

The battle of Restigouche was fought in 1760, and was not only the only naval engagement of any account ever fought in New Brunswick waters, but it closed the struggles on the sea between England and France in North America. It has received little notice from historians. Parkman does not mention it, though Hannay and other local writers refer to it. The only original account known to me is the semi-official description in the *London Magazine* for 1760, reprinted by Cooney (p. 212, compare also 211), from which the following is copied:

"London, 8th September, 1760." By despatches received from Captain Byron, Senior officer of his Britannic Majesty's Ships at Louisburgh, and dated 26th of July, it appears that Captain B., upon receiving intelligence from Brigadier General Whitmore, that a French fleet had sailed up Chaleur Bay, proceeded with the *Fame*, *Dorsetshire*, *Achilles*, *Scarborough* and *Repulse*, in quest of them. Having destroyed one French ship, *La Catharina*, in Gaspe Bay, Captain Byron proceeded to a large river, called by the Indians *Rustigushi*. Here he found the remainder, consisting of the *Marchault* of 32 guns; the *Esperance* of 30; the *Bienfaisant* of 22; and the *Marquis de Marbois* of 18; together with twenty-two sloops and small vessels. "When our fleet appeared off the *Rustigushi* harbour, the enemy proceeded up the river, and anchored above two batteries, mounted on the North side of it. These being but indifferently served, were soon silenced; and the ships, after a short resistance, were all sunk or taken. Captain Byron then destroyed the town of *Petit Rochelle*, containing upwards of two hundred houses; and also both of the batteries."

References to the French ships and the return of some of their crews to France occur in the "Canadian Archives" for 1887, p. cxxii.

The site of this battle is known beyond the possibility of a doubt. It was fought on the basin before Athol Point. The sites of the principal batteries on the Quebec side are called to this day *Battery Point*, and *Point La Garde*. *Point a Bourbon* preserves probably the name of the French commander. The site of *Petit Rochelle* is also known: it was opposite Athol Point, extending from Officer's brook to Broadlands.* The position of the event is further fixed by the many references to the

papers, have appeared only in newspapers, with no call for them in another form. Thus I recall Mr. Herdman's series just referred to: Mr. Hannay's on the History of the Loyalists in the *St. John Telegraph* in 1893-94; that in *St. Croix Courier* on Charlotte County in 1892-95; Mr. Raymond's on Carleton County in the *Woodstock Dispatch* in 1895-96; Mr. Fenety's Political Notes in *Progress* in 1893-94; Mr. Macfarlane's on Fredericton in the *St. John Sun* in 1892; Mr. Milner's in the *Sackville Post*; the many by M. Gaudet on the Acadian settlements in *Le Moniteur Acadien*, and others.

* On a published French Chart of "Port Ristigouche" of about 1760, copied from an English one of 1760, the shoal near Meguacha Point is named *Basse d'Achilles*; that near Fluorant Point is *Bas fond de Dorsetshire*; Point La Garde is *Bayron's Pointe*; Battery Point is *Fame Pointe*; and Cross Point is *Repulse Pointe*. Thus are recorded the names of the commander and of four of his ships.

wrecks of the ships formerly visible in the basin. Thus Cooney speaks of them, (pp. 217-219) as do Lanman and Herdman, and the following note by Dr. Robb a part of the one already quoted, is of interest:

The hull of a vessel of about 700 tons which had apparently been blown up near Mission Pt. at officer's brook.

Hull and part of stem dry at low water—it was explored this year during dry season and high tides. Found balls, staves, (!) bombs, copper & grindstone crank.

3 fortified points Battery Pt. Little Battery Pt. & Pt. La Garde. English vessels entered Restigouche in pursuit—a Nova Scotian who had been prisoner on board French ship at Campbellton escaped by swimming & informed English who were at Pt. La Garde of retreat of French. English landed at Pt. La Garde, & by a detour behind shore ridges reach French Battery at head of tide when French surrendered. Old Mr. Ferguson had heard this from Nova Scotian himself.

The traditional account of Byron's advance up the Restigouche, rendered very difficult by the shoals, is given with greater fulness by Mr. Herdman.

All this have these cannon not only witnessed but taken part in. Yet they lie in neglect, perhaps even in danger of the fate which always menaces such objects

the junk-dealer's scrap-pile. It would be a public-spirited act, and one for which posterity would thank them, if the citizens of Campbellton would mount these cannon upon a firm stone foundation with an inscription briefly reciting their history. If, in addition, the part of this beautiful and historic Point surrounding them, even but an acre or two, could be secured and set aside forever for the public, it would form a most appropriate monument for the Jubilee year of Her Majesty, and a worthy contribution to the higher life of the province from her loyal subjects of Campbellton.

4. Other Relics.

Excluding books, maps, coins, etc., of which there are a great number, and various other small objects like hatchets, I know of but two other relics of this period worthy of special mention. One is a gold ring, found in 1859 near the site of Fort Nashwaak and figured and described in Mr. Hannay's paper on Fort Nashwaak in *Stewart's Quarterly* for October, 1867. On it is a small cross and the letters I H S. As Mr. Hannay supposes it was no doubt the property of a priest, perhaps of Father Simon or perhaps of Father Elizee, the *Sieur de Villebon's* Chaplain. I do not know where this ring now is. The other is a small but well made and much ornamented dagger, which was found some years ago in York County, and is now in Mr. George Batson's collection at Campobello; but no more of its history is known.