

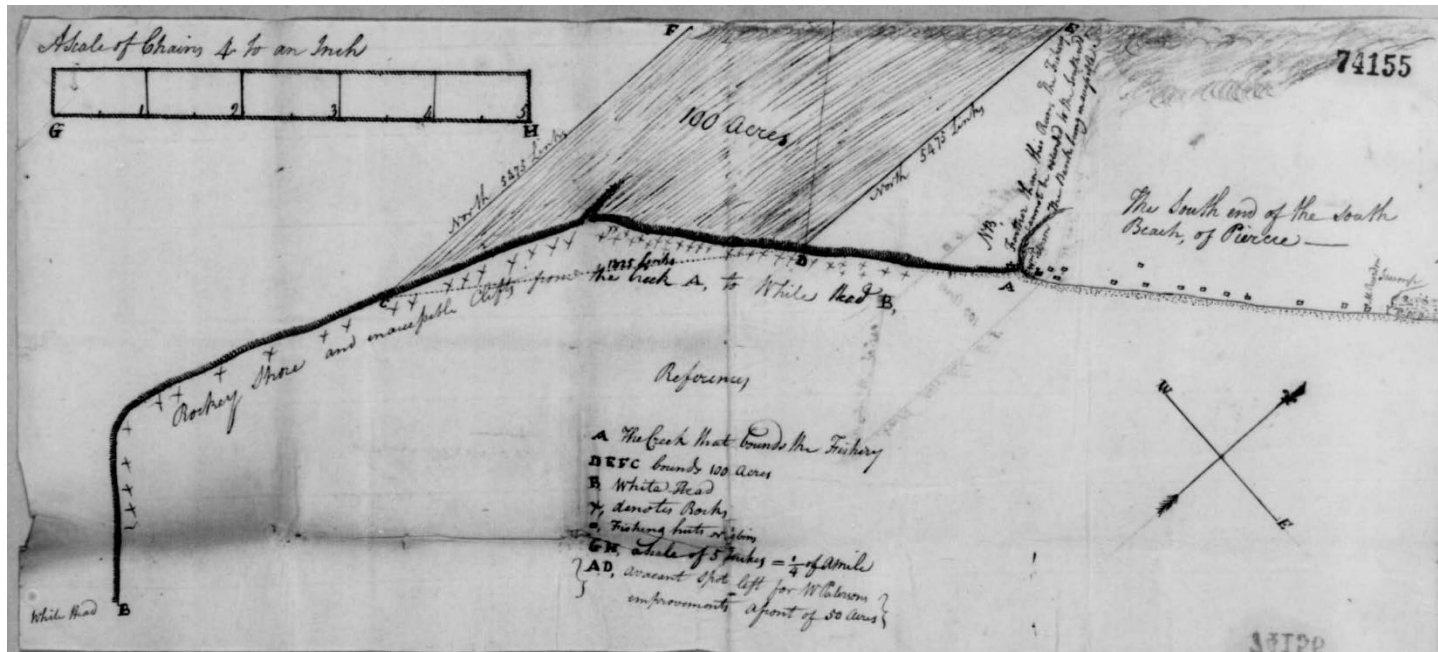
John Paterson Jr. (1764-1812)

By Marty Patterson (all rights reserved, copywrite 2024)

John Paterson Jr. was born around 1764 in Sunny Bank and died in 1812 in Wakeham (at that time known as the South West Arm of Gaspe Bay).¹ He was the son of John Paterson Sr. who was one of the early settlers of the Gaspe Bay. The identity of his mother is unknown. His first wife was Margaret Ascah (a daughter of Richard Ascah of Peninsula) who was born in 1768 at the Port of Gaspey, Quebec. They were married in 1785 in Peninsula.²

The Percé Years (1784 –1799)

John Paterson Jr. left home in Sunny Bank as a young man and moved to Percé sometime around 1784, where he ran a small fishing operation.³ We do not know why he left his home. There may have been a family connection. In 1771 a William Paterson appears on a map of Percé which shows 50 acres of land on which he had buildings. This is the same lot that John Jr. claimed for his own in 1790.⁴ Could this William be a relative of John Jr.'s father? More research will be necessary.



An early engraving shows the view John likely enjoyed at Percé. This is a drawing from 1760, when Gaspé fell under British rule. “A view of the Pierced Island, a remarkable rock in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Two leagues southward of the Gaspee Bay.”⁵ At that time Percé Rock had two arches, the second of which collapsed on June 17th, 1845.



In 1774, Nicholas Cox was appointed Lieutenant Governor for the District of Gaspé and Labrador. Cox was instructed to conduct a census of the population and to report on the state of the fisheries, including the number of crafts employed. John Jr. appears on one of the lists prepared by Cox.⁶

He was one of sixteen people granted a “fishing room” at Percé. Flakes, used for drying fish were located on the beach. These fishing rooms were used for equipment storage and were located behind the flakes. On Cox’s list is also the information that John Jr. operated four boats, which would indicate that he was one of the more important fishermen in the area. As proof of this, in 1790 he was appointed as a Culler & Inspector of Fish. He continued to serve in that capacity until 1801.⁷

QUEBEC, June 3.

To-morrow, being the Anniversary of His MAJESTY'S Birth Day, there will be a Levee at The Castle at Eleven o'Clock in the Forenoon in the usual Form.

Since the 26th. of April last, His Excellency LORD DORCHESTER has been pleased to cause the following Commissions to be issued.

Amable De Bonne, Esq; Clerk of the Land Roll or Papier Terrier.

Eleazar Fitch,

Moses Hol,

François La Rocque, jun. and

Alex. Chisholm,

Robert Kerr,

John M'Nab, and

Peter Ball,

John Duncan,

James Durward,

John Duthie,

William Duthie,

John Patterson, jun. and

Robert Aicha,

Peter Lukin, Notary for the Province of Quebec.

} Esqrs. Justices of the Peace for the District of Montreal.

} Esqrs. Justices of the Peace for the District of Nassau.

} Cullers and Inspectors of Fish for the District of Gaspé.

Among his responsibilities would have been to inspect and grade the product of each of the fishermen at Percé before the cured cod was loaded on ships for transport to Europe, the United States, and the West Indies.

In 1788, John Paterson, along with his sister Eleanor, are listed as godparents of Marie-Angelique Moriarty, daughter of Mortaugh Moriarty.⁸

B. 539
Marie Angelique nee avec le benoist
Mortaugh Moriarty de la presente année Mortaugh
Moriarty Mortaugh Moriarty Jean Kingland
John Paterson & Eleanor Berry
B. 540

General Roll of the British Militia in the Township of Percie District of Gaspe

George Seddes, Captain
 Theophilus Fox 5th Lieut^{nt}
 George Richardson 6th Lieut^{nt}
 Mountbough, Mousarty Ensign

Serjeants	Corporals	Drummers
1. Andrew Ferguson	1. Samuel Thovaites	
2. Patrick Broderick	2. Angus M ^{re} Kennish	
3. John Dunn	3. Thomas Vidamous	
4. George Sutherland	4. John Hunt	
5. James LeMay	5. John Keiffer	
6. John M ^{re} Lead	6. Thomas Inglis	

Joseph Arbour John Arbour William Abbott Francis Burget James Bodrick Lewis Bourget John Brial John Baker John Baker Sen John Baker Jun Lewis Baker Stephen Barnes John Bryan William Bryan John Bond Sen John Bond Jun William Bond Sen William Bond Jun James Bond Joseph Bond Peter Bond Samuel Bond James Brian Joseph Belang John Brown James Callahan James Cousper Aubin Cotton Sen	Aubin Cotton Jun John Cotton Archibald Clarke David Condon Edward Condon John Casstani Lawrence Corus Charles Carrier Robert Cooksey John Cody John Dunn Patrick Drummond James Durochoy William Dickman John Danford James Evans John Evans David Evans Richard Fry John Fowler David Fowler James Fleming Sen James Fleming Jun Edward Flory John Funn James Fowler James Griffin Domingo Garratt John Griffin John Hagar	James Hayden James Hendry Sen James Hendry Jun Roger Hendry Thegnas Hendry Timothy Harndetly Thomas Hays Thomas Hevry Thomas Inglis Marion Kelly James Kelly John Lavery James Lantz Abial Lucas Park Lucas Samuel Lucas William Lucas Fitz Lucas John Lussague James Leall John Lecou Thomas Lepellet James Langley Thomas Larnie James LeMay Joseph Leard Alexis Lemars	John Lussague Joseph Lussague Daniel Laver George Laver William Lewis David Lee Hugh M ^{re} Donald Angus M ^{re} Donald Sen Angus M ^{re} Donald Jun Timothy Magrath William McInroy Sen William McInroy Jun Laker Molloy David Miles Angus M ^{re} Kennish Christopher McKenaid Jonathan Murray Thomas Moses John McKay Alexander McKay Peter Marise Michael Mann Charles McCarty James Mountbain Michael Mountbain John McInroy	William O'Brien Terence O'Donnell Michael Taget John Taget Joseph Plourd Peter Plant Thomas Pendergraff Edward Power James Price John Patterson Michael Quirk Anthony Royal Lawrence Roney Michael Reardon James Ready James Reynolds Peter Roguille John Sennet James Spennet James Simmons Barry Suiney Peter Thompson Thomas Titt Charles Terry George Walker Donald Walker John Welch Morris Welch James Welch
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Return of the above Roll of British Militia in the Township of Percie

Distribution	Commissioned Officers			Non Commissioned Officers				Exemptions by Age, Infirmitie & Employments
	Captains	Lieutenants	Ensigns	Serjeants	Corporals	Drummers	Privates	
Percie Militia consists of	1	2	1	6	6	1	140	Alexander McKay Commissioner of the Peace Theophilus Fox " " " " of " " Joseph Arbour " " " " of " " Lewis Bourget being past 60 years of age

Percie March 20th 1789
 George Seddes
 Cap^{tn} of British Militia

John Jr. and his family certainly planned to remain in Percé. On July 5th, 1790, he submitted a petition for land in Percie in which he states that he had resided there for several years.¹⁰

To his Excellency the Right Honourable Guy Lord Dorchester, Governor, and Commander in Chief of all his Britannick Majesty's Collonies North America (George 3).

The Humble Petition of John Paterson of Piercie in the District of Gaspe, fisherman, sheweth that your Lordships Petitioner has for a number of years past improved a few acres of land at Piercy at Great Expense and such hard labour with Other Improvements thereon Said Petitioner being a true and faithful subject and now belongs to the Militia of Piercie but finds that the tenor on which he made said improvements is too precarious to proceed further. Your Lordship? Therefore, Humble Prays that your Lordship may grant unto said Petitioner and his heirs fifty acres of Land and he is in duty bound will ever pray.

Piercie 5th July 1790

John Paterson

July 1790 75788

To His Excellency the Right Honourable Guy Lord Dorchester
Governor and Commander in Chief of all his Britannick
Majestys Collonies North America &c &c &c

The Humble Petition of John Paterson of
Piercie in the District of Gaspe Fisherman

Sheweth That your Lordships Petitioner has
for a number of Years past Improved a few acres of Land at
Piercy at Great Expense and such hard Labour with Other
Improvement thereon Said Petitioner being a true and faithful
Subject and now Belonging to the Militia of Piercie but
finding that the Tenor on which he had said Improvements
is too precarious to proceed further on your Lordships Behe-
-aver Therefore Humbly Prays That your Lordship may
Grant unto said Petitioner and his heirs Fifty acres of Land
and he as In duty bound will Ever Pray

Piercie 5th July 1790 John Paterson

His request was approved on July 20th, 1790 by the Gaspé Land Board; one of whose members was Daniel McPherson, John's future father or brother in law.¹¹

Board of the Land Office New Carlisle, 20th July, 1790

Present: Nick Cox, Esq.

Felix O'Hara, Esq.

Daniel McPherson, Esq.

The Board proceeded on business; and first look into the consideration the petition of John Patterson fifty acres near Piercie. Granted with the same proviso as the spot granted to the Hon. Felix O'Hara.

*Board of Land office
New Carlisle 20th July 1790*

Present

*The Honorable Nick Cox }
Felix O'Hara } Esquires
Daniel McPherson }*

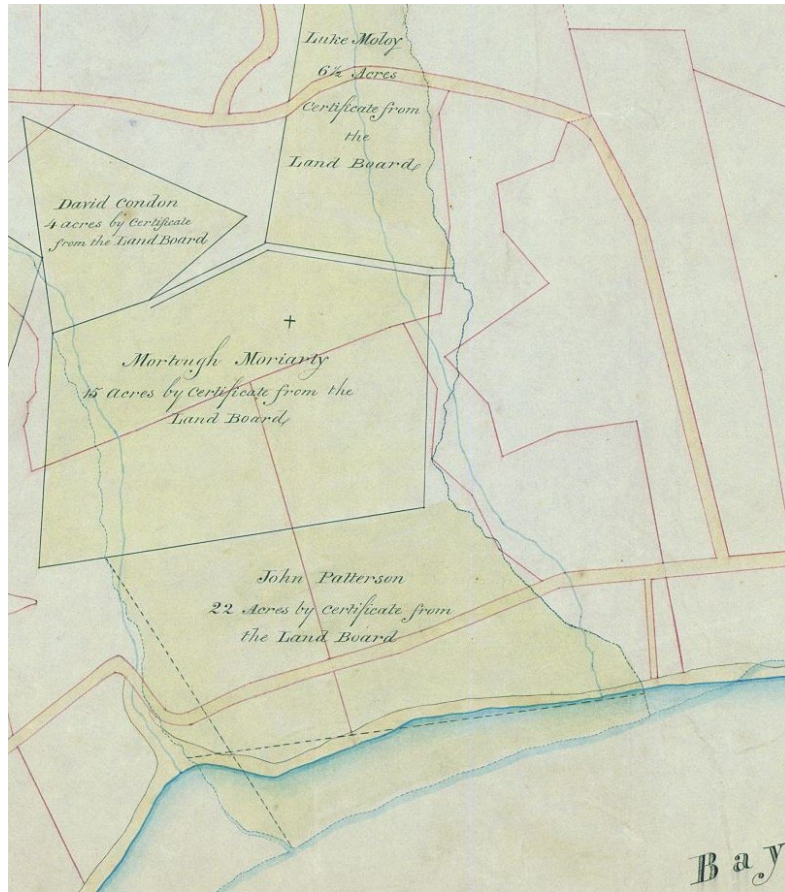
*The Board proceeded on business; and first
took into consideration the Petition of
John Patterson fifty acres of land near
Piercée.*

*Granted, with the same Proviso as the spot
granted to the Hon^{ble} Felix O'Hara.*

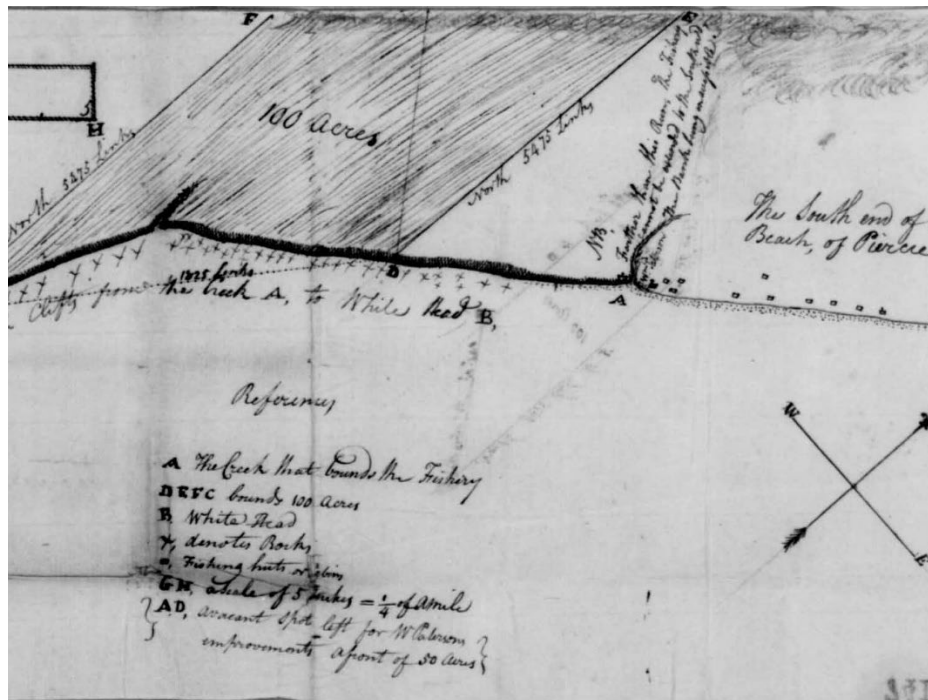
Cox

The land granted to John appears on a map of the *Plan of the Fishing Town of Percé of 1792*.¹² No records have been found to indicate what he did with this land when he moved back to Gaspe. It may have been that no formal grant was every registered with colonial authorities.

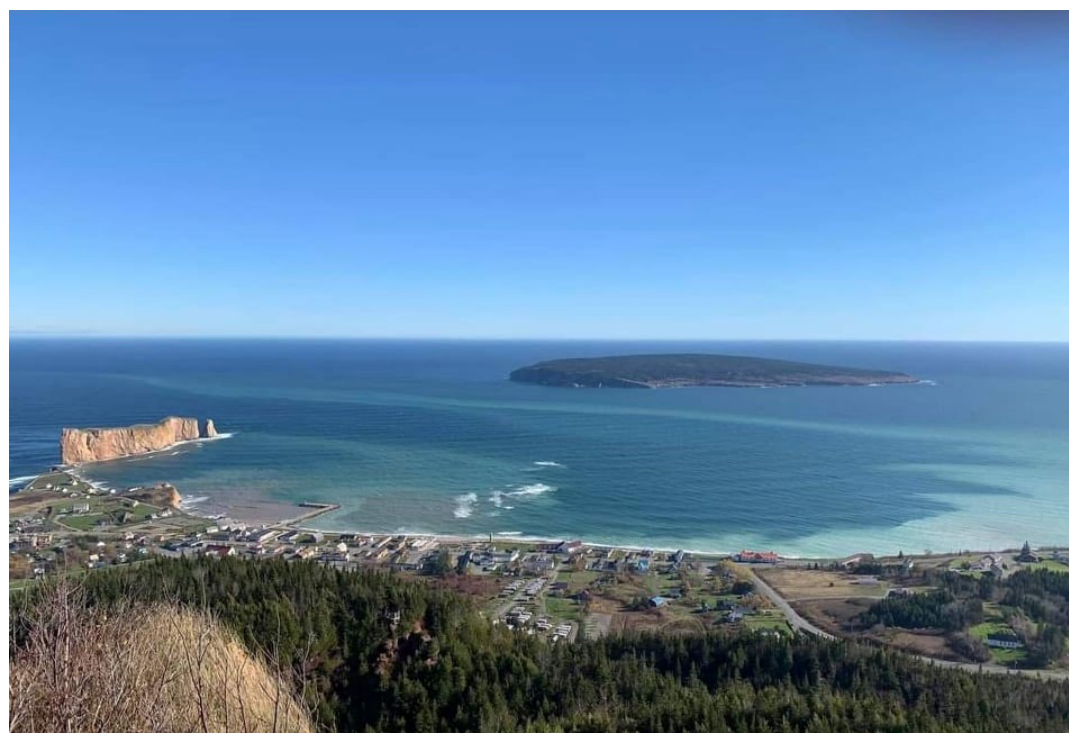




A comparison of the land of William Paterson 1771. ¹³



The following are photos taken by a drone which show where John Jr.'s land in Percé likely was. The land was located near the present-day Cote Surprise area.



John Jr. and Margaret Ascah raised a family of five children, all of whom were likely born in Percé.

Christiana (1786-1883) Married to Benjamin Coffin

Richard (1788-1868) Married to Lucy Paterson

Charles (1790-1819) Unmarried union with Christy Annett

Margaret Harriet (1792-1879) married to Charles Davis

John (1793-1825)

The Wakeham Years (1799-1812)

Margaret, his first wife, died in 1793 in Percé, probably during childbirth. Several years later, John moved his family to Wakeham. Perhaps he wanted to move closer to family. Life would have been harsh in Percé at that time, and he may have needed help with a growing family. It may have been that his sister, Elenor, was no longer living in Percé. Perhaps he was looking for better land to farm, providing his family with a more secure living. Around 1798 he remarried to Margaret McPherson (a daughter or sister of Daniel McPherson).

Daniel McPherson was a merchant who ran a successful fishing operation at Point St. Peter and Douglas Town. (This will be discussed in a separate chapter).

What is known is that on May 10th, 1799, John submitted a petition for two hundred acres of land in Wakeham. In that petition, John stated that he bought the lot in question from the heirs of John Knox.¹⁴

To His Excellency, Robert L. Milnes, Esq. Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Lower Canada in Council

The Petition of John Patterson

Humbly Sheweth

That your Excellency's Petitioner is an Inhabitant of Gaspe, in the province of Lower Canada at which place he was born, and bred, and has always been in Allegiance to his Britanick Majesty, and has lately for valuable considerations, purchased from the Heirs of the late John Knox all the buildings and improvements made as well as the pretensions to a certain lot of land known by the name of Knox's Farm, situated and lying on the North side of the South West River of Gaspe, aforesaid, and about six miles above the harbour. Bounded to the eastward by the land of the Honorable Felix O'Hara, Esq. and to the westward by those of Hugh O'Hara, Esq. and supposed to contain two hundred acres, more or less. Wherefore your Excellency's Petitioner humbly pray your Excellency to grant him the above-described lot of land which he proposes to cultivate and improve and in duty bound, will pray.

Gaspe 10th May 1799

(signed) John Paterson

To His Excellency Robert S. Milnes Esq^r
 Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Lower Canada
 Council Chamber

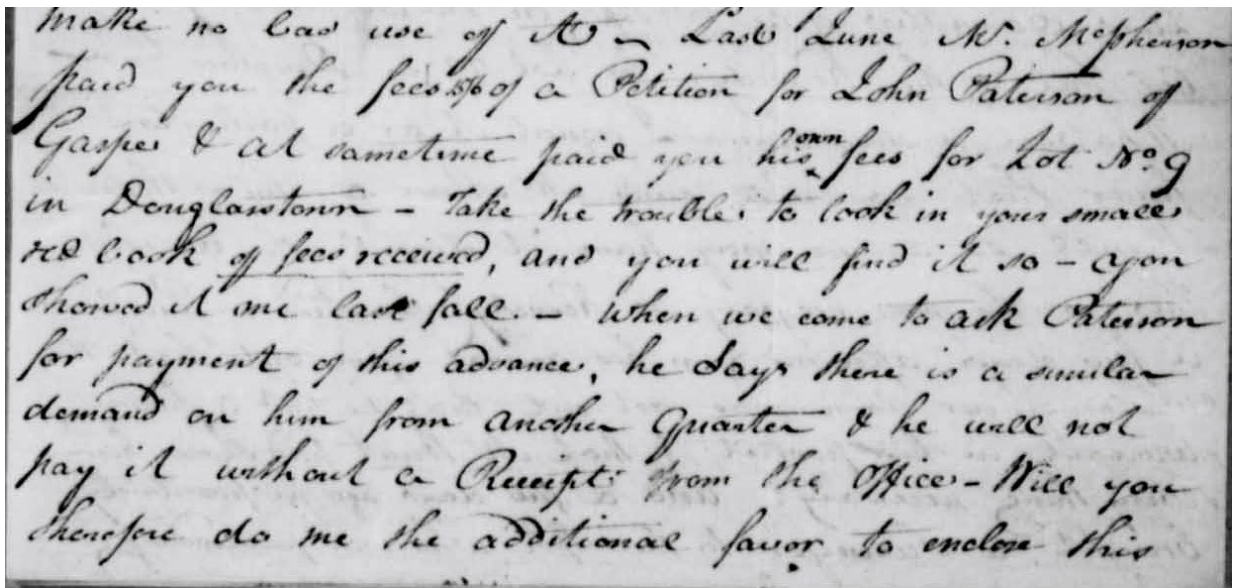
The Petition of John Patterson
 Humbly sheweth

That your Excellency's Petitioner an Inhabitant
 of Gaspe in the Province of Lower Canada at
 which place he was born, and bred and has always
 been in Allegiance to His Britannick Majesty
 and has lately for valuable considerations pur-
 chased from the Heir of the late John Kroy all
 the buildings and improvements made on as well
 as their pretensions to a certain Lot of land known
 by the name of Kroy's Farm situated and lying
 on the North side of the South West River of
 Gaspe, aforesaid and about six miles above the
 Harbour bounded to the eastward by the Lands of
 the Hon^{ble} Felix O'Hara Esq^r and to the Westward
 by those of Hugh O'Hara Esq^r and supposed to
 contain Two hundred Acres more or less. Whereupon
 your Excellency's Petitioner humbly prays your Excellency
 to grant him the above described Lot of Land which
 he proposes to cultivate and improve and your
 Excellency's Petitioner as in duty bound will pray—

John Patterson

Gaspe 10th May 1799

John's family connection to Daniel McPherson was reinforced when Daniel aided John by paying for the fees of his claim. In a letter dated 1802, Henry Johnston, a son-in-law of McPherson, to the Land Board, requests receipt for the fees paid.¹⁵



Make no bad use of it - Last June Mr. McPherson paid you the fees of a Petition for John Patterson of Gaspe & at same time paid you his ^{own} fees for Lot No. 9 in Douglastown - Take the trouble to look in your small red book of fees received, and you will find it so - you showed it me last fall. - When we come to ask Patterson for payment of this advance, he says there is a similar demand on him from another Quarter & he will not pay it without a Receipt from the Office - Will you therefore do me the additional favor to enclose this

In 1801 the Land Commission refused his request for the grant as they concluded that they could find no proof that John Knox or his heirs had any right to the land.¹⁶

Petition of John Patterson of Gaspe

For a grant of land in that District. Referred to the said Committee by order of his Excellency the Lieutenant Governor 27th June 1801.

The Committee not being able to say that John Knox has any title the land here prayed for or whether Knox made over his pretensions to the lot described, suspend their opinion until the Petitioner shall exhibit satisfactory proof that John Knox had a right to dispose of the land described in this petition.

Quebec

30th June 1801

Signed by order Hugh Finley, Chairman

1625
791

Land Committee

The Committee not being able to say that John Knox had any title to the land here prayed for or whether Knox made over his pretensions to the lot described, suspend their opinion until the Petitioner shall exhibit satisfactory proof that John Knox had a right to dispose of the Land described in this Petition.

Quebec
30th June 1801

Signed by Order
Hugh Finlay
Chairman

Referred to a committee of the whole Council by order of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor
27th June 1801

^M
N. 179

Petition
of John Patterson
of Gaspe.

For a Grant of land
in that District

Referred to the Land
Committee by order
of His Excellency the
Lieut. Governor

27 June 1801

H. M. Brydson

~~Ref. by the do~~

Received by the Land Com^{tee}
27 June 1801 H.M.

Book E. p.

We do not know who John Knox was or what claim he may have had on the land in question. Some evidence exists, however, to show that a Knox family was living in Percé around the same time as John Jr. The Janvrin Ledgers of 1798 show an account for John Jr. and for a John Knox. It seems that Knox was involved in the fisheries, probably knew John Jr., and was also associated with Daniel McPherson. ¹⁷

35/

1798

Janvr 1	To M ^o allon e brought from ledger 97 folios 36	15 2 7
		<hr/> 13 2 7
9 ^e	To ballance brought from the other side	6 2 7
	à Dan ^e McPherson	1 1 7
		<hr/> 7 3 7

Further proof of a Knox family living in Percé area comes from the 1835 baptism of a John Knox, son of Richard Knox. ¹⁸

B.
John Knox

Le donné Souldet, curé de cette paroisse, et nous
Père Soudet, ont baptisé John au le vingt six
mai dernier du légitime mariage de Richard
Knox & de Marguerite Gorman de Percé. Parrains
Cornelius Scandlin, marraine Honoracte Cuth
qui, ainsi que le père, ont pu signer. = Luc Soudet

Could Richard's father or grandfather have been the John Knox in question? Were they the heirs of John Knox? More remains to be discovered.

In any event, official title to the land was not confirmed until 1819 when John's widow, Margaret presented a claim to the Gaspé Land Commission.

On July 8th, 1819, the claim by Margaret Paterson, widow of John Paterson, Richard Paterson, John Paterson, Daniel Paterson, Laughlan Paterson, Julia Paterson and Mary Paterson, all of Gaspe Bay, for Lot 23 (400 acres) was submitted to the Gaspe Land Commission. This is the same land petitioned for by John Paterson on May 10th, 1799. Their claim was based on occupancy for “20 years past” which confirms the original date of John’s petition. At the same time, they also made a claim for Lot #6, containing two hundred acres. The Commission accepted both claims on September 28th, 1821, and the requested lots were granted to the Paterson family.

The following is an excerpt from the Lower Canada Land Papers, found in Library and Archives Canada.¹⁹

District of Gaspe

Douglas Town 8 July 1819

Claimed by Margaret Paterson (widow of the late John Paterson of Gaspe Bay), Richard Paterson, John Paterson, Daniel Paterson, Laughlan Paterson, Julia Paterson and Mary Paterson, all of Gaspe Bay of the said Margaret Paterson with the above named John Paterson, late Deceased, for lot #23 on the North side of the South West branch of Gaspe Bay bounded in front to the South by the same South West branch and in depth by waste lands of the Crown on the east by lot #22 commonly called O’Hara and McCord’s Patent and on the West by lot #22 and divided from the said lots by division line running magnetically North 32 degrees East the said lot consisting of four hundred superficial acres on a front of thirty eight chains claimed by occupancy for twenty years past.

Further, Lot #6 on the said north side of the same SW branch Gaspe Bay bounded in front and in depth as above described and on the East by lot #5 and on the West by a vacant lot, and divided from them by lines running South 32 East magnetically containing two hundred acres on a front of nineteen chains, claimed by recent occupancy

25792

District of Gaspe
Douglas Town July 1819

Claim by Margaret Paterson
(Widow of the late John Paterson
of Gaspe Bay) Richard Paterson John
Paterson, Daniel Paterson Laughlan
Paterson, Julia Paterson, and Mary Paterson,
all of Gaspe Bay issue of the said
Margaret Paterson with the above named
John Paterson, late Deceased, for lot 2023
on the North side of the SW branch of
Gaspe Bay bounded in front to the
South by the said SW branch of ~~Gaspe~~
~~Bay~~ and in depth by waste lands of the
crown on the East by lot 2022 commonly
called ~~O'Hara~~ and ~~Woods~~ Patent
and on the West by lot 2024 and divided
from the said lots by division
lines running magnetically North
32° East the said lot consisting of
four hundred superficial acres on
a front of thirty eight chains. Claimed
by occupancy for twenty years
past.

Further lot 2026 on the said North side of the said
SW branch of Gaspe Bay bounded in front
and in depth as above described and on the
East by lot 2025 and on the West by a vacant
lot, and divided from them by lines
running North 32° East magnetically containing
two hundred acres on a front of
nineteen chains, Claimed by recent
occupancy.

Margaret's requests were granted, and the following is an excerpt from the Lower Canada Land Papers, Library and Archives Canada.²⁰

Quebec 28th November 1821

Present J.J. Taschereau, Esq. President

L. Juchereau Dushesnay, Esq

The lots of land above mentioned and described claimed by the said Margaret Paterson, Richard Paterson, Daniel Paterson, John Paterson, Laughlan Paterson, Julia Paterson and Mary Paterson, having been duly published in the Quebec Gazette of the 11th and 17th February, 3rd April and 8th May one thousand eight hundred and twenty according to an act passed by the legislature of this province in the fifty ninth year of the reign of his late majesty George the Third entitled "An Act to Secure the Inhabitants of the Inferior District of Gaspé in the Possession and Enjoyment of their Lands" and the commissioners appointed under and in virtue of said act, having also received satisfactory proof of the possession and occupation of the said lot No. 23 by the said claimants, as by the said act provided they do accordingly in virtue of the said act adjudge and declare the claim of them the said Margaret Paterson, Richard Paterson, Daniel Paterson, John Paterson, Laughlan James Paterson, Julia Paterson and Mary Paterson to the said lot of lands No. 23 to be good and valid and with respect to the said lot of land No. 6 the said claimants not having produced satisfactory proof of their possession and occupation of the same as to entitle them to the said lot No. 6 in the virtue of the said act the commissioners in as much as the said lot is waste and unoccupied land an hath not been claimed by any other person or persons recommend that a grant thereof be made to them the above named claimants.

28th November 1821

75793

Present J. F. Tschewani Esq^r President
& Juchewani 2 weeksday

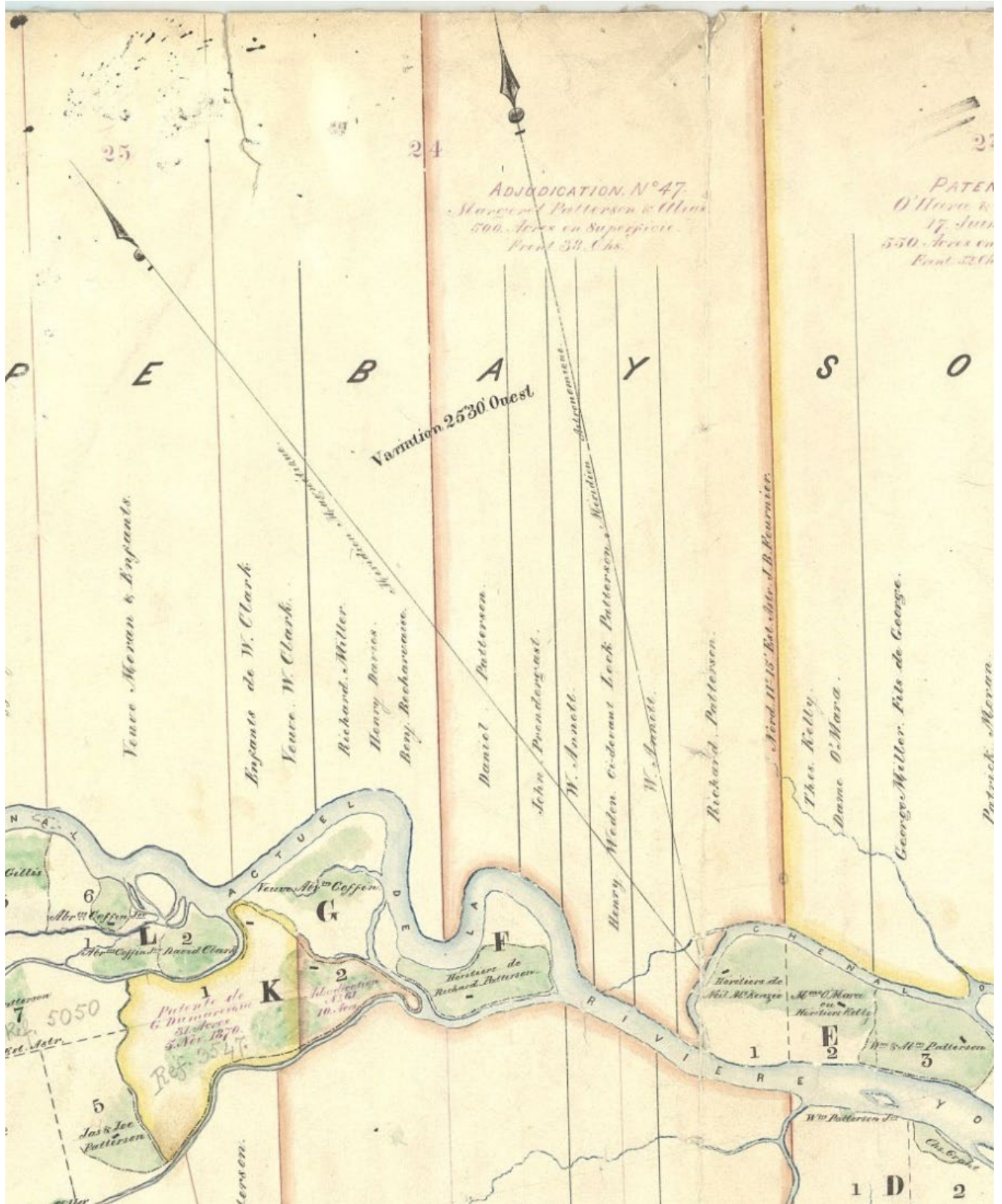
The lots of land
~~above~~ mentioned and described claimed by the
said Margaret Paterson Richard Paterson
son, Daniel Paterson John Paterson
Laughlan Paterson Julia Paterson and
Mary Paterson, having been duly pub-
lished in the Quebec Gazette of the 10th
and 17th February 3rd April and 8th May
one thousand eight hundred and twenty
according to an act passed by the legis-
lature of this province in the fifty ninth
year of the reign of his late Majesty George
the Third intituled "An Act to secure
the inhabitants of the inferior District
of Gaspe in the possession and enjoyment
of their lands" and the commissioners
appointed under and in virtue of the
said act, having also received satisfacto-
ry proof of the possession and occupa-
tion of the said lot n^o 23 by the said
claimants, as by the said act provided,
they do accordingly in virtue of the
said act adjudge and declare the
claim of them the said Margaret Pa-
terson, Richard Paterson, Daniel Paterson
John Paterson, Laughlan Paterson
Julia Paterson and Mary Paterson
to the said lot of land n^o 23 to be just
and valid and with respect to the said
lot of land n^o 6, the said claimants
not having produced satisfactory
proof of their possession and occupa-
tion

of the same so as to entitle them to the
 said lot ~~no~~ 6 in virtue of the said act
 and the commissioners inasmuch as
 the said lot is waste and unoccupied
 land and hath not after due publication
 as above mentioned been claimed by
 any other person or persons recommend
 that a grant ~~of~~ thereof be made to
 them the above named claimants.

Certified

Robt. Smith
 Secy to Com.

The following map shows the location of the land that was formally granted to Margaret in 1819. ²¹
Adjudication No. 47 Margaret Patterson.



The clearing in the right centre of the photo shows part of the original land claimed by John Jr. Presently occupied by Archie Patterson. Photo Credit: Richard Clarke



After moving from Percé to Gaspé, John continued his association with the sea. At that time, Great Britain and France engaged in the Napoleonic Wars, to establish control of the maritime trade routes. The Janvrin Company (owned by merchants from the island of Jersey) was a leader in the Gaspé fishery in the early 19th century and were based in Gaspé and Grand Grave. Around 1799, the company's private Ship of War "Phoenix" captured the armed 24 ton round sterned schooner "L'Aimable Rose" a ship of Napoleonic France.²²

On November 1st, 1804, Philip Hamon, commander of the Phoenix, and acting on behalf of the Janvrin company transferred all right, shares, and interest to the renamed schooner "Rose" to "*Messrs. John Paterson and John Aska, Mariners, Gaspee*".²³ John Ascah was the youngest son of Richard Ascah of Peninsula and brother of John's first wife, Margaret Ascah. On May 10th, 1805, *John Aska became Master of the Rose*.²⁴ No doubt the brothers-in-law engaged in the whaling industry.

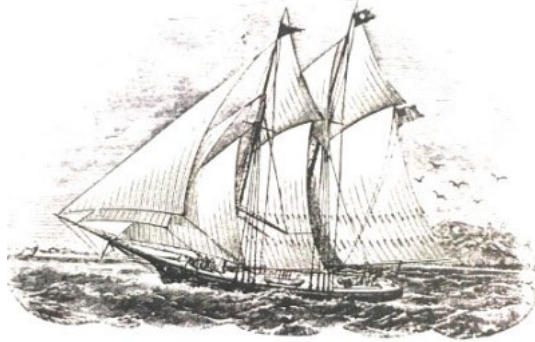
Paterson and Ascah did not keep the schooner for long. On April 28th, 1806, they sold the Rose to Sieur George Jouban dit Boisvert, Mariner, a resident of Trois Rivieres, for the sum of seventy-five pounds.²⁵

After he ended his association with his brother-in-law, John continued his involvement in the whaling industry. The first whalers in Gaspé were the Boyle brothers, John, George, James, and Felix, who were sons of James Boyle and Mary Paterson (sister of John Jr.).²⁶ The Boyles learned the craft from American whalers. "*...an American from Nantucket gave the Messrs. Boyle of the Basin some instruction on the method practiced by the Americans in killing whales, and the young men's perseverance fully demonstrated the utility of promoting that pursuit...*"²⁷

In 1809 John along with the Boyle brothers captured five whales and produced 130 barrels of whale oil.
²⁸ In 1811, the 80-ton square sterned schooner *Mary Boyle* was built in Gaspé and registered in Quebec on

November 6 of that year.²⁹ No doubt the schooner was named after the mother of the Boyle brothers and sister of John Jr. The Paterson family continued to be involved in the whaling industry for the next 20 years.

Due to the need for manpower, it is quite probable that John's sons participated in their father's venture. Whaling was not only capital and labour intensive; it was also a dangerous occupation. Two sons of John died as young men. Charles lost his life when he drowned while on a whaling expedition in 1819. His other son, John died sometime around 1823, probably also because of a whaling accident. John's son Richard continued to operate as a whaler until 1825.



The hunting of whales and the transformation into whale oil required considerable capital. John probably had an association with one of the larger fishing operators, possibly with Daniel McPherson (either his brother-in-law, or father-in-law) to provide the capital needed.

An early traveller to Gaspe, John McGregor, wrote of his experiences at Gaspe Bay in 1815.³⁰

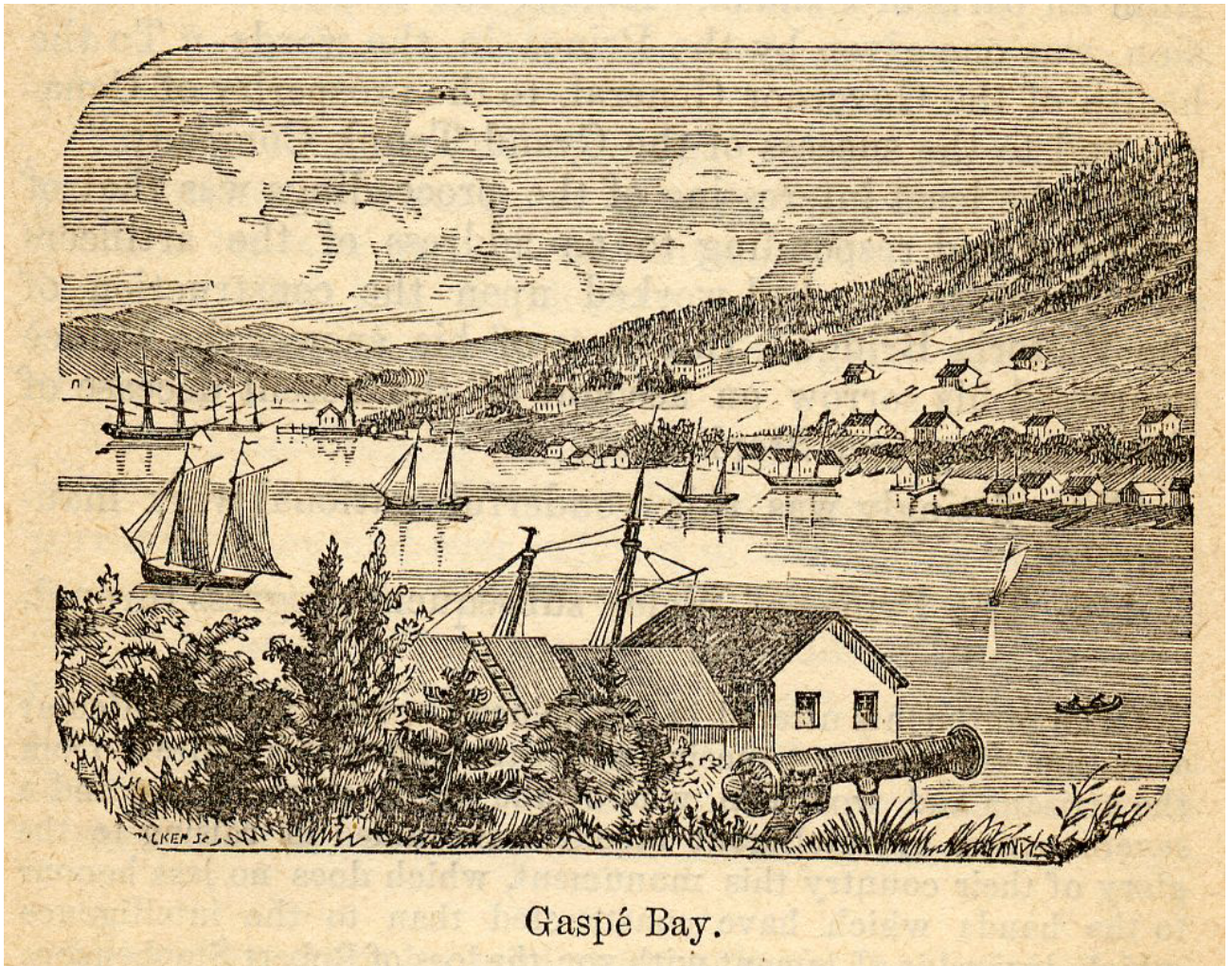
“Gaspe Harbour is one of the best in the world: it is situated immediately below the entrance to the River St. Lawrence. The inhabitants are thinly scattered in three or four places. and are employed chiefly in the cod and herring fisheries. Little cultivation appears and there doesn't seem to be any extent of good land around the harbour; further up, in the valleys, excellent soil, covered with large trees, is met with. A few cargoes of have been shipped here for England; and some of the inhabitants pursue the whale fishery.

The whales caught within the Gulf of St. Lawrence are those called “hump-backs,” which yield, on an average, about three tons of oil; some have been taken seventy feet long, which produced eight tons. The mode of taking them is somewhat different from that followed by the Greenland whalers; and the Gaspe whalers first acquired an acquaintance with it from the people of Nantucket. An active man, accustomed to boats and schooners, may become fully acquainted with everything connected with this fishery in one season. The vessels best adapted for this purpose are schooners of from seventy to eighty tons burden, manned with a crew of eight man, including the master. Each schooner requires two boats, about twenty feet long, build narrow and sharp, and with “pink” sterns; and two hundred and twenty fathoms of line are necessary in each boat, with spare harpoons and lances. The men row towards the whale, and when they are very near, use paddles, which make less noise than oars. Whales are sometimes taken fifteen minutes after they are struck with the harpoon. The Gaspe whalers never go out in the quest of them until some of the small ones, which enter the bay about the beginning of June, appear; these swim too fast to be easily harpooned, are not besides, worth the trouble. The large whales are taken off the entrance to Gaspe Bay, on each side of the island of Anticosti, and up the River St. Lawrence as far as Bique.”

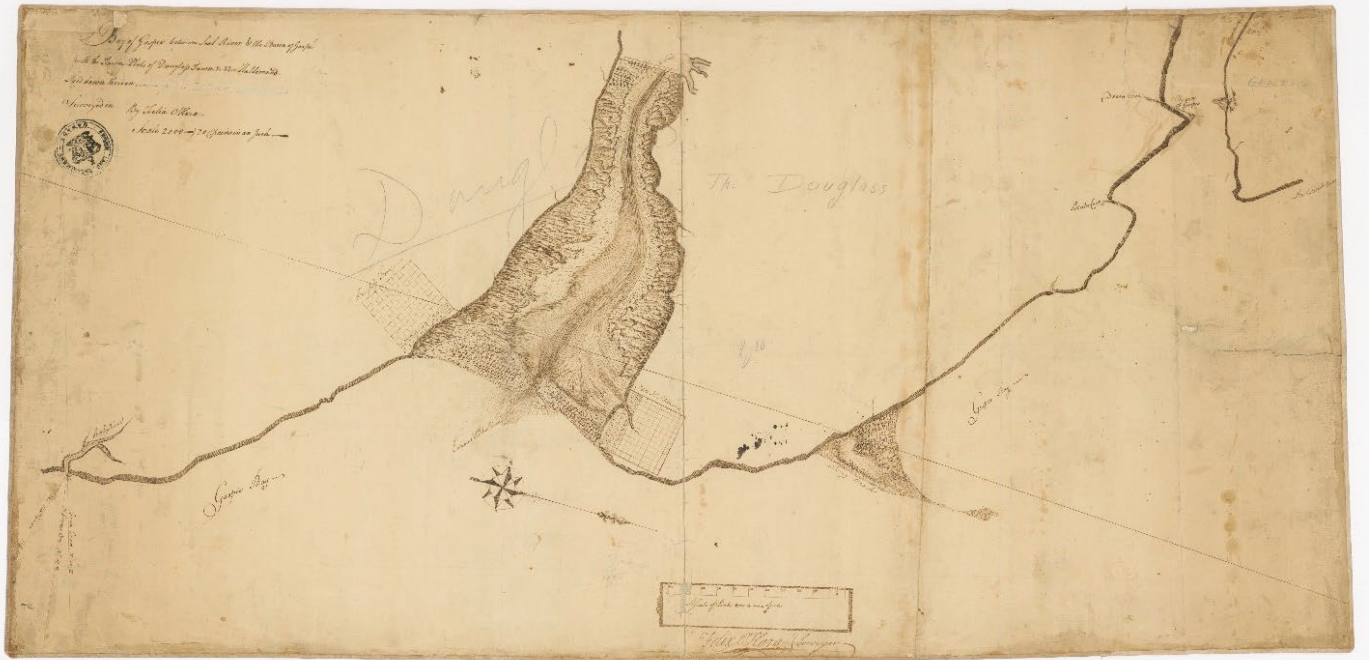
The importance of the whaling industry at Gaspé Bay at this time is described in the report of the Gaspé Land Commission.³¹ The amount of capital needed to finance a venture of this kind is evident from the description.

“The whale fishery is carried on with some success by a few active and enterprising inhabitants of Gaspé Bay who are almost exclusively employed in this kind of fishery. Four or five large schooners, manned each with eight to ten able and skillful persons, are occupied with whaling during the summer months. This business yields about eighteen thousand gallons of oil, which is sent principally to Quebec. The number of hands employed in reducing the blubber to oil, preparing casks, and other incidental labour, may altogether amount to about one hundred.”

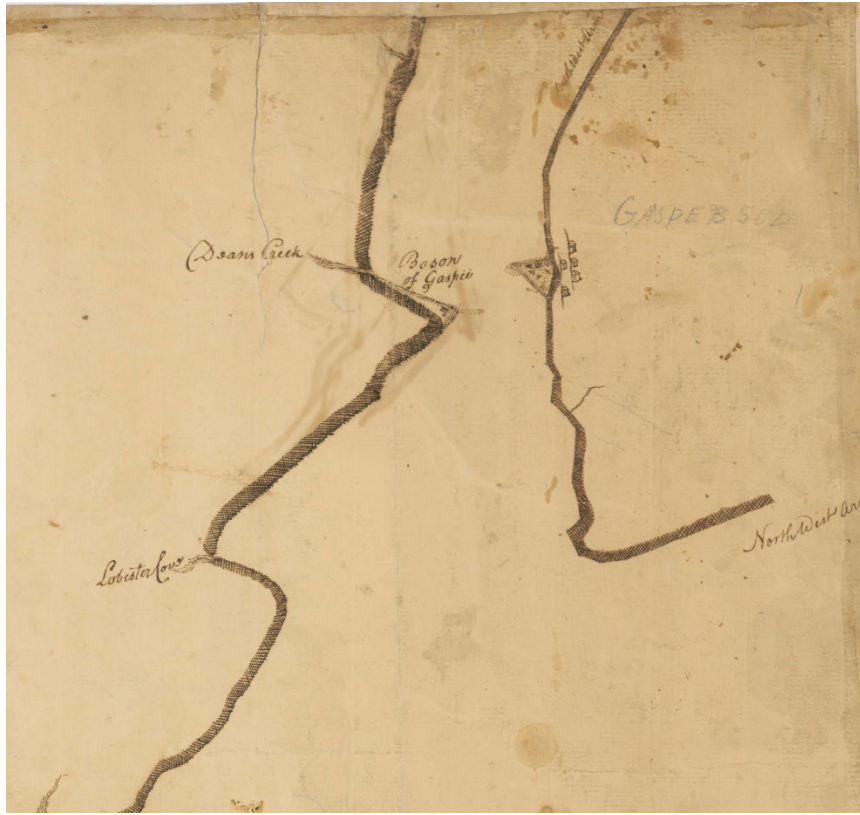
The drawing below shows what Gaspé would have looked like in the time of John Jr.³² The cannon in the foreground was located at Fort Ramsay, which was also known at that time as Point Conway. The buildings in the background show the settlement known as O’Hara Hamlet. The buildings to the right show the location of what was known as O’Hara’s Point.



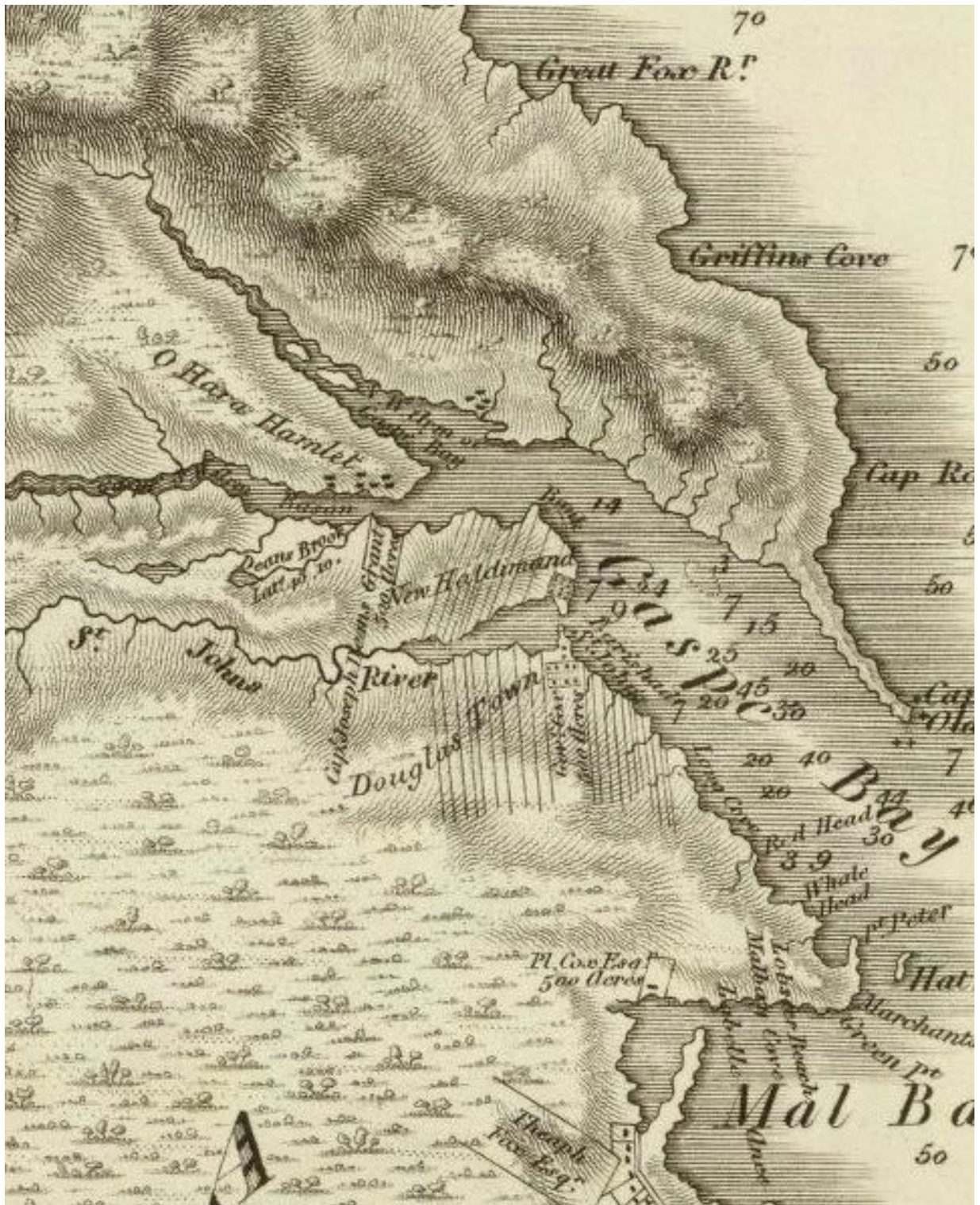
A map drawn circa 1790 by Felix O'Hara showing the Gaspé area during the time of John Jr., showing the proposed Loyalist settlements at Douglas Town and New Haldimand.³³



The cropped version of the map shows the South West Arm (York River) and the settlement at Gaspe.



On the following map of Gaspé from 1815, the name O'Hara Hamlet is clearly identified.³⁴



John was actively involved in community life. Around 1800, he was named a Justice of the Peace and served in that capacity until 1812.³⁵ On August 25th, 1805, he is listed as a witness to the Last Will and Testament of Felix O'Hara³⁶

In January 1812, a petition was sent by residents to the government of Lower Canada for the building of a school at Half Way Point, on the site of the present day Wakeham Church. John Paterson's signature appears with the initials J.P. following indicating he was still a Justice of the Peace.³⁷

The following are the signatures of the petition of January 10, 1812:

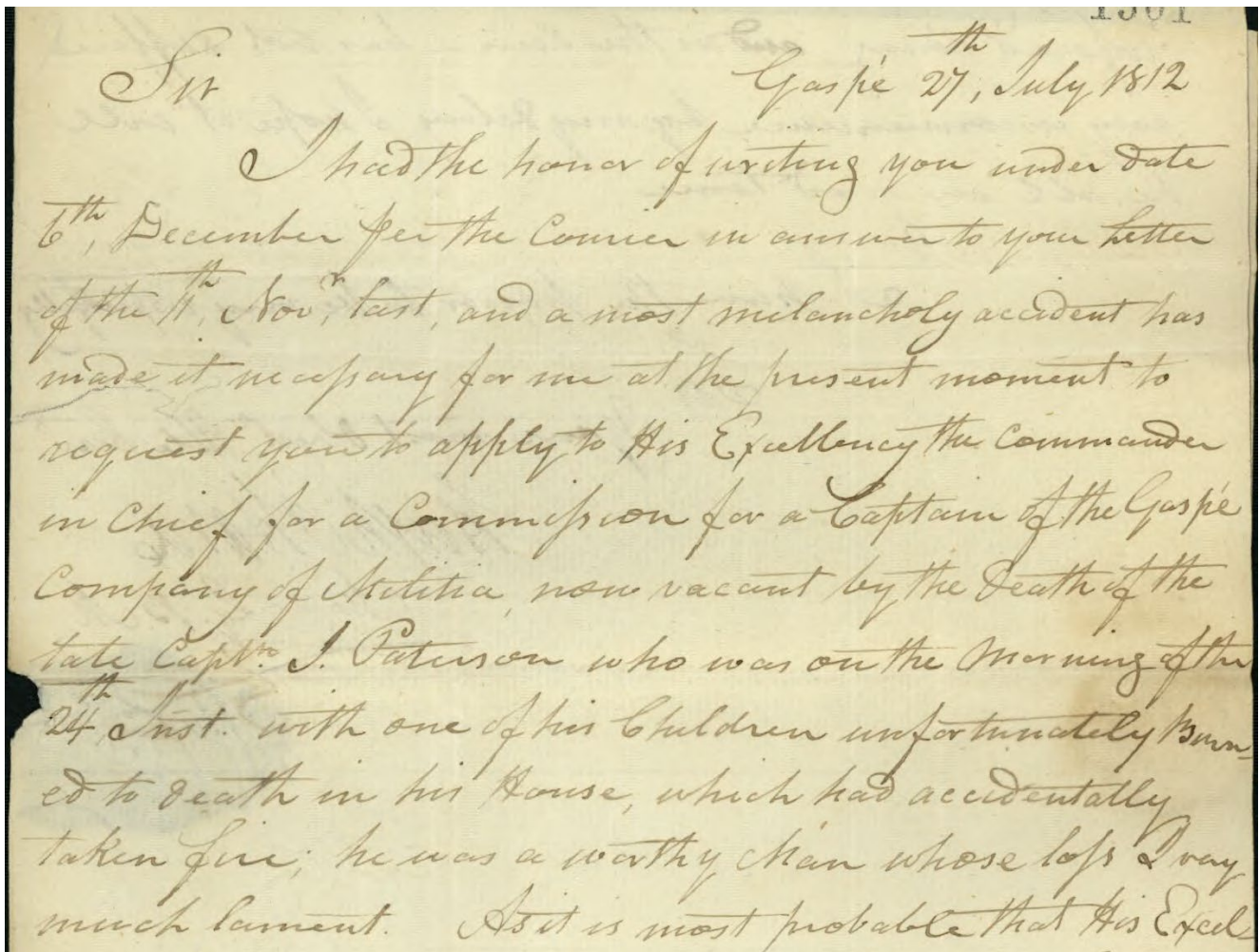
John Paterson, J.P. —
 James Boyle George Boyle
 Abraham Coffin John Boyle
 Jane Hall ^{for her absony} Richard Amett
^{of infant children of Capt. Hall} Frederick Coffin Benjamin Coffin
 James Boyle Junr. Richard Miller
 William Baker George Amett
 James Baker John Amett
 Edward Beck Robert Ascar
 cease, turn over: — William Ascar
 John Speak William Paterson
 William Amett Samuel Trippe
 James Boyle Senr. Peter Paterson
 Abm Coffin Junr.
 Philip Coffin
 Richard Paterson
 Simeon Paterson Junr.
 Thomas Harmon
 Charles Davis

Also signing the petition are John's brother, Peter, and sons Richard and John.

John Jr. continued to serve in the militia, as he did at Percé. On October 1st, 1805, he was commissioned a Captain of the Militia for Gaspé and served in that capacity until 1812.³⁸

Unfortunately for John, at the time he was establishing himself as an important merchant and member of the community, his life came to a tragic, premature end. John Jr. perished, along with one of his children in a house fire on the morning of July 24th, 1812. It is highly likely that John was trying to save his child and died of smoke inhalation.

On July 27th of that year, Hugh O'Hara, a Major of the Gaspé Militia wrote to the Adjutant General for the Militia of Lower Canada, Francois Vassal de Monviel, in which he states "...and a most melancholy accident has made it for me at the present moment to request you to apply to his Excellency, the Commander in Chief for a commission for a Captain of the Gaspé Company of Militia, now vacant by the death of Captain J. Paterson who was on the morning of the 24th Inst with one of his children unfortunately burned to death in his house which had accidentally taken fire; he was a worthy man whose loss I very much lament".³⁹ He recommends that Lieutenant H. Johnson be promoted to Captain and John Boyle named Lieutenant.



Sir

Gaspé 27, July 1812

I had the honor of writing you under date 6th December per the Courier in answer to your letter of the 11th Nov^r last, and a most melancholy accident has made it necessary for me at the present moment to request you to apply to His Excellency the Commander in Chief for a Commission for a Captain of the Gaspé Company of Militia, now vacant by the death of the late Capt^o J. Paterson who was on the morning of the 24th Inst. with one of his children unfortunately burned to death in his house, which had accidentally taken fire; he was a worthy man whose loss I very much lament. As it is most probable that His Excel

The name of the child who perished is not known. No records have been found to provide any information. Family tradition has it that spoons were fashioned from silver that had melted in the fire. Margaret Amelia, John's grand daughter, was supposed to have possessed one. No further information has been found to give light on the fate of the spoon(s).

As Justice of the Peace, it is quite probable that John was entrusted with important family records. It is in this fire, the land certificates and military service documents of his father, John Sr. and of his father-in-law, Richard Ascah, may have been lost. This may explain why so few records of his father survive.

Sometime after his death, his son Daniel built a house near the site of the original house destroyed in 1812. The photo shows the house, occupied by Rupert Alvin Patterson and his family in 1934.



Also, on the same original land granted to John, is the home of Rupert's son, Norman Henry. The photograph was taken in 1944. Norman's daughter, Elaine is my mother.



Children of John Jr. and Margaret McPherson

Daniel (1802-1885) Married Elizabeth Kitchen

Laughlan Thomas (1804-1853)

Julia Ann (1810-1897) Married William Bleaden Meyer

Mary (1812-?)

Unknown Child who died in 1812.

Notes:

¹ Patterson, Raymond "Family Gatherings"

² Ibid

³ LAC Lower Canada Land Papers RG 1 L3 Vol. 154

⁴ LAC Lower Canada Land Papers RG 1 L3 Vol. 151

⁵ BAnQ

⁶ LAC "Correspondence with Major Nicholas Cox, Lieutenant Governor of Gaspé"

⁷ BAnQ Quebec Gazette, June 3, 1790

⁸ "Registres de Carleton, Co. Bonaventure, Parois St. Joseph, 1773-1862"

⁹ BAnQ General Roll of the British Militia in the Township of Piercie, District of Gaspee 1789

¹⁰ LAC Lower Canada Land Papers RG 1 L3 Vol 154

¹¹ BAnQ

¹² BAnQ

¹³ LAC Lower Canada Land Papers RG 1 L3 Vol. 151

¹⁴ LAC Lower Canada Land Papers RG 1 L3 Vol 154

¹⁵ LAC Lower Canada Land Papers RG 1 L3 Vol 137

¹⁶ LAC Lower Canada Land Papers RG 1 L3 Vol 154

¹⁷ LAC Janvrin Ledgers 1798 R6926-0-2-E, MG23-GIII15, Volume number: 1

¹⁸ "Registre de Percé, Co. Gaspé, 1835"

¹⁹ LAC Lower Canada Land Papers RG 1 L3 Vol 154

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ BAnQ

²² Annett, Kenneth "Gaspé of Yesteryear" Vol.

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- ²³ British Plantation Registry,
- ²⁴ Ibid
- ²⁵ Annett, Kenneth “Gaspé of Yesteryear” Vol.
- ²⁶ Annet, Kenneth “The Annet Family”
- ²⁷ Ibid
- ²⁸ Annett, Kenneth, “The Annett Family”
- ²⁹ Annet, Kenneth “The Annet Family”
- ³⁰ McGregor, John “British America”, published in Edinburgh, Scotland, 1833
- ³¹ LAC
- ³² BAnQ
- ³³ BAnQ
- ³⁴ BAnQ
- ³⁵ BAnQ “Civil and Military Registers for Lower Canada 1800-1812
- ³⁶ Annett, Kenneth “Gaspé of Yesteryear” Vol.
- ³⁷ Philips, Dorothy “A History of the Schools Around Gaspé Bay”
- ³⁸ BAnQ Civil and Military Registers for Lower Canada 1791-1812
- ³⁹ LAC RG 9 1A1 Volume 2