

Passing Years

By Raymond Patterson

Volume I

GRATEFULLY DEDICATED TO THE AUTHOR



RAYMOND RICHARD PATTERSON
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Foreword

It is indeed an honour & privilege to present **"Family Gatherings"** and **"Passing Years"**, Raymond Patterson's 1950s monumental contribution to the preservation of our Gaspé history and heritage.

The manuscript was typed, with one carbon copy, from Mr Patterson's handwritten original, by friends & relatives, using different typewriters, on a variety of paper types, and placed in three ring binders. Mr Patterson died shortly after completing his work; it was never published. From time to time individual copies have been made from the carbon copy and in the early 80s about a dozen copies were produced for local libraries and private collections. The carbon copy has reportedly since been lost to water damage & in all likelihood the handwritten original was part of this same mishap.

In 1984 Mme Angelie [Fournier] Ste Croix, Mr Patterson's widow, generously donated the original of the typed manuscript to Musée de la Gaspésie. From then until 1998 the "Family Gatherings" binders sat on the open shelves in the genealogy section of the museum library. In addition to expected wear and tear taking its toll, numerous 'corrections' and 'additions' were penned on the original. It seemed imperative this valuable segment of our collective heritage be 'retired' to the archives to prevent further deterioration; a decision was made to produce a photocopy for the library. Due to budgetary and manpower restraints at the museum the responsibility for producing this photocopy was assumed by Martha Patterson Costello.

The cost of laser copying being prohibitive, every effort was made to produce 'good copy' using a regular photocopier; some shadowing is apparent, particularly on those pages that had very faint type. No changes were made to the original, as it was in 1998, but each copy page was 'proofed', poor letters hi-lighted in ink, page numbers assigned & correspondingly added to the index [table of contents]. These revised pages were then photocopied, covers added and each volume spiral bound.

While Mr Patterson's work is thus available for consultation to Gaspé folk residing there, it still wasn't 'published', as was clearly his intent. In 2006 Mr Patterson's son, Richard, was approached; with the concurrence of his cousin, Paulette Patterson Eden, he kindly & most generously assigned copyright to Martha Patterson Costello, with the understanding his father's work would be made available to the general public on a 'not for profit' basis. This 'edition' is photocopied from the 1998 revised pages and printed single side to facilitate notes & additions. Perhaps at sometime in the future consideration will be given to computerization.

"Family Gatherings", while undoubtedly remaining THE most important and comprehensive genealogical work available* to those wishing to trace their roots around Gaspé Bay, does, like most every other 'family tree', contain errors. As always, one should use published genealogical work as a 'guide' to primary source resources. That said, Mr Patterson's work is surprisingly accurate, especially when one considers the scope of the work & the more limited resources

available in the 1950s. Perhaps his best advantage was ready access to the elders of the day, some of the oldest of whom were but a few generations from the first settlers of the area. Mr Patterson himself was sixth generation, the 3x great grandson of John Paterson, the first settler of the Southwest Arm [York river, today Sunny Bank, Wakeham, etc] who was in the area before 1765.

It is felt worth mentioning..... the few 'errors' found often hold at least a nugget of truth & therefore should not be discounted out of hand by current 'rooters' simply because primary source evidence cannot be found - for instance, a superb exampleon page 435, Mr Patterson says John Patterson, [a grandson of the first John], died in an 1842 house fire with his wife Margaret & daughter Christiana. Verification has never been found & in fact good evidence exists that this John, of the third generation, died before 1824. It would be all too easy to write off the house fire as fiction BUT, just recently an avid eighth generation researcher found that in fact John of the second generation, with one of his children, died when his house burned in 1812. This John was married to a Margaret, tho' she did not die in the fire. The source does not specify the gender of the child but if evidence could be found likely it would show her name was Christiana!

"Passing Years" offers keyhole sketches of many facets of local history, much of it not readily available elsewhere. It must be pointed out that one section, that pertaining to National Defence, is missing. So far as has been found it was never typed; only a two page subsection, 'The Hong Kong Garrison' is included in the original typed manuscript. Other subsections are in the 'index', so likely were written, but unfortunately have been lost along the way.

Mr Patterson has been followed by other recorders of our past; Mr Kenneth Annett, Dr David & Mrs Doris Ascah McDougall, and Miss Dorothy Phillips in particular have each made tremendous contributions to our 'memory' of the 'way it was'. Much remains to be written. Do you the reader have personal knowledge of a particular aspect of our past? Perhaps you have an elderly relative whose memories have not been recorded.....perhaps you have old letters or journals - each of these undoubtedly contain precious nuggets of information, invaluable in adding flesh & substance to the bare bones of dates, preserving the fabric of our past for the future. Won't you please, *please*, take the time to set it on paper, now, for your and others' grandchildren?

* Among related genealogical works subsequently published perhaps the most notable are "The Children, Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren of Richard Miller & Frances Annett" by Dorothy Phillips, 1981, and

"Sunny Bank our Ancestral Home" by Andy Patterson, 1995.

Additionally, Curtis Patterson has an online database at:

<http://www.gogaspe.com/sunny/contrib/gaspegen.htm>

in which he has incorporated much of Mr Patterson's data with some corrections & many additions.

Martha Patterson Costello
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