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History of Count De La Gaspesia

Thomas Scott Forsythe journalist, poet, author and musician is known in the Registry of the Seigneurial Order of Canada as the Comte de La Gaspesia. He inherits this title and that of the barony from a feudal territory of the ancient Province of Gaspesia in Canada, when Canada was a principality of the great king, Louis XIV of France and Navarre. The barony consists of the Island of Miscou in the Baie des Chaleurs of the lower St. Lawrence Gulf. The Island of Miscou is 12 miles long and 3 miles broad.

In the report of the commissaires of Nova Scotia are several commissions given by the kings of France to former vice-roys, governors and lords-proprietors. Among them is that given by the king in 1654 to Vice-Admiral Nicholas Denys, who had formerly been governor of Cape Breton. Besides recognizing him as lord-proprietor of a certain section, the commission appoints him vice-roy of Acadia, Isle St. Jean (now Prince Edward Island) and Newfoundland. This commission endows him with the sovereignty of administration to the extent of making war or peace for the protection of his domain, trade-treaties and subinfeudations and the bestowal of titles of honor. All officers coming into his domain are commanded to respect and obey his authority as they would that of the king himself. Among the feudal chiefs created under this royal commission by the Vice-roy was the barony of Miscou, reported as a marquise in Vol. II p. 569 of the "History of Canada and Its Provinces", edited by Dr. Doughty, Dominion Archivist and by Prof. Adam Shortt, chief of the Publishing Dept. of the Archives of Canada.

This governor, Nicholas Denys was himself an author of one of the Histories of North America, published in 1672 and was descended from the Norman Explorer and Viking, Jehn Denys of Honfleur, who published the first chart of the Eastern shores of Canada in 1506, after a voyage in his own privateer in which he had formally taken possession of the country. It was in the barony of Miscou that Nicholas Denys built a fort, and there, later on, some of the family buried a treasure of jewels, gold and silver for which many in recent times have sought. One of the pamphlets of the Miramichi Historical Society relates that two men were reported to have been successful in finding some of this treasure and escaped with it. A punch-bowl dug up there in the museum at Chatham, New Brunswick and two cannonades from the old fort of Nicholas Denys are in front of the hospital at Bathurst, N. B.

Nicholas Denys had a son Richard and a daughter, Marguerite, who married her cousin in Normandy, Capt. James Forsyth, of the scottish family of Forsyth, Barons of Dykes. This Captain Forsyth also sailed a privateer under Royal French commission. Richard succeeded his father as Governor of Gaspesia and in the Viscounty of Froncas, the Barony of Miscou and in the Seigneuries of Neptisguit and Miramichi, and he in turn was succeeded as Governor of Gaspesia and in the above named lordships by his son Nicholas second, who died with all his family of an epidemic in 1732. It was that year that Mathieu Forsyth, Chief of Dykes in Scotland but sailing his privateer Le Griffon and La Mouette under Royal French commission came over to Canada to succeed as next heir the last of the branch of the Denys family in the government of Gaspesia and in the said lordships. He landed at Miscou and the harbor and anchorage is called after his ship, Le Griffon; Anse du Griffon, to the present day. The title of Comte de La Gaspesia was substituted for that of Hereditary Governor in 1738 tracing to the first Commission of 1654.

Thomas Forsyth was born at Portland, near St. John, N. B., where his father, the Capt. Frederic Forsyth (Viconte de Froncas) was also born, but passed the early part of his life at Portland, Maine, where his father had married Mariette Macle, daughter of Major-General Joseph Scott Jewett of an ancient Royalist family whose wife was an Erskine-Marr of the race of the Earls of Marr in Scotland.

Thomas Scott inherited a love of music from his ancestors. His mother had graduated first in music and French at Mrs. Field's English School. His grand-father, Thomas Forsyth, Viconte de Froncas, besides being a Captain under the Royal Standard

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London, Sept. 28—Canada will benefit by a substantial sum from the proceeds of the expeditionary force canteens. These were canteens with which the Y.M.C.A. and other organizations supplied all the British troops in France with extra messing supplies, liquors, cigarettes, and various other articles. Their surplus proceeds have been turned into a fund of which General Julian Byng is director and which will be used for ex-service men of the imperial army, and amounts to over \$30,000,000. An allotment, however, is to be made to the troops of the various overseas dominions, according to proportional strength. This money will be paid to the Canadian military authorities and will probably amount to between two and two and a half million dollars.

This decision has been made known by General Byng in reply to the request of the British branch of the G.W.V.A. for assistance from the general canteen fund for a clubhouse for demobilized Canadian soldiers in Britain. General Byng, who was former commander of the Canadians, explained the arrangements and wished the war veterans' scheme every success.

and later a sea-merchant was a most excellent cellist. The aunt of Thos. Scott, Sarah A. Forsyth, who married Judge W. P. Preble, LL.D., was a good pianist and noted as a poet in German ducal court of Baden. Another Caroline Augusta, who married James Albert MacNabb of Greencloch, Scotland, was of great dramatic and musical excellence. On his mother's side he inherited the blood of the juriconsult, Judge Frentiss Mellen, whose sons Frederic and Grenville were among the famous artists and poets of their day. The great orator, Hon. Sargent S. Prentiss further back one of his ancestors was the Royal Councillor, the Capt. Roger Plaisted, commandant of the forts at Salmon Falls and Berwick which he defended to the last and was known as the "Hero of Berwick." This was during the Indian raid of the XVII Century.

Thomas Scott was well equipped by this ancestry without counting his descents from the Scott and Balliol families who founded Balliol College at Oxford University, and from Col. John Hamilton, a Scottish cavalier who had settled in Carolina and had raised a regiment for the crown in 1776, was called the (Very crest of the Tory movement in the South) was chief of staff of the Marquis of Cornwallis and later adjutant-general of the Province of Florida, he was well enough equipped to inherit a stimulus.

He studied vocalization under the Italian leader, Don Giovanni and piano from Howard, one time president of the London Normal College of Music. He sang in Grand Opera in minor parts while quite young and wrote small drama which were produced on the stage as sketches. The loss of family property and other adverse circumstances caused him to turn his attention to journalism. With his education and wide knowledge of history and affairs he added thereto a training in type-setting, proof-reading, stock-paper buying and in fact all the fundamental necessities for the management of all departments of a first class journal, in which so many are deficient.

He occupied various editorial positions on some of the prominent journals from Ft. Worth, in Texas to Canada. As a writer, his illustration contribution in New Orleans on the abuses of Peonage, caused the Legislature of Louisiana to abolish the practice in that state. For the pronounced ability he showed in his writings he received a letter of commendation from Theodore Roosevelt President of the United States. Besides his poems, sketches and a novelette his book on The Financial Owners of Canadian Industries; he has in preparation an important study of British colonial management in America.

In music, he has been substitute organist in many catholic churches in the United States and in Canada. His services to the choir and music of St. Bernard's Church, Cohoes, New York; have been gratefully appreciated. Two of his music compositions have obtained high rank and are much admired they are "O. Salutaris and Tantum Ergo.

Some years ago he was chosen Registrar-general of the College of Arms of Canada, in addition to his title of Comte de La Gaspesia and Equester of the Aryan Order of the Yellow Rose of the Empire. He is well known also among the Odd Fellows, having joined that association while in Cambridge, Mass. His choice of Honorary-President of the Historical Society of Gaspesia is a recognition of this ancient race of the founders.




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