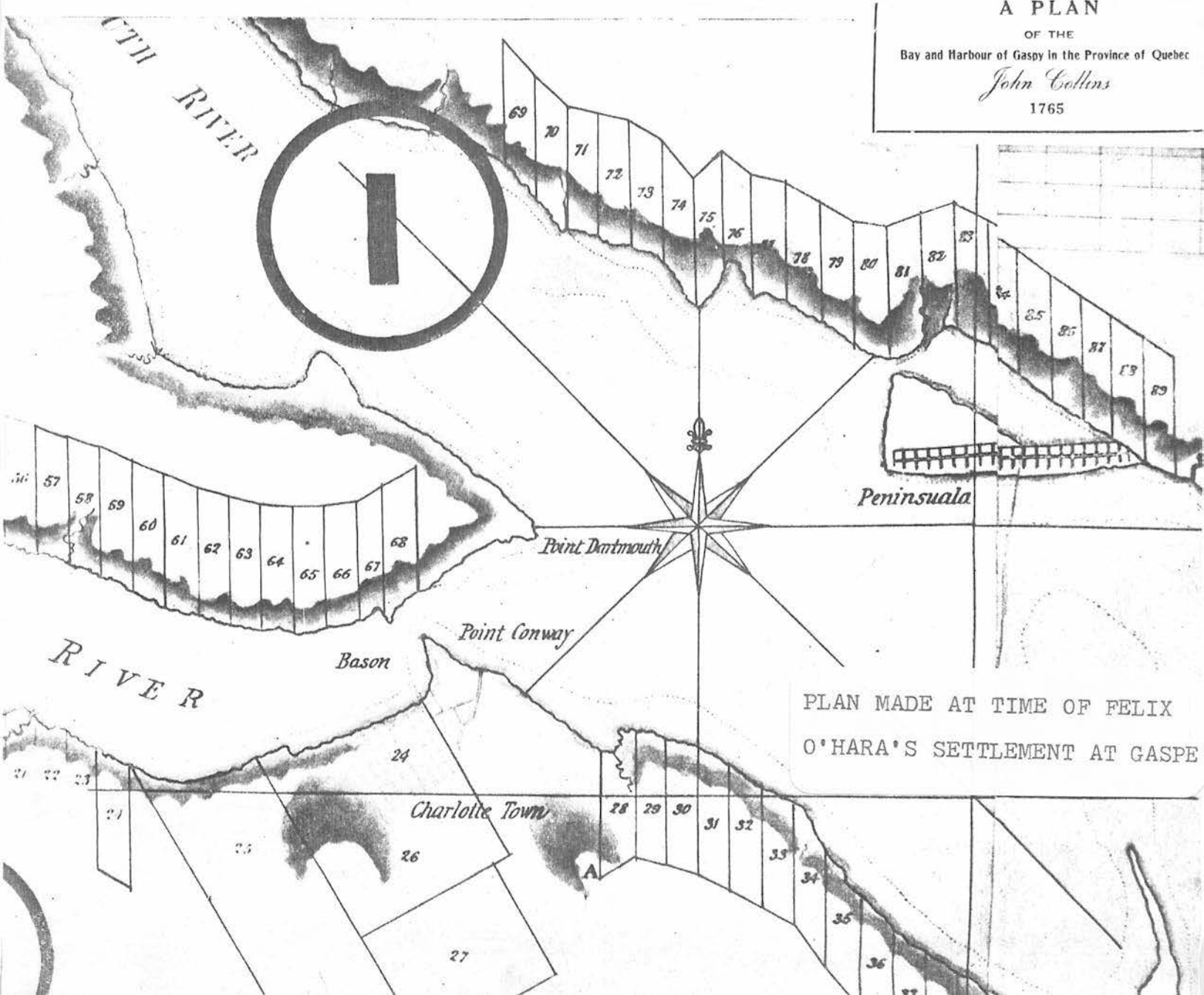
Though very far from entire and complete, the family history of the O'Haras of Gaspé, recorded to date, is surely worthy of more recognition than it has had to date in the Gaspesian heritage story. Felix and Martha O'Hara arrived in Gaspé Basin ten years before the American Revolution and had been Gaspesians for twenty years prior to the arrival of the Loyalists. Their status as real pioneers is reflected the words of Felix's Will, above, that they began with "...the Lot which I improved from the woods"

Far removed from any center of population, without roads, railway, postal service, medical care, electricity, telephone, radio, television and many other services that we now take for granted, Felix and Martha O'Hara raised a fine family of sons and daughters to carry on dignified family traditions in Gaspesia and beyond.

The O'Hara family story must surely be a challenge to budding young Gaspesian novelists, playwrights or poets.



ANTRIM - HOMELAND OF
FELIX O'HARA IN IRELAND.



A PLAN
OF THE
Bay and Harbour of Gaspe in the Province of Quebec
John Collins
1765

PLAN MADE AT TIME OF FELIX
O'HARA'S SETTLEMENT AT GASPE