

GASPÉ OF YESTERDAY

THE WIDOW JANE HAWTHORN RINGLIN MORIARTY

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The Last Will and Testament of the Widow Moriarty, made in March, 1828, raises a number of interesting questions about the background and life of this Percé resident.

Ken Annett

THE WIDOW JANE HAWTHORN RINGLIN MORIARTYFOREWORD

Gaspeian records of the early 19th century reflect family and personal names that are not now in common use and that intrigue the imagination. Among such names is that of the Widow Jane Hawthorn Ringlin, widow by her first marriage with Nicholas Howzicker, in his lifetime a Captain in His Majesty's Service and again a widow by her second marriage with Mortough Moriarty, in his lifetime a Percé fisherman.

On March 24th., 1828, at Percé, Martin Sheppard, the first resident Notary Public in Gaspesia, proceeded to draft the Widow Moriarty's LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT. As the Executors of her Will she named three prominent men of Percé, John Le Boutillier, Merchant, James Lenfesty, "Yeoman", and William Driscoll, Fisherman. The Witnesses to the Will were Louis Boucher, Merchant and Edmund Flynn, "Yeoman". The Will was.. "Done and Passed...at the Percé residence of Edmund Flynn."

SUMMARYTERMS OFWILL

- \* The Testatrix recommended her Soul to God, directed her Executors to pay all her just debts and funeral charges, desired and requested burial in the burying-ground of the Catholic Church of Percé and that her burial be private, without pomp, and near her late beloved husband, Mortough Moriarty.
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- \* Requested that her Estate and property, real and personal, moveable and immoveable, be sold at Public or Private Sale to the best advantage and the monies arising from such Sale be equally divided into twelve equal shares or portions to be paid and disposed by her Executor, as follows:
    - (1) One part to Mary Moriarty, her granddaughter, on attaining the age of majority.
    - (2) One part to Elizabeth Moriarty, her granddaughter, on attaining the age of majority.
    - (3) One part to Charlotte Moriarty, her granddaughter, on attaining the age of majority.

- (4) One part to Jane Moriarty, her granddaughter, on attaining the age of majority.
- (5) One part to Rosalind Moriarty, her granddaughter, on attaining the age of majority.
- (6) One part to Martha Moriarty, her granddaughter, on attaining the age of majority.
- (7) One part to Isabella Moriarty, her granddaughter, on attaining the age of majority.
- (8) One part to Maria Moriarty, her granddaughter, on attaining the age of majority.
- (9) One part to Thomas Moriarty the younger, her grandson, on attaining the age of majority.
- (10) One part to James Rooney the younger, her grandson, on attaining the age of majority.
- (11) One part to Andrew Rooney, her grandson, on attaining the age of majority.
- (12) One part to Thomas Rooney, her grandson, on attaining the age of majority.

Authorized her Executor to use funds for the education and/or support of the aforesaid minors during their minority and no longer.

- \* Willed and bequeathed unto the poor of Percé the sum of twenty shillings currency to be paid unto the Churchwardens or Overseers of the Poor of Percé within one month after her decease.
- \* Further gave and bequeathed unto the Roman Catholic Church or Chapel of Percé a like sum of twenty shillings currency.
- \* Provided that in the event of the death of any of the aforesaid grandchildren before the age of majority their part or portion of the bequest be divided equally amongst the survivors.

A NEED  
TO KNOW

Interesting questions arise and it is hoped that some answers might be provided by Gaspesian readers of this Last Will and Testament.

- \* What was the family background of Jane Hawthorn Ringlin ?
- \* Was Captain Nicholas Howzicker a veteran soldier like Beaker of Percé and Imhoff of New Carlisle? When and where did he marry Jane Ringlin ?
- \* Under what circumstances did the Widow Jane Howzicker meet and marry Mortough Moriarty?

*she the said*

*Testatrix said and declared that she understood*

and comprehended the said will and found the same in every respect conformable to her Last Will and Testament; and having declared not to know how to write or sign, deemed the said duty made, she the said Testatrix hath made her ordinary mark being a cross, in the presence of the said Edmund Higgins, Norman, and Louis Boucher, Merchant both of Percé aforesaid, Witnesses called for the express purposes hereof, and in the presence of the said Notary, also herewith, severally, subscribing -

Jane <sup>her</sup> H + Ringlin  
marks

Louis Boucher  
Edmund Higgins }  
Mortough Moriarty }  
M. Sheppard  
(nt)