

SETTLERS AND LANDS

On september the 4th 1758, Gaspé fell into the hands of the British. Five years later, on February the 10th 1763, by the treaty of Paris, it definitely became a British possession.

France had ignored the tremendous importance of the port of Gaspé. The British saw and realized its value at first sight "The port of Gaspé, wrote Captain Bell, aide-de-camp to General Wolfe, in his log, during his stay at Gaspé, is possibly one of the finest in the world".

As early as 1764, Hon. James Murray, first English Governor of Quebec, instructed Surveyor-General John Collins to go to Gaspé, examine the site and its possibilities and report to him. The result of the inspection was that "the bay of Gaspé is a splendid fishing location and the port is due to become one fo the best harbours in America. It is the only harbour on the river where ships of all tonnage can take refuge during the greatest storms and anchor without the slightest risk of danger."

Colling also submitted a plan to the Governor, and suggested that it should be carried out to make of Gaspé a strong military city which he would have called Charlotte Town. He named hospital point "Conway Point". On the hill where the hospital stands today he intended to build a fort " a citadel could be constructed on the mountain in the rear"

The plan drawn by Collins was a very elaborate one and provided for public squares, streets, churches, schools and other buildings. It also divided the surrounding country and the water front in farming and residential lots and fishing grounds.

The eastern portion of the bay was to be used for the fisheries, hospital point, the mountain and the nearby territory were to be the site of the military city, while both shores of the Basin were to be used for agricultural purposes.

The plan was never acted upon probably because it was too ambitious and would have meant huge expenditures.

The first Settlers of Gaspé Soldiers and Loyalists. In 1764. Captain Richard Ascah and Lieutenant John Patterson. Both soldiers of Wolf's Army. were given permission by Governor Murray to settle any where in the Gaspé Bay. Richard Ascah was granted 600 acres of Land at Peninsula and John Patterson 400 acres on the South side of the York River, above the present bridge.

Felix O'Hara a naval Lieutenant arrived same time later and settle at Gaspé Basin. 1765

On the 11th of March 1765, Murray issued a proclamation inviting those who desired land to make an application. He recommended Gaspé to those who wished to engage in the fishing industry.

Following that proclamation, on July the 25th 1765, Joseph Deane, who commanded the "Lowestoff" asked for a grant of 517 acres which was granted to him on August the 23rd of the following year.

On April the 22nd 1765, three merchants, Felix O'Hara (of Gaspé) John McCord (of Gaspé) and William Gilliland (of New York) formed an association and asked for a grant of 2,000 acres, on both sides of the Basin. It was refused, but later Governor Dorchester granted them 1,300 acres, part in the very center of the village and part on the upper reaches of the York river.

On April the 11th of the same year, Edward Manwaring asked for a concession of 700 acres of Gaspé harbour.

On March the 14th 1768, the Quebec Council notified disbanded soldiers who desired to do so, they could settle on lands along Gaspé Basin.

The soldiers, however, must undertake to clear three acres for each fifty acres granted to them, within a period of three years.

O'Hara and McCord had to pay a yearly rental of twenty-six shillings, or keep seventy-eight head of cattle, until they had cleared seventy acres of land, or begin within a period of three years, the exploitation of a quarry or mine and employ thirteen men. If those conditions were not fulfilled their grant was to be revoked and the land returned to the Crown. The Crown also reserved the right over all gold and silver mines.

It is doubtful whether all those conditions were faithfully adhered to.

On the 24th of July 1777, the Lieutenant-Governor of Gaspé, Nicholas Cox had a census taken of the population and properties of Gaspé Bay, and he found 23 families or 81 souls, 70 servants, 32 boats and 28 head of cattle. Three resided in Gaspé ~~it~~ self.

THE LOYALISTS

From 1784 to 1792, London made grants of land in Gaspeia to a large number ~~of~~ of American Loyalists and a few of them settled ~~in~~ ~~they~~ and near Gaspé.

It was during that period that ~~the~~ Thompsons, Coffins, Cunnings ~~McRae,~~ and Boyles, came to Gaspé.

The arrival of those Loyalists proved beneficial to Gaspé. They were people ~~of~~ of some standing in their former country, the United States, and their lands were the best, their residences well built and their fields well cultivated. They were given special favors and privileges and favorable concessions, but they did not all succeed as might have been expected.

Some difficulties arose between the earlier settlers and the new-comers. O'Hara showed uncalled for jealousy and greed and obtained new grants of land from Sir Henry Hamilton, who gave him and additional concession of 200 acres, in addition to the 1,300 acres he had obtained from Lord Dorchester in 1767. His sons were evidently "chips of the old

block" since they also demanded more and more land which in most cases was given to them.

The Loyalists, disguised by such cupidity began in 1785, to "help themselves". By accident or otherwise, about 800 acres of standing timber on the O'Hara property were destroyed by fire.

The first settlements were not completed without some trouble or difficulty. Complaints of many kinds were received from the very start.

In 1779, Governor Haldimand replied to a complaint by O'Hara in the following laconic terms: "I am not forgetting you. I shall send you shortly a commission as district judge. However, we have too many matters of great importance to attend to just now to be able to give your requests our immediate attention."

L A N D S

Shortly after the American Revolution, the Government sent into Gaspe district a certain number of loyalists to whom it gave lands, without, at the same time giving them regular title deeds. It was the same with the Acadians who had no other title than tradition to the lands they occupied. When the population began to increase a little, land became comparatively scarcer and difficulties arose nearly everywhere in connection with real estate, difficulties which were all the harder to settle that there were no title deeds of the grants to establish the pretensions of the various claimants. In order to put an end to the troubles, the Legislature, in 1819, passed the act, ⁵⁹ Geo. III, chap. 3, authorizing the Government to appoint commissioners to make inquiries on the spot and to decide the ownership of the properties in dispute. Section 9 of the said act enacts as follows:

" The said Commissioners shall from time to time, transmit to the Clerk of the Executive Council of this Province a report of all such claims as they shall have examined and decided and the person or persons in whose favour they shall have reported shall be considered as entitled to have a grant or grants under the Great Seal of the Province of the lands in respect of which such report shall be made."

A commission composed of Hon. J.F. Tachereau, L. Juchereau Duchesnay, Walter Allsopp, and Robert Christie, was appointed on June 8th. 1819 by J. Ready secretary to Governor Richmond.

From 1820 to 1830 the commissioners studied the claims made by the residents and granted them titles to their lands.

Around the Bay of Gaspé there were very few settlers that were not subject to those claims. Only those that were granted land for war services of the Seven Years War and the war of 1812 and ~~seven some of those made~~ claims.

The following is a list of Titles that was granted to those who made claims in 1819 and also those that were not subject to claims.

L'Anse aux Cousins

Lot 9 - 10 and 11	Benjamin Coffin.
Lot 12 and west half of 13	William Annett
Lot east half of 13 and 14	Robert Staurt (O'Hara Patent 1800)

Township of Gaspé Bay South

(Gaspé Basin and Wakeham)

Lot 1	waste land of the Crown. Granted to Rev. William Arnold in 1828
Lot 2 and 3	O'Hara and McCords (Patent 1765)
Lot 4	Mary Ann Coct widow of Hugh O'Hara. O'Hara and McCords (Patent 1765)
Lot 5	Hugh Cunning
Lot 6	Waste land of the Crown
Lot 7	Richard W. Aulay
Lot 8	Waste land of the Crown
Lot 9	Samuel Tripp
Lot 10	Edward O'Hara (O'Hara Patent 1800)
Lot 11	John Sairdan (Savidant)
Lot 12	Francis Vallee
Lot 13	Benjamin Patterson (original Boyles)
Lot 14	Richard Annett (original Boyles)

- Lot 15 Benjamin Patterson (original Boyles)
- Lot 16 George and John Boyle (Patent 1789)
- Lot 17 Mary Boyle widow (Patent 1789)
- Lot 18 Abraham Coffin (original Boyles)
- Lot 19 Mary Boyle widow
- Lot 20 Richard Patterson
- Lot 21 Louis Janot Claude (Indian)
- Lot 22 O'Hara and McCords (Patent 1765)
- Lot 23 Margaret Patterson widow of John Patterson (Patent 1799)
- Lot 24 Mary Ann Coct widow of Hugh O'Hara (Patent 1791)
- Lot 25 Mary Boyle widow
- Lots 26 - 27 - 28 and 29 Helen Boyle and William Hall

Note

Lots 22 and 23 have both changed ^{numbers} since 1819

Townships of York

- Lot C Heirs of Joseph Deane (Patent 1767)
Lot A (Jib) James Stuart (O'Hara - McCord Patent 1765)
Lot 1 and east half of 2 James Stuart
Lot west half of 2 Pierre Chauinard
Lot 3 Jean L. Trudel
Lot 4 Mary Ann Coct widow of Hugh O'Hara
Lot 5 Robert Naiv
Lot 6 and 7 William Annett and John Patterson
Lot 8 Mary Ann Coct widow of Hugh O'Hara (Patent 1788)
Lot 9 - 10 - 11 - 12 - 13 - 14 - and 15 Boyles
Lot 16 John White
Lot 17 John Hackett
Lot 18 and B, O'Hara and McCord (Patent 1765)
Lot 19 Martha Ascah widow of Peter Patterson (Peter Patterson Patent 1791)
Lot 20 and 21 Martha Ascah widow of Peter Patterson (John Patterson Patent 1764)

Township of Douglas

(Sandy Beach)

- Lot A west half John Adams O'Hara Patent 1765
Lot A east half Lesette Morris Daughter of Felix O'Hara (O'Hara Patent 1765)
Lot B and C Henry O'Hara (O'Hara Patent 1765)
Lot 1 William Baker
Lot 2 Thomas Miller
Lot 3 and 4 Richard Ascah
Lot 5 and 6 Edward Baker
Lot 7 Francis LeFour
Lot 8 Sarah McConnell Daughter of Felix O'Hara (O'Hara Patent 1800)
Lot 9 - 10 and 11 David Jerry

Haldimand

The east end known as Haldimand Town all belonged to Alexander McRae and James Thompson. (McRae Patent 1736)

Lot no number	Waste land of the Crown
Lot 1	James Thompson
Lot 2 and 3	James Cunning
Lot 4	Alexander McRae (Patent 1736)
Lot 5 and 6	James Cunning
Lot 7	Alexander McRae
Lot 8	James Cunning (Patent 1736)
Lot 9	John Stanley Original Felix O'Hara
Lot 10	Alexander Mc Rae
Lot 11	George Thompson
Lot 12 and east half of 13	Thomas Thompson
Lot West half of Lot 13	James Cunning.

Early Settlers of Fontenelle and Rosebridge

John Stanley and Charlie Simpson of Scotch origin and Loyalists, arrived around 1790, John Stanley settled in Fontenelle and Charlie Simpson in Rosebridge. Abraham Adams settled in Fontenelle in 1825, his brother John Jr. followed him there in the early 1830's, Abraham and John Jr. were sons of John Adams an German Immigrant that settled in Sandy Beach in 1805. Hugh Cuning of Haldimand, Thomas Langlois and John Rose of Gurnsey stock, settled in Rosebridge other families that settled there were, William and Edward Rooms, Henry Huro and Edward Phaling of unkown origin.

The French Families began settling in Fontenelle in 1845, most of them came down from the Upper Parishes. Jean-Baptiste Fournier, with his wife and three small children, were the first to settle there. For other Families that settled in Fontenelle between 1845 and 1861, see the extracts of personal census for the year of 1861, of the Township of Gaspé Bay North, in this chapture. Joseph Perreault and Adam Fortin arrived around 1870, they both settled in Fontenelle.

Several Families from The Channel Islands and a few of English and Scotch stock,settled in Rosebridge and the neighbouring parishes, between 1840 and 1861, for details see the extracts of the personal census, for the year of 1861, of The Township of Gaspé Bay North, in this chapture.

From Fontenelle to Cape-Aux-Os, there are many families who are either entirely extant or have left the region, Prialux, Silvestre, Olssen, Hamilton, Brien , Cooper, Esnouf, Mosher, Lanfesty, LeCouteur, Hayden, Hodgins , Ascah,Patterson, and others.

The McRae and Thompson Families of Scotch origin and Loyalists settled in Haldimand in 1786. Other Families that settled in Haldimand were, Donovan of Irish stock, Patrick (first member) immigrated in 1835, Garrett of English stock, Thomas (first member) immigrated in 1842, Gault of Irish stock, George (first member) immigrated in 1840, and Robin of Jersey stock, Daniel (first member) immigrated around 1825, He married Jane Cuning of Haldimand and they moved away, some members of the family returned in the early 1870's.

Families that settled in Sandy Beach were, Howell of Irish stock, Edward (first member) immigrated in 1822, Gillichan of Jersey stock, George (first member) immigrated in 1850. Alexander of Jersey stock, Philip (first member) immigrated in 1832, Williamson of Scotch stock, Adams (first member) immigrated in 1820, Harbour of English stock and Loyalist arrived around 1790, Adams of German stock John (first member) immigrated in 1805 and Beattie of Scotch stock, James (first member) arrived from the Maritimes around 1870.

Families that settled in Gaspé Harbour were, Kilbride of Irish stock, arrived from Prince Edward Island in 1890, Kruse of Jersey stock, Frederick, his wife and children arrived from Campbellton N. B. in 1912, LeGros of Jersey stock, Philip (first member) immigrated in the 1870's, and Fitzpatrick of Irish stock, James (first member) immigrated in 1829.

Families that settled in Wakeham (Gaspé Bay South) were, Moran of Irish stock, William (first member) immigrated around 1825, Gillis of Irish stock, Alexander (first member) immigrated in 1865, Kenney of Irish stock, Henry came from Fontenelle and was a member of the Kenney Family that reside there, and Dowling

Reader of English stock, John (first member) arrived from the Maritimes, he settled in Gaspé Basin , other settlers in Gaspé Basin were, Godfrey of Jersey stock, Joseph (first member) immigrated in 1906, Roper of Jersey stock, Frank (first member) immigrated in 1911. Cabot and Bannier also Jersey stock. Buckley of Irish stock, George (first member) arrived from