

FORT RAMSAY

In 1766 Joseph Dean, Captain and commander of the H.M.S. Menaid, received a patent from the Hon. John Collons, for 517 acres of land, less four acres reserved for her Majesty for military purpose, on the York side of the South-West Arm at Gaspé Basin.

In the early 1770's a fort was built on the reserved land. This was a narrow strip running along the water edge where the C.N.R. station and yards are to-day.

The Brigantine-St. Pierre, a French boat captured by the English in 1760, when the French tried to retake Gaspé, was cruising in the waters of Gaspé Bay in 1778. Its crew put three cannons on the fort.

In 1805 ^{the} Messrs. Janvrin ^{Co.} of Jersey bought the tip of the Point and built several sheds on it for a fish business. In 1857 he sold the land and business to the Messrs. W.M. Fruing and Co. In 1914 the fish business was discontinued and the land and buildings were taken over by C. Sutton Le Boutillier.

Capt. Dean died about 1810 and bequeathed his property to his son ~~Dean~~. Charlie Dean.

In the early 1820's Thomas Suddard bought 200 acres of the Dean property on the east side.

In 1826 Sir George Ramsay, Earl of Dorchester, visited Gaspé and inspected the military grounds. It was then, and in his honour, that the point was named Fort Ramsay.

In 1839 Charlie Dean sold Fort Ramsay to John Douglas McConnel. In the early 1850's the property fell into the hands of John LeBoutillier. On May 11th. 1864 the Fort Ramsay home that ~~was~~ built by John Douglas

FORT RAMSAY-cont.

MC Connel was destroyed by fire. John Le Boutillier rebuilt the home in 1865. At John Le Boutillier's death in 1872 he bequeathed the Fort Ramsay home to his son-Charles Le Boutillier and the land between Charles and his daughter Eliza (Mrs. Antoine Painchaud). In 1882 the Fort Ramsay property, and both Charlie's and Eliza's shares were sold to A.W. Carpenter of London, England. In 1912 it was sold to the St. Maurice Lumber Co. of Three Rivers and in 1925 it changed hands to the Canadian International Paper Co.

In July 1926 the Fort Ramsay home and part of its grounds were sold to his Excellency F.X. Ross, the first Bishop of Gaspé, for a hospital.

In 1904 the Atlantic Quebec and Western Railway bought the military grounds for a station and freight yards. Most of the fort was dug away and the earth hauled to Haldimand to build the causeway.

In the summer of 1934 the Road Dept. was taking gravel from the pit in front of the hospital when they unearthed two skulls and some bones which Laboratory tests found to be bones of white men buried around 1770. This would indicate that Gaspé's first burial grounds were located here.