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The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast

George Francis Le Feuvre
Island of Jersey



Paspébiac in the days of the Jerseymen. Photo: Canadian Public Archives

**This book is a translation of *Jèrri Jadis*,
written in Jersey French, and published in Jersey, in 1983,
by *Le Don Balleine*.**

Translation: Monique Robillard

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Special note

Tony Le Sauteur

While reading George Francis Le Feuvre's book, *Jèrri Jadis*, I realised just how important the presence of my Jersey ancestors had been on the Gaspé Coast. His last pilgrimage, as he called it, was made during the middle of the 1960s.

A true Jerseyman, from the Channel Islands, George Le Feuvre's goal during his last pilgrimage was to contact the largest possible number of families of Jersey origin, and collect, from Gaspé citizens born in the Channel Islands, all the information they could recall of the old days. This is how I came to understand how much Jerseymen and Jerseywomen had contributed in the making of this region.

The fact that Québec historians have come, in modern days, to spontaneously describe my Jersey ancestors as British because they came from Jersey or Guernesey, then believed to be "British possessions", or because they were of Anglican faith, is, to me, highly irritating. It shows so very little knowledge of the history of Jersey and of the Jersey people of the Gaspé Coast. Let's hope George Le Feuvre's account will make them understand that my grandfather, born in Jersey, was, like all Jersey people of the Coast and like most French Canadians, a *Norman through and through!*

***Jèrri Jadis* is certainly a document of the outmost importance to all who want to learn more about the Jersey presence on the Gaspé Coast!**



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The Jersey people of the Gaspé Coast

Instead of spending the summer of 1964 in Jersey, I chose to make a pilgrimage to the Gaspé area. My brother, Sydney, who lived in that region in his youth (he is now established in Ottawa), came with me on this trip because he wanted to renew old acquaintances.

Ah! The Gaspé Coast! A country that still can thrill my old Jersey heart. I had heard so much about the Coast, all through my youth in Jersey, that I decided that, now an old man, I would visit this country, long witness to the serenity, the efforts and miseries (and the joys, for sure) of so many Jersey men and women, born in Jersey, but now residing along the beaches of the Gaspé Coast and at the foot of its mountains.

For many Jersey-born, the Gaspé Coast was also the end of the road, their ashes integrated to the sacred earth of the cemeteries, alongside their churches. Others were born on the Coast, and, although they were Jerseymen at hearth and by parental links, they worked and lived and eventually were put to rest on the Coast, without ever having seen Jersey. In many cases, their children and grandchildren also spent their whole life on the Coast. And, having very little Jersey women around, a good number were married to French Canadian women and, losing their Jersey identity and characteristics, became real French Canadians, in everyway but the name.

Jersey French was heard more often than English or French, in many villages of the Gaspé Coast, especially from Rivière-au-Renard, in the north, to Paspébiac in the south, and even further right down to the small town of Bonaventure where a true Jerseyman can still be found : his name is Douglas Barette and he owns a general store.

About twenty old Jerseymen still use our beautiful old Jersey French, in Gaspésie. Which amounts approximately to the number of Jersey born who still live on the Gaspé Coast. Their children do not speak Jersey French. The same goes for Jersey, where our young people speak English.

The French Canadians' Gaspé peninsula, the *Coast* to Jerseymen, is part of the province of Québec. I am often asked if the Gaspé Peninsula is bigger than Jersey. Well! I can easily answer: yes! The north and east part of the peninsula are mountainous formations called the *Shikshoks*, the north-eastern end of the Appalachian mountain range. The name Shikshok comes from an Indian word, a Micmac word meaning "steep and rocky". Of a mean height of 3300 feet, the Shikshoks are imposing and look down on the Saint-Lawrence River and Gulf. To the south, the slopes gentle down towards the *Baie des Chaleurs*. I can't tell you how this bay came to be named that way: I have often had the opportunity of swimming in it and always found its waters cold. The weather is beautiful during summer, but it is excruciatingly cold in winter. Curiously enough, Sub-Arctic flora can be found on high plateaus!

Generally speaking, the Gaspé peninsula starts, on the north side, with the village of Sainte-Flavie, 200 miles north of the city of Lévis, situated directly opposite Québec City, on the other side of the Saint-Lawrence river. From Sainte-Flavie, the road runs towards the north-east, following the Saint-Lawrence, for some 230 miles, to Grande Grève, et from there, it turns directly southwards, to Percé. Driving west, to the Matapédia Valley, there is roughly another 240 miles.

The Matapédia Valley is the western limit of the Gaspé Coast and spreads over 98 miles from the city of Matapédia back to Sainte-Flavie, on the northern side.

Very nearly 165 miles in length and 87 miles wide, the Gaspé peninsula covers roughly 9,000 square miles. The sea and vast forest areas give work to a population of 140,000 people who live mostly on the side of the road that runs along the coast and, of course, in the Matapédia Valley.

The nice little town of Gaspé (1,700 inhabitants), built at the foot of the mountains on the side of Gaspé Bay, on the eastern limit of the peninsula, is well known because it is there, at the end of its harbour, that, on July 24 1534, the French explorer Jacques Cartier, born in Saint-Malo, took possession of Canada in the name of the King of France. Setting foot on the land, he dug a hole to hold the base of a 30 foot high wooden cross decorated with three *fleurs-de-lis*. Today, a high and beautiful cross made of stone can be seen on the same site, elevated to commemorate the 400th anniversary of that faithful event. In September 1758, General Wolfe destroyed the buildings on the bay of Gaspé, and it can be said that this pillage marked the beginning of the war that led to the loss of Canada to

England.

I will now talk to you about the Jersey men and women who still live in the Gaspé Peninsula, and I will give you the names of many who have passed away there, and whose names can be read on their tombstones.

George Francis Le Feuvre

Jersey



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Grand Étang

From Sainte-Flavie, where the Gaspé peninsula begins, one drives north-east for about 200 miles to get to Grand Étang, the first place where I encountered people of Jersey origin. The road often follows the foot of the mountains, very steep, and is barely higher than ocean level. Some times, it is even built on the sea-shore. When I stop here, gazing on the waves that lick the side of the road, I often ask myself if, maybe, the beginning of this road wasn't in Jersey, in the bay of St Ouën, and made to reach the Gaspé coast, seeing that so many people of Jersey origin can be found in the area.

Coming to Grand Étang, one stands at the beginning of a series of towns and villages where many Jerseymen lived and worked, and where one can still find a few of them as well as a lot of their descendants.

George Godfray, born in Jersey in 1862, married the widow of the local lord of the manor, old mister Thomas Le Breux of Grand Étang (some 35 miles north of Gaspé, by a short road that drops directly south from Rivière-au-Renard), at a time when feudal domains still existed in Gaspésie. He himself became Lord of Grand Étang. He died in 1940 and was buried in the cemetery of Saint-Paul's anglican church, in Gaspé. His wife, being roman catholic, was buried in the cemetery of the catholic church in Cloridorme.

Mr Lewis J. Gibaut, who lives in Cloridorme and has been on the Gaspé Coast for many years, has a good memory. He knew Lord Godfray personally. They worked together for the tradespeople William Hyman and sons, who owned fishing establishments in Grande-Grève and Gaspé. Trade in Grande-Grève was for a long time under the management of Stanley Hotton, who was from the parish of *Ste Mathie* (Jersey). He died in 1968, and was buried in Grande-Grève.

Seignorial domains have long been abolished in Gaspésie and it is to be expected that the descendants of Lord Godfray will disappear in turn

during the present generation. Today's Lord Godfray, lives with his sister. Neither he or his sister have ever married. I dropped by for a visit and found them charming. He holds the local postoffice which he baptised Saint-Héliér, because he had always heard it said that his family came from that area, in Jersey. He has never seen the island of Jersey and he doesn't speak Jersey French, but he his very familiar with the French Canadian language. With his sister, he operates a motel (a word currently used in North-America, and made of the first syllable of the word Motor and the second syllable of Hôtel), half a dozen little wood cottages, built along his property. They lease them to tourists, thereby earning a living comfortably and quietly. Grand Étang gets its name from a large fresh water lake perched in the mountains. It is picturesque as well as renowned for great fishing.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey.



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Rivière-au-Renard

About twenty miles further, one comes to Rivière-au-Renard, one of the major fishing harbours of north-eastern Gaspésie. There never were many Jerseymen here, but the Robins operated a fishing establishment which, along with the shop, made for good working opportunities. French Canadians work there nowadays. The last manager of Jersey origin was Mr Walter P. Le Quesne. I went to see him. He rests in peace in the cemetery. The now deceased John Baudain Le Quesne, undertaker in Jersey, was his cousin, and Miss Lydia Le Maistre who lives in the parish of *St. Martin* (Jersey) is also his cousin.

Another Jerseyman I had the opportunity of meeting was Mr Cyril Le Garignon, brother of Mr Le Garignon, owner of the dairy located on the corner of Phillips and Bath streets, in *St. Hélyi*, Jersey. Mr Le Garignon and his wife (née Kennedy) are charming and invited us to stay.

Part of the population of this port are descendants of Irish immigrants whose ship sank in 1847, near Cap-des-Rosiers. They are French Canadians now, with Irish names. There is no Protestant church or cemetery in Rivière-au-Renard and the Jerseypeople who died here are buried in Gaspé.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey.



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L'Anse-aux-Griffons

Five to six miles further, the road leads us to Anse-au-Griffon where the Robins also had a fishing operation. On a few occasions, I noticed the spelling "Gris-fonds", but it is said that the real name is truly "Griffon". It was the name of a ship whose captain was a descendant of Nicolas Denys, the first nobleman in these parts of the Gaspé peninsula. On my first visit to Anse-au-Griffon, already some years back, the deceased and fondly remembered *Sir Ernest Bertram*, of *Seymour House*, in Grouville (Jersey), was the manager of the Robin establishment. Ernest and his charming wife, née Lenfestey, of Guernsey origin, were very welcoming, like all good Jersey people. I presented myself, accompanied by Morris Le Cocq, son of John Le Cocq, who is from Malbaie but was born in a place called *Pot du Rotchi*, in the parish of Trinity, in Jersey. He and his wife, née Alice Le Mottée, from the parish of St Mary, in Jersey, as well as Morris, are all dead now. I think it had been at least ten years since Mr Bertram had last seen Jersey. His wife insisted that we stay for dinner.

There are no Jerseymen left that work for the Robins in Anse-au-Griffon now, and one can find no protestant church or cemetery there anymore. All Jersey people have been buried in Gaspé.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



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Jersey Cove

From Anse-au-Griffon, if one goes towards the south for about four miles, one comes to Jersey Cove, a small village probably named this way because Jerseymen were first to settle there. There were many Jersey people there, a hundred years ago, but there is only one left today and official documents of the Québec government don't mention it much, unless it be to recall that Jersey Cove (*Anse Jersey*) had Jerseymen for first settlers.

Still Jersey Cove is of historical interest. In Cap-des-Rosiers, three to four miles further, I found an old irishman, Mr Arthur Kavanagh, who had lots to tell.

Mr Kavanagh, who celebrated his 92nd birthday on October 6, 1964, and who has lived around here all his life, told me that Jersey people have left Jersey Cove a long time ago and that the local population is now totally French Canadian. I asked him if he remembered some Jerseymen that he knew in his youth, and he mentionned the names Pèrrée, Touët, Sorsoleil and Laffoley. I don't believe there are still any Touët in Jersey, and the name Sorsoleil has probably disappeared. There was still a Sorsoleil in Ottawa, a few years back, and my brother Sydney knew him well. But I believe he is now passed away.

I told you that part of the population of Rivière-au-Renard came from irish immigrants whose ship sank near Cap-des-Rosiers, in 1847. Well! Mr Kavanagh informed me that his father was one of the forty seven survivors of that shipwreck. The ship came from Whitehaven, in Irland, and was called the "Carricks". It sank with 107 immigrants from Sligo on board. Eighty seven bodies were washed to shore in a beach area and, today, one can find, along the Cap-des-Rosiers road, a stone cross that marks the place where they were buried. Most of the 47 survivors stayed in Jersey Cove and Mr Kavanagh believes that the local Jerseymen could speak English. He also told me that in his youth there was an anglican church and small cemetery in Jersey Cove. But from the moment where

there were no more Jersey men or protestants, the church was transported to P'tit Gaspé or Cap-aux-Os. There is no clue left of the cemetery's location today, since a house was built on the site. There is no church at all in Jersey Cove, which is now part of the roman catholic parish of Cap-des-Rosiers.

There are no Jerseymen in Cap-des-Rosiers either. It is curious that the irish descendants are still here and have all become French Canadians, except for the names, of course. Funny to see Kavanaghs, O'Briens, Kennedys, and such, who speak only canadian French and answer you in that language if you speak to them in English. It is probably due to the fact that for many successive generations they have married French Canadian girls.

It is said that the cape named Cap des Rosiers, which is represented on a map of Champlain dated 1632, got that name because the area was covered with wild rose bushes.

Mr Kavanagh is a remarkable man, still full of life at 92 (in 1965), physically and mentally sound. He is one of the last here who can speak english, and does the bookkeeping for his business, by himself. I had the good luck to discover this man and hear him tell me a thousand and one stories about Jersey Cove. It was the first time I had the opportunity to talk to somebody who knew so much.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



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Bay of Gaspé

Pushing along southwards from Cap-des-Rosiers, we come to the bay of Gaspé, well known since that is where Jacques Cartier anchored his ships planning his pacific conquest of Canada. Later on, it was General Wolfe's turn to round up his ships in the bay in view of conquering Canada by force of arms. At the east end of the bay, one has a clear view of the Gaspé Cape. According to a tourist information folder of the province, the name "Gaspé" comes from a Micmac word meaning END . And very aptly given, since the cape is situated at the furthest eastern point of the Gaspé peninsula.

From Gaspé Cape, going northwards along the bay to the village of Saint-Majorique, at the other end, one can count nearly 15 miles, which brings us to say that the bay, with a ten to twelve mile depth for more than half its length, was certainly an ideal location for ships, either those of the French explorer or of General Wolfe.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



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Grande-Grève

As I was telling you, the Cape of Gaspé is situated at the extreme east end of the Gaspé peninsula. A couple of miles north of the cape, one finds the site of an old fishing port called Grande-Grève. It is said the place was, in the old days, known as Cap-aux-Os, which, today, is the name of a village still further north, along the bay. Two or three people told me that the place was also known by the name of "*Le P'tit Gaspé*" or "Little Gaspé".

I don't know who were the first to operate the Grande-Grève fishing establishment, but, to me, there was always, in Grande-Grève, a store owned by Mr Hyman, who also had another one in Gaspé. The name is well known among Jersey people living on the Gaspé Coast, since the Hyman family is the only one that has maintained an independent operation, without disappearing from the scene or being taken over by the Robins. One of my old friends, Mr Stanley Hotton (we were both clerks, at the same time, in *Hill Street*, in Jersey) was the manager of the Hyman establishment, in Grande-Grève, for a good number of years. Just like me, he is more than 70 years old now (in 1965) and he retired after working for the Hymans during (I dare believe) half a century! I had the good luck of finding him at home with his wife, and had much fun discussing old memories of the Channel Islands (in Jersey French, of course). Mr Walter Hotton, of Parkland, in the parish of *St. Mathie* (Jersey) is his brother, and Mrs Le Ruez of *Sunnydale*, in *Bieaumont*, is his sister.

John Le Masurier is another Jerseyman established in Grande-Grève. He is a charming man, brother to Bert Le Masurier and Miss Lilian, of *Greystones*, in *St. Ouën (Le Marais)*, and uncle to Percy Le Masurier from *Vînchelez (La Pointe)*, Jersey. The latter has already distinguished himself as a farmer, an officer of the Royal Society of Agriculture in Jersey, a churchgoing anglican and a responsible parishioner. Mr John Le Masurier is an octogenarian, but is still straight as an arrow and in good health. His house looks like a palace in Grande-Grève. It is built on the heights and enjoys a superb view of the bay. During many years, he was

chief inspector of fisheries in Gaspésie, for the provincial gouvernement. He had spirit and won himself the respect of the ruling class and of the population of the Gaspé peninsula.

Mr Hotton and Mr Le Masurier are very hospitable, like all good old Jerseymen, and one cannot knock on their door and not be invited to partake of a little something. Both of them married women of Jersey or Guernsey families, but born on the Gaspé Coast, and they have sons who will continue to bear those good old Jersey names!

In Grande-Grève, I discovered anglican churches, and started visiting them all along the road that leads west, all the way to New Carlisle. Maybe a few more can be found in small towns further west, up to Matapédia. A large chapel of the United Church (Union of Methodists, Presbyterians and Congregationists) can be found in New Richmond, and half a dozen more between Grande-Grève and New Carlisle. I have visited many in the Matapédia valley.

The Grand-Grève Anglican Church is dedicated to Saint Peter-the-Apostle. It is a church made of wood, like they all are in Gaspésie (with the exception of the one in Paspébiac), and it is in perfect order. It is remarkable and deserving that such a small number of anglican families as are found on the Gaspé Coast nowadays manage to keep their churches in such good condition. Considering the price of paint, they cost a small fortune to paint over, and they are expensive to keep warm in the cold winter months. Mr Hotton and Mr Le Masurier have been strong supporter of Saint-Peter's Church, in Grande-Grève.

I was curious to see the names on the gravestones in the cemetery. I found only Jersey names: John E. Collas, died on December 17, 1904, at thirty years of age. Probably a membre of the Collas family, married into the Robin family, known for its fishing establishments. George Aubert, born in Jersey, died in Rivière-Madeleine on January 19, 1904, at 65 years of age. Rivière-Madeleine is on the north side of the Gaspé Coast, not far from Grand Étang. I have never met a person of that name in Jersey, but I know there used to be some, in older days.

Another name caught my eye: J. W. de Jursey, 1858-1928. Probably a *de Jersey*, who's name was spelled phonetically by the undertaker. I seem to recall having heard in Jersey, that the "*de Jersey*" were from Guernsey. There would have been a certain number of Guernseymen among the Jerseymen, at that time. There are also two or three Lenfestey burried

here.

On one of the gravestones in the Saint-Peter Anglican Church cemetery, in Grande-Grève, there is the name of a Lenfestey who must have been the patriarch of this Guernsey family : one Hilary Lenfestey, born in Guernesey, died on December 3 1903, at the age of 94! His wife Judith (maiden name not mentioned), died December 21 1836, at 80 years and 9 months, and is also buried there with their sons, Abraham and John. And one can also find a Peter Lenfesty, who died on August 5 1928, at 87, and his sister Syria C., deceased on September 6 1923, à 75. Now, there is at least one family whose members enjoyed a long life on this earth.

On another stone, I found the name of John M. Luce "Esq.", born in Jersey, died on June 27 1881, at the age of 39. An important fellow, evidently, since he held the title of Esquire.

In a letter from Mr Lewis J. Gibaut, of Cloridorme, I learned that Mr John M. Luce worked for the Fruing, and that he was married to the sister of Mr Hyman, founding father of *William Hyman and Sons*. It probably was an honor to be so well connected by marriage, but, since Mr Hyman was jewish by birth and religion, he never accepted the match. It is said that Mr Hyman wanted to load his gun and "put lead in Mr Luce, but not in his sleeves"!*

After Mr Luce died, at 39, his widow and his son, Philip Mauger Luce, returned to Jersey to live in *La Grand' Maison*, near *Sion*, in the parish of *St. Jean* where the son was a schoolteacher for a while. It seems that the Luce had financial interests in the Fruing commercial establishment, because Philip Mauger Luce came back to the Gaspé Coast to work as its manager, but that, finally, Mr Hyman bought the Fruing fishing establishments and stores in Grande-Grève, Cap-des-Rosiers and Cloridorme.

Philip Mauger Luce went to live in England in 1956 and died in Worthing, on October 23, 1967, at 91 years of age.

Beside Mr Luce's, stands the gravestone of Alfred William Dolbel, born in Jersey, December 8, 1884, and deceased in Montreal, on May 19, 1910, of his wife, Selina Côté, 1852-1921, and of their child, Maud Alice, who died at 3 months, on August 11, 1882. A. W. Dolbel is a good example of a Jerseyman who married a French Canadian girl (Côté is a standard name among Quebecers), but still remained faithful to the Anglican

Church, since he would not otherwise be buried in that cemetery.

On another grave, I found the name of Daniel Gavey, 1844-1926, of Jemima Le Huquet, his wife, 1852-1918, and of Amélia C. Gavey, 1853-1932, widow of one Charles P. Bartlett, 1850-1928.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey

***(Note from Tony Le Sauteur: "To put stones in someone's sleeves" is a Jersey French expression used when a person is not very stable, meaning that providing the lest would stabilize him or her).**



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Cap-aux-Os

The small village of Cap-aux-Os is about six to seven miles north of Grande-Grève, along the coast of the bay of Gaspé. It is said that, in the old days, the name applied to that whole area right up to the cape of Gaspé.

It is very possible that, later on, a commercial fishing establishment, situated near the cape, gave its name to Grande-Grève. I was not able to pinpoint the origin of the name "Cap-aux-Os" (literally Cape of the Bones), but it does not require much imagination to suppose that a pile of bones of some sort was probably found there at some point, a long time ago.

There is a chapel of the United Church in Cap-aux-Os, and, seeing it, I was convinced that this was Jersey Cove's church, that was transported here a long time ago. Saint-Peter's church, in Grande-Grève, is too big and massive to have been the one.

In the little cemetery, just beside the church, I also found Jersey and Guernsey names on tombs. Elias John Collas, born January 16, 1857, and passed away May 4, 1939; his wife, née Agnes Emily Price on October 5, 1867, died April 12 1953; and their son Henry Hubert Collas, born April 22, 1896, died November 30, 1923. He was a sailor for a time. The inscription on the stone indicates that he wore regimental number "A. B.2252, R.N.C.V.R".

It is said that there were many Collas in the area, in those days. I found the grave of Lucie Nile Handey, wife of Adolphus W. Collas, who was born August 31, 1874, and died May 8, 1955. The next grave was probably that of a Guernseyman, Abraham Peter Bourgaize, 1848-1904.

And then I come to the Le Hucquet family: Lucy Mary Baker, who died July 5, 1939, wife of John Abraham Le Hucquet, himself deceased February 25, 1941.

Nothing hints at their age. Finally, Agnes Ann Palfrey (1876-1923), wife of Samuel Benjamin Le Hucquet, 1869-1933.

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Penouille

Two or three miles from Cap-aux-Os, still heading north along the bay, we come to another little village that bears the name of Penouille. Jerseymen of Gaspé give that name the english translation of "Peninsula". Official publications from the provincial Office of Tourism inform us that the name is of obscure origin. There were many Jerseymen and Guernseymen here, a long time ago; a testimony of that is the anglican church dedicated to *St. Matthew*. In the cemetery, I found the names of Henry Thomas Le Mesurier, 1865-1943, and Susie Fairservice, deceased in Anse-au-Griffon December 6, 1890, at the age of 33 years and 10 months, wife of J. W. Godfray. M. Godfray probably was manager for the Robins in Anse-au-Griffon, in those days. And then there is the grave of Alfred Le Masurier, 1874-1956, and his wife Mary E. 1880-1957.

At this point, we are nearly at the gates of the town of Gaspé, on the other side of the bay. There is only one protestant church left on the way, before getting to Gaspé. It is in a small hamlet, curiously called Rose Bridge.

George Francis Le Feuvre
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Rose Bridge

Near Saint-Majorique, at the north end of the bay of Gaspé, we are in a small hamlet that bear the name of Rose Bridge. Nobody ever mentionned the origin of the name, and it is not marked on tourists maps. There is a chapel of the United Church of Canada. The fact that I have found two such chapels on a distance of about ten miles (one here, and the other in Cap-aux-Os), makes me believe that there were more Guernseymen than Jerseymen here, in those days. Names on the graves of the Rose Bridge cemetery are nearly all Le Touzel, Le Lacheur and Simon, but there used to be loads of Rabey, Guignon and Galliard.

And here we are at the Le Lacheurs' gravestone: Mary S., 1877-1950, wife of William Le Touzel, and their daughters Ruth and Elsie. Robert J., 1871-1921. Martha Lydia, 1853-1928, and her son William David, 1884-1894. Hubert D., 1898-1959.

Then the Le Touzels: Effie J. West, 1889-1952, wife of Edgar Le Touzel. Edward C., 1878-1954. Blanche L., 1877-1936. Douglas, 1896-1943. Leyland A., 1942-1955. Mary Jane, 1866-1952, wife of Walter Le Touzel.

And the Simons: Mary M., 1843-1895, wife of John Simon, and her sister Amelia, 1844-1917. Watson Garfield, 1902-1960. Nicholas A. 1864-1947. Priscilla, 1870-1934.

Among the Guignons, there is Hilaria Le Mesurier, 1844-1924, wife of Nicholas Guignon.

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Gaspé

Here we are, finally come to the beautiful small town of Gaspé. I have already mentioned it to you because of the historical fact of Jacques Cartier claiming Canada for his king. But it is not the sole reason for this town to be of special interest to me. When my friend Morris Le Cocq was in charge of the Hôtel Royal, I used to spend five to six weeks there, in summer. His father and mother were still alive in those days. I used to spend half my time at the hotel in Gaspé and the other half in Malbaie with the old Jerseymen there. They were always happy to see me, these old guys, because I would take them on a car ride to visit friends along the coast. I often went back to Morris and stayed with him, at the hotel, for a day or two.

I have come to know the town's Jerseymen. There were still a few in those days. Mr Harold Gosset Orviss, brother of the Orvisses of the St Helier store, in Jersey, was manager for the Robins. A year before his death (he passed away in 1951), when I went to see him, he was crippled with rheumatism and any movement was very difficult. I saw him again on my return journey, and when I asked him if the rheumatism had worsened, he jumped out of his chair, in his office, and hopped around saying to me that he felt again as frisky as a young colt, that the doctor had injected him a new medication that it was called cortisone and had pulled him back on his feet! But he died a few months later. A charming man! Mr Stanley Alexandre worked in his office but a while later, he left the Robins and I lost track of him. Mr John Bannier, brother of the deceased Winter Bannier who worked for judge Le Boutiller in High Field, St Ouën (Jersey), was still alive at that time and Frank Robert was postmaster. Thomas Ellis, born in First Tower in St Helier, Jersey, was lay reader in church. The Anglican minister was Archdeacon Ernest Samuel Reid, a minister of fine presence who delivered a mean sermon. He was loved by everyone in *Gaspésie*. He is now bishop in Ottawa, and his consecration at the head of the Episcopal center has not changed him. He is as pleasing and agreeable as he ever was. Mr Ellis passed away.

I used to enjoy wonderful Sunday evenings at the hotel. Jerseymen would meet in Morris's office. John *Lé Co* and Frank Robert were always there with Lesley Le Gros who minded the shop in Barachois, as well as Harold Le Gresley (son of captain Black Jack Le Gresley), who was manager for the Robins in Malbaie and would often join them. Lesley Le Gros et Harold Le Gresley, born in *Gaspésie*, did not speak Jersey French so the conversation would flow, half in English, half in Jersey French, but would always concern Jersey.

Alas! There is only one Jersey-born man living in Gaspé today: a charming man who goes by the name of Arthur George Cabot. All the Le Cocqs are dead, as are all the Orvisses, Roberts, Banniers and Le Gros also. Harold Le Gresley has left the Robins and works for the provincial government. Mr Arthur George Cabot is an octogenarian and lives peaceably with his wife (born in Prince Edouard's Island), in his beautiful house on higher grounds. I suggested they visit Jersey, but they were afraid of being too old to stand the crossing! It is always a pleasure to visit them and to enjoy the proverbial Jersey hospitality, the minute one steps over the threshold of their house!

As is often the case, the number of people buried in the cemetery of St-Paul's Anglican Church in Gaspé is greater than the number of tombs. Reading the names on the stones, I have often felt that the number of names increases every time I visit!

One of the first graves found, right beside the road that runs by the cemetery, is that of Mr George Godfray, born in Jersey in 1862 and deceased in Grand Étang in 1940. He was the local lord of Grand Étang. He is the only Godfray that has a tomb in the Gaspé cemetery, even though it is very possible others are also buried there.

A good old Jersey family, the Dumaresq, unfortunately extinct in Jersey, is well represented in this cemetery. Jane Dumaresq, granddaughter of Nicholas Dumaresq, Esq., and of Jane, his wife, has her name written on a small grave that states neither age or date of demise. There is a Jane Dumaresq, deceased on July 27 1920, at the age of 91. On another grave, I found the name of Clément John Dumaresq, husband of Viola Patterson, who died at the age of 39 on October 9, 1947, and another in memory of Frederick M. Dumaresq, born in Jersey and deceased September 24, 1902, at 78, and of Mary C. Béchervaise, his wife, who died December 24, 1902 at 71 years of age. Those are truly good old Jersey names.

The next tomb gives us the name of Theophilus, George Jehoshaphat, Alma Jane and Eva, children of Reverend Francis de la Mare, M. A., and of Charlotte, his wife. Apparently, Reverend de la Mare was unlucky in the family department. Here I am near the grave of Harold Adrian Le Couteur, born in Jersey, who died June 5, 1908, at 27 years of age. He must have been related to some of today's Jersey Le Couteur, because the family is not large. And here I find an Ernest de Sainte-Croix, husband of Marie Morin. He was born in Saint-Helier, Jersey, in 1865, and died on October 4 1947.

Standing in front of the grave of Frank J. Le Grand, I read that he died on July 24, 1952. His age is not mentioned. Charles Vincent Carrel, died July 30, 1939, at 69 years of age. Margaret E. Carter, born in Jersey on March 1st 1834, widow of captain John Vautier, died on August 23 1874. It is said that this Carter family had come to Jersey, from Devonshire, England. Ella Marjorie Carry, 1899-1947, probably from Guernsey. Hélène M., daughter of Peter and Eliza A. Le Gros, 1877-1888. And here we come to the grave of another couple who had very ill luck with their children. The tomb shows the names of the Viberts' four sons: George Christopher, 1899-1900, Kenneth Arthur, 1906-1906, Harold James, 1893-1914, et Eugene Percival, 1903-1924, sons of Edward Joseph Vibert and Bertha Sarah Suddard, his wife. Further still, the grave of Mr Edward Joseph Vibert himself states that he was born September 19, 1868, and that he died on July 1st 1941, while his wife (née Suddard) was born February 9 1869 and died on November 27, 1955. Jessie, wife of Claude Vardon, is identified as Tutor to Joan, 1906-1959, but nothing indicates who Joan's parents were. Maybe a niece? And we finally come to the grave of my friend Harold Gosset Orviss, 1855-1951 and his wife, née Josephine MacCartney, 1877-1951.

Before leaving Gaspé, I went to see father Michel Le Moignan, a roman catholic priest of jersey descent. A charming young man! He had visited Jersey while I was still there and on the point of leaving for Australia. Father Le Moignan teaches in his church's Seminary in Gaspé, and he greatly contributed to the creation of the *Société Historique de la Gaspésie* (Gaspé Peninsula Historical Society), of which he is president. I myself have the honor of being a member. The *Société* produces a review, the *Revue d'histoire de la Gaspésie*, which is published every three months and is highly interesting. Mr Arthur G. Le Gros, director for the Robins, in Paspébiac, and successor to our old friend Mr Eugène Bouillon, contributed an article on the story of Charles Robin in *Gaspésie*. the article is great given that Mr Le Gros had access to Charles Robin's personal journal, the one he kept at the time he was working at building a

life for himself in *Gaspésie*, in 1766. The *Revue* is published in French, but Mr Le Gros' article, very well composed, is written in English.

Father Le Moignan received my brother and myself with all the marks of respect and stayed with us, at our hotel, the better part of the evening, to hear us talk about Jersey, the land where is great great grandfather, Pierre Le Moignan, was born in 1837.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada *George Francis Le Feuvre*

Sandy Beach

I was sad to leave Gaspé, but had to continue my tour of the Gaspé Peninsula.

Coming to Sandy Beach, around eight miles south of Gaspé, I went directly to the Anglican Church in Saint-Jean. Sandy Beach is evidently the name of the place because of the sandy bay from which the provincial government operated a fishing establishment.

The church is located on a high point, above the beach, and the view of the bay of Gaspé is magnificent from the cemetery. With a good pair of field-glasses, one can see the house of Mr John Le Masurier, in Grande-Grève, on the other side.

I don't believe there was ever many Jerseymen in Sandy Beach, but still there are a few buried in the cemetery.

Very near to the church itself, one can find the grave of my old friend Francis James Alexandre Robert, born in *Val de la Mare*, in the parish of St. Peter's, in Jersey. He was very young when he came to work for the Robins as a farmer and ended up as postmaster in Gaspé. He went to Jersey as a Canadian soldier, during WW1, in 1914, and visited again later, bringing his wife, a charming girl called Nita Muriel Williamson, born in Gaspésie. She died fairly suddenly on November 28, 1954. He was so saddened by the loss that he was never again up to his old self and died four years later, on November 7, 1958.

The Alexandres are buried there. Francis Alexandre, died May 31, 1913, at the age of 83. Effie Greta Alexandre, died May 15, 1895 at the age of 2. Felicia M. Tripp, wife of Amos Alexandre, died at 55, in 1916.

All the names are spelled "Alexander", but there is no doubt in my mind that they were Jersey-born or of Jersey decent.

There are two Robins: Lewis Robin, 1865-1957, and Evangeline Robin, 1871-1963. The rest are Gallichans: Mary Janet, 1886-1942, wife of John Gallichan, and their son James Lance Gallichan, 1917-1938; Mary Ellen Gallichan, wife of Hugh Thompson, died at the age of 33; Matthew William Gallichan, 1861-1943, and Alice Jane Gallichan, wife of Peter Lenfesty, died at the age of 82, in 1941.

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Douglastown

To be totally frank, I have not, for a long while, found any Jerseyman along the road. About twelve miles south of Sandy Beach, we arrive in Douglastown, so called in honor of an English admiral of the time. To my knowledge, there are no Jerseymen or Protestant churches in Douglastown. I believe the population to rather be of Irish descent because the priest, the Reverend Joseph Nellis, is Irish. I know him well. A charming man. There apparently was a roman catholic mission, in this place, a long time ago. An article, in the *Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie* of September 1964, written by Mr Serge Côté relates the story of Father Ferland's pastoral visit along the coast in 1836, and his report establishing Douglastown as one of the best mission in the district of *Gaspésie*, in respect to morality, its population being polite, intelligent and religious.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada

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L'Anse-à-Brillant

A few miles further, always progressing south, we come to Anse à Brillant. I have always heard that Brillant was someone's surname. There are no Jerseymen in Anse à Brillant nowadays, and I don't believe there ever was that many, but there are Englishmen and Scotsmen. There is a small Anglican church, a beautiful building dedicated to Saint-John; mostly all the people buried in the cemetery, near the church, are Bairds and Leggos. Baird is a Scottish name and the Leggos are from the county of Cornouailles in England.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada *George Francis Le Feuvre*

Malbaie and Pointe-Saint-Pierre

Continuing southwards, we come to Malbaie and to Pointe-Saint-Pierre, 32 miles from Gaspé. How many trips between these two villages have I made when my old friends the Le Cocqs were still living! I know every inch of the road by heart!

Pointe-Saint-Pierre was a port of some importance, many years ago. There is a good wharf and there used to be a Robin fishing establishment (there is one still in Malbaie, close by). There was boat construction in Pointe-Saint-Pierre. The "Dawn", a 168-ton brig built there, made the crossing from Jersey to Paspébiac in 1901, with my father and mother and John and Alice Le Cocq, on board, as well as my brothers Sydney George and John Giffard.

Mr Leopold Godfray, who was harbourmaster in Gouray Village, in Jersey, for many years, and who is blessed with a remarkable memory, told me that the "Dawn" eventually ran aground, in Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, and was wrecked on that coast.

Pointe-Saint-Pierre is all but abandoned, today. The only activities come from a small privately owned establishment where cod is processed for exportation, and a little farm cultivated by two old farmers of the Pointe, Mrs Bond and Mrs Packwood. So there are only three families that live there.

My good man Clarence Bond, octogenarian, is Irish at heart. I have heard it said that the Bond family was originaly, of French origin and called "Bon", but I have my doubts because those I have met all have characteristics so very Irish. In any case, it is a family that has been established in Gaspésie for more than 150 years, and, has started, a long time ago, integrating Jersey traits, through marriages with Jerseymen. Registers indicate that a Marguerite Bond, born in Gaspé on July 10 juillet 1805, married Philippe Mauger, son of Pierre Mauger and Suzanne Le Feuvre, from Jersey, on October 5, 1824, in Pointe-Saint-Pierre.

Probably a relative of my grandmother Le Feuvre. My maternal grandfather, Pierre Le Feuvre was married to Marie Mauger! According to Father Ferland, an historian I have already mentioned, the Bonds were of the founding families of Anse-au-Griffon.

Mr John Le Cocq and his wife, who lived in Malbaie, near Pointe-Saint-Pierre, were great friends to Mr and Mrs Bond. The two ladies are said to have taken care of the sick, at the time the population was larger. Whenever someone was sick or if there was an expectant mother, it was always one of these two women who came to help and would take charge of the needy person until the doctor's arrival. There weren't many doctors around in those days, so that the waiting was long whenever one had to be called in.

The last time I saw Mrs Bond alive, a few years back already, she inquired about Mr Philip Powell Le Feuvre, in Jersey. She always kept fond memories of the time she lived in his house when he was in Gaspésie for the Robins. He was charming and behaved very much the gentleman to her. It was my pleasure, then, to tell her that Mr Le Feuvre was still alive and in perfectly good health considering his age.

Mr Clarence Bond, in his eighties, is of proud bearing and has a son and a grandson. He farms a few *vrégies of land in Pointe-Saint-Pierre and I think he does a little transport with his truck to increase his revenues.**

*** (Note from Tony Le Sauteur: a *vrégie* is a land measure amounting to a little less than half an acre)**

Mr Packwood, postmaster for the neighbourhood, also tends a small farm. I seem to recall hearing it said that his wife is of Jersey descent. In any case, Mr Packwood has delt so much with Jerseymen that he has taken up most of their characteristics!

Next door to Pointe-Saint-Pierre, Malbaie still harboured Jerseyborn people, as recently as twenty years ago. John and Alice Le Cocq, and their son, Morris, lived there, and Mr Ernest Bertram was manager for the Robins. In an article written for a Jersey publication, called *l'Bulletin d'Quart d'An nunmétho 38 dé l'Assemblée d'Jèrriais*, I told some anecdotes concerning this man John and his good lady, a couple I have always appreciated and visited, since they had made the voyage from Jersey to Paspébiac with my own father and mother, on board the "Dawn", in 1901. The only Jerseyborn people in Malbaie, nowadays, are in the Saint-Pierre church cemetery. A beautiful wood building, a testimonial to the Jerseymen who built it. Mr John Le Co, carpenter by profession, used to

recall often that he had done a good part of the interior framework as a personal contribution.

There are Viberts in Malbaie, descendants of Jersey people, who became pillars of the church. These are, obviously part of the Viberts from *Les Pallières* in *St.Ouën*, since they look like members of that family, like peas in a pod! All their life, they were benefactors of the church. A long time ago, there also were Verdons and Esnons, and many other Jersey families.

The Le Cocq residence, a wood house which he built himself, is still there but is empty for the most part of the year. A niece, *née* Le Mottée, who resides in Québec, has enherited the property and goes there for her summer holidays. The house next door, property of Adolphe Le Mottée (brother of Mrs John Le Cocq) while he was still alive, remained empty and in a bad state of disrepair, for many years. I realised that it had finally colapsed.

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Malbaie (Saint-Peter's Church)

The interior of the Saint-Peter Church is well and respectfully designed. The large stained glass window, above the altar, on the east side, is a gift from the following benefactors: John C. Becquet, the Walter J. Harquail family, the families of Alfred Hotton, Charles Hotton, George C. Hotton and Kenneth Hotton, the John Le Cocq family, and the families of Thomas Le Gros, James Le Marquand, Obadiah Vardon and Amos Vibert. It was given in memory of: Willo Irene Becquet, Elias and Mary Cadoret, Eric John and Jane Susan Ellis, George Philip Fauvel, Winnifred R. Harquail, Alice Le Cocq, Emily and John Le Gresley, Edith Emily and John James Le Gros, Ansel Irwin, Arthur, Alva and Stanley Ernest Lucas, and Thomas J. Touzel. It is interesting to note that the name Hacquoil has now become Harquail!

Two commemorative plaques are installed beside the main aisle, one in memory of Clarence Hardeley Collas, who died in his father's home in St Mary, Jersey, on November 28 novembre, 1881, at the age of 25, and the other in memory of Philip Bertram Fauvel, who died in the province of Québec, in Sainte-Agathe-des Monts, on July 14, 1914, at the age of 19 years and 10 months.

The wooden frames that served to announce the hymn to be sung are dedicated to the memory of the children of Francis and Isabella Le Gresley.

The church candles were donated by Frederick Le Gros, Edward Philip Hotton, Victoria Elizabeth Hotton, Mary Touzel, Mde. Amos Vibert, Mde. William Syvret, Mde. William Hotton, Alva Lucas, Jackson Vardon, Philip David Syvret, and "Private" Herbert Syvret, members of the congregation. I mention all these names to give you a better idea of the Jersey families that were around at the time.

Today, the names of the "Little Helpers", that appear in a corner of the church where Sunday school is held, give us a good idea of the

descendants of these families, still in the area. Here they are: John Vardon, Kim Touzel, Harris Vardon, Glen Syvret as well as 17 children named Girard. I have always heard say that the Girards were a Guernsey family.

The cemetery is vast. Some years ago, as I was passing by, I noted that it seemed neglected and the grass needed to be mowed, but this summer, it was neat and well kept. The first tombs visited are those of the Le Cocq family and I photographed them in order to send prints to their niece and nephew, Stanley and Elsie Amy (née le Cocq), at their store, in the Mont Mado area of St John, Jersey. Three tombs, side by side, show the name of John Frederick Le Cocq, who was born in Jersey in 1872, and died in Gaspé, in 1953 or 1954, although the year of his death is not mentioned; his wife, Alice Émélie Le Mottée, born in Jersey in 1875 and deceased in 1950; their daughter Amelia, wife of Alfred Le Cocq (a cousin), who died July 2 juillet 1919, at the age of 24 years and 10 months, and their son Morris John, born June 1903 and deceased March 9, 1961.

Morris, who was a brave lad, and took great care of his parents through their old age and many illnesses, dearly wanted to visit Jersey: unfortunately, he died before making that wish come true. One of his greatest friends was Canon Alfred Stanley Le Moignan, minister of New Carlisle, and they were to make the trip together, in 1953, when the canon died suddenly. Morris himself suffered from diabetes in those days, and his condition prevented him from travelling.

Jersey people sure are numerous in that cemetery! Here are the names of those who have tombs there: James Le Mottée, died in 1925 at 81 years of age, and his wife Emélie Poingdestre, died in 1916, at 72. I am pretty sure they were the parents of Alice Emélie Le Mottée, wife of John Le Cocq. And it was their house I mentioned earlier as standing beside that of John Le Cocq, the house having belonged later to their son Adolphus, and that remained empty for a time before collapsing altogether. - Laura Le Mottée, wife of George Irwin, died in 1911 at the age of 27 years and 8 months. - Joseph A. Le Mottée, 1918-1943.

And here are the Lucases: Hilton E. Lucas, son of Walter, died at the age of 12, in 1932. Agnes Lucas, widow of George Hotton, died in 1924 at the age of 75. - Ansel Irwin Lucas, 1914-1950, husband of Ethel Sweetman. - Howard Duncan Lucas, 1882-1918. - Jane Lucas, wife of John Vardon, 1813-1866. - Elizabeth Lucas, wife of Alexander Duncan, 1847-1909, and her husband 1837-1893. - Mary Lucas, wife of William Hunt, died in 1863 at 55 years of age. - Eliza Sophia Lucas, wife of Obadiah Lot Vardon,

1876-1956, and her husband, 1871-1951.

There is only one Le Couteur grave: John Arthur Le Couteur from the Isle of Jersey, died September 21 1875, at the age of 39. They died young these Le Couteur in Gaspésie. The one that was buried in the cemetery of Saint-Paul church in Gaspé, Harold Adrian Le Couteur, died at the age of 27!

Many Hotton graves can be found in this cemetery! Edward Hotton, died December 5 1926, and his son Sydney, died October 17 1921. Their age is not mentioned. - Martha Hotton, died in 1920 at 19 years of age. - Maria D., 1872-1940, wife of William Hotton. - F.H. Gasnier, husband of Ada Hotton, 1863-1938. - Elizabeth Hotton, 1863-1946. - Sophie Hotton, 1885-1946. - Elizabeth Lawrence, wife of Edward Hotton, 1873-1957. - Alphonse Le Gresley, husband of Edith Hotton, 1862-1951. - William Duncan Hotton, 1862-1952. - Victoria (Mother) Hotton, 1858-1946. - George Charles Hotton, 1866-1944. - Ruth Hotton, 1928-1944. - Charles Hotton, husband of Mary Johnson, 1875-1960. - Harold N. Hotton died in 1936 at the age of 27. - Guy G. Hotton, died in 1915 at 8 months. - John Hotton, died in 1916 in his 90th year, and his wife Sophia Hayden, died in 1915, in her 79th year. - Willie, died in 1895, and Daniel, son of George and Annie Hotton, died in 1897.

The Vibert family is also well represented: Wilfred F. Vibert, died in Coin-du-Banc in 1889, at the age of 20. - Peter Vibert, born in Jersey, died in 1884, at 89. - Sarah Vibert, died in 1889 at 72. - May Vibert, wife of Henry Marion, 1901-1951. - Joyce Vibert, 1925-1944. - Rupert John Vibert, 1898-1940. - Douglas George Vibert, 1863-1882, son of Philip and Frances Vibert. - And Elias, son of Peter Vibert, Senior, died in 1878 at the age of 16 years and 7 months.

And the Le Marquands: James A. Le Marquand, 1880-1929, and his wife, Effie Caldwell, 1881-19--. - Herbert Charles Le Marquand, 1879-1925. - Mary Ann Le Marquand, of Saint-Ouën, Jersey, wife of Thomas Le Page. Her grave is old and the inscription so weathered that the dates are not visible. - Charles Le Marquand, 1849-1907, and his wife, Alice Rosalie Alexandre, 1850-1917.

And the Le Gresleys: Edith Emily Le Gresley, widow of John James Le Gros, 1871-1945, and her husband, 1868-1923. - Isabella Victoria Le Gresley, 1859-1927. - John Le Gresley, Esq., shopkeeper in Pointe-Saint-Pierre, 1829-1877. - Philip Le Gresley, 1883-1953. - And Francis Stephen

Le Gresley, 1849-1940.

Here we find ourselves in front of the Le Gros: Harold, son of John James Le Gros and Edith Emily Le Gresley, his wife, was killed accidentally in 1921 at the age of 9. - Henry Thomas, 1890-1900, and Frederick, 1908-1929, sons of Thomas and Charlotte Le Gros. - Thomas Alexandre Le Gros, 1871-1952. - Edith Maud Le Gros, daughter of John Le Gros and Mary Annie Louisa Alexandre, who died in 1875 at 11 months and 14 days!

And the Syvret: James Syvret, 1924-1908. - George S. Syvret, 1911-1941. - Helena M. Syvret, who died at 11 months of age. - William E. Syvret, 1868-1951.

Here we also find some Alexandres. They are identified as being Alexanders. I think that same habit is also growing in Jersey! James Alexander, 1801-1878, and his wife Elizabeth Le Maistre, 1802-1888. - Mary Annie Louisa Alexander, wife of John Le Gros, deceased in 1876 at 26 years of age.

And the Vardons: Marion Helen Dow, wife of Watson, 1900-1951. - Nathan Jacob Vardon, 1874-1886.

And some Fauvels: George Arthur Fauvel, who died in 1893 at 11 months. - Henry William Fauvel, who died in 1896, 5 weeks old. - George Philip Fauvel, 1849-1905.

And some Touzels: Susan H. Touzel, wife of Ronald Girard, 1879-1949. - Willo Irene Touzel, wife of John G. Becquet, 1899-1949. - Mary Robertson, wife of Thomas J. Touzel, 1865-1937.

And some Ingrouvilles : Elizabeth Ann Ingrouville, 1848-1881, and her sister Jane Maria, 1850-1881.

I mentioned that M. Packwood, postmaster of Pointe-Saint-Pierre, had the salient features of a Jerseyman. Well! Here is an explanation: I located graves in the name of Edward Packwood, 1826-1900, and his wife, Mary Vibert, 1834-1929, as well as that of their son, Edward Packwood *Junr.*, 1862-1934, and his wife, Mary Jean, 1882-1931!

A grave is marked in the name of John T. Cadoret, 1848-1923, and others bear the names of David Misson, 1804-1879, and his wife, Jane Element,

1828-1908, and of Jane Susan Coutanche, 1859-1883.

Seeing so many monuments to as many Jerseyborn people who died here, so far from their own small native land, I can't help thinking that the time will come, very fast now, when they will be totally forgotten. As time goes by and today's old Jerseymen accede to eternal rest, the younger generations, in Jersey as well as elsewhere around the world, forget that the Gaspé Coast as been a worthy Jersey colony. They have so much on their minds that, in the future, there will be no time for sentimental reminiscing about these olden days.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada *George Francis Le Feuvre*

Barachois

Leaving Malbaie, we pass by the Robins' fishing establishment and store, on our left. Doing so, I thought of all the Jerseymen who worked there in the past and are not in the cemetery. Et least one of the descendants of the Vibert family, of Jersey, is in charge of the fishing establishment, a dignified and responsible man.

Pursuing our route to the south, we come to Belle Anse, a small bay of no particular interest to Jerseymen (there are none established there). Four to five miles further, we enter Barachois, a word meaning sandbar or sandbank (the dictionary defines this as a ridge creating a small shallow natural port), very characteristic of the bays of the Gaspé Peninsula. Barachois was founded, around 200 years ago and is a name I often heard during my youth, with my father, aside the smith's earth, in *St. Ouën*. The village was very well known to the Jerseymen of that time. The view is magnificent from Barachois. On one side, there is the sea with the Percé rock and the island of Bonaventure in the distance, and right in front, the cliffs of Percé and the mountain.

I have not met any Jerseymen in Barachois since *Sir Arthur Ollivier*, born in St Brelade, who was manager of the Robins' store. He is now in Paspébiac. Leslie Le Gros, who kept shop during is lifetime, was not from Jersey. When the Le Cocq were still alive, Leslie often spent the summer at their place in Malbaie. He never married, and his sister kept house for him. A brother, Rex Le Gros, lives in Leamington, in the province of Ontario. He is married and has sons. When Leslie died, on July 8, 1964, the shop was sold and the Jersey name disappeared from the street running across the village. The Robins' store is still there, but there are no Jerseymen in it anymore.

At the west end of Barachois, there is a beautiful little anglican church dedicated to Saint-Paul the Apostle. In the cemetery, proof can be found that Jerseymen and Guernseymen were established here, long ago. Getting the key to the church, I found that the guardian was a charming

person called Chicoine. That seemed a little bizarre since Chicoine is a French Canadian surname, but Mrs Chicoine insisted that she as well as her husband were Anglicans!

The Chicoines arrived in the Gaspé Peninsula a long long time ago, and the fact that there are Anglicans of that name may be due to the fact that they married people of Jersey origin. The records show that on October 30, 1803, *Marguerite* Chicoine, born in Gaspé on August 23 1781, was married (in Percé) to Guillaume Sainte-Croix, born in Jersey! It is funny how all the clerks in the Gaspé Peninsula have persistently dropped the *de* standing before the beautiful Jersey surname of *Ste. Croix*. A few years ago, at Mr Bond's in Pointe-Saint-Pierre, I met a roman catholic priest called Father Ste-Croix and, while talking to him, I discovered that his grandfather was a *de Ste. Croix*, born in Jersey.

In the cemetery of Saint-Paul's church, in Barachois-West, I found tombstones commemorating many Le Mesurier. Were they from Guernsey, or from Alderney?

My friend Leslie Le Gros, from Barachois, died in 1964 at the age of 59, and rests in peace in the cemetery, without any tombstone for the moment.

***George Francis Le Feuvre*
Jersey**



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada *George Francis Le Feuvre*

Coin-du-Banc

Coin-du-Banc is our next stop, at around ten miles south of Barachois. For a few miles, the road takes us along one of the most beautiful beaches of the Gaspé Coast, at the foot of the mountain and of the cliffs of Percé.

As Coin-du-Banc is sheltered by the mountain, the bay is often calm and the beautiful sand of the beach reminds us of the bays in Jersey. It is aptly named since it sits at the end of the long sand bar that inspired the name of Barachois.

Here we find descendants of Jersey men and women, who have kins in Jersey: Mrs William Jean, born Eliza Jane Bowers, and her husband, live here, and the Misses Cecilia and Lilian Bowers, sisters of Mrs Jean, come here for the summer while staying in Montreal for the winter. The Jeans have a motel for the tourist trade during the summer in Coin-du-Banc, and Mr Jean owns a small farm. The Misses Bowers are cousins of Mr John Bower of St Mary (Jersey) and of Mr Snowdon Bower from Léoville, in Jersey's St Ouën.

I think there are Viberts born in Coin-du-Banc, and still living there. Directly at the foot of the mountain, Saint-Luke's Anglican Church, small but one of the most beautiful churches in all of the Gaspé Peninsula, stands like a sentry watching over the village.

In its small cemetery, most of the tombs have the name Vibert on them: Edward Vibert, passed away on the first day of January 1913. - George Vibert, 1842-1916, and Margaret Bunton, his wife, 1856-1918. - Herbert N. Vibert, M.M., son of James and Emily Vibert, 1884-1925. - Elizabeth Vibert, 1848-1910, wife of Henry Mabe. William Godfray Vibert, 1865-1918, and Nancy Le Gresley, his wife, 1882-1918. - James Vibert, 1857-1928, and Emily Miller, his wife, 1865-1905. - Philip Vibert, 1835-1910, and Frances Cass, his femme, 1836-1896. - Peter Mabe, 1829-1907, and Jane Vibert, his wife, 1841-1911. - Mary Laura Beck, 1820-1902, wife of William Vibert. - Lilian Mabe, 1890-1942, wife of Sydney G. Vibert.

Mrs Jean always maintained that the Maves (pronounced juste like the english word «maybe») were of Dutch origin and that they lived in France before coming to the Gaspé Coast, leaving France at the time when protestants were persecuted in that country.

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Percé

On a short distance of two or three miles, we had to go over a high mountain to get to the Coin-du-Banc, in Percé. The road is bordered by steep land. It is well paved but the curves are treacherous, where it hugs the cliffs. The view at the top, looking down on Percé, is breathtaking. The rock that gives the city its name is visible in its entirety, 1565 feet in length, 300 feet in width, 154 feet high in its lowest section and 290 feet at its highest point. At one end of the rock, a large hole pierces its structure, nearly as high as the rock itself and curved into an arch.

An article by Mr Serge Côté in the *Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie*, informs us that Father Ferland, on his parish visits of 1836, noted that the rock had two openings, at the time. In an article published in *L'bulletin d'1963 d'La Société Jersiaise*, Miss Marguerite Syvret, B. A., claims there were four in 1675, but that in 1812, only the two that were still visible to Father Ferland in 1836, were left. In 1845, the arch fell, and the part that was left standing is now a smaller rock on the side.

The priest also mentions that cod fishing as well as preparation and sale of cod were all, in 1836, under the rule of three big Jersey commercial families: Robin, Janvrin & Buteau, and Le Boutillier. Apparently, M. Le Boutillier's right hand was French-Canadian. The name Buteau does not seem to me to be a Jersey name.

Percé was said to be a commercial center, a long time ago. It seems that it is in Percé that, in 1659, Monsignor de Laval, first bishop of *Nouvelle France*, held his first mass in Canada. Evidently, there was much animation around Percé, in those days. The already mentioned *Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie* reports that the next bishop, Monsignor de Saint-Vallier (1653-1726), in a "Circular Letter" written during his visit to Percé, on August 4th 1686, warned his congregation that he thought it was scandalous that the inn was more popular than the church and that spirits were given to Indians! At that time, the "savages" (as the Indians were called), probably from the Micmac tribe, apparently lived around the French village and traded with the villagers. It is said that spirits would make the Indians mad. A law was later adopted to stop innkeepers and anybody selling or giving Indians any alcohol.

Percé was always of special interest to my family, as my grandparents lived there for a

while. My father, who had been a blacksmith for the Robins in Paspébiac, eventually settled in Percé where he started his own business, a blacksmith shop he opened with another Jerseyman called Le Breton. Later on, he moved to Ottawa and the whole family settled in the capital city. My brother Sydney went to school in Percé; my brother John was probably too young to go to school at the time, and my brother Percy Charles was born in Percé, hence his name.

The first time I visited Percé, there were still some Jerseymen there. It was in 1926 or 1927. There was an old man in his seventies, Mr Charles Biard (1856-1936), that ran a cod fishing business. He was a very good businessman and he had two or three sons to help him. He also had a store and kept some cabins for the tourists. One of his sons is still alive, and the grandson runs the restaurant.

Another Jerseyman that I found there was the old man Bower, uncle of the Misses Bower and of Mrs Jean, of Coin-du-Banc.

Mr Abner Bisson, who died in Jersey two or three years ago, was the owner of the Percé Rock House, the best hotel in Percé at the time, but Percé has become (like Jersey) a mecca for tourists now, with plenty of hotels and boarding houses. Mr Abner's hotel is now run by Watson Bisson, one of Abner's sons, to his first wife, Mary Ann Biard who died in 1923, at the age of 43 years, and who was the daughter of the above mentioned Charles Biard.

The manager of the Robin establishment was Mr. Herbert Philip Renouf, born in Jersey in 1878. It so happened that I was on the Gaspé coast when he died in 1959, in Paspébiac.

Last summer, when I was in Percé with my brother Sydney, I visited Mr Dumaresq Valpy, who used to go to school with Sydney in Percé when he was young. He bears the name of his father, Dumaresq Valpy, born in Jersey, in 1848, and lost at sea in 1890. I did not have to talk very long with him to discover that the Valpy family was old Jersey stock. Another schoolmate of Sydney, Reginald Tuzo, later became Percé's postmaster. The Tuzo family are good people and well educated. They came to the Gaspé coast from Bermuda, but I always thought that they originally belonged to the Touzeau family, probably from Guernsey. Reginald Tuzo died in Ottawa, in 1964. He was married to Mrs Irene Le Marquand (1900-1953), the daughter of Elias John Le Marquand, brother of judge Samuel James Le Marquand who was a constable at St. Peter and a judge at the Royal Court.

It was in Percé, in one of the fishing boats of Mr. Charles Biard, that I went cod fishing for the first time and that I caught half a dozen nice specimens. One had to go quite far away from the shore as cod fishing is done at a depth of 120 feet. Herring is used as

bait. I got to like cod. In Jersey we ate it dried and salted, when I was young, but, in Gaspésie, it is eaten fresh and it is delicious. How many times did Mrs Alice Le Co fry me some cod, at Malbaie, when I went to visit her!

I always went to the wharf of the Robins' fishing establishment when the fishermen came in with their boat loads of cod. I would buy ten to twenty pounds of the fish, cut open, all cleaned up, with no heads, and they would end up in the frying pan, 15 minutes later. Now, that makes me drool, just thinking about it!

The anglican church in Percé is dedicated to Saint-Paul the Apostle. It is built on the the city's heights and, from the cemetery, there is a beautiful view of the town, the Percé Rock and of Bonaventure island. There are many Jerseymen in the cemetery. The church is well cared for, even if the number of anglicans dying in Percé is growing smaller, each year. It is a worthy testimony of devotion and faithfulness, and as much can be said of many other anglican congregations along the coast.

There is a small and very old cemetery near the shore, besides the Percé Rock House hotel, which was abandoned many years ago, when the actual church was built. For the first time, I went to see the graves that were there. Two or three were still there last summer. There I found a Mr du Val, who probably was of the family of that name who lived on Bonaventure Island for around a hundred years: Peter John du Val, born in Jersey, died after a short but painful sickness, on July 23, 1835, at the age of 41. The other grave in that old cemetery commemorates Joseph S. Tuzo Esq., born in the Bermudas, 1791-1843, and his wife Mary, 1794-1852.

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Percé (Saint-Paul's Church)

The wall memorials in the church's main aisle are dedicated to the memory of, among others, Major Joseph Tuzo Gibaut, "1st Canadian Mounted Rifles", 1891-1942. Of lieutenant Alfred Philip Gibaut, "10th. Infantry Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force", killed in action, at Vimy Ridge, on April 8 1917, at the age of 21. Of Ethel and Herbert Renouf. Of Elizabeth and Richardson Tardif. Of the Lenfesty family, who had been part of this congregation for more than a hundred years, 1862-1962. Of William Charles Biard, 1883-1961. And of Nora Ellen Biard, 1895-1959.

When I saw lieutenant A.P. Gibaut's memorial, stating he was killed during the Vimy Ridge Battle, on April 8, 1917, I felt grateful to be alive, because I was of that battle myself! I knew Ethel and Herbert Renouf. Their names will come up again later in the list of Jersey people, in the cemetery. The Tardifs were from St Peter Port, in Guernsey. And the wife of M. Dumaresq Valpy is also from Guernsey.

The cemetery is well supervised, and kept clean as a whistle. It harbours good old Jersey families. Here is a member of the Orange family: Daniel Orange, of Jersey, died in Québec City, on November 6, 1877, at 43 years and 8 months. He worked for the Robins for nearly 30 years, the last three years as representative for the whole of the Gaspé Peninsula, and he had expressed the wish to be buried here! And here is a member of the de Quetteville family: Clifford Nicolle de Quetteville, 1862-1928, and Julie Vibert Tuzo, his wife, 1862-1934. The Valpy family: Dumaresq Valpy, born in Jersey on March 3, 1848 and buried at sea, on May 20, 1890. Drusilla Tuzo, 1867-1917, wife of Dumaresq Valpy. Marjorie Tuzo Valpy, wife of Reverend S. Radley Walters, 1888-1937. - Lottie Dumaresq Valpy, 1889-1927, wife of A. Neil Somerville. - And Edward Le Montais Valpy, 1886-1958.

Here is the Biard family. I have known most of them: Charles Biard, 1856-1936, and Mary Butlin, his wife 1861-1939. Their daughter Mary

Ann Biard, wife of Abner Cartwright Huëlin Bisson; she died in 1923, at 43 years of age. Their son William Charles Biard, 1883-1961, and his wife, Nora Ellen Fitzgerald, 1895-1959. Ernest Biard, 1893-1933. And Charles Le Bas Biard, 1896-1961.

The Gibauts: Francis Gibaut, born in Gouray Village, in Jersey, on September 25 1844, died in Québec City on August 8, 1921, and his small child, Victor John. - Janet Louisa Gibaut, 1884-1961, wife of Francis E. Agnès (a charming lady that I knew well. Mr Agnès lives in Paspébiac). - Alice Louisa Tuzo, 1854-1947, wife of Francis Gibaut.

The Maugers: John Henry Mauger, son of Sophia Mauger. The dates inscribed are the following: born 1875, died 1825! Most probably a one digit mistake: the demise should probably be dated 1925. Arthur W. Mauger, 1880-1944, of Bonaventure Island, and Mary Ann Maria du Val, 1888-1959, and their son Arthur F., 1929-1941.

The Hamons: Philip Syvret Hamon, born in St Ouën, Jersey, on April 21, 1852, died in Truro, Nova-Scotia, June 14, 1927, and his wife, Eva Stowe Tuzo, 1865-1947. Helen Marie Hamon, wife of Philip Harold Hamon, born in Saint-John, New-Brunswick, in 1889, died there in 1949.

The Jeans: John Francis Jean, born in Jersey in 1825, died in *Cannes-de-Roches* (a small hamlet, part of Percé), in 1871, and Elizabeth Bragg, his wife, 1832-1871. John Jean, died in 1877, at 79 years and 4 months.

The Le Bruns: Francis Le Brun, 1825-1903, and Susan de Carteret, his wife, 1829-1913, born in Jersey, and their children Adam Le Brun, 1862-1866, Adela Mr Le Brun, 1868-1869, and Douglas de Carteret Le Brun, 1866-1913, who is buried in Kenora, Ontario.

There are also many other families here: Jane E. Le Breton, widow of William Newbury, 1863-1912. She was born in Percé and died in Magpie, a place that I am not familiar with. Her husband, born in Winborne, England, in 1856, died in 1889. Irene Le Marquand, wife of Reginal Tuzo, 1900-1953, born in Newport, daughter of Elias John. Her husband is now buried at her side. He died in 1964. Percy Nicolle, 1886-1894. His tomb was erected by Frederick and Rachel Nicolle. Peter John du Val, born at Bonaventure Island in 1842, died in 1929, Susan Lenfesty, his wife, 1845-1897, and their children Grace, John et Percival, who all died in infancy. Francis Esnouf, born in Jersey, only son of Francis and Mary Esnouf. He died in Grande-Rivière in 1882, in his 29th year. James M.

Remon, 1825-1904. Herbert Philip Renouf, born in Jersey, 1878-1959, and Ethel Scott Lindsay, his wife, 1881-1956. The children of Thomas and Jane Le Dain, all died young, in 1825. Philip Vibert, 1805-1825, son of the now departed Reverend John Vibert, garrison chaplain at Aurigny. Henry Le Gresley, 1840-1863, son of captain John Le Gresley, of Jersey. Susan Maria Thorp, 1845-1865, wife of Philip Le Boutillier, Esq., and Elizabeth Mary Le Breton, 1860-1939, wife of Francis Bower 1857-1945.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada *George Francis Le Feuvre*

Bonaventure Island

Although I have circled Bonaventure Island and seen it from a boat, I have never set foot on its shores. It is nearly three miles from Percé by boat. Its north shore, facing the Atlantic, is high and steep, just like the coast along the north road of Saint-John, and its cliffs are white and constitute a bird sanctuary. There are hundreds of thousands of birds, seamews, small penguins, puffins, northern gannets, seagulls, etc.

On its side facing the continent, the island dips and flattens nearly to sea level, and all the houses are clearly visible. There are not many. A family named du Val lived there for many years, but I don't know if Mr Willie du Val, mentioned in Miss Syvret's article, published in the *L'Bulletin d'La Société Jersiaise*, is still there. I seem to have heard it said that nobody was living there on a permanent basis, all year long. Miss Syvret mentions a family called Cody (Le Caudey) as being still there when her article was written, a couple of years ago. That is of great interest to me because of the genealogical research I have been doing for Colonel Buffalo Bill Cody's family, descendants of the Le Caudey. Registers from the Gaspé Peninsula mention a James Cody married on Bonaventure Island, on April 28, 1844, to Marguerite Mulmichael. They had three children: Adelaide (1845), Hélène (1847), James Xavier (1849). A John Cody married Anne Lemieux and they had a boy, François, who died in 1840. There are other Codys: Patrick (1838) and Peter, who died in 1853 at 87 years of age, both married Irish girls. They had children, all born before 1840, and there is no clue hinting of a Jersey parentage in their family. I have often asked these people where I could find Codys and I was always told that they were dead or had left for the Coast.

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Cape Cove

Out of Percé, we drive straight south for about ten miles until *Anse du Cap* (Cape Cove), by way of *Anse à Beaufils*. I was never able to discover the name or identity of this son-in-law (translation of the french word "beau fils") who gave this small bay its name. A beautiful little harbour, but I don't know of any Jersey people still living there. The last one there, to my knowledge, was the good Alfred Le Cocq, cousin of John Le Cocq, from Malbaie, and his daughter Amelia's husband. She died young. Alfred was remarried. He died two or three years ago, past 80 years old.

There were quite a number of Jersey people in *Anse du Cap* (Cape Cove), a few years ago, but no descendant can be found today.

The cape, referred to in the name *Anse du Cap*, is, in fact, the *Cap d'Espoir* (Cape Hope), a name which is said to have been given by Jacques Cartier himself. As I may already have mentioned, the names of people and places found on headstones, in anglican churches' cemeteries, have mostly been anglicized. In this case, the funny thing is that I have seen *Cap d'Espoir* anglicized to Cape Despair - the exact opposite of its true meaning which, in fact, translates to : Cape of Good Hope.

Saint-James anglican church, in *Anse du Cap* (Cape Cove), is one of the biggest that I have ever seen along the coast, probably because there is none in Grande-Rivière, four miles further. It is therefore the only church from Percé to Chandler, a distance of 23 miles.

In this cemetery rests our old friend Charles Powell, from *La Pointe*, of Vinchelez, in St Ouën. He has his own spot and, on his headstone, the inscription is in french, one of the only ones to be so. I translate it for you word for word: "Charles Powell, died March 12, 1952, at 85 years of age. Husband of Marie Boutin". Charles is one of those Jerseymen who married a French Canadian but who was not a turncoat : he remained,

all is life, a true anglican and Freemason. I visited him in 1949, three years before his death, and his beard reminded me of the old men in *St. Ouën*, when I was a kid. On this last visit, he asked me loads of questions about his nephew Philippe, and his old friend Harry Le Boutillier. His nephew had sent him a photo of himself in front of the house in *La Pointe*, and had made him very happy, in his old days. He had ten children, but of these only four were boys and none survived. When his wife died, he went to live with one of his daughters who had ten children, of her own! All his daughters were married to French Canadians.

Here is a grave that states the erroneous translation of Cap d'Espoir: George Gaudin, born in Jersey in 1842 and died in "Cape Despair" in 1901; Mary Ann Beck, his wife, "of Cape Despair" 1839-1898, and their son Charles P.S. Gaudin, 1876-1877. Other names can be found. Captain Francis Philip Savage, born in Jersey, 1841-1893. The Honourable Thomas Savage, M.L.C. (probably a member of the Legislative Council), died in 1887, at the age of 79; his grave was offered and paid for by many friends "who had not forgotten his kindness on their behalf". - Sophia, wife of Charles Savage, was born in Jersey in St Mary, 1834-1862. - Charles Savage, John's son, was born in Jersey, 1799-1869; "Goodbye to my dear parents" were the only words on the headstone, written in French, — the beginning of one of the prayers in "*La Nourriture de l'Âme*"; Elizabeth Savage, born in St Mary, in Jersey, 1813-1866. - Charles N. Savage, 1823-1915, and Elizabeth Mahan, his wife, 1831-1917. - And Philip J. Savage, 1866-1935.

Here are the Viberts: John Peter Vibert, 1848-1871, and Mary Magdalene, his 21 year old sister. - Philip J. Vibert, 1850-1907, and his wife, Eliza, 1860-1914.

And the Tostevins: James Tostevin, 1861-1926, and Elizabeth Lenfesty, his wife, 1861-1951. - Lilian Jane Tostevin, 1898-1919. - John James Tostevin, 1884-1922. - Harold Daniel Tostevin, 1895-1912.

Other headstones give us the names of: Percy Charles John de Gruchy, O. B.E., E.D., born in Jersey, 1880-1953, his wife, Eva Baker, 1879-1946, and their sons Wallace George, who died at 3 months, and Charles James Gerald, 1913-1914. - Charles de Gruchy, born in Jersey, 1853-1908, worked for the Robins for a great many years. - Elias Daniel Lenfesty, husband of Ida Ethel Le Gresley, 1873-1919. - Emily Mahan, wife Elias Daniel Lenfesty, 1876-1909. - Fanny Lorence Mallet, wife of Frank A. Aubin, was born in Jersey in 1862, and died in Grande-Rivière in 1893, and her husband, Francis Alfred Aubin, born in Jersey in 1859 and died

in 1919. - Philip Mercier, 1859-1938, and his wife Eliza Jane Tostevin, 1870-1947.

The Dumaresq family is also represented here: Daniel Dumaresq, 1847-1903, and Martha Lenfesty, his wife, 1847-1920. - Clément Dumaresq, 1868-1939, and his wife Grace A. Mahan, 1874-1921. - Daniel Dumaresq *Sénr.*, born in Jersey, died in 1894 at the age of 78 years and 5 months, and his wife Judith Lenfesty, 1828-1915. - R. Dumaresq, wife of Alfred W. Le Grand, 1848-1886.

And here are the Le Grands: George E. Le Grand, died in 1884. - Charles D. Le Grand, 1889-1914. - Esther Mary Le Grand, 1881-1937. - Alfred W. Le Grand, born in Jersey, 1845-1946, and his wife Elizabeth M. Dumaresq, 1864-1952.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



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Grande-Rivière

Back on the road to Cape Cove, heading west, we hold that direction until Matapédia, where the borders of what is called *Gaspésie* start, going all the way north to *Sainte-Flavie*. Four miles before Cape Cove, we come to Grande-Rivière, where there is a fishing establishment, property of the Robins, but, nowadays, no Jerseyborn can be found here.

M. Charles Powell, who worked for the Robins all his life, was, for a long time, the man in charge of the cod drying operations, here; here, he raised his family and, here, he died.

Grande-Rivière has been thriving for at least 150 years. Mr Côté, in the *Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie*, informs us that Father Ferland praised it as early as 1836: "Here prevails a wealth that we don't find even in the richest parish in the district of Québec — The land is fertile, and easy to improve with the heaps of cod heads rotting next to the sea-snails."

That was worthwhile fertilizer! I feel for those who had to spread the stuff during the summer! I had occasion to sample the odour on the wharf, in Malbaie, and it's enough to poison anybody!

The "*Hôtel du Bonnet Bleu*", in Grande-Rivière, is owned by a descendant of a Jersey family, Mrs Landry, *née* Mauger. Her father was a Mauger from Jersey, who was fired by the Robins for marrying a French-Canadian.

I stayed at the hotel many times and ate Mrs Landry's wonderful stew of fried cod. Mrs Landry is comely and very interested in Jersey. She has relatives in Ste Mary.

Mr Francis Jean, from Léoville, in St.Ouën, lived in Grande-Rivière for many years, in the house of another Jerseyman, Mr Renouf, who has left us for better pastures. Mr Jean is still in excellent health but I don't know where he now resides.

There is no protestant church or cemetery here. Jersey people who died in Grande-Rivière are buried in the Cape Cove cemetery or anywhere else they had family.

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Pabos and Chandler

Going on towards the west, one comes to Pabos, six miles from Grande-Rivière, and to Chandler, a little further.

The word Pabos is of Micmac origin and means "Calm water pond". Pabos is a fishing port and a centre for the wood industry. The town of Chandler, is named in honor of an american from Philadelphia who built a large pulp and paper mill there, in 1904. Next door Pabos supplies wood for the mill, and its growth has very nearly engulfed the village.

In the Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie, Mr Serge Côté tells of Father Ferland who, in 1836, describes Pabos as being an area of some importance, in those days, because it could boast of eight Irish families who produced potatoes for the fishermen on the coast.

According to one of the books of the Gaspé Fishing and Coal Mining Co., an official registry closed on July 29, 1858, entitled "Cadastre abrégé de la Seigneurie de Grand Pabos, appartenant à la Gaspé Fishing & Coal Mining Co", and published in the aforementioned Revue d'Histoire Volume 2 number 4, of the 125 listed owners of concessions in this Seigneurie, there where only three who could be considered Jerseymen: Thomas C. Remon, Robert Mauger, and Daniel Pinel.

In 1858, MM James and Thomas Remon where merchants in Pabos and the Land Registry had been entrusted into their care for inspection by the holders of manorial or rateable status, which indicates how trustworthy they where considered by the authorities in those days.

The James Remon mentioned in the land registry is probably the James M. Remon who died in 1904, at the age of 79, and is buried in the St Paul Church cemetery in Percé.

There is a small anglican church in Chandler, dedicated to St George, but there is no protestant cemetery.

The town is one of the largest and most important on the coast, most probably because of the activity associated to the mill. I know of no Jersey people who live, nowadays, in Pabos or Chandler.

**George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey**



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Newport

Ten miles west of Chandler, one comes to Newport, a beautiful little fishing town as well as a center for the wood industry. The name of Newport was given by the British loyalists who came to live here after the Americans had won their independence war.

Newport cliffs are very high, towering around 1500 feet above sea level.

Newport was always of special interest to me because it is where judge Samuel James Le Marquand's two brothers, MM Ernest Philip and Elias John Le Marquand had their shop. Judge Francis Vibert Le Feuvre, was their attorney in Jersey, and I would often encounter their names in his books during the time I was his secretary while he was constable of St Peter's. Their shop is managed by French Canadians, now.

The nice little anglican church of St Peter's in Newport is now closed and abandoned.

It was a sad sight, on my visit. I asked two or three people if they knew who had the key, but nobody knew. Their are no anglican or protestant families around to keep it in good repair. Two or three window-panes were broken in the stained-glass windows, the building was in dire need of a good coat of paint and the cemetery looked neglected.

A quick look at the graves is enough to demonstrate that MM Ernest Philip and Elias John Le Marquand were pillars of the church. Theirs are the first graves visible. They both passed away at the age of 63. It seems to me to be young to die, but that may be because I myself am 10 years older!

Elias John, born in Jersey in 1855, died in 1918. His wife, Malilda Blampied, who died in 1931, was born in 1859. Their oldest son, Elias Percival, died in 1888 at the age of 5 months, and is buried in the St Peter's Church cemetery, in Paspébiac, which makes me think that the

two Le Marquand brothers started their career working for the Robins before striking out, on their own, in Newport. Two more of their children, Lewis Elias, who died, in 1899, 16 months old, and Hazel 1902-1903, are buried here. Two more sons, Adolphus Stanley, 1889-1890, and Clarence, 1894-1895, are buried in the St James Church cemetery in Port-Daniel. As I have already mentioned, their daughter Irene (1900-1953), wife of Reginald Tuzo is buried in the St Paul Church cemetery, in Percé.

Ernest Philip Le Marquand, born in Jersey in 1862, died in 1925. I think that his wife is still living, but I don't have the honour of being acquainted. The eldest of their sons, Ernest John, 1892-1955, and his wife, Margaret Myrtle MacPherson, 1895-1935, are buried the St Andrew United Church of Canada cemetery, in Port-Daniel. Three more of their sons, Gordon (husband of Mary Huntington), who died in 1964, at the age of 66 years and 6 months, Jeffrey, 1906-1943, and Victor Samuel, who died in 1911 (his age is not mentioned on the tombstone), are buried here in Newport.

Edgar Le Marquand, son of Elias John, has two children buried here also: Edgar Gerald 1917-1918, Lorne Nelson, 1918-1918. On another tombstone, there is the name of Ida Leola Marett, a granddaughter of Elias John. She was daughter to Charles Marett and Ida Le Marquand, daughter of Elias John, and she died in 1918 at the age of 3 months. I think Mr Marett and his wife now live in the United States, in Dover, New Hampshire. Maud, another of Elias John's daughters, is wife to Harold Le Gresley (grandson of captain "Black Jack") who resides in Gaspé.

The only grave in this little cemetery that does not commemorate a member of the Le Marquand family, is that of Jerseyborn P.J. Vincent, who died here, in 1913, at 18 years of age. He probably worked in Elias John and Ernest Philip Le Marquand's shop.

Their brother, judge Samuel James, had also left Jersey at a young age. I don't know if he started his career in Gaspésie, but by the time he returned to Jersey, he had made is fortune in New York, where he had become one of the VIPs of the "Pullman Company", the American Sleeping-Car Company.

I could not leave this little cemetery without thinking that I was leaving a little bit of Jersey behind, but that can probably be said of most of the anglican or protestant cemetery in the Gaspé peninsula.

I believe there is a chance that the church will one day be relocated (whole or in parts). I seem to recall hearing New Richmond could be the site of the relocation. I hope it will be so. It would be too sad to see this church fall in ruins.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada *George Francis Le Feuvre*

L'Anse-aux-Gascons

Seven or eight miles west of Newport, we come to *L'Anse-aux-Gascons*, at the mouth of *Baie des Chaleurs*. I never knew the origin of the name but it would be logical to imagine that a Gascon, a French from the Gascogne area in France, was the first to establish himself there. M. Serge Côté tells us that in 1836, Father Ferland saw, there, the only bridge he ever set eyes on in all of the Gaspé Coast. It is said that jasper and cornelian, minerals that locals call "Gaspé stones", can be found among the rocks lying on the shore. The earth is rich in these parts, and a good number of farms dot the landscape. And one can probably also count on the fishing.

I found members of the Ahier family in the cemetery of the Anglican church of St Phillip, in L'Anse-aux-Gascons. There probably were some also, in the roman catholic cemetery. A French Canadian genealogist once said to me that the Ahier families came from two distinct stocks: one, catholic, from Carleton, the other, protestant, from Port-Daniel. Why is really no mystery. In registers of the Gaspé Peninsula, we find that Gédéon Ahier, son of Jean Ahier and Jeanne Esnouf, of St Helier, Jersey, married twice: a first time on July 26, 1807, in Carleton, to Victoire Painchaud, sister of Father Charles-François Painchaud, parish priest of Carleton (1806-1814) and founder of the *Collège de Sainte-Anne-de-la-Pocatière*, and a second time, also in Carleton, to Rose Bergeron dit d'Ambroise. Father Painchaud was certainly not going to permit his own sister to marry in anything but a roman catholic church! And that is how the catholic side of the family was founded!

Another Ahier, Philippe, was also married twice, and was converted to the roman catholic faith, on his second marriage. The registers show that, at 33, on May 3rd 1840, he renounced his faith to marry Rose Dugay in Port-Daniel on May 4th. His first marriage (date not mentioned) was to Geneviève Chedore. It is said that the Chedores were good Jersey stock and Anglicans. I used to wonder, on seeing that name all around the graveyard, how French Canadians had come to rest in an anglican cemetery! And then, to my surprise, a man who had seen

Sydney and me go in the church came to talk to us and informed us that his name was Chedore, and that he was the watchman of the church and cemetery. That's how I learned that he was anglican and had always been told that the Chedore family had come from Jersey.

Apparently, the Chedores have been established on the Gaspé Coast for 120 years. In the already mentioned publication *Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie*, Mrs MacWhirter tells the story of the shipwreck of the Colbourne, a 350 tons ship from Hull, England, that sank in the bay very near to L'Anse-aux-Gascons, and disclosed that, during the night of October 15 1838, a man called Chedore helped rescue the only 12 people who survived the ordeal, of the 55 originally aboard. He had a daughter called Isabella, who married a man called Acteson, one of the survivors rescued by her father. They are the ancestor of many of the Actesons living in Gaspésie today.

I also found that somebody called Ahier married a Geneviève Chedore before 1840. There are graves in the names of: Philip Acteson, 1848-1937, husband to Grace Le Gallais, 1864-1949; Peter Philip Mourant, 1845-1879, husband to Ann Acteson, and of their daughter Beatrice Maud Martha, passed away in 1879 at the early age of 4 months.

And we come to the Ahier who remained Anglicans and are buried here: Albert Ahier, 1877-1937, Annie B. Chedore, his wife, 1887-1962, and their children Lilian, 1917-1921, Harold Maynard , 1921-1925, and P. Elmer, 1908-1921. William Ahier, 1873-1896. Eliza Almond, 1837-1931, wife of Philip Ahier, and their oldest son, James Edmund, 1868-1895. And Grace Lillie Ste. Croix, 1881-1917, wife of Ernest W. Ahier. Apparently, the Ahier children were not very robust. They all seem to die young.

***George Francis Le Feuvre*
Jersey**



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada *George Francis Le Feuvre*

Port-Daniel

Now, we leave L'Anse-aux-Gascons behind and head for Port-Daniel, six miles from here. Daniel is the name of a French navigator in the days when Samuel de Champlain (1567-1635), founding father of Québec, was governor of Canada, for the French King. A brother of Daniel's was one of those roman catholic missionnaires who were tortured by the indians.

Port-Daniel is one of the Gaspé peninsula's main fishing centers, and the river of the same name is renowned for its abundance in salmon. Father Ferland (according to Mr Serge Côté, in *La Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie*) wrote that in 1836, there were 25 to 30 families established here, and that trade was prosperous namely for wood and limestone.

On our way, we stopped at the St. Andrew United Church of Canada, and found, in the cemetery, ten or twelve graves with Jersey names. Here is one that I have already mentionned: the son of Ernest Philip Le Marquand, Ernest John (1892-1955) and his wife, Margaret Myrtle MacPherson (1895-1935). And then there's Susan Amelia Le Grand, 1877-1935, and her husband, Arthur Lawrence, 1874-1952. Jeanne Le Gallais, 1929-1943. Agnes Lawrence, 1883-1918, wife of Philip Le Gallais. John de Sainte-Croix, 1848-1918. And Francis Le Gallais, 1870-1938, and his wife Jessie, 1873-1954.

The Lawrences could have been the Laurens from Jersey, but nobody was ever able to confirm it clearly.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada *George Francis Le Feuvre*

Port-Daniel (Saint-James Church)

Saint-James Anglican Church looks good and is well cared for. Inside, memorial plaques recall Jersey names. At least two Bissons, Thomas Clair and George, were victims of World War I. Candles, electric nowadays, are lit in memory of Herbert, Cornelius and Annie Journeau. The *Journieaux* have, very often, dropped the final "x" to their names, and that spelling can be found on most of the tombs in the cemetery, which is a model of orderliness. Members of the "Altar Guild" are : Mrs. Milton and Harold Bisson, and Annie Journeau. The watchman is Louis Le Grand.

In the cemetery, my first find was the tombs of the two children of Elias John and Matilda Le Marquand, Adolphus Stanley (1889-1890) and Clarence (1894-1895), which I have already mentioned when I passed through Newport. Then there is a grave identified in the name of Philip Hamon, born in Jersey and passed away in Newport in 1875, at the age of 61 years and 10 months. After that, we find ourselves in the midst of the Bisson family: Thomas Byers Bisson, 1891-1956; Daniel Bisson, 1848-1933, and Annie Baxter, his wife, 1859-1931; Sydney Bisson, 1893-1957; William J. Bisson 1886-1952; Thomas Bisson, 1860-1891; Daniel Bisson, 1823-1899, and his wife Mary Jane Almond, 1820-1912; William Bisson, 1857-1932, and Margaret A. Sullivan, his wife 1860-1943; Jennie C. Bisson, 1894-1919; John Bisson, 1850-1925, with Martha Amelia Lucas, his wife, 1857-1930, and their son Thomas Clair, who was born in 1893 and died in 1923, from wounds sustained in the war; Clara May Bisson, 1895-1953; Bessie Bisson, 1883-1960.

And now we come to the *Journieaux*: William Journeau, 1859-1935, his wife Mary Ellen Dea, 1865-1951, and their daughters Olive Winifred, 1885-1901, and Stella Vilvret, 1905-1907; Cornelius Journeau, 1868-1931, and his wife Annie Journeau, 1874-1941; Herbert Journeaux, 1879-1940, and his wife Amanda Maude, 1876-1955. He is the last *Journieaux* to correctly spell the name!

Other monuments show the names of: Edna Hazel Pearson, wife of Lewis Le Grand, 1896-1955, probably the same Le Grand who was referred to as the watchman under the name of Louis Le Grand; Alfred D. Le Grand, 1872-1943, his wife Maida S., 1868-1953, their daughter Julia Alberta, 1905-1923, and their son Ernest Roy, 1916-1918; Charles Philip Le Maistre *Junr.*, 1923-1962, who died in an accident while his father, born in Jersey in 1895, died the same year in New Carlisle, at the age of 67, and is buried in the cemetery of the "United Church of Canada", in Paspébiac-Ouest. I knew him very well. He usually worked for the Robins in Paspébiac and he was always smiling and in a good mood. His widow and two daughters live in New Carlisle. A sister of his, *Miss Lydia Le Maistre* lives in *St. Martîn*, in Jersey.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada *George Francis Le Feuvre*

Shigawake

Seven miles from Port-Daniel, we come to a village with the funny name of Shigawake, a Micmac word meaning "Country of the rising sun". There must have been a good many people from Jersey living there at that time because there is a little anglican church dedicated to St Paul. I found only some Le Gallais in the cemetery, although I spotted a few Majors, but didn't note their names because I thought they were English. I regret not doing so now that I have heard it said they were Maugers (Maûgi), their name anglicised to Major.

In the church, a wall memorial is dedicated to Edwin Le Gallais, killed during the war. The organ is dedicated to the memory of John Journeau. In the cemetery, one can find the graves of Edward Le Gallais, 1830-1904, and Margaret Smith, his wife, 1829-1919; Sarah Dow, 1859-1929, wife of John A. Le Gallais. And Jennnie Ida Le Gallais, 1893-1954, wife of James W. MacKenzie.

There is also a small chapel of the United Church of Canada in Shigawake. It is never possible to enter these chapels since they are always under lock and key. There are two members of the Bisson family in the cemetery. Herman Bisson, 1874-1957, and Ida Jane Young, his wife, born in 1876. Mary Ann Bisson, 1877-1960, wife of Edmund Young, 1874-1959.

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Hope Town

The village of Hope Town, five miles from Shigawake, is our next stop on the way to Paspébiac, which is not very far, now. I don't know who gave Hope Town its name but the village is located at the end of *Cap d'Espoir!* The brochure from the provincial office of tourism mentions only that it is an agricultural center. There most certainly were Jersey people there in the old days, because there is an anglican church dedicated to St James. In the church cemetery, there is one grave that belongs to a Mauger and two or three Majors. They probably are all Maugers. Herry Mauger, Emma du Val's husband who died in 1931, at 60. Philip du Val, deceased in 1918, at 80. Elizabeth Major, 1874-1908. Gladys E. Major, 1921-1922. Charles P. Major, 1888-1962, and Mary E. Ross, his wife born in 1893. The date of her death is not mentionned. Often, the name was marked on a grave while a person was alive with the date of the person's death to be added after burial. Kathleen Joyce, daughter of Austin de Sainte-Croix, died at 9 months.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada *George Francis Le Feuvre*

Paspébiac

Leaving Hope Town behind, our next stop is Paspébiac, ten miles further, still towards the west. I believe that this name of Paspébiac (*Paspédgia*) is one of the best known words in Jersey, because it was the place where the Robins docked, unloaded their cargo and landed the young Jerseymen who were signed up to work in their fishing establishments and stores.

The morphology of the port justified the use of Paspébiac, a Micmac word meaning "Broken sand-bank".

Here is what Father Ferland had to say about the place, in 1836 (according to M. Serge Côté, in *La Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie*): "The sand bank is an equilateral triangle, where the coast is the base, about a mile in length, with, shooting out from both extremities, two sand bars, an acre in width, converging about a mile out at sea. Inside is a nice basin linked to the sea by a narrow channel." It is the best description I can find of the port, and so I repeat it here without changing a word.

Father Ferland also informs us that Paspébiac is one of the bastions of the Robins, from where they maintained absolute control on fishing activities, and kept buildings and installations in order. The population, in those days, was of about 600 people of different origins: Newfoundlanders, Basques, French-Canadians and Jerseymen.

As I have mentioned previously, Mr Arthur G. Le Gros, the charming general agent of the Robins, for the whole of the Gaspé peninsula, is currently writing some articles on the subject, and it is worth being a member of *La Société Historique de la Gaspésie* (Gaspé Coast Historical Society) so as to be able to read his publications. I have spent many a pleasing hour with him, and his wife and family, at his home, in Paspébiac.

Going to Paspébiac is very nice. One can still meet Jersey people there. My friend Joseph Le Floch — we went to the Wesleyan school in St Ouën,

together — lives there with his wife, née Bisson, in Gaspésie, one of the best and most charming persons I have ever met. He came to Paspébiac for the Robins around 1908, I think, and he worked there for more than fifty years before retiring. He raised six children who are all married now, but have left the Gaspé Coast.

Another Jerseyman, Arthur Ollivier, born in Ouaisne, in St Brelade, is one of the VIPs in the Robin offices. A good man. His wife was a Miss Le Grand, born in Gaspésie. Mr Thomas C. Le Breton, who has been a director in most of the branches of the Robin Company, is now retired and lives here too. His son John H. is acting president of the Robin Company, today. Philippe Le Bro, who comes from around La Fontaine, in Millais, in St Ouën, also enjoys retirement pay from the Robin company and lives quietly with his wife, near the place where he has worked all his life. One of his daughters married a son of John Le Masurier of Grande-Grève. Two old Jersey families of St Ouën, joined together in Gaspésie!

Mr Frank Agnès also lives here, enjoying his retirement, after a long life dedicated to the Robin family. Another of the old folks, octogenarian Pierre Camiot, born in Jersey, in St Mary, lives quietly, in retirement, on the outskirts of the village.

Many of these people we see in church, on Sunday. They spent most of their lives, loyal and dedicated to the Robins, in their fishing establishments, and they also remained faithful to the House of God.

I can never think of Paspébiac without mourning the passing of my old friend Mr Eugène Auguste Albert Bouillon (1869-1959), general agent of the Robins during his lifetime. I have spent many a pleasing hour with him and his distinguished son, E. Linden Bouillon, esquire, A.R.I.B.A. (Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects), in Paspébiac, in Jersey, and in Barbados, in the British West Indies. I would like to write more about the late Mr Bouillon, real gentleman, solid citizen and a well known pillar of the church, but, if I were to detail all his qualities here, I would use too much space.

My praises on his behalf appear on page 471 of the second volume of the publication *Les Bulletîns d'L'Assemblée d'Jerriais*.

Jerseymen who worked for years for the Robins can still be found in Paspébiac: Ernest and Hedley Michel, from St Peter. One can always be

assured to see them in church, on Sunday, with the other Jersey people.

The present St.Pierre church, in Paspébiac, is new. It is made of brick. The previous building, made of wood, was destroyed by fire, a few years ago. The architect who made the plans of the new church is Mr Linden Bouillon, A.R.I.B.A. (Associate of the Royal Institution of British Architects).

In the cemetery, I found many graves commemorating as many Jersey people who were there laid to rest. Many families are represented. Here are some Le Gallais: Reverend F. G. Le Gallais, 1871-1926. William E. Le Gallais, 1866-1890. Philip Francis Le Gallais, 1859-1874. John James Le Gallais, 1857-1882. Mary Ann Munro, 1841-1874, wife of Edmund Le Gallais, and their son Albert Munro Le Gallais, deceased at 2 months, in 1874. Edmund Le Gallais, 1838-1921, Martha Miller, his wife, 1847-1936, and their daughter Jessie May, who died in 1886, 9 months and 20 days old. Philip Le Gallais, 1827-1889, Rebecca Smith, his wife, 1834-1874, and their daughter Mary Caroline, 1869-1920.

And here are the three sons of Charles and Isabella Le Gallais, Harold G., killed in the war, in 1918, at the age of 23, Stanley C., who died from his wounds, in a British hospital in Brighton in 1917, at the age of 18, and Leslie P., 1892-1892. What grief for parents to lose their sons in this manner! Edmund W. Le Gallais, 1858-1939, Ann Mary Le Masurier, his wife 1863-1942, and their daughters Emily Grace, 1890-1938, and Alice Edna, 1893-1945. Francis Le Gallais, 1832-1883, and Margaret du Val, his wife 1834-1906. Jane Le Gallais, wife of Hugh Miller, 1844-1876. Evelyn Miller Le Gallais, 1882-1939, husband of Edith Travers. Percy Clement Le Gallais, killed in an accident in 1916, at 28 years of age.

Here is a family who doesn't have many members left in Jersey these days, the Bossy family: John Bossy, 1840-1920, and Jane, his wife, 1845-1918. John Philip Bossy, 1875-1956. Anna E. Bossy, 1874-1894. George W. Bossy, 1876-1904, and his brother Reginald, who died at 8 months.

Here are some Le Maistre, evidently distinguished gentlemen : William Le Maistre *Esq.* of the Island of Jersey, a brother of Francis Le Maistre *Esq.*, lieutenant-gouvernor of the district of Gaspé, who died in 1826, at the age of 77.

And some Le Boutillier from the old business house *Le Boutillier Bros*: Edward Le Boutillier, born in Jersey, associate in *Le Boutillier Bros*, 1802-

1852. Alfred Payn Le Boutillier, 1830-1869. He married a Miss Rosalie Isabel Hamilton (1836-1917) who is buried with other members of the Hamilton family in the cemetery of St. Andrew's Church, in New Carlisle. The family was apparently well off. They have an enclosure in the cemetery, marked by a superb monument.

Here are names from old Jersey families : Sophia Fixott, wife of Alfred E. Briard, died in 1934 (age not mentionned). Mr Briard is old. He enjoys a good health and lives in Caraquet. He is the oldest son of the late Captain Briard, originally from Sun Field in St Brelade, and the brother of Mr Herbert Philip Briard who married my own first cousin, Elsie Ann D'Aubert, and who lives in St Brelade's Les Quennevais, in Jersey.

The Le Masurier family is also well represented : John Le Masurier, born in Jersey, 1826-1901, husband of Jane E. Gallie. John T. Le Masurier, 1894-1908. Thomas L. Le Masurier, 1896-1917. Jane Le Masurier, 1903-1920. John E. Le Masurier, 1906-1925. And Mary L. Le Masurier, 1908-1908.

Here is a name that doesn't exist anymore in Jersey : John A. Seale, 1874-1921, and Annie C. his wife, 1878-1963. Richard Edward Binet, 1947-1961, son of Hedley and Ruth Le Gresley.

Isolated in a corner of the cemetery, I found the grave of a youth from Portinfer, in St Ouën, Francis Hamon, born in Jersey, son of the late centenarian Francis Hamon and his wife the late Lydia Ann Le Feuvre (from the Le Feuvre family of *Gros Nez*). Young Francis came to the Gaspé Coast to work for the Robins in 1914. He, later, enlisted in the Canadian army. He became sick while in Halifax, Nova Scotia, before his regiment was assigned to battle, and he died there, in the hospital, in 1918, at the age of 20 years and 6 months. There is, also, a memorial inscription, on his parents' grave in St Ouën's parish cemetery.

We come to the part of the cemetery dedicated to the Bissons : Daniel Bisson Sr, born in Jersey, 1822-1881, and Mary Caroline Le Gallais, his widow, 1824-1917, as well as their daughter Mary Elizabeth, who died in 1864 at the age of 5 years, 9 months and 5 days. Daniel Bisson, 1852-1923, and Annie Cuthbert, his wife, 1848-1897. Caroline L. Bisson, 1851-1941, wife of Philip J. L. Ahier, 1859-1952; Walter Giffard Bisson, 1864-1950, and Sarah Whittom, his wife 1864-1934.

There was kinship between Mr Walter Giffard Bisson and the family of

the late judge John Francis Giffard Sr, in Jersey. When I first met Mr Bisson, he was an old man with a fine presence. He was the father of Miss Florence Bisson, the charming wife of my friend Joseph Le Floch. James Giffard Bisson, 1896-1961, husband of Laura Laliberté.

Here is another distinguished name, now gone from Jersey: Thomas Hardy, born in Jersey, 1787-1869. He died in Nouvelle, a little further to the west along the coast. And here is a young Robin, curiously the only one to be found in this cemetery: Arthur Vavassor Robin, 1858-1859.

There are some Gaveys: Charles Amice Gavey, 1855-1946, his wife Margaret Jane, his wife, 1862-1923, and their children Lorna Margaret, 1895-1918, and Charles Robin, 1896-1896.

Mr Bouillon and his family are buried here also: Eugène Auguste Bouillon, born in Jersey, 1869-1959, Elizabeth J. Bisson, (his wife and the sister of Walter Giffard Bisson), 1867-1942, and their children Sybil Mary, who died in 1897 at 5 months and 29 days, Eugène Harold, 1892-1892, and Leila E. M., 1902-1932, wife of William H. Luce. Mrs Luce, a beautiful young wife of 30, fell sick while singing in church during a Sunday celebration and died almost instantly without regaining conscience.

A Jersey family bearing the name of Gallie is also represented: John Gallie, born in Jersey, 1789-1874, and Ann Marie Scott, his wife, 1805-1868. J. F. Gallie, 1814-1889, and Elizabeth Whittom, his widow, 1825-1908. Susan Isabel Gallie, 1872-1894, wife of Adolphus Grandin, and Alice Isabel Grandin, their daughter, who died in 1891 at 6 months of age.

And the Romerils: George Romeril, 1842-1896, and Élie B. Romeril, 1868-1928, both born in Jersey.

And here are other Jersey name: Philip du Val, 1805-1878. Charles P. Le Marquand of St Peter in Jersey, 1882-1926. Charles Le Gresley, born in Jersey, 1860-1921. Charles D. de la Haye, 1887-1950, husband to Elsie Le Gresley. I was acquainted with Mr de la Haye, a man who was well-liked by his co-workers, at the Robins. John Hocquard, 1815-1887, and Mary Gallie, his wife, 1822-1889. Ernest Le Grand, 1884-1959, Mary Gaudin's husband. Margaret Mary Caldwell, wife of Thomas C. Le Breton, died in 1938, and their daughter fille Mary Ruth, had died in 1928, at 18 months. Mr le Breton, a fine figure of a man, is still full of life and I knock on his door every time I visit Paspébiac. Charles Wilfred Le Seilleur, 1924-1960.

John Gregory, born in Jersey, 1821-1858. Elizabeth Scott, 1811-1857, wife of Elias de la Perelle. John Francis Le Gresley, 1880-1918, and Henrietta Kate Bisson, his wife, 1876-1946. John Hilton Munroe, 1897-1959, Majorie E. Le Gresley's husband.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



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Paspébiac-Ouest

"West Paspébiac" (the name is never used in french, over there), is the name given to the area between the town of Paspébiac and that of New Carlisle, four miles further.

One sees the occasionnal house, here and there, on both sides of the road. On one's right, one finds a beautiful property named *Millefleurs*, the house and outbuildings of Mrs Lilian Le Grand, *née* Bisson, who lives in Victoria, the capital city of Canada's British Colombia.

Mr Walter Bisson, Mrs Le Grand's father, was a taylor. He had his shop and fashion house very near King Street and Halkett Place, where one can find Woolworth's these days.

On the road to New Carlisle, in West Paspébiac, there is a little chapel of the United Chuch of Canada, to the right while the cemetery is to the left.

One finds a few Jersey families in this cemetery. Here are the Briards: Elias J. Briard, 1862-1930. Louisa Briard, 1875-1942, wife of Elias William Le Grand. Annie Alma Briard, 1896-1954, wife of Ogilvy McLellan.

And the Hocquard: Philip Hocquard, born in Jersey in 1869, and Annie Tennier, his wife, 1873-1948. James Hocquard, 1871-1953, and Ella, his wife born in 1888. Frank James Hocquard, 1873-1944, and Augusta Barbara Smith, his wife, 1880-1943. And George M. Hocquard, 1907-1948, Laura Munro's husband.

The other graves belong to: Alfred Michel, 1878-1956, Elizabeth, B. Taylor's husband. Harold Cleveland Le Grand, 1886-1935, Lilian Bisson's husband. And Charles Philip Le Maistre, who was born in Jersey in 1895 and passed away in 1962.

As I have already mentionned, his son, bearing the same name, is buried

in the cemetery of St. James Church, in Port-Daniel.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey



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New Carlisle

The town of New Carlisle was given that name by English Loyalists who came to settle on the Coast at the time the Americans won the war of Independence against England. Tourist "brochures" published by provincial authorities state that New Carlisle was founded in 1887, which probably means that a Roman Catholic Parish was created that year, since the town was at least 50 years older. Mr Côté, in the *Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie*, declares that father Ferland, in his account of his 1836 annual parish visit along the coast, describes New Carlisle as a "small town made of houses, few and far between. It is like saying of Washington, that it is a town on a Sunday visit in the country. It boasts a court, a prison, lawyers and a few leading citizens of the nation. The British government spent 82,000 pounds sterling to settle, in Douglastown and New Carlisle, families who remained loyal to the mother country during the revolution that shook its provinces in America".

This story, told by father Ferland explains why there were very few Jerseymen, in New Carlisle. They were mostly concentrated in Paspébiac, where the head office of the Robins is situated. I have an old friend who lived in New Carlisle: Frank Le Gresley, brother of Mrs James *Lé Bro*, née Glen Le Gresley, of *Les Châtaigners* in St. Ouën.

Frank Le Gresley, who was a captain in the Canadian Army during World War II (he had been in the first World War too, as a soldier) is "Sheriff" of New Carlisle and justice of the peace for the whole of Québec's Bonaventure County. He is popular and well respected by everybody. His charming wife, née Queenie Cook, is as welcoming as he is and one never knocks at their door without being met with open arms and invited to take some refreshment and share a meal with them.

The St. Andrew Anglican Church, in New Carlisle, is one of the largest along the coast. During his lifetime, the canon Alfred Stanley Le Moignan (1895-1953), of whom I have already talked, was rector of parish. In the church, there is a copper memorial plate on the organ, to remind us that it

was built in memory of "Alfred Stanley Le Moignan, priest and canon of the Québec cathedral. Rector of this parish from 1933 to 1953". A wall memorial commemorates the passing of Harold Le Gallais, killed during the war, and of Stanley Le Gallais, who died from the wounds he sustained. They are both buried in the cemetery, in Paspébiac.

Here, in this cemetery, one can find, among others, the grave of a distinguished Jerseyman, William Le Boutillier Fauvel, born in Percé, in 1850, and who died in 1897. During his short life, he became very useful to his adoptive country. In 1893, he was elected member of Parliament for Bonaventure fCounty. He was of the Liberal Party and represented his constituents with quiet distinction. His monument in New Carlisle was paid by his friends of the Party out of gratefulness. Two of his brothers lived in Pointe-Saint-Pierre, but they are no more of this world today.

And here are other Jersey names that I have found on graves in the cemetery: Sara Renouf, 1830-1910, wife of John A. Dobson, 1827-1911. William Renouf, 1914-1950, Sara Renouf's husband. Berta Hocquard, 1885-1951, wife of E. Woodburne Shepherd, 1885-1943. John S. Weary, 1879-1956, and Elizabeth Assels, his wife, who was born in 1883. John Picot, 1865-1882. Rosalie Isabel Hamilton, 1836-1917, widow of Alfred Payn Le Boutillier. And the canon Alfred Stanley Le Moignan, 1895-1953.

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Bonaventure

Eleven miles from New Carlisle, still driving west, we come to a beautiful town called Bonaventure. The name recalls the French sailboat "Bonaventure" that sailed in the area, in 1591. The region may very well owe its name to that visit. The brochure of the provincial office of Tourism declares that the town was already there in 1791, and Mr Serge Côté, in an article published in the Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie, on the annual visit of the parish priest, in 1836, informs us that Father Ferland found Bonaventure peopled by Acadians who had soft and pleasing features. We also learn that there were schools, that the people were religious and that they worked more in the areas of navigation, agriculture and the wood industry than in fishing.

There was a store of the Robins' company and its manager, Douglas Barette, born in Jersey. He is around 70 years old. I think that the Robins sold him the store and that he is his own boss, now. I always go in to see the store, and he is always glad to have news of Jersey. He is the last Jerseyman we visited on our way back.

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Jersey



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New Richmond

Twenty miles from Bonaventure, we come to New Richmond. I prefer its old Micmac name of Cascapébiac, which was also the name of the river that flows here into the sea and is full of salmon. The word means 'Fast Current'. It is said that the town was founded in 1831 and named in honor of the duke of Richmond, once governor-general of Canada. Father Ferland informs us that, in 1936, it was an indian village and that the Micmac Indians smoked herring here.

Today, New Richmond is a clean and prosperous town. Its inhabitants earn a living from fishing and farming while the wood industry also contributes to its economy.

On the left, coming into town, one sees the big beautiful chapel of the United Church of Canada, dedicated to St. Andrew. There must have been a whole lot of Scots in the town, because the Presbyterian Church, with that of the Methodists and Congregationists, became the 'United Church' and this church is bigger than any other that can usually be found in the Gaspé Peninsula. In the cemetery, a model of cleanlines, there are loads of scottish names. But I have found one jersey name: Joshua P. Henry, who was born in Grouville, Jersey, on April 9, 1880, and died in New Richmond, on August 2nd, 1942, and E. Lena Doddridgem, his wife, 1875-1930. Another grave is dedicated to the fond memory of Susie Hamilton, 1884-1952, wife of Harry Hardy, born in 1891.

And here I come to the end of the list of anglican and protestant churches built along the road around the peninsula, where the voices of Jersey and Guernesey people rose, reciting and singing, praising the Lord in the shelter of their sanctuaries, where the soil of cemeteries has grown rich from the burial of their mortal remains and where the graves perpetuate the beautiful old Norman names, which are our heritage, and are fast disappearing from the Jersey landscape.

I know very well that much patience was required to read the long lists of names registered in these pages concerning the Jersey people in the Gaspé Peninsula. Hopefully you have not found this too boring.

I also hope some of you were able to recognize the names of ancestors, of relatives and

friends, resting in peace, so far from their homeland and that this helped revive pleasant memories of the old days for those who lived on the Gaspé Coast in that period and have known these people I have mentioned.

From New Richmond, the road leads to Matapédia, roughly sixty miles further, and a beautiful paved road crosses the superb Matapédia valley, along the river that bears the same name. At the foot of the mountains, the road brings us, another 100 miles further, to Sainte-Flavie. At this point, I have completed my voyage around the Gaspé Peninsula, second homeland of so many Jersey people, and to me, the greatest and perpetual pilgrimage ground, for as long as the Lord will keep me alive, healthy and able to travel.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey

Note: The visit of the Gaspé Coast which permitted the necessary research to write the article that precede this note, was made in September of 1964. A lot of the people mentioned, alive at that time, have now passed away and gone to their eternal resting place.



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Like the bulletins of *L'Assemblée d'Jèrriais*, which are always interesting and full of little anecdotes on the life of the old Jersey people, the quarterly published *Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie*, is full of stories on the subject of the Gaspé Coast and its old inhabitants. It is also remarkable that the president of the Society that publishes the *Revue*, father Michel Le Moignan, is a descendant of Jersey. The priest's great-grandfather was Pierre Le Moignan, born in Jersey, in 1816. The Le Moignan family was well represented in the parishes of St John and St Mary.

Yet in this area, Jersey people were not often mentioned in the *Revue d'Histoire de la Gaspésie*, except in the articles of Mr A. G. Le Gros relating the story of the Robins in the Gaspé peninsula, from the very beginning, and in the first number of the third volume, which contains an article on Cloridorme written by Mr John Le Scelleur, an 85-year old who certainly is either a Jerseyman or a descendant of a Jersey family. It is also interesting to note that a member of the board of directors of *La Société historique de la Gaspésie*, Mr Alphonse N. Le Boutillier, is of Jersey extraction. It can be said that Jersey people marked the faith of the Gaspé peninsula with the stamp of our heritage, with 'our seal', the *Sceau de notre Baillage* as it is written in the old contracts signed before the Justice, in the Royal Court!

The last number of the *Revue d'Histoire* offers a magnificent history of the Gaspé Coast, north of Gaspé, written by Mr Firmin Letourneau, agronomist, and presented by Father Claude Allard, vice-president of *La Société historique de la Gaspésie* and director of *La Revue*. Although Jerseymen were mainly established along the south coast of the peninsula, some were present, as I have already mentioned, in Grand Étang, Rivière-au-Renard, and certainly L'Anse Jersey (Jersey Cove), which are part of the north coast. The Robins still have a store in Anse-aux-Griffons, even though Jersey people can no longer be found in the area.

By reading Mr Letourneau's article, I discovered, on the north side, two more names that I heard my father mention often enough in the Landes smithy, in St Ouën, when I was a boy: Le Boutillier et Fruing. Father always pronounced *Les Boutilièrs* and *Frouîns*!

Mr Letourneau informs us that, during the 1830s, the *Seigneurie* of Sainte-Anne-des-Monts went to François Buteau, a merchant from Québec, and that, at the same period, John Le Boutillier, clerk for the Robins, joined Buteau to found his own company under the name of John Le Boutillier & Company. Letouneau also tells us that John Le Boutillier became the *Seigneur* of Sainte-Anne-des Monts, in his turn! I had always believed that George Godfray, of Grand Étang, was the only Jerseyman to become a *Seigneur* in the Gaspé peninsula, but I was wrong. Which goes to prove that one can always learn!

John Le Boutillier ran his business from Percé, Saint-Anne and Mont-Louis. He sired three sons, Horatio, Philippe and George. Horatio managed the Mont-Louis operations, and Alphonse, who is, now, on the board of directors of *La Société historique de la Gaspésie*, is George's grandson. John Le Boutillier mixed in politics, representing Gaspé County in the House of Commons of *Lower Canada* from 1833 to 1838, and in the House of Commons of Upper and Lower Canada from 1854 to 1867.

Mr Letourneau also informs us that Charles et Philippe Robin, founder of the Robin company, found William Fruing in an orphanage in London, adopted him and brought him to Paspébiac to work inr the family business. He must have been competent since he rose within the company to become Robin's general agent. But his ambition did not stop there. During the 1850s, he left the Robins and worked for the Janvrin in Percé. The Janvrin had opened an establishment in 1798. He eventually married Miss Janvrin, changed the company name for William Fruing & Company and established his main place of business in Grande-Grève, while managing other trading posts in Rivière-aux-Renards, Caraquet, Newfoundland and one or two other locations.

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In Mont-Louis, John Le Boutillier et William Fruing were settled on the left side of the delta, one up-river from the other, but apparently, the Fruing ended up attracting the best part of the business and forcing the Le Boutillier to close, around 1895.

Miss Janvrin, who married John Le Boutillier, came from Percé where a Mr Janvrin had started a business in 1798. It's the first time I hear about Janvrins being in the Gaspé peninsula. I can't remember seeing that name on any grave in the anglican cemeteries, and I never met any of their descendants.

Even if the Fruing Company had prospered more than that of the Le Boutillier, it finally had to fold too, abandoning or selling its fishing establishments around 1915. The last manager of the Fruing Company was Mr Philip Mauger Luce, son of the late John M. Luce who is buried in the St. Peter church cemetery, in Grande-Grève. Mr Hyman bought the fishing establishments and stores, in Grande-Grève and Cloridorme, and my friend Mr Lewis J. Gibaut, was manager of the Cloridorme fishing establishment for three years, before returning to Jersey. The Mont-Louis fishing establishment went to Charles W. Mullen, and later to Anicet Letourneau, who probably belonged to the same family as the writer of the article on the history of the north side of the Gaspé Coast.

Mr Letourneau tells us, in his article, that the managers of the trading houses of the Fruing left us with good memories. He names: Charles Le Selleur (Le Seeleur or Le Scelleur, for sure), Nelson Laffoley and Stanley Gaudin in Mont-Louis, George Aubert in Rivière-Madeleine (where he died on January 19 1904, at 65; he is buried in the St. Peter church cemetery, in Grande-Grève). Philippe Hubert in Grande-Vallée, as well as Alfred John Dolbell and John Le Scelleur in Cloridorme. All Jerseymen! But it must be said the that formidable Jersey colony, from Grande-Grève to Paspébiac, was not as well represented on the north side

of the Coast. The Boutilliers and Fruings have disappeared from the scene a long time ago, and only William Hyman and Son is still in business these days, in Grande-Grève and Gaspé. The Robins were very prosperous from the start and prosper still, today, under the name of Robin, Jones & Whitman, and the presidence and management of Jerseymen!

It is surprising that what was previously the *Seigneurie* of Grand Étang is still owned by a Godfray. Mr Letourneau informs us that, in 1697, the Count of Frontenac, Governor of New France, gives François Hazeur and Denis Riverin, "L'Anse de l'Étang" a territory on the St. Lawrence River, with half a league of frontage on each side of the bay, and one league in depth. In 1725, the *Seigneurie* goes to Michel Sarrazin, the king's doctor and François Hazeur's son in law. Since 1850, there has been three *Seigneurs*: Michel Lespérance, of Montmagny, Thomas Lebreux and George Godfray.

Up until now, I have talked about the Gaspé coast known to the Jersey people as being the south side of the peninsula, from Rivière-aux-Renards at the north end to Paspébiac at the south end. The north side of the coast, where Mont-Louis and Grand Étang are found, spreads from Cap Chat at the west end to Échourie at the east end, over a distance of 125 miles. Mr Letourneau tells an interesting story on the villages settled on that coast. The tough pioneers and founding fathers had the courage and determination to brave the sea in little boats, codfishing, during the summer and the cold winters, and building houses and villages in a new world, far from all the comforts we enjoy nowadays. It is said that the first frenchman who dared to travel that way was Denis Riverin in 1686. He sailed from La Rochelle, France, with a team of eighteen sailor-fishermen. He enjoyed an uneventful crossing, but was stranded near Percé on his arrival, and lost his ship. Once on firm ground, he was not successful at fishing and generally had no luck.

Another frenchman, Michel Maillet, arrived in Gaspésie in 1750 and organised a colony of fishermen, but the British army destroyed the settlement in 1758.

The true founding fathers of the north side of the coast are those who settled there permanently. In 1836, there were only 47 families on the coast. Nowadays, there are 4800! I read the names of the founders in a list made by Mr Letourneau, in his article of *La Revue d'Histoire de La Gaspésie*, but I only found one or two Jersey names. One of the founding fathers of Marsoui, located between Cap-au-Renard and Mont-Louis, was

Wesley Sohier. The family name, Sohier, could very well be french, but not Wesley! The first parish priest in residence in Marsoui is Father Louis Nelson Laffoley, certainly of Jersey extraction, most probably the son of Nelson Laffoley who was already mentioned as one of the managers of the Fruing commercial establishment in Mont-Louis.

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Another descendant of a Jersey family, Father Raymond Ahier is parish priest of Rivière à Claude, not far from Marsoui. As I have already said, one branch of the Ahier family converted to roman catholicism when Gédéon Ahier married Victoire Pinchaud, in Carleton, in 1807, and Philippe Ahier married Rose Duguay in Port-Daniel, in 1840. Father Raymond Ahier is most probably a descendant of one of those two. The Roman catholic Church should be grateful: we have given it good priests!

A "Tom Sainte-Croix" is mentioned as having been postmaster in Rivière-aux-renards. He was probably one of the "*de Sainte-Croix*" of Jersey. I noticed that, in the Gaspé peninsula, the rule was to drop the particle "de" from the name. As I have already said, I was acquainted with a roman catholic priest, Father Sainte-Croix, whose grandfather was a Jersey "*de Sainte-Croix*". Mr Letourneau tells us that the postmaster of Saint-Anne-des-Monts was a Tom Perré, and a Jean Perré his mentioned as one of the founders of that town. This makes me think that, maybe, that pionner was a *Jean Pèrrée*, and that Tom, the postmaster, was his son. Jerseymen, assuredly, since I have never heard of a Frenchman called Tom.

A Thomas Savage is mentioned as one of the founding fathers of L'Échourie. He could very well have been a descendant of the Jersey family bearing that name, who came from Ste Mary.

L'Échourie is not very far from Rivière-au-Renard, and there were Jerseymen there also.

I have always believed that the word *grave* in the job title of *Maître dé Grave* referred to the beach, but I was wrong. Reading M. Letourneau's article, I learned that the word *Maître* refers to the man the company can rely on while *Grave* describes the length of gravel where the cod was stretched out to dry in the sun. Of course if the fishing establishment was built on the beach, this gravelled area could also have been there, yet I

have always seen the cod drying area on a site near the beach but higher up. It was on the wharf, along the sea shore, that the cods were gutted and the heads removed.

I have never stopped long on the north side of the Coast, probably because my pilgrimage always aimed at meeting Jerseymen, who had settled mainly on the south side. I don't even really know of any on the north side, today, except for the Godfrays in Grand Étang, as well as Walter Le Quesne and Cyril Le Garignon in Rivière-au-Renard. Which is not to say that the north side of the Coast is not nice, also. On the contrary, the countryside and the mountains along that coast are a superb site to behold. But one should not go there in winter. In 1963, I took my cousin *d'Aubert* and his wife, from St. Brelade Bay, for a turn around this beautiful coast, so they could see and admire it, but even though we were in the last week of April, they could not see much since, the countryside and mountains were still covered in snow!

In the *Revue d'Histoire de La Gaspésie*, Volume 3, number 2, there is an interesting article written by M. N. E. Dionne, that recounts the story of Gaspé's lieutenant governors. It is said that, during the American War of Independence, those who remained loyal to England, fled into Baie des Chaleurs to stay under the British flag. In 1775 or 1776, Major Nicholas Fox, of the British Army, is named lieutenant governor of Gaspé, and arrives in Percé where he settles officially in 1780. He occupied the fonction for around eight years.

The second lieutenant governor was Francis Le Maistre, Esquire, born in Jersey. He, apparently, was a man of great resources and a distinguished soldier, because M. Dionne mentions that he was a colonel under General Carleton (Baron of Dorchester), governor of Québec from 1786 à 1796, and he was secretary and aide-de-camp of the famous general Haldimand. The date of his nomination as lieutenant governor is not mentioned, but we know he was in post in 1785, since on August 11 of that year, he uses the title in a letter he addresses to the citizens of Rivière-à-L'Anguille ordering them to tell the Caplan Indians to behave, from now on. He also orders them to be honest and just themselves, insisting that it is their duty to set a good example. And so it goes to prove that he was a just man.

Francis Le Maistre did not stay long in Percé, it seems, since he can be found in Québec in 1793. While he was lieutenant governor, he was Assistant-General of the British militia in Québec, with a £91.5.0 per year

salary, and colonel of the battalion of the local militia. His salary, as lieutenant governor of Gaspé and inspector of commercial fishing for the coast of Labrador, was around 300 pounds per year. It was something in those days. He died in Québec, on February 13 1805, and he was buried with as much ceremony as if he had been Governor of the whole of Canada. The town's bigwigs and legislative members, and a throng of people of all sorts followed the band; the soldiers of the 49th Regiment walked in the funeral procession, and his horse was in the procession too.

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Mr Dionne tells two stories that have helped keep alive the memory of Francis Le Maistre, lieutenant governor and colonel . When Mr Le Maistre left Percé for Québec, he left behind, in Percé, to take care of the house and keep everything shipshape, his personal servant. The servant was a loyal black man who had been with him for many years. Left alone, the poor soul started to feel lonely. He loved his master and missed him a lot, and, finally ended up hanging himself. It is said that a little while after he was buried, villagers thought they saw lights going from window to window, in the house. Some said that it was the black man's ghost haunting his last residence and they were scared to go there, at night.

The other legend, reported by M. Dionne, is much more interesting. It is about a painting of the Blessed Virgin Mary that hang above the high altar of the Roman Catholic Basilica of Québec. Details on the subject were transmitted verbally to a friend of M. Dionne, by an old priest who was very knowledgeable about the old days.

It is said that M. Le Maistre, who was then secretary to the governor of Québec, saw a beautiful young girl of the name of Stuart, who stayed at the Convent of the Ursulines. It was then impossible to meet with her, since the Sisters did not let men have access to the part of the convent where their charges, all young girls, lived. But it so happened that the Bishop of the Diocese, accompanied by his secretary, would some times meet the Governor, also with his secretary, and that they would walk together to the Convent. The two secretaries would walk together, at a distance behind their masters, and thus became good friends. It is said that M. Le Maistre confided his problem to his friend and that, with the help of the Bishop, finally was permitted to visit Miss Stuart.

Francis Le Maistre took advantage of the privilege and, visiting Miss Stuart, he fell head over heels in love with her and proposed marriage. It is said that she accepted on the condition that he convert to the roman catholic faith. Did he, now? Well, love conquers all! He accepted the

condition and started his initiation to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church! In the meantime, he was named Lieutenant-Governor of the district of Gaspé and was ordered off to England to get his instructions from the British government.

Although his religious training was not completed, it seems he had made enough progress to satisfy the Church authorities who, seeing that he had to leave for England, permitted his marriage with Miss Stuart, before his departure from the country. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon at M. Le Maistre's father's house, in Jersey.

In his story, M. Dionne recounts that old M. Le Maistre had once been a privateer (a respectable title among pirates!) sailing in the vicinity of the Channel Islands. When a ship would fall in their path, they would take everything they could put their hands on that was of value, and divide it amongst themselves. Old man Le Maistre had used all the chances he had to accumulate all kinds of objects and his attic was full. Young Mrs Francis Le Maistre, curious like most women, liked to rummage through these items, and, one day, she found a beautiful oil painting of The Blessed Virgin Mary. She admired it so that her father-in-law gave it to her. When the young couple left Jersey to return to the Gaspé Coast, they brought the painting with them.

Back in Québec, Mrs Le Maistre presented the painting to Father Plessis, who was secretary to the Bishop when her husband was secretary to the Governor of Québec, the same who had arranged for M. Le Maistre to be able to see her at the convent. Father Plessis lost no time before placing the painting over the altar, in the Basilica, where it can still be found today. There is an inscription under the painting that reads: "Given by Fran. Le Maistre Esqu., Lieutenant-Governor of the District of Gaspé, etc.". The presence of the painting in the cathedral, and the inscription, proves that the story is based on true facts. We give praise and our thanks to M. Dionne for this story about a distinguished Jerseyman, and for the legends that keep his memory alive.

What would be interesting to know, is who was old M. Francis Le Maistre, in Jersey. Was he from St. Ouën? Francis Le Maistre was colonel in Canada in 1775, and was probably around 30 maybe more, in those days. This would point to around 1740 to 1745 for his birth year. As already mentionned, he died in 1805. The William Le Maistre, who died in 1826 at the age of 77 and who is buried in the graveyard of St. Peter Church, in Paspébiac, was his brother. This places his date of birth somewhere in 1749, in Jersey. Francis probably was the oldest. The fact

that William is buried in Paspébiac leads me to believe that he was with the Robins.

The time has come to scrutinize Québec's archives, where I may find more Jerseymen established at the time of the colonization of the Gaspé peninsula by the Jersey people, and of the wars that led to the annexion of Canada to the British Crown. There were, of course, Jerseymen enlisted in the ranks of the British Navy as much as there were some who practiced open sea fishing, and helped the Robins in their business of cutting and gutting cod, and sun-drying it in their fishing establishments.

George Francis Le Feuvre
Jersey

Whatever his trade, a Jerseyman would, of course, do his duty in the field he chose to work in, as required by the teachings of the Church.

*Qué ch'fûsse un mêtchi ou l'autre, ch'est bein seux qué l'Jèrriais
fâisait san d'vé dans l'état dans tchi il avait 'té appelé comme
nouos dit l'caticème dé l'églyise.*

The end of the pilgrimage



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The last pilgrimage of a Jerseyman to the Gaspé Coast - Québec, Canada
A short biography of George Francis Le Feuvre
(in Jersey-French)



1891 - 1984

George d'la Forge 'tait probabliément l'pus grand auteu dé prose en Jèrriais du vîngtchième siècl'ye. Il êcrivit pus d'mille trais chents articl'yes pouor les gâzettes. Ch'est eune véthitabl'ye trésor'rie d'la langue Jèrriaise: des mémouaithes d'la vie en Jèrri duthant ses jannes ans, ses expéthiencies dans les difféthents pays tch'i' vîsitit duthant ses viages, les gens, les couôteunmes et les crianches du temps pâssé, et ses opinnions entouor la vie politique et les changements en Jèrri. Tchi grand travas! L'amas et la qualité d'ses piéches aîdgaient à établyi l'St. Ouënnais coumme standard littéthaithe pouor l'Jèrriais. Pouor dé mé, ch'tait ma preunmiéthe întroduction au Jèrriais - liêsant l's articl'yes tch'appathaîssaient rédguliéthement dans les colonnes d'la gâzette du sé quand j'tais mousse.

Fraînque Le Maistre

Reference: Les pages jèrriaises, Geraint Jennings

