

Suddard Family of Gaspé

By Andrew Patterson
(2025)

In the spring of 1819, while Bishop Jacob Mountain of Quebec was in England, the Rev. John Suddard entered the ministry of the Anglican Church. Several sources suggest that he was from Whitehaven, Cumberland, England. Rev. Suddard and his wife arrived in Quebec that fall, along with his wife and two brothers. The following year he was assigned to the District of Gaspé including the Baie Chaleur. They took up residence in Gaspé Basin in October, 1820.¹

Rev. Suddard settled on land bought from William Annett located just east of the present-day Carrefour.² In 1821 Dr. Von Iffland was sent to Gaspé to vaccinate residents against small pox. Of his visit he stated that, “the most distinguished citizens who live near the harbour are the O’Hara, the Rev. Suddard and Mr. Stuart, all of whom received me with the most generous hospitality.”³

In the earliest days of English settlement of the Gaspé Coast missionaries passed occasionally, performing services, as well as baptisms and marriages. Bishop Inglis visited the area in 1789. At



Third St. Paul's Church

that time the village of Gaspé consisted of around 20 homes supported by a meagre fishing industry, plus a few isolated families spread out around the bay. As the population began to grow, residents requested the establishment of an Anglican Church, which finally came to fruition in 1819. After the arrival of Rev. Suddard, a small temporary building served as the place of worship for residents. Misfortune struck the next year when a forest fire burned the church to the ground. In 1824 an interim building was built. About 20 years later St. Paul’s Church was completed and the consecration took place on the fourteenth of August, 1853.

Traveling the entire coast from Gaspé Basin to the Restigouche River by canoe, Rev. Suddard presided over services, and performed baptisms, marriages and funerals from for the first couple of years of his tenure.⁴ Some of his records have survived and can be found in Ken Annett’s, “Gaspé of Yesterday,” article number 252. His ministry in Gaspé was short-lived, as he was dismissed by the Bishop of Quebec in 1825.⁵ John sold his home in 1828, and it appears that he and his family left Gaspé shortly thereafter.

¹ Gaspé of Yesterday, by Ken Annett, Article 252 – Records of Rev. John Suddard. (Available on GoGaspé.com)

² Family Gatherings, by Raymond Patterson, Volume 3, page 475, (Available on GoGaspé.com)

³ Gaspé of Yesterday, by Ken Annett, article #252.

⁴ National Archives of Canada, Finding No.285. <https://data2.archives.ca/pdf/pdf001/p000000752.pdf>

⁵ Gaspé of Yesterday, Article 239 – Rev. John Suddard Sells Gaspé Property.

Around the same time as the arrival of Rev. John in Gaspé, his brother Thomas, wife Bridget Kitchen, and their five young children followed. Judging by the birth records of their children, it can be assumed that this family arrived in Gaspé sometime between 1820, when their son Thomas was born in England, and the summer of 1822, when Henry was baptised in Gaspé. The couple went on to have eight more children, all baptised in Gaspé.

Thomas purchased land from the Dean family in Gaspé Harbour and built a log home some distance east of the present-day Carrefour. About 1850 he built a frame house which was destroyed by fire in 1957.⁶ Thomas remained in Gaspé and had another eight children. It appears that he spent the rest of his life living in Lobster Cove. He died on Nov. 17, 1861 at the age of 68 and was buried in St. John's cemetery in Sandy Beach.⁷



Lancashire County, England

Searching for the parents of John and Thomas has proven completely futile. On the headstone of Thomas his birth date is listed as the 21st of November, 1792. Searches on FamilySearch.org produce nothing matching that date, but several with the family name Sudderst or Suddern in the neighboring Lancashire County. Dozens of family trees on Ancestry and elsewhere, including “Our Gaspé Roots,” show the parents of Thomas as Francis Suddard and Nancy Walker. Hours of searching have not turned up any evidence of either in the form of birth certificate or other original source. To further confuse the issue, no Francis Suddard has turned up in searches of Cumberland or Lancashire with a birthdate around 1770, which could be his father. Searching for Nancy Walker has proved futile as well. There were five girls born in or around 1770 in Cumberland with the name of Nancy Walker. Further research would certainly be required in order to prove the

parentage of John and Thomas.

It does appear relatively certain that they came from either Lancashire or Cumberland. These counties are adjacent, and located in the north-west corner of England, in the Lake district. Thomas did marry Bridget Kitchen, whose parents were Isaac Kitchen and Eleanor Borrowdale, both of Irton, Cumberland County. For more on Bridget's ancestors, see the article, “Kitchen Family of Gaspé.”⁸

The Suddard family of Gaspé initially was initially concentrated in the village of Gaspé and Sandy Beach, but certainly their descendants have spread out into other nearby villages and elsewhere throughout Canada and abroad. Many became prominent citizens in the community, including shop keepers and councillors.

⁶ Family Gatherings, by Raymond Patterson, Volume 3, page 475

⁷ Headstone of Thomas Suddard, St. John's and St. Philip's Anglican Cemetery, Sandy Beach.

⁸ Kitchen Family of Gaspé, by Andrew Patterson, www.gogaspe.com/history.htm

Marriage of Rev. John Suddard

Name John Suddard⁹
Sex Male
Spouse's Name Elizabeth Hardman
Spouse's Sex Female
Event Type Marriage
Event Date 26 Jun 1816
Event Place Rochdale, Lancashire, England, United Kingdom
Event Place (Original) Rochdale, Lancashire, England
Source Details p 77 rn 231

Family of Rev. John Suddard and Elizabeth Hardman

William Suddard, Born 12 Aug 1818¹⁰ [Daughter of John Suddard and Elizabeth]
David Suddard, Born 1824, Gaspe¹¹

Family of Rev. John Suddard and Ann McArthur

Edward Livingston Suddard, Born 1828, Gaspe¹²

The 1861 Census of Gaspe provides confirms that only Thomas remained in Gaspe.

Thomas Suddard Jr	Farmer	Born in England	Married 1812	age 69
Mrs. Suddard		Born in England		age 67
Joseph	Labourer	Gaspe		age 25
Samuel	Labourer	Gaspe		age 22
James	Labourer	Gaspe		age 14

⁹ "England Marriages, 1538–1973", , *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NFXD-W9N> : 11 March 2020), John Suddard, 1816.

¹⁰ (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NFKC-SBT> : 5 February 2023), John Suddard in entry for William Suddard, 1818

¹¹ Letter from Hugh Suddard, Gaspe of Yesterday, article 252

¹² Our Gaspe Roots, <https://bakerchild.tribalpages.com/>

Marriage of Thomas Suddard ¹³

Name	Thomas Suddard
Sex	Male
Spouse's Name	Bridget Kitchen
Spouse's Sex	Female
Event Type	Marriage
Event Date	28 Nov 1812
Event Place	Corney, Cumberland, England, United Kingdom
Event Place (Original)	Corney, Cumberland, England

Family of Thomas Suddard and Bridget Kitchen

Children baptised in Corney, Cumberland County, England¹⁴

Elizabeth Suddard	B 20 Feb 1813	M Nicholas Mullin
John Suddard	B 23 Dec 1814	D 1895, age 82
Ann 'Nancy' Suddard*	B circa 1816	M John Adams
Francis Suddard	B 10 Sept 1818	uncertain
Thomas Suddard	B 4 Jul 1820	M Jane Coffin

Children baptised in Gaspé, Quebec, Canada¹⁵

Henry Suddard	B 12 Sep 1822	M Sarah Grant
Ellen Bertha Suddard	B 15 Oct 1825	M Joseph Tripp
Edward Alexander Suddard	B 21 Dec 1826	M [1] Sarah Harbour [2] Eliza Grant
William Suddard	B 14 Aug 1829	M Christie Harbour
Mary Jane Suddard	B 13 Aug 1831	M Jonah Mabe
Joseph Eden Suddard	B 10 Mar 1834	M Sophia Gaumond
Samuel Kimbel Suddard	B 13 Jul 1836	M Mary Coffin
James Suddard	B 02 Apr 1839	M Melinda Harbour

* I was not able to find any birth record for Ann Nancy Suddard with parents, Thomas and Bridget. But there is a listing for "Ann Suddard," B 8 Aug 1824, daughter of Ferdinand Suddard and Margaret, also born in Corney, Cumberland, England.¹⁶

¹³ "England, Lancashire Non-Conformist Church Records, 1647-1996",
, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:C41V-LZZM> : Sat Mar 09 18:02:58 UTC 2024),

¹⁴ FamilySearch.org, multiple searches.

¹⁵ Our Gaspé Roots, <https://bakerchild.tribalpages.com/>

¹⁶ Ancestry.com. *England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

Burial of Thomas Suddard:¹⁷

Sacred, To the memory of Thomas Suddard, Born 21st November 1792, Died 17th July 1861; For if we believed that Jesus died and rose again even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 1 Thess 4.14



¹⁷ Headstone of Thomas Suddard, St. John's and St. Philip's Anglican Cemetery, Sandy Beach.