

James Paterson, Master Mariner

Another Paterson in Gaspé around 1800 emerges from the pages of history: James Paterson, Master Mariner, and Commander of the Government Schooner St. Lawrence.,

In a land claim before the Gaspé Land Commission in 1819, Robert Simpson asked for title to lots of land #34, 35 and 36 on the North West Arm of Gaspé Bay (present day Peninsula). Simpson claimed he had occupied the lots in question for 12 years and that he purchased the land from a James Paterson. In the same claim, it is stated that Paterson purchased the lands from a Josiah Whitley in 1801.¹

No 34 30

District of Gaspé
Douglas Town 8th July 1819 } Claim by Robert Simpson of Gaspé Bay to Lots
 Nos 34, 35 & 36, on the North West Arm
 of the West Arm of the said Bay on the

1 House bounded on the SW by the said Bay, on the NE
 3 Outhouses in depth by waste behind of the Crown, on the SE by
 12 Acres of Lot 33, and on the NW by waste lands of the Crown
 8 in Family remaining in front, more particularly about 55th West
 6 Children 3 by mitered chains each lot, making in all fifty four
 and 3 1/2, all chains, and in depth about 65th East; containing six
 hundred superficial acres in all. Claimed by him
 Chase from one James Paterson, and occupied by
 Claimant for twelve years last past.

Notices examined 8th July 1819. Robert Keal and George Boyd.

10th February 1820. First publication of the above Claim in the Quebec Gazette
 of this day.

17th February 1820. Published in French in the Quebec Gazette of this day.

3rd April 1820. Published in both languages this day.

8th May 1820. Published in both languages this day.

Quebec 27th June 1820. Alfred Hawkins of the City of Quebec, Town & Corporation
 this day came in person, and on the part and behalf of the wife
 Elizabeth Paterson, daughter of the said King to the late James
 Paterson of Gaspé, and at the time of his decease, of Quebec,
 a Master & Learner, before the Claim of the said Robert Simpson
 to a part of the said land, that is to say to two hundred acres
 of the same, which said two hundred acres the said Alfred
 Hawkins not leaving any plan or process what of the same.
 He declared he could not accurately describe, but which said
 land by the said James Paterson did in his life time, to wit on
 the 22nd day of October 1801 acquire with all the building thereon
 erected for the sum of one hundred pounds Currency from the
 Josiah Whitley, as appears by the paper exhibiting by the said
 Alfred Hawkins produced and filed, marked
 and which said two hundred acres of Land the said
 Alfred Hawkins on the part and behalf of the said Elizabeth
 Paterson his wife accordingly claims.

Quebec 25th October 1821
 Present: J. J. Ducharme by President }
 J. Ducharme by Secretary } It is agreed by the Commissioners
 that Alfred Hawkins the above named
 Applicant for and on the part and behalf of the said Elizabeth Paterson
 do take communication of the Affidavits produced by the said
 Robert Simpson in support of his Claim, and that the said Alfred
 Hawkins do within a reasonable time state his objections to the same
 in writing to the same, if any he have.

Whitley had obtained the land in a claim before the Gaspé Land Board in 1790.²


Questions have arisen. Who was this James Paterson? Was he a relative of the Paterson family already settled in the area? Very little evidence has been found.

A ship manifest from 1802 shows that Paterson was a Captain and that he was in Gaspé in August of that year.³ The name of the ship is not recorded.

Capt. Paterson. London March 30th 1802.
Boat of John Marsh.

<i>Mrs Delarey</i> }	<i>2 doz plain White China Tea Cups with Handles & 2 doz Saucers Gold edge . . .</i>	<i>2.16.0</i>
	<i>1/2 doz Coffee Cups, & 1/2 doz Saucers 10: . . .</i>	<i>2.2.0</i>
	<i>1 Top Bason 10:</i>	<i>3.0</i>
	<i>2 Bread & butter plates (New shape) 10:</i>	<i>7.0</i>
	<i>a Case</i>	<i>4.0</i>
	<i>Shipping &c.</i>	<i>3.0</i>
	<i>Insurance 3/ freight 4/</i>	<i>5.15.0</i>
	<i>Commission 58^{cts}</i>	<i>7.0</i>
	<i>Difference of Exchange</i>	<i>14.2</i>
	<i>£ 7² 2²</i>	
	<i>Gaspé the 6th of August 1802</i>	
	<i>James Paterson</i>	
	<i>Received the Amount</i>	
	<i>Ann Math</i>	

Antelope.
6-8
14-2
7-2-2
August 25th



The only other evidence that has been found is the death certificates of both James and his wife Martha. They show that he was the Commander of the Government Schooner St. Lawrence. James died in 1812 and his wife in 1815. Both were buried in the cemetery of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Quebec City.⁴

Patterson



James Patterson Commander of the
Government Schooner Lawrence,
aged about Forty three years,
died on the twenty ninth inst. and
was buried this fourth day of March
One Thousand Eight hundred & twelve
James Cook Barr Alex: Mackenzie
W. G. W. G. W. G. W.
J. D. Downy

Patterson



Martha Patterson Widow of James
Patterson deceased, late Commander of His
Majesty's Schooner Lawrence, aged
about forty two years, died on the
fourteenth inst. & was buried this
seventeenth day of January, One
Thousand Eight hundred & fifteen
Alex: Mackenzie
W. Barber
Pa Patterson

The congregation, known as the Scottish Congregation, was founded in 1759, by Scottish settlers in Quebec, including members of the 78th Fraser Highlanders. Construction on the church began in 1807 and was completed in 1810.⁵ The fact that both James and Martha were

buried in the Scottish cemetery indicates that both were natives of Scotland or were of Scottish origin. Could this be evidence of a family connection to John Paterson, Pioneer of the York River, and a native of Scotland? Did James have any contact with the Paterson family living in Gaspé at that time? It seems likely. We know that he bought land in 1801 but we do not know if he was present at Gaspé that year. We do know that he was there in August of 1802. With so few permanent settlers in the Gaspé Bay area at that time, it seems likely that he did have some interaction with John Paterson, among others.

¹ LAC Minutes of the Legislative Council of Lower Canada

² BAnQ

³ BAnQ

⁴ Drouin Collection Registry of St. Andrew's Church 1812, 1815

⁵ Wikipedia