

**The Whalers of Gaspé
and the
Lower St. Lawrence**



**Baleiniers de la Gaspésie et
du
Bas-Saint Laurent (Les)**

Les baleiniers de la Gaspésie

The Gaspé Whalers



La pêche à la baleine constitue l'une des principales activités commerciales de la Gaspésie au XIX^e siècle. Fondée sur une solide tradition maritime et de nombreux chantiers navals, l'industrie subvient aux besoins de centaines de familles.

La coutume veut que les premiers baleiniers gaspésiens aient appris leur métier de Abraham Coffin, un Américain de Nantucket arrivé en Gaspésie au début des années 1800. Parmi les baleiniers de la baie de Gaspé, on retrouve les Adams, Annett, Ascah, Baker, Boyle, Coffin, Harbour, Miller, Patterson, Quigley, Stewart, Suddard, Tripp et West.

Les baleiniers étaient des marins hardis et robustes. La pêche à la baleine constituait un gagne-pain difficile et dangereux qui les obligeait à s'aventurer en haute mer au risque de leur vie. Leurs proies se faisaient parfois invisibles durant des mois. Le travail était pénible et la nourriture, peu variée, était souvent rance ou gâtée.

Il arrivait aussi que des hommes passent par-dessus bord et périssent en mer. Certains se blessaient avec les accessoires utilisés pour capturer et abattre les baleines, tandis que d'autres mouraient lorsque leurs petites baleinières volaient en éclats sous les attaques puissantes de leurs formidables proies. Ce travail périlleux apportait néanmoins son lot de belles aventures et de récompenses financières.

Le métier de baleinier s'est éteint vers la fin des années 1890 avec la dernière expédition du capitaine Joseph Tripp.

During the 1800s, commercial whaling was one of the principal industries in Gaspé. With a strong seafaring tradition and expert shipbuilding enterprises, whaling in the region supported hundreds of families.

Tradition holds that the first Gaspé whalers were taught their trade by Abraham Coffin, an American from Nantucket who arrived in Gaspé in the early 19th century. Amongst Gaspé Bay whalers we find the names Adams, Annett, Ascah, Baker, Boyle, Coffin, Harbour, Miller, Patterson, Quigley, Stewart, Suddard, Tripp and West.

Whalers were brave and hardy men. Whaling offered them a difficult and dangerous livelihood, requiring them to risk their lives on the open seas. There were months with no sightings of their prey. The work was tedious to perform, and the food was monotonous, and sometimes stale or rancid. Many men would fall overboard to be lost at sea.

Some were injured by the implements used to capture and kill the whales, while others were killed when their small whaleboats were crushed by the powerful creatures they were pursuing. Nevertheless, the perilous work provided opportunities for adventure and financial reward.

The work of the Gaspé Whalers ended in the late 1890s when Captain Joseph Tripp made his last voyage.



The
Annett Family
of
Gaspé



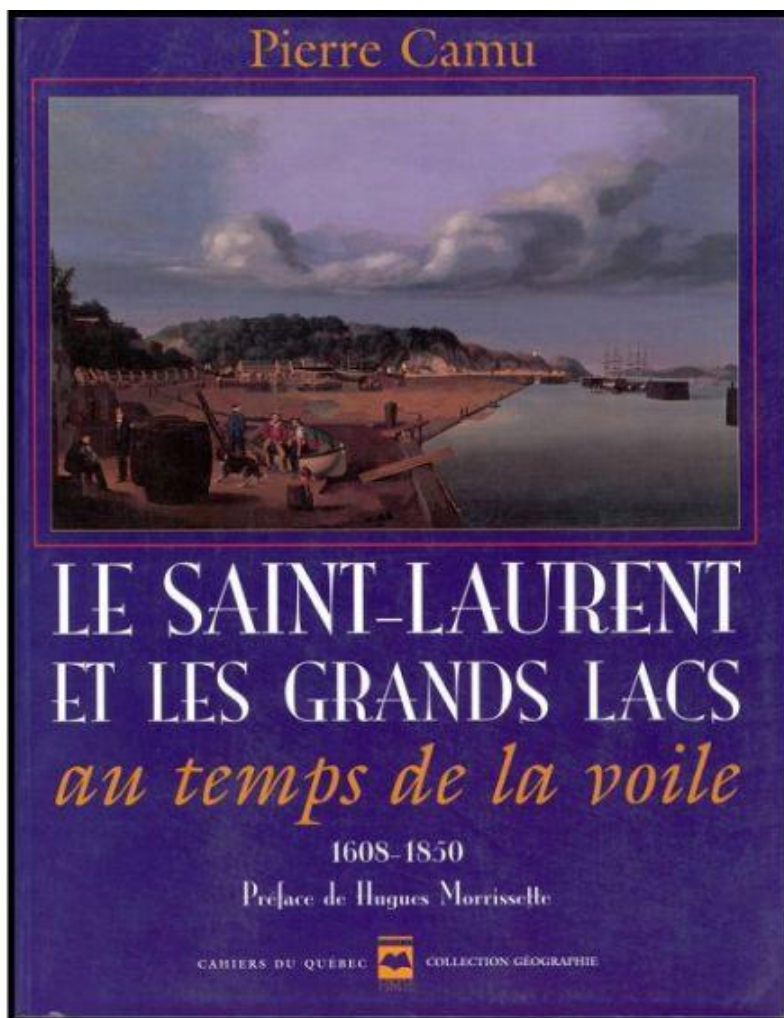
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The people, where they settled - The frontier settlements, communities, outposts, encampments, posts, villages, towns, townships, seigniories, cities, counties.

Les gens où ils se sont installés - Les établissements frontaliers, communautés, avant-postes, campements, lieux, villages, cantons, seigneuries, villes, comtés.

Région de la Gaspésie et du Bas-Saint-Laurent

Region of Gaspesia & Lower St. Lawrence

Baie des Chaleurs (Chaleur Bay)– Bonaventure County – A region located between the towns of Matapedia and Newport - The area was first settled by Loyalists from 1784 onwards.

Bay of Gaspé North (Baie de Gaspé Nord) – Gaspé County – A region located on the northern coast of the Bay of Gaspé (Baie de Gaspé) – A region which does include Cap aux Os, Penouille, Cap des Rosiers (Rosebuds), Jersey Cove

Bay of Gaspé South (Baie de Gaspé Sud) – Gaspé County – A region located on the southern coast of the Bay of Gaspé (Baie de Gaspé) – A region which does include the city of Gaspé, the villages of Haldimand, Douglastown, Sandy Beach, York Centre, Wakeham

Bonaventure – A village within Bonaventure County between Caplan and Paspébiac.

Bonaventure County – A county first settled by members of the Micmac Nation, followed by Acadian and French settlers, followed by Loyalists (1784), and later by Channel Islanders (Jersey & Guernsey), Scottish, Irish, British immigrants – The Anglo Protestant and Irish towns, villages and hamlets of Bonaventure are: Black Cape, Bonaventure, Caplan, Carleton, Cascapedia, Cox, Escuminac, Grand Cascapedia, Hamilton, Hope Town, Mann, Maria, Matapedia, Matapediac, Millstream, New Carlisle, New Richmond, North Restigouche, Oak Bay, Paspébiac, Port Daniel, Restigouche, Ristigouche, Sellarsville, Shigawake.

Broadlands – Bonaventure County – A region on the Bay of Chaleurs in Gaspesia.

Cap aux Os – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Cape Ozo and/or Rosebridge and located just east of the city of Gaspé.

Cap des Rosiers – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Rosebuds and located within Gaspé township, a few km east of the latter in a region referred to as Baie de Gaspé Nord or/and Bay of Gaspé North

Cape Cove – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Anse-du-Cap and located within Percé township.

Cape Ozo – Gaspé County – An anglicized spelling of Cap-aux-Os – see the latter.

Carleton – Bonaventure County – A town located on the Bay of Chaleurs, between Nouvelle and Maria.

Cascapedia Bay – Bonaventure County – A region within New Richmond township, along the coast of Chaleurs Bay between Carleton and Black Cape.

Chandler – Gaspé County – A city on the Bay of Chaleurs located between Newport and Grande Rivière.

Cornwallis – Lower St. Lawrence – A 1791 county located south of the St. Lawrence river, southeast of Quebec City from Devon county (Bellechasse county today) eastwards along the south shore of the St. Lawrence to Rimouski and beyond – The settlements of Cornwallis county in which Anglo Protestants resided were the hamlets and villages of: Bungay, Elgin Road Settlement, Ixworth, Kamouraska, Packington, Patton, Pinquet, Rimouski, Rivière-du-Loup, St-Cyprien, Tourville, Woodbridge – Modern days counties covering Cornwallis are: Montmagny, L'Islet, Kamouraska, Rivière-du-Loup, Témiscouata, Rimouski – In 1791, present day Matane county was then part of Gaspé county.

Cove St-George / St-George's Cove – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Forillon, the latter located northwest of the city of Gaspé along the coast.

Cox Township – Bonaventure County – An early county on the Bay of Chaleur during the migration of United Empire Loyalists from 1784 – This region is now referred to as Bonaventure County and more specifically within the townships of New Carlisle, New Richmond, Paspébiac – Some of the early church records do contain the word of Cox as the place of residence of many of these early pioneers.

De Pietras – Matane County – A seigniory of the French regime purchased in 1802 by Matthew McNider, a Quebec merchant – The seigniory in question would become Metis or Metis Beach or Leggatt's Point or Price, all located west of the city of Matane – the region of Metis and surrounding hamlets was first settled by Scottish families from about 1812.

Douglastown – Gaspé County – A village near the city of Gaspé - see Gaspé.

Entry Island – Gaspé County – See Magdalen Islands / Îles de la Madeleine.

Escuminac Flats – Bonaventure County – Located in the Pointe a la Garde region, also referred to as Flatlands – The region was mentioned in numerous church documents, especially those of the early years kept by the United Church Archives and Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

Flatlands – Bonaventure County – Another name for Escuminac Flats, the latter located next to Pointe à la Garde.

Forteau – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – A hamlet on the Labrador border with Quebec, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence – Forteau is in Labrador, but people of the region criss cross from one sector to another constantly.

Fox Bay – Gaspé County - Rivière-au-Renard today.

Gaspé – Gaspé County – The only city in Gaspesia – One of the oldest permanent communities in the Peninsula – The Greater Gaspé region encompass the hamlets and villages of: Baie de Gaspé, Bay of Gaspé, Cap-aux-Os, Cap des Rosiers, Douglastown, Haldimand, Penouille, Rivière-Morris, Rosebud, Sandy Beach, St-Majorique, Wakeham, York.

Gaspé Basin – Gaspé County – Located in the city of Gaspé region.

Gaspé Bay North – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Indian Cove, St-George Cove, Cove St-George, Grande Grève, Little Gaspé, Petit Gaspé, Peninsula, Péninsule, Northwest Arm.

Gaspé Bay South – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Gaspé Basin, Bassin de Gaspé.

Gaspé County – The birthplace of New France – The Anglo Protestant presence dates back to the 1760's, perhaps a few years prior – Channel Islanders from Jersey and Guernsey, Scottish, Irish, British immigrants were also early residents under the British mandate – Followed by Loyalists and finally by Irish Catholics – The French were there from the beginning but the latter settlers following the conquest were few in comparison to the English presence – The Anglo Protestant and Irish towns, villages and hamlets of the county were in part: Bay of Gaspé, Barachois, Brillant Cove, Cap aux Os, Cap Chat, Cape Cove, Cape Hope, Cape Ozo, Chandler, Douglastown, Gaspé, Gaspé Basin, Gaspé Bay, Gaspé Peninsula, Gaspé South, Grand Pabos, Indian Cove, L'Anse-à-Brillant, L'Anse aux Sauvages, Mal Bay, Murdochville, Newport, Pabos, Peninsula, Percé, Petit Gaspé (Little Gaspé), Point St. Peter, Sandy Beach, St. George's Cove, Tourelle, Wakeham, York Centre

Grand Cascapedia – Bonaventure County – A region also referred to as Cascapedia Bay and located in the region of New Richmond, New Carlisle, Paspebiac – The region was first settled by the Loyalists as early as 1784.

Grand Entry – Magdalen Islands – See the latter, also known as Île de la

Madeleine

Grande Grève – Gaspé County – A hamlet within Gaspé township – Between 1790 and 1819 Methodist missionaries were active within the region.

Grande Rivière – Gaspé County – A region within Percé township.

Grand Étang – Gaspé County – Most likely in the Percé region.

Grand Pabos West – Gaspé County – A village now referred to as Sainte-Adelaide de Pabos.

Grindstone – Magdalen Islands – Also referred to as Cap aux Meules within the Îles de la Madeleine.

Gros Morne – Gaspé County – Located on the St. Lawrence between L'Anse Pleureuse (Weeping Cove) and Grande Vallée.

Grosse Île – Magdalen Islands – Located within the Ile de la Madeleine.

Grosses Roches – Matane County – Located northeast of the city of Matane, on the St. Lawrence River.

Haldimand – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Haldimand East and located near the city of Gaspé.

Hamilton – Bonaventure County – A township of the 1780's located near Cox, Hope, Richmond, Carleton, Port Daniel townships, all were settled from 1784 by Loyalists, all are located along the banks of Baie des Chaleurs (Chaleur Bay)

Harrington Harbour – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – Located within Saguenay County on the St. Lawrence's North Shore region.

Hopetown – Bonaventure County – Also referred to as Port Hope.

House Harbour – Magdalen Islands – Located within Gaspé County on Île de la Madeleine.

Îles de la Madeleine – Gaspé County – Also known as Magdalen Island – A large island on the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Indian Cove – Gaspé County – Also referred to as L'Anse aux Sauvages, a hamlet which no longer exist by that name, it was located north of Gaspé (city).

Jersey Cove – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Rosebridge,

Kegaska – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – A region on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River at the Labrador border.

Kelly – Bonaventure County – Located next to Shigawake and Port Daniel (Gascons)

Kirkyard – Matane County – A settlement of 1818 located near Leggatt's Point, south of Matane.

L'Anse Amour – St. Lawrence Lower North Shore – A region on the Labrador border.

L'Anse au Clair – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – A region on the St. Lawrence River near the Labrador border.

L'Anse au Loup – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore.

L'Anse aux Gascons – Bonaventure County – A region near Gascons or/and Port Daniel.

L'Anse aux Sauvages – Gaspé County- Also referred to as Indian Cove – see the latter.

L'Anse du Cap – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Cape Cove – see the latter.

L'Anse Pleureuse – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Weeping Cove – see the latter.

L'Anse St-George – Gaspé County – Also referred to as St. George Cove – see the latter.

La Romaine – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – Located on the Labrador border on the St. Lawrence River.

La Tabatière – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – A region on the Labrador border on the shores of the St. Lawrence River.

Leggat's Point – Matane County – First settled about 1818 and referred to as Kirkyard – All located south of Matane.

Leslie – Gaspé County – see Magdalen Island or/and Île de la Madeleine.

Little Gaspé – Gaspé County – see Petit Gaspé.

Little Metis – Matane County – Also referred to as Petit Métis and first settled in

1818 by Scottish emigrants. Located south of Matane.

Lower North Shore – Saguenay County – A vast area also referred to as St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – A region along the coast of the St. Lawrence from about 100 km northeast of Sept-Iles (Seven Islands) to the Labrador border – Some of the fishing villages located within Labrador at the Quebec border have been included in this listing.

Magdalen Isles – Gaspé County – Also referred to as (Les) Îles de la Madeleine, Entry Isle, Grindstone (Cap aux Meules), Grosse Isle, Leslie, Old Harry.

Magpie – St. Lawrence's Mid North Shore – Located between Mingan and Sept-Iles (Seven Islands)

Malbaie – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Malbay – Located south of York and Douglas between the towns of Percé and Gaspé.

Malbay – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Malbaie – see the latter.

Mann Settlement – Bonaventure County – Referred to on maps as Mann – An early township of the Loyalist era (1784) located on the Bay of Chaleurs between Restigouche (Ristigouche) and Nouvelle – Carleton

Maria's Cape – Bonaventure County - A region near the town of Maria, the latter located between New Richmond and Carleton.

Matane – Matane County – The only city in the county of the same name and located on the south shore of the St. Lawrence, east of Rimouski.

Matane County – Located on the Lower St. Lawrence, east of Rimouski and west of Gaspé counties – The Anglo Protestant presence within Matane began in 1818 followed a few years later by Irish Catholics – The French were there since the early years of New France – The hamlets, villages and city of the county in which Anglo Protestants and Irish Catholics resided were: Baie des Sables, Christie, De Pietras, Leggatt's Point, Matane, Metis, Metis Bay, Metis sur Mer, Price.

Matapedia – Bonaventure County – First known as Matapediac or/and Matapediaq, a township located on the Baie des Chaleurs, east of Restigouche (Ristigouche) on the New Brunswick - Maine borders.

Matapedia River Valley – Bonaventure County – A region near the river Matapedia

Metis – Matane County – First settled in 1818 and located south of Matane.

Metis Bay – Matane County

Métis sur Mer – Matane County

Middle Bay – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – see Harrington Harbour

Miguasha – Bonaventure County – A hamlet on the Bay of Chaleurs between Carleton and Nouvelle

Millstream – Bonaventure County – A village near Ristigouche (Restigouche) on the Bay of Chaleurs

Mingan – St. Lawrence's Mid North Shore – A region located on the north shore of the St-Lawrence, east of Sept-Iles (Seven Islands), west of Havre-Saint-Pierre

Moisie Salmon Camp – St. Lawrence's Mid North Shore – Located just north of Sept-Iles (Seven Islands)

Mont Louis – Gaspé County – A hamlet in the region of Murdochville

Mutton's Bay – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – Also referred to as Baie des Moutons.

New Carlisle – Bonaventure County – Also referred to in pioneering days as Cox Township – In 1784 the Loyalists arrived.

Newport – Gaspé County – Located east of Port Daniel and west of Pabos

Newport West – Gaspé County – see Newport.

New Richmond – Bonaventure County – Also referred to in pioneering days as Cox Township – In 1784 the Loyalists arrived.

North Restigouche River – Bonaventure County – Also referred as North Ristigouche River or/and Rivière de la Restigouche.

Northumberland County – A 1791 county which stretched from Cap Tourmente (just east of Quebec City) to the Labrador border along the north shore of the St. Lawrence – It was later replaced by Charlevoix, Saguenay, Nouveau Québec (New Quebec) counties plus the eastern and northern portion of Montmorency County.

Nouvelle – Bonaventure County – Located on the Bay of Chaleurs between Carleton and Escuminac

Oakbay – Bonaventure County – Located across from Campbellton.

Old Fort Bay – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – A region on the north shore of the St. Lawrence at the Labrador border.

Old Harry – Gaspé County – see Magdalene Islands and/or Iles de la Madeleine.

Pabos – Gaspé County – A village located in the vicinity of Chandler, Newport, Grande-Rivière.

Pabos Mills – Gaspé County – same region as the previous entry of Pabos.

Paspebiac – Bonaventure County – In pioneering days it was also referred to as Cox Township.

Peninsula – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Péninsule and located in the region of the city of Gaspé.

Penouille – Gaspé County – Located across the Bay of Gaspé from the city of Gaspé.

Perce – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Barachois, L'Anse à Beaufile, Cape Cove, Malbay, Malbaie, Douglastown, Cape Hope, Cap d'Espoir – All of the preceding is located near the township of Percé.

Petit Gaspe – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Little Gaspé

Pietras – Matane County – see De Pietras

Point St-Peter – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Pointe Saint-Pierre, a hamlet located next to Barachois within Percé township.

Pointe à la Garde – Bonaventure County – A hamlet located west of Escuminac and east of Oak Bay on the Bay of Chaleurs

Port Daniel – Bonaventure County – Located on the Bay of Chaleurs next to Gascons in the region of Newport and Chandler

Price – Lower St. Lawrence – A hamlet located in the region of the city of Matane in a county of the same name.

Red Bay – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – This hamlet is actually located within Labrador a few km east of the Québec border, all in a region on the northern shore of the St. Lawrence.

Restigouche – Bonaventure County – Also referred to as Ristigouche and located on the Bay of Chaleurs next to the Maine and New Brunswick borders.

Restigouche River North – Also referred to as Ristigouche River North or/and Rivière de la Restigouche.

Ristigouche – Bonaventure County – see Restigouche.

Riviere au Renard – Bonaventure County – A hamlet also referred to as Fox Bay.

Romaine – St. Lawrence's Lower North Shore – see La Romaine.

Rose Bridge – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Bay of Gaspé or Cap des Rosiers in the region of the city of Gaspé.

Ruisseau Arbour – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Ruisseau au Rebours and located on the Gulf of St. Lawrence between Ste-Anne-des-Monts and Gros Norme and Weeping Cove (L'Anse Pleureuse).

Sandy Beach – Matane County – Also referred to as Baie des Sables and located south of the city of Matane.

Shigawake – Bonaventure County – Located just south of Port Daniel (Gascons).

Shoolbred – Bonaventure County – Also referred to as Flat Lands or/and Oak Bay and located in the eastern portion of the county along the shores of the Bay of Chaleurs near the New Brunswick border.

Sillarsville – Bonaventure County- Also referred to as Sillars - Flatlands – Certain church documents indicated the hamlet as being Sellarville or/and Sellars.

Tourelle – Gaspé County – A village on the St. Lawrence near the town of Ste-Anne-des-Monts, both located east of the city of Matane.

Tracadiac – Bonaventure County – Also known as Carleton.

Wakeham – Gaspé County – Also referred to as Gaspé Bay, Gaspé Basin

Weeping Cove – Gaspé County – Also referred to as L'Anse Pleureuse.

West St-Modest – St. Lawrence’s Lower North Shore – This hamlet is actually located within Labrador at the border with a region known as Lower North Shore, the latter in Québec.

York Centre – Gaspé County – Now part of the city of Gaspé.

Repositories

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475, boulevard de Maisonneuve Est
Montréal (Québec) H2L 2C4
Téléphone 514-873-1100
1-800-363-9028

http://www.banq.qc.ca/a_propos_banq/informations_pratiques/grande_bibliotheque/

Bibliothèque nationale

blogues.banq.qc.ca/caenetbibliothequenationale/

BAnQ Vieux-Montréal

535, avenue Viger Est
Montréal (Québec) H2L 2P3
Metro Berri-UQAM or Champ-de-Mars
Telephone: 514 873-1100 or 1 800 363-9028, option 4 then option 1
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BAnQ Gaspé

418 727-3500 ext. 6573 or 1 800 363-9028, ext. 6573

archives.gaspe@banq.qc.ca

www.banq.qc.ca/archives/entrez_archives/centres_archives/banq_gaspe.html

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<http://www.biographi.ca/en>

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Concordia University Geology Department

https://www.cnrs-scrn.org/news/david_mcdougall_e.html

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Hurtubise

<https://editionshurtubise.com/livre/le-saint-laurent-et-les-grands-lacs-au-temps-de-la-voile-1608-1850/>

Le marin du nord

https://www.cnrs-scrn.org/northern_mariner/index_f.html

Quescren Concordia

<http://www.concordia.ca/artsci/scpa/quescren.html>

Septentrion

<https://www.septentrion.qc.ca/catalogue>

The Northern Mariner

https://www.cnrs-scrn.org/northern_mariner/index.html

UELAC – United Empire Loyalists Association of Canada

<http://www.uelac.org/>

<https://uelac.ca/branches/>

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https://www.tourisme-gaspesie.com/images/Upload/cartes/carte_routiere_gaspesie_2023.pdf

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/whaling>

Introduced around 1804 by the Loyalists established in Gaspé Bay after the American Revolution (1775-1783), whaling played a leading role in the regional economy and even on the Canadian scale for nearly a century. Gaspé and Saint-Jean, New Brunswick, were the only two ports in the country to have a total fleet of a dozen whaling schooners in 1846. But nothing to do with the American fleet, which then had 635 whaling ships, tracking cetaceans on the seas of the world. On the other hand, Gaspé stands out as the leading Canadian port with a fleet of seven schooners which supply 80% of the country's demand for whale oil.

In Gaspé, whaling is a family affair. Originally from Nantucket and New Bedford, the main whaling centers on the American east coast, the Coffins and the Boyles were the first families to perpetuate the practice of whaling in Gaspé. Oral tradition attributes to the Coffin family, settled in Anse-aux-Cousins, the role of precursor of the profession of whaler. However, the Boyle family turns out to have a head start in oil production. In 1809, the whaling captain Boyle produced 90% of the local oils.

<https://www.patrimoine-culturel.gouv.qc.ca/rpcq/detail.do?methode=consulter&id=74&type=imma>