

The Ancestor



Vol 40,4

2024



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- William & Lizzie: A True North American Tale
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- 1942 Knights of Columbus Fire

The Family History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador, Inc.

The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.

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The Society was founded in October 1984 to foster interest in Newfoundland and Labrador ancestry, to help researchers locate information, and to give members opportunities to communicate with each other and share their research efforts. The office of the Society is located at 50 Pippy Place, Unit 2, St. John's. Hours: phone (709) 754-9525 for further information.

Meetings are held in St. John's. They usually include a guest lecturer, and sometimes take the form of a workshop. The Annual General Meeting is held in the Spring of each year. Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the following months: January, February, March, April, May, September, October, and November. Meetings maybe held in person and or online and begin at 7:30pm.

ANCESTOR

Editors: **Frederick Smith and Paul Dunne**
Newfoundland Strays Editor: **Patrick Walsh**
In Memoriam Editor: **Patrick Walsh**

The Ancestor is a quarterly publication of the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc. Members are invited to submit articles and book reviews for publication. The Editors and Board of Directors reserve the right to publish contributions when space permits. The Editors and Board of Directors assume no responsibility for errors or opinions expressed or implied by contributors. All articles in the journal are copyright and may NOT be reproduced without the consent of the respective authors and the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador Inc.

We acknowledge that the lands on which we are situated are in the traditional territories of diverse Indigenous groups, and we acknowledge with respect the diverse histories and cultures of the Beothuk, Mi'kmaq, Innu, and Inuit of this Province.

THE ANCESTOR
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Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.

EDITORS: Frederick R. Smith and Paul Dunne
Volume 40 Issue 4

SUBSCRIPTION

Subscription to *The Ancestor* is available to individuals or institutions for \$45 per year and includes membership in the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. Life membership is also available for \$700. Membership is for a twelve month period beginning on the date fees are received.

We request non-Canadian members remit dues in US currency to offset the additional cost of postage.

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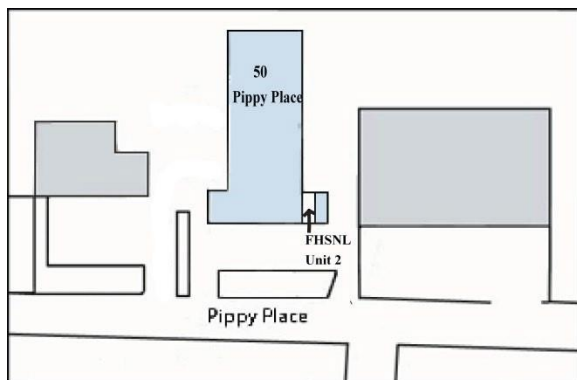


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Cover Picture: Dr. C.A. Forbes with Jack Deir and Kathleen (Forbes) Deir and three of their children at Christmas - MUN DAI

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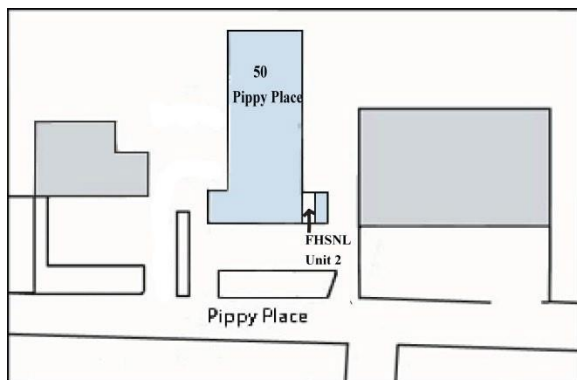


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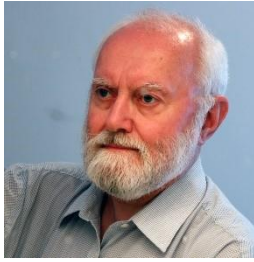
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Cover Picture: Dr. C.A. Forbes with Jack Deir and Kathleen (Forbes) Deir and three of their children at Christmas - MUN DAI



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fred Smith

Welcome to the last 2024 issue of The Ancestor. During our November 2024 board meeting I announced that I will be stepping down as President of the Society, effective at the end of November. You will still see my name associated with The Ancestor, but this will be my last President's Report. This has become necessary because of a number of health issues.

We mailed the last Ancestor but our understanding is that some were delivered to readers but others have not and there is the possibility that some are tied up in the postal strike.

Coincidentally, the software provided to us for posting The Ancestor to our web site was upgraded but will no longer allow us the post to our web site. The company is working on the problem but as we go to press with this Ancestor, there seems to be no progress. This is out of our hands.

This edition of The Ancestor may be ready for our readers, but there seems to be little progress in negotiations between the Postal Workers and the Post Office. We will have to play it by ear.

Remember we are always looking for articles for The Ancestor. Don't worry about editing your article, we will do that. However, we would prefer, if possible, to receive articles written in Microsoft Word, in Times New Roman, 12 point. If you are not familiar with these terms, don't worry, we can easily edit your article. We accept articles of all lengths, but short and medium size articles are easiest to manage.

Best wishes for a happy new year.

CONFERENCE 2025

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a Newfoundland & Labrador Genealogy Conference next summer! *Rockbound Roots: Genealogy Conference 2025* will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland at The Rooms (www.therooms.ca) over the weekend of July 25 to 27, 2025. There will be two days of presentations covering a range of topics of interest to the family historian whose research has led them here, to our historic province. We are currently inviting submissions for presentations from people who are interested in speaking. If you have an idea, send us an email at conference@fhsnl.ca!

ROCKBOUND ROOTS 2025 GENEALOGY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT!

The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador is very pleased to announce that our keynote speaker for our conference (Rockbound Roots, July 25th -27th, 2025) will be **David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist** of the New England Historic Genealogical Society! The topic of David's presentation will be:

Newfoundland Heritage in the "Boston States": A personal journey on rediscovering your forgotten heritage and lost cousins



David has been on the staff of American Ancestors since 1993 and is an internationally recognized speaker on the topics of genealogy and history. He has authored many articles in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, the *New Hampshire Genealogical Record*, *Rhode Island Roots*, *Mayflower Descendant*, and *American Ancestors* magazine; and is the author of eleven books including *A Guide to Massachusetts Cemeteries* and *Vital Records of Stoughton, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1850*. David is an elected Fellow of the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston, Mass., and a life member of the New Hampshire Society of the Cincinnati and the General Society of the War of 1812. David also serves as the tribal genealogist for the Massachusetts Tribe at Punkapoag in Massachusetts. His areas of expertise include New England and Atlantic Canadian records of the 17th through 21st century; American and international military records; DNA research; and Native American and African American genealogical research in New England.

David is a very engaging and knowledgeable speaker whose reputation in the genealogy world is renowned. His enthusiasm for family tree research is infectious and he is quite excited to revisit the homeland of his Newfoundland and Labrador ancestors.

NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

PUBLICATIONS

The following are available in hardcopy for sale at the office:

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Trinity, T. B., NL

Index of names, baptisms, marriages, and burials

1753-1867	\$25.00
1867- Early 1900s	\$25.00

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Basilica marriages, St. John's, NL

Index by surnames (bride and groom) 1793, 1797-1821, 1855-1874 \$25.00

St. James Anglican Church baptisms, King's Cove, B.B., NL

Index by surnames 1835-1900 \$25.00

There are about 4600 marriages in the Basilica records, sorted by bride's surname, bride's birth name and by groom's surname. There are about 2400 baptisms in the King's Cove records.

Copies of The Ancestor \$11.50

NOTE: Postage is not included in the prices listed on this page.

OFFICE HOURS

Wednesday: 12:00noon-3:00pm

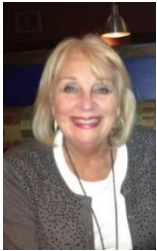
Thursday: 10:00am-2:00pm

NOTE: The office will be closed on statutory holidays, and when weather is sufficiently inclement that the city's schools are closed.

All request for research, articles and general information should be directed to the main office at 709-754-9525, e-mail at fhs@fhsnl.ca or by regular mail.

The Ancestor relies on its members and general public to submit articles regarding their family histories, community histories and other historical events related to family history. In order for us to continue to publish The Ancestor we need you to continue to send in articles and pictures. E-mail us at ancestor@fhsnl.ca

If you would like to see an article about a specific topic in The Ancestor, please let us know and we will attempt to find the information for you. Topic suggestions are always welcome.

ACQUISITIONS - Compiled by Rosalind Babb Stokes

The Following Books were donated by Elsa Flack

TITLE	AUTHOR/DONOR
A Gift of Heritage	NL. Historic Trust
To Serve and Project NL. Constabulary on the Home Front	Gary Brown
Cows Don't Know its Sunday	Hilda Chaulk Murray
They Also Served	Tom Curran
Vineland Revisited	Shannon L. Simpson
The Beothucks Or Red Indians	James P. Howley
Silk Sails (Women of Newfoundland and their Ships)	Calvin D. Evans
A Short Sketch of Newfoundland History	D. W. Prowse
When Was That	H. M. Masdell
A Place to Belong CALVERT	Gerald Pocius
Lost Lands Forgotten Stories	Alexandra Pratt
Home Medicine in Newfoundland	John Crellin
That Far Greater Bay	Ray Guy
Novwa Mkisk (Where the Sand Blows)	Dorothy Anger

The Unknown Fishermen of Wild Cove

Submitted by Valentine Linehan

I Should Have Listened to My Father

My father was a stoic man of few words. He never tried to press stories upon me; quite the opposite, he would introduce a story in his way but would not proceed unless pressed with questions and expressions of interest.

He would tell me of a young girl who fell from a cliff and whose injury rendered her mind child-like thereafter. I might have pressed him for more detail if I had realized how close this person was to him. Much later, after my father died in 2015, I developed an interest in family and Newfoundland history. Through research, I learned about her.

The girl in question was named Mary Jo. She was the sister of my father's mother and she lived in my father's household when he was growing up. As a young girl, she lived on Dalton's Point on Colinet Island in St. Mary's Bay. Mary Jo suffered a head injury from a fall from Little Bluff Head situated on the northern tip of Dalton's Point. She forevermore had a childlike nature that endeared her to the entire community and lived a long life, dying at the age of 77 in 1953. How her story could have been enriched if I had listened to my father.

In the same way, many times my father mentioned the bodies of unknown souls washing up and being buried in Wild Cove on Colinet Island and of a subsequent storm that uncovered the bodies. Again, these scant facts are all that I remember of the story and now have to rely on research to fill in pieces of a fascinating story. Research is inherently an activity removed from the thing being studied – how much better it would have been to hear the story firsthand from my father!

In 2024, Memorial Day in Newfoundland and Labrador was a special occasion as the Unknown Soldier was being repatriated from France to be interred at the National War Memorial in St. John's. Instead of attending that solemn ceremony, I journeyed to the Caribou statue in Bowring Park. A plaque there contains the names of all the missing soldiers who died in World War I. In contrast to the large crowds downtown, there was no one at the Caribou that morning. As I looked at the names, I reflected on the fact that they were burying one of their number downtown this morning. I wondered if that soldier had a choice, would he choose to be forever on duty there or perhaps instead choose some hilltop at an outpost 'round the bay?

Throughout my research efforts, I have learned that oral tradition and oral testimony (OT), while fleeting, provide a human element to the story that other research tools cannot. This article will focus on that process and on the role and value of OT in adding facts and humanity to a story as I explore identifying the unknown souls whose final resting place became Wild Cove on Colinet Island, our family home for many generations.

Setting

Colinet Island lies in the middle of St. Mary's Bay. It had two settlements, Mosquito and Regina, both facing towards the head of the bay away from the open Atlantic, thereby providing some shelter from the prevailing southwest winds and gales.

St. Mary's Bay was one of the last areas of Newfoundland to be settled because of the French dominance of the region up until the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. The Doody family subsequently had a plantation at Mosquito at the turn of the 19th century and the Power family had the first household at Regina at about the same time. Both Mosquito and Regina were resettled over a five year period from 1958 to 1962 with most residents relocating to nearby Admiral's Beach. The history of Colinet Island and a good backgrounder for this article can be found in my book, *Meadows of Memories: An Interpretative History of Colinet Island*.¹

Wild Cove is located two kilometres south of Mosquito and would have been a relatively short walk for residents of Mosquito through woods and over bogs. The cove had a steep beach of large stones, running approximately 400 metres long with cliffs capping the beach at either end for some distance. It faced the open Atlantic and formed a catch basin for anything the prevailing winds would send its way. Wild Cove is not a place where anyone would settle because of its exposure to the frequent winds and the surf was up for most of the time, making landing and securing a boat difficult. A boat caught in a high surf would be quickly damaged and destroyed on the large beach rocks. For reference, Wild Cove is located at the tip of the blue arrow in Figure #2.

Beachcombing was a favourite sport of many growing up on Colinet Island and later at Admiral's Beach. Trails existed along all the cliffs and shorelines and were frequented by residents for many activities including beachcombing and hunting seaducks. My brothers and I were among their number and we were sometimes rewarded with great finds. These finds included a document from the government of France as part of a study on ocean winds and currents as well as a cask of dry, red French wine. We would visit the nearby beach at Shoal Bay near Admiral's Beach often and particularly soon after a gale to be the first to discover any new treasures.

The people of Colinet Island and indeed all early Newfoundlanders were very frugal and resourceful people, using or reusing items they found in their environment. For a while growing up, I slept in a brass captain's bed. The legs had flanges at the floor with holes to secure the bed to a deck. I never discovered where it came from but obviously it had a previous life on some ship. During World War II, an American plane crash landed on a headland near Wild Cove.² While the crew of two made their way to Mosquito and back to Argentia, locals found the plane and started to investigate it. They were met with a hail of warning shots from another plane and a warship subsequently retrieved the downed aircraft. All this is to say that anything that came ashore from the Atlantic was quickly found and, if possible, reused. While there are no records of storms where residents of Colinet Island saved the lives of passengers or crew as were

¹ Available at Amazon and MUN QE II Library

² OT Ben Power

numerous in other locations around Newfoundland, there are records of the ocean depositing items on the island as early as 1819.³

In 1983, I fished with my uncle, Ben Power, who had a 24 foot open boat, which was powered by a new diesel engine and equipped with a hydraulic hauler. I owned a 16 foot boat with a 20 hp outboard motor. We fished with gill-nets in the early summer and with trawls later in the summer and the fall. Quite often, we fished near Wild Cove at the Southern Point of Colinet Island or off Wild Cove head. Wild Cove head was a place my brothers and I hunted cormorants from my boat, an activity commonly referred to as “shagging.”⁴ One day as Uncle Ben and I were hauling a fleet of gill-nets⁵ at the Southern Point, Ben spied something on the beach at Wild Cove. It turned out to be a 16” x 16” post of BC Fir about 57 feet long, which we towed back to Admiral’s Beach. It was quite a find. During all the time I fished and hunted near Wild Cove, it never occurred to me that it was also a burial site.

The Search Begins

My efforts to discover more about the graves in Wild Cove were triggered by the repatriation of the Unknown Soldier as well as news of the remains of a large wooden ship washing ashore at Cape Ray at the end of January 2024. Pictures of the very large timbers that remained hidden for so long but were now found prompted my interest in the possible stories they would tell. In a subsequent news article, there was some suggestion that it might be the Southern Cross but I immediately thought that this could not be right as there were some historical records indicating the Southern Cross was last seen near St. Mary’s Bay.⁶ I wondered if the bodies in Wild Cove could be linked to the Southern Cross?

Some years ago, I started a Facebook group to discuss former life on Colinet Island, which had several hundred followers. With the renewed focus on learning more about Wild Cove, I asked the group for any information or sources of OT they might have. I also reviewed all previous discussion that existed on the group to see if any might be helpful. One thing that became evident was that the discovery of the bodies took place during the lifetime of my father and his brothers as there were several references to them talking about it often. It was something personal to my father and uncles. As my father was born in 1922, this placed the event in the late 1920s or later. My father did remember the tidal wave of 1929, which was a curiosity for Colinet Island with some shaking followed up hours later with a retreat of ocean water like an extreme low tide but no damage. It seemed that I must dismiss the Southern Cross as the source of the lost souls, as it was lost in 1914.

³ From the Mannion Collection, citing a court record, William Power, the first settler of Regina found a large quantity of “balk” as salvage on the beaches on Colinet Island. Balks are large 12ft x 12ft wooden posts. These were apparently 68ft long.

⁴ There are two species of cormorants. The Great Cormorant is known locally as a “shag” and nests in high rocks along the coast. Its meat is black in colour, oily, and tastes like fish.

⁵ A “fleet” of nets is more than one, usually three nets tied end to end so as to be set in a longer row.

⁶ The Free Press, Tuesday, June 16, 1914. Capt Connors, captain of the *Portia*, provides report of passing the Southern Cross near Cape Pine, “on the day of the gale where she met her fate”.

Oral Testimony (OT)

I got a reply to my request for information from Linda Gibbons. Linda had the unusual foresight to take notes when her father, Gerald Linehan, and John (Jacky) Linehan chatted about old times and specifically about the August Gale of 1935. I subsequently asked Linda to send me a copy of her notes and they contained specific information to aid my research. Jacky is my father's oldest brother, born in 1911, and Gerald is my father's second youngest brother, born in 1926, while my father was born in 1922. Their ages are important as they indicate the impact the 1935 event might have had on them. In 1935, the brothers would have been 24, 13, and 9 years old respectively. Jacky's OT was of particular interest as he was the oldest at the time and he could provide the most detail directly. Note that he was a contributor to the Mannion Project.⁷

Linda recalled, supported by her notes, that her father remembered the 1935 August Gale when he was nine years old. The gale had a significant impact on Mosquito where the Linehans lived. The notes detailed the damage done in Mosquito; whose stages and flakes were destroyed and how the seas washed the currying fish in over the beach and into Mosquito Pond. Even though Mosquito Cove is protected from southwest gales, it appears that a combination of high tide, storm surge, and wave action caused waves to wash in over the natural breakwater and beach, pushing flakes, stages, and fishing gear into the pond behind the beach. Some of the fish were recovered by being "jigged" a second time. The notes also linked the discovery of the bodies to the gale and numbered the bodies in Wild Cove as *five* and compared it to number of bodies in a new cemetery consecrated in Regina shortly before resettlement, which only had six graves. The number of bodies being recorded as five will prove to be very significant.

Another important aspect of the OT between two Linehan brothers was the decision to bury the bodies at Wild Cove rather than in the local Catholic cemetery at Mosquito or report the discovery of the found bodies to authorities. The brothers answered the first part by indicating that no religious medals or necklaces were found on the bodies so it was forbidden by religious tradition and superstition to bury them in a Catholic cemetery. As to why the discovery was not reported and why the bodies were not given to proper authorities, it is helpful to reflect on Newfoundland society at the time. The Dominion was financially bankrupt and the Responsible Government had voted itself out of existence a year earlier, being replaced by a non-elected Commission government. In 1935 Newfoundland outport society, a priest might visit once or twice a year. This continued to be true up to the time of resettlement. Residents were accustomed to taking care of religious matters on their own. I remember going to the church in Mosquito on Sunday to listen to Albert Doody or some other resident lead the saying of the rosary. There was no doctor. My uncle Ronald died in 1931 at age 18 of appendicitis without medical care. Burials obviously could not wait, particularly in the summer. There was no consecrated ground on Colinet Island before 1889, at nearby St Joseph's before 1871, and at St. Mary's before the 1830s. Without cemeteries and priests, families would bury their dead in family gardens. Burying some unfortunate souls at Wild Cove would have been quite acceptable to the sensibilities of the time. In effect, proper authorities were meagre and responsibility for many cultural norms resided with the local people.

⁷ Mannion Project cites Jacky Linehan's OT at card index # 59396

It should be noted that treatment of the dead varied and depended on individual circumstances, and often bodies were given less attention when their identity was unknown. For example, my grandfather's brother, John William Linehan, fell to his death from a building in New York on 15 December 1914. According to OT, a collection was taken up by his brother from fellow workers and his body was returned to Mosquito for burial. OT says he had the fanciest headstone in the cemetery.⁸ In the case of the 1935 August Gale, there are recorded cases of other victims being buried near where they were found as well as bodies being returned home for burial in family plots.

Some Serious Research

The information provided by Linda Gibbons opened up many avenues to further research, which now moved quickly. First, a search of the Evening Telegram at Memorial University of Newfoundland's Digital Archive uncovered a report of the August Gale. Specifically, the August 27, 1935 edition contained several interesting reports.⁹ Note that this Tuesday edition reporting on the Sunday gale did contain some errors as we shall see later. From the Telegram:

The schooner *Annie Anita* one of the derelict vessels reported in the vicinity of Cape Pine, drove ashore yesterday about a mile from St. Shott's. It is believed that the vessels, commanded by Capt. Patk. Walsh of Marystown, had a crew of six and all are lost. The body of Captain Walsh and his two sons, age 13 and 14, were recovered from the cabin of the vessel.¹⁰

This account is incorrect on two points. The man found in the cabin was not Captain Walsh and only one son was found there. This will be discussed at length later. The incorrect identification was based on the fact that normally the captain stayed aboard the schooner while the six man crew (dorymen¹¹) would have been trawling away from the schooner in three dories.

The newspaper article continues with,

Capt. Walsh has a son, skipper of the schr. *Mary Bernice* and it is feared that he and his crew are lost as it is reported that the *Mary Bernice* is bottom up in Placentia Bay.¹²

Aside from adding to the family tragedy the gale had on the Walsh family, a comparison of the effect the gale had on the two schooners will be addressed later as it clearly demonstrates that dories from the *Annie Anita* would have been driven ashore in St. Mary's Bay at Wild Cove.

Finally, the newspaper article reports,

⁸ OT from Jacky Linehan

⁹ MUN Digital Archives - The Evening Telegram, St. John's, Newfoundland, Tuesday August 27, 1935, page 4

¹⁰ *ibid*

¹¹ A dory used for trawl fishing normally has a crew of two dorymen.

¹² Evening Telegram, August 27, 1935

At Mosquito, St. Mary's, huge waves sept away the beach between the cove and the pond, destroying stores, stages and flakes. About 50 quintals¹³ of fish were swept to sea.¹⁴

It is somewhat surprising that this detail should appear as Mosquito was fairly isolated at the time without a direct means of communication. However, it is also very fortunate from a research point of view as it definitely links the August Gale of 1935 to the bodies found in Wild Cove and supports the OT detail provided by Linda Gibbons.

A search of other news media of the time found some references to the damage and loss of life from the gale but no significant additional information. No further articles appeared in the Evening Telegram. In general, it seems that even though the loss of life was estimated at somewhere between 20 and 40, it was not that newsworthy at the time. In short, such loss of life was unfortunately all too common and very little was done in searching for those lost.

Further research was required to find if there were any other events that could explain the discovery of the bodies in Wild Cove. This research was focused on shipwrecks and storms in the St. Mary's Bay area. None were found. Specific mention should be made of five volumes of *Shipwrecks of Newfoundland and Labrador* by Frank Galgay and Michael McCarthy.¹⁵ While these volumes do not point to a specific event that might explain the bodies found, they do provide significant context and understanding around the loss of vessels and lives in Newfoundland and Labrador history.

Dr. Keith Matthews of Memorial University previously projected that approximately 10k to 15k vessels have been lost around the shores of Newfoundland and Labrador.¹⁶ This amounts to hundreds of ships lost each year. This helps explain the lack of reporting around the 1935 August Gale as such events were commonplace and not particularly newsworthy. Further, the wrecks of the schooners *Annie Anita* and *Mary Bernice* are not included in the volumes as lost vessels, again indicating that such events were so frequent that they were not broadly recorded. One other observation from the volumes was the large number of wrecks associated with St. Shott's. The volumes list nine known wrecks not including the *Annie Anita*.¹⁷ Early navigation in the area was difficult and weather, sea, and rocks frequently combined to wreck a vessel. In addition to fishing with my Uncle Ben, I have done some sailing. For a couple of summers, I did some deck

¹³ A quintal is 112 lbs so 50 quintals of fish is approximately 5500 lbs

¹⁴ Evening Telegram, August 27, 1935

¹⁵ Frank Galgay & Michael McCarthy, *Shipwrecks of Newfoundland and Labrador*, St. John's Newfoundland, Harry Cuff Publications Limited, 1987-2006, Vols 1 - 5

¹⁶ *ibid*; Foreword, page vii, Vol 2

¹⁷ From the various five volumes of Galgay and McCarthy, here is a list of the known shipwrecks near Cape Pine/St. Shott's:

HMS Comus, October 24, 1816

HMS Harpooner, November 10, 1816

HMS Drake, June 23, 1822

Brig Spence, July 16, 1822

SS Kestrel, July 22, 1849

Violette, March 1, 1875, "The St. Mary's Tragedy",

SS Florence, December 20, 1912

The Southern Cross, Mar 31, 1914, and *SS Meigle*, July 19, 1947.

A copy of the original Vital Statistics document for Marystown is included here (Figure #1) to demonstrate how helpful these documents can be and illustrate how care must be taken because of mistakes that are made in such documents. Firstly, the document lists 13 bodies as died of drowning at Cape Pine. While they died of drowning, not all were on the *Annie Anita* at Cape Pine. Some were on the *Mary Bernice* in Placentia Bay. Only three bodies were recovered. Captain Walsh's 11 year old son Francis is buried in Marystown as is Thomas Reid. This was the body found in the cabin of the *Annie Anita* and assumed to be the body of the skipper, Captain Walsh. The document correctly records that Captain Walsh's body was never recovered. It also correctly records that only one son was recovered. The body of 13 year old Jerome Walsh was never recovered. The third recovered body is interesting. There was a mistake in the initial identification of this body; it was not James Reid but that of Richard Hanrahan. This mistake and the mistake on the place of drowning for some listed probably occurred because the record was created on immediate information and assumption. Subsequent discoveries and corrections did not mean that the original handwritten document would be updated. The manner with which Richard Hanrahan's body was identified and treated are an important insight into the care and treatment of the dead. His body was found in a cove near the wreck of the *Mary Bernice* and because he was wearing a Catholic religious medal, he was buried in the local Catholic cemetery at Port Royal.¹⁹ The document lists the religion of all bodies as Roman Catholic. If only some religious medal was found on the bodies in Wild Cove, there might have been some better closure to their story but the pounding surf of the gale at Wild Cove probably stripped them of that dignity.

So, What Happened?

Dory trawling from a schooner was practiced from 1850 into the 1940s, both inshore and on the Banks, and trawling in general persisted beyond that. I did some trawl fishing with my Uncle Ben Power. Hauling a trawl is hard work and the effort increases dramatically with the depth of the water and with poor weather conditions causing wind, tide, and wave action. Once the buoy is retrieved and the trawl line is placed across the dory, one doryman begins to haul the trawl line hand over hand across the dory, removing any fish caught. Larger fish would be lifted into the dory with the help of a gaff.²⁰ The second doryman re-baited the hooks and fed the trawl line over the side, back into the water. Based on assembled facts and my understanding of dory trawling, the following scenario is presented as the most probable circumstances to explain the presence of five bodies in Wild Cove and suggest their identities.

August 25, 1935 was a Sunday and the crew of the *Annie Anita* would be up very early that morning. The schooner had three dories and six crewmen (dorymen) to crew the dories as well as Captain Patrick Walsh to skipper the voyage. Normally, the skipper would stay on board the anchored schooner rigged with reduced canvas while the dorymen took the dories out to designated positions, far enough from each other so as not to tangle their separate trawls. However, on this voyage, the skipper had two of his sons, Jerome (13 years old) and Francis (11 years old). Since Jerome was deemed old enough to start learning how to trawl, he would have been assigned to one of the dories. Further, the skipper would replace one of the dorymen (Thomas Reid) to oversee his son's training. Therefore, Thomas Reid and Francis Walsh would be the two left on board the schooner that day.

¹⁹ Barbara Walsh, p 227

²⁰ A short wooden pole with a hook on one end used to retrieve fishing gear or pull fish into a boat.

While they were loading and launching the dories with several tubs of trawls already baited and tubs of additional bait for additional settings, an unnamed Category 2 hurricane was approaching.²¹ This hurricane had stayed off Florida and the New England coast affecting only Bermuda and, up to Saturday, was on a northeast track so as to miss Newfoundland. By midnight Saturday however, it was tracking due north and would continue to turn westward on Sunday, passing Channel Port Aux Basques in the evening. This dramatic change in course, probably caused by interaction with another weather system, would have dire consequences for the entire south coast of Newfoundland. The forward edge of the counterclockwise low-pressure system with the highest atmospheric pressure gradient and the highest wind speeds would sweep the south coast, starting at Cape Race, then Cape Pine, Cape St. Mary's, Burin Peninsula, and so on. The winds at Cape Pine and Cape St. Mary's would initially be southeast changing to southerly as the gale intensified. This wind direction exposes virtually all the coastline, leaving no haven for vessels.

The three dory crews would have set their trawls early before the weather changed. After their first set, they would have paused for an hour or two before hauling back their trawls. One doryman would remove the fish or spent bait while the other would rebait as the trawl is passed over the dory and back into the sea. At some point, they would be alerted to the changing weather and would hurry to retrieve any gear in the water. As the weather continued to worsen, they would abandon their efforts and start to row back to the schooner, which would be at least two miles away. Back on the schooner, if there was a "glass,"²² Thomas Reid might have been able to alert the dories with a signal if he had been watching the weather closely. Still, with the speed of the increasing gale, this would have given the dory crews only minutes of additional warning.

The three dories would have made some headway getting back to the schooner but eventually, despite their best efforts, the dories would be moving further northwest away from the schooner. Their efforts would have changed to riding out the storm. Dories, despite their small size, are very stable and sturdy, always staying upright and staying afloat even if swamped. The crews would have dumped their fish and anchors and any other gear of no use. They would have tried to keep the dories pointed into the wind with the oars and may have created a makeshift "sea anchor."²³ Back on the schooner, without a crew to man the rigging, Thomas Reid and Francis Walsh were helpless as they witnessed the destruction of the schooner as winds battered the reduced canvas, pushing the vessel over on its side and flooding the holes. As their situation continued to worsen, they would have retreated to the cabin. Captain Patrick Walsh had survived the wreck of another schooner, the *Golden Glow*, during a storm by taking to the dories and getting his crew ashore.²⁴ If it could be done, he would do it. However, this 1935 southeast wind had carried the dory past the headlands at St. Shott's and into St. Mary's Bay. The schooner held its anchor as the dories were swept into St. Mary's Bay. The wind continued to rise and was now blowing from the south taking Capt Walsh's dory on a course towards Colinet Island. One of the

²¹ <https://tropicalatlantic.com/models/models.cgi?basin=al&archive=1935>

²² Barometer

²³ A sea anchor is a floating device towed behind a vessel to keep it pointed into the wind and slow it down.

²⁴ Barbara Walsh, p 37

other two dories, which had been fishing about a mile directly windward of Capt Walsh's dory, was following the same track as indicated by the blue arrow at Figure #2. With the increasing wind and sea state, the dories had swamped but the August sea surface temperatures were warm and the crews had tied themselves to the dories. However, despite valiant efforts, this story would not have a happy ending. Back at Cape Pine, the *Annie Anita* broke its anchor. The southerly wind would now drive it ashore near St. Shott's. Two of the three *Annie Anita* dories with five fishermen from Marystown broke up on the rocks in Wild Cove. In 1947, Otto Kelland would pen the song, "Let me fish off Cape St. Mary's". One line from that song continues to haunt many fishermen: "Let me be a man and take it when my dory fails to make it." The final resting place of the last *Annie Anita* dory remains known only to the sea.

Figure #2 shows the locations of the wrecks of the two schooners. The track of the *Mary Bernice* is particularly important as it demonstrates that the dories from *Annie Anita* would have been carried into St. Mary's Bay. The fishing location shown of the *Annie Anita* near Cape Race rather than Cape Pine is not supported by the evidence I have seen. All narrative references have been to Cape Pine. As well, if the vessel had been anchored near Cape Race, it would have been driven ashore at Biscay Bay.

There were seven fishermen in the three dories trawl fishing at Cape Pine that morning: Captain

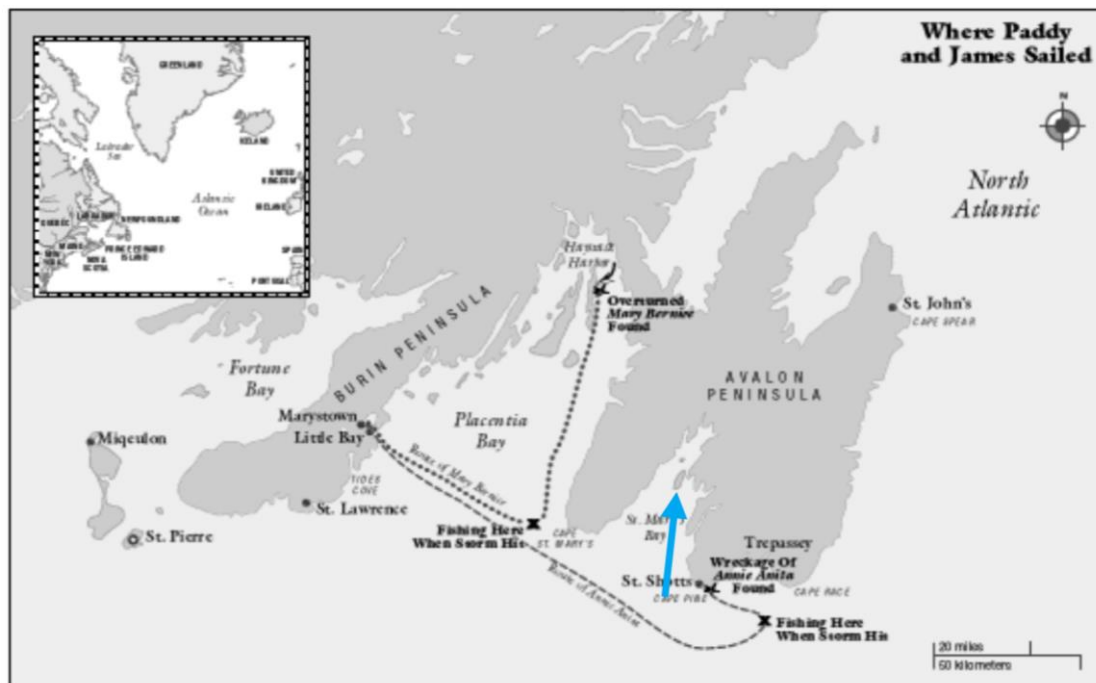


Figure #2 The blue arrow is mine. Credit to *August Gale: A Father and Daughter's Journey into the Storm* by Barbara Walsh, page 257

Patrick Walsh, his son Jerome Walsh, and one other doryman would have been in one dory while there would have been two dorymen in each of the other two dories. In order to explain the five bodies found at Wild Cove, Capt Walsh's dory and one of the other two dories would have been

driven ashore there. The crew of dorymen in dories that morning were John Britton, George Mitchell, Dominic Walsh, Charles Hanrahan, and Edward Clarke.²⁵ From the available documents and OT, I then conclude that the five bodies buried at Wild Cove are Capt Patrick Walsh, his son Jerome Walsh, and three of the five crew members named above (meaning one of the dories and its two occupants never came ashore). I have been unable to determine which three crew members are in Wild Cove. Perhaps the only way to be absolutely certain of their identities would be retrieval of body samples and DNA testing.

Bones, and Stories, Reemerge

On August 15th, 2024, also known as Lady Day, my daughter Victoria and I drove to Admiral's Beach and hiked to Shoal Bay as we do each year to do a little beachcombing and have a "boil-up."²⁶ Before returning from Admiral's Beach, we visited Uncle Ben Power and Aunt Betty. We spoke again about Wild Cove. Ben, born in 1937 after the 1935 August Gale, did not have any new information to add about the original event but we did have an interesting conversation. He said he remembered the many times my father, Kevin, talked about the bodies found and we agreed that the incident seemed personal and impactful to him. Ben turned to me and said, "You don't suppose that it was Kevin who found the bodies?" It would have been traumatic for a thirteen year old if so. One of the bodies would have been that of Jerome Walsh, who was the same age as my father at the time.

That same evening, Geraldine (Gerry) Doody, called in response to my request for information on Facebook. Gerry's family lived next door to our family in Mosquito before resettlement. She said that her father, Thomas Doody, told her about finding bones in Wild Cove when he was 18 years old. This would have been in 1946, 11 years after the 1935 August Gale. He told his daughter that he was quite affected by the ordeal and it stayed with him for the rest of his life. I remember Thomas singing about a fisherman's heaven one Christmas in the 1980s. He sang a well-rehearsed version of "Fiddler's Green" in a strong Irish brogue. The lyrics included, "Oh Fiddlers' Green is a place I've heard tell/Where the fishermen go if they don't go to Hell."²⁷

Thomas asked several people to help him to re-bury the bones but everyone refused except William (Bill) Linehan, who is also a brother of my father. Thomas would have felt a personal responsibility to rebury the remains since he was unlucky enough to find them. It is not difficult to understand the reluctance of others. Superstitions would have surrounded the event, particularly for those who were involved in the original burial. There would have been talk of curses and unhappy spirits not at rest and hauntings of Wild Cove. The action of the sea to unearth the bones added a whole new dimension to a story that already preyed on the minds of those who experienced some aspect of it. Thomas Doody and Bill Linehan reburied the exposed bones on the grassy bank further away from the sea in hopes of avoiding a further re-emergence.

²⁵ Barbara Walsh, p 107

²⁶ Open fire lunch with tea.

²⁷ Though John Connelly wrote the current popular version of Fiddler's Green (copyright 1968), a version of the song existed as far back as 1821.

Figure #3 shows a satellite view of Wild Cove. It is easy to imagine that with the right combination of wave height, a storm surge, and an unusually high tide, that the sea could try to reclaim the five bodies buried in the grassy bank situated at the middle of the beach. The occurrence of such an incident is a matter of when not if. Hopefully the second burial site is more secure against such events.

Finding the heart of this story would have been so much easier if I had listened to my father. Much of who and what I am comes from my father but there are things that he tried to tell me, things that were personal and important to him that, as a young boy, I was not interested in



Figure #3 A typical day at Wild Cove; the wind and surf are up. Not a good day to attempt a landing. The grassy area between the two ponds is the obvious

hearing. These were distant, old things of little value to a young boy and his future. As we mature, the value of things changes; material things lose their value while intrinsic, fleeting relationships become treasures. Next year will be the 90th Anniversary of the August Gale of 1935. There is a plaque in Marystown to recognize the fishermen lost in the August Gales. Perhaps the Unknown Fishermen in Wild Cove can finally be named and find rest in their own family histories.

In Memoriam

Submitted by Pat Walsh

Note: In this and previous issues of *The Ancestor*, I have attempted to pay honour and respect to our veterans of World War II and the Korean War and members of our Armed Forces and also other citizens who have died aged 100 or older. There may be some individuals included who may have achieved some noted degree of accomplishment in their chosen profession. I have relied on the obituary notices in the local *Telegram*. I know there are many other veterans and other noted individuals who have passed away in other areas of our province. More information on these individuals may be found in *The Telegram* - www.the-telegram.com/. Lest We Forget. Please submit selected obituaries to me care of the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Carter, Frederick Randolph June 21, 1926 – Oct. 2, 2024. Veteran, WWII, Royal Air Force & a member of the Royal Newfoundland Militia A Company (1960 – 1972). Life member of the Royal Canadian Legion. Predeceased by his parents Kenneth & Blanche (Baker) Carter of Angel Place, St. John's. Also predeceased by his brothers & sisters, Patricia Ann (infant), Charles, Josephine, Alexander, Kenneth, Laura, Herbert, Grace & Gordon & by his son, Paul, 2009 of London, ON & daughters, Janet, 2013 of Perth, ON & Carolyn, 2023 of London, ON & his companion, Mary Pike, 2009 of St. John's. Father of Beverley & Philip. Brother of Barbara, Toronto, Benjamin & Jackson, Mississippi. Obit & photo *The Telegram*, Oct. 18, 2024 & Carnell's Funeral Home, St. John's. **Note** - Frederick was a former member of the Family History Society & a contributor to *The Newfoundland Ancestor*.

Masters, Margaret "Alice", aged 100, in St. John's. July 11, 1923 – Feb. 1, 2024. Predeceased by her husband Samuel James (Jim) Masters & her daughter Verna Ginn. Mother of Lloyd & Dr. Roy. Obit & photo Feb. 6, 2024. *The Telegram*.

Parsons, Kevin Gerard of Flatrock, Nov. 25, 1961- Aug. 15, 2024. Predeceased by his parents Mabel & Kevin (2013) & his brother Robert, 2019. Husband of Denise. Father of Nicole, Dave & stepson David Bradbury. Brother of his twin sister, Kathleen, Carl & Chris. Former Mayor & councillor of Flatrock. Progressive Conservative Member of the House of Assembly for the electoral district of Cape St. Francis. His father Kevin Sr. also represented the district. Well known hockey player & General Manager with the Flatrock Flyers. He was employed as an electronics technician. The Provincial Government of Newfoundland and Labrador renamed the Torbay Bypass (Route 20 A) the Kevin Parsons Highway on Nov. 7, 2024. Obit & photo Caul's Funeral Home, Torbay Road, Torbay.

Piccott, Verna Dec. 4, 1920 – Oct. 15, 2024 in St. John's, aged 103. Predeceased by her husband Cyril, 1996 & her sons, Vince, 2015, Eddy, 2006 & Gordon, 2018. Mother of Babs White (Frank), June Power (Terry) & Jim. Interment at the Kilbride RC Cemetery. Obit & photo Caul's Funeral Home, St. John's.

Power, Catherine (Kitty) Theresa (nee Piccott) June 29, 1918 – Oct. 29, 2024 in St. John's, aged 106. Predeceased by her parents Patrick & Catherine Piccott, her husband Edward Power & her son Patrick. Mother of Edward, Catherine, James, Anita, Gordon & Marnie. A graduate of Memorial University & Saint Vincent University, she enjoyed a long career with Newfoundland & Labrador Public Libraries. Obit & photo Caul's Funeral Home, St. John's.

Schropp, Gertrude Elizabeth (nee Morrissey), aged 105, in St. John's. Jan. 31, 1918 – Oct. 25, 2022. Predeceased by her parents, John & Mary Anne Morrissey, her husband, Bill, her daughter Sharon & her sisters Mary Cahill & Adele Dooling (Sept. 9, 2022) & her brothers Bill, Frank, Gerald, John & Walter. Caul's Funeral Home, St. John's.



Officers of the Knights of Pythias Far East Lodge 1894 -1899

by Lynn Fogwill (member 2732)

The names of the officers of the Knights of Pythias Far East Lodge Number 14 were transcribed from articles in The Evening Telegram and The Evening Herald that covered the semi-annual installments of officers for the coming term. The names are listed with the dates they appeared in the newspapers and the position each man held. I have included repetitions because they give a picture of the men who were active with the Lodge over time and the various positions each one held, as well as the entry of new men into the organization. The lists are in chronological order.

The Evening Telegram Friday, April 6, 1894. The following were listed as some of the “charter members”: W.T. WHITEWAY, J.W. COLWELL, J.R. ROBERTSON, P.J. NOLAN, J.C. ORNER and C.A. LEVERMAN.

The Evening Telegram Thursday, June 28, 1894. The following were installed as the first officers of the new lodge: E.W. LYON, Past Chancellor; W.T. WHITEWAY, Chancellor Commander; J.C. ORNER, Vice-Chancellor; S.C. DRURY, Prelate; M.A. LASH, Master of Work; C.R. THOMSON, Keeper of Records and Seals; J.R. ROBERTSON, Master of Exchequer; W. FOGWILL, Master of Finance; W.F. BUTLER, Master-at-Arms.

The Evening Telegram, Tuesday, July 2, 1895. Announcing the picnic at the Octagon grounds, tickets available from the following Committee members: W.T. WHITEWAY, W. SEARLE, W.F. BUTLER, W. PROWSE, R. SMITH, W. CROSBIE, JAS. CHALKER, J.R. ROBERTSON, C. HARRINGTON.

The Evening Telegram, Thursday, July 11, 1895. The following officers were installed for the current term by District Deputy Grand Chancellor, E.W. LYON and Past Chancellor W.T. WHITEWAY, Acting Grand Master-At-Arms: DR. N. S. FRASER, Chancellor Commander, DR. B.R. SOMERVILLE, Vice-Chancellor, R.L. SMITH, Prelate, W.J. PROWSE, Master-at-Arms, WM. BUTLER, Keeper of Records and Seal, W.T. WHITEWAY, Master of Finance, E.W. LYON, Master of Exchequer, WM. SEARLE - Master of Work, R.M. CHAPPELL, Inner Guard, JOHN LEDREW, Outer Guard.

The Evening Telegram, Thursday, December 5, 1895. The following officers were elected for the next term: DR. B.R. SOMERVILLE, Chancellor Commander, R.S. SMITH, Vice-Chancellor, W.R. SEARLE, Prelate, S. HARRIS, Master of Work, W.F. BUTLER, Keeper of Records and Seal, J.C. ORNER, Master of Finance, W.H. BARTLETT, Master of Exchequer, W.J. PROWSE, Master-at-Arms, J. LEDREW, Inner Guard, H.G. LESEMAN, Outer Guard.

The Evening Telegram Saturday, March 21, 1896. Announcing an upcoming “Soiree”, tickets available from the following Committee members: W.R. SEARLE, R.L. SMITH, J.C. ORNER, S. HARRIS, W.J. PROWSE, H. WEEKS, H. WYATT, W. FOGWILL AND WM.E. BEARNS.

The Evening Telegram, Thursday, July 9, 1896. The installation of the new officers for the next term (the initials for the positions are as they appeared in the newspaper): C.C. - R.L. SMITH, V.C. - W.J. PROWSE, Prelate - W.R. SEARLE, M. of W. - H. LESEMAN, K of R and S. - W.F.

BUTLER, M. of F. - W.E. BEARNS, M. of E. – W.H. BARTLETT, M. of A. – W. FOGWILL, I.G. – S. HARRIS, O.G. – G.W. WHELAN.

The Evening Telegram, Wednesday, January 19, 1898. The officers elected for the ensuing term were installed by D.D.C.C - E.W. LYON assisted by Past Grand Officers: H.G. LESEMAN - C.C., H. TAPPER - V.C., J. WHITEWAY - K.R.S., J.C. ORNER - M.E., W.J. PROWSE - M.A., W.T. MCDONALD - M.W., J. LEDREW - PRELATE, W.R. SEARLE - I.G., and R.L. SMITH - O.G.

The Evening Telegram Wednesday July 6, 1898. E.W. LYON, D.D.G.C. installed the new officers: H.C. TAPPER - C.C., J. LEDREW - V.C., W. WHELAN - Prelate, I. HARRIS - M.W., J. WHITEWAY - K of R.S. and M.F., H.J. WYATT - M.E., J. JACOBSON - M. at A, J.C. CROSBIE - I.G. and W.H. BARTLETT - O.G.

The Evening Telegram, Thursday, January 29, 1899. The D.D.G.C., J.C. ORNER assisted by H.G. LESEMAN, W.R. SEARLE and W.F. BUTLER installed the following officers: Chancellor Commander - J. LEDREW, Vice C.C.- E.W. LYON, Prelate – J. WHITEWAY - Master of Work – GEORGE JACOBSON, K of R & S – J.C. CROSBIE, Master of Finance – J. WHITEWAY, Master of Exchequer – H. J. WYATT, Master of Arms – W.J. SMITH, Inner Guard – W.R. SEARLE, Outer Guard – A. BLUMENTHAL.

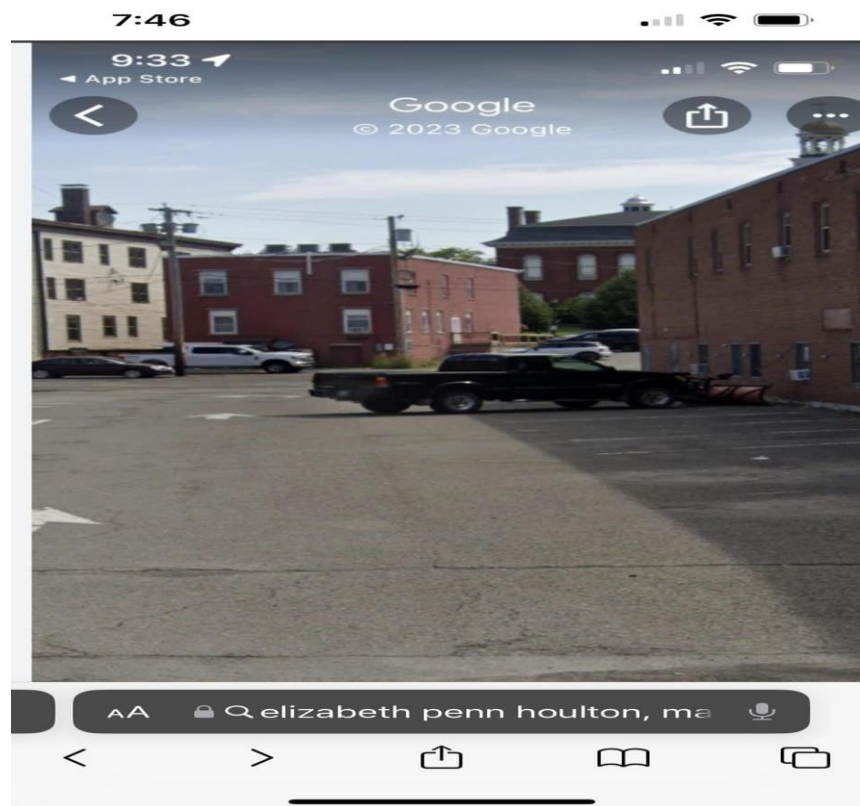
The Evening Telegram Thursday, June 29, 1899, the last article listing the newly installed officers of Knights of Pythias Far East Lodge No. 14 appeared. The Grand Deputy ORNER, assisted by Past Chancellors LESEMAN and SEARLE installed the following: JOHN LEDREW – C.C., J. WHITEWAY - V.C., J.C. CROSBIE – K of R & S, H. WYATT – M.E., GEORGE JACOBSEN (sic) – Prelate, BLUMENTHAL (sic) – M of W, H. TAPPER - M. of A., W. SEARLE – Inner Guard and F. PERLIN - Outer Guard.



WILLIAM AND LIZZIE: A TRUE NORTH AMERICAN TALE

By Giles (Bill) Day, MBA, Bangor, Maine, May, 2024

This is my first foray into a large-scale genealogical project. This post is the result of about 8 months of research. Many descendants of both families, genealogists - both novices and experts, and other folks helped a lot. It's a story that spans just over 100 years from the birth of William Henry Pynn, in Mosquito, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, February 13, 1889 to the bizarre death of his wife, Elizabeth (Haggerty) Penn, in the alley in this picture, in Houlton, Maine, less than 3 weeks shy of her 87th birthday and 29 days shy of the close of the 1980s. 11 year old me had been in the pet store across the street and someone had run over to say an old lady had been killed by a car carrier truck. My mother and I were there before first responders and the police. I'd wondered for 34 years who she'd been as this is a sight an 11-year-old is bound to carry with them and decided to find out last fall. This story has been epic, almost like something from "The Grapes of Wrath,"



Prologue: This is the story of two families: the Haggertys, of Amity, then Houlton, Maine, USA and the Pynns, of Mosquito (after 1903 called Bristol's Hope), Newfoundland and the marriage of William Pynn (also spelled Pinn, Pyinn, and Penn,) and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Haggerty Penn.

Chapter one: The Haggertys

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Haggerty was born 2 December 1902, to Eliza (Whalen) Haggerty, born about 1872, in Amity, Maine, and Daniel Haggerty, born about 1852, in Bathurst, New Brunswick (then still a British territory). Lizzie was the sister of Everett Whalen (son of Eliza, father unknown, born 1889). The other Haggerty children were: Effie Haggerty born 1895, Lina Haggerty, born 1898, Henry Haggerty, born 1900, Denis Haggerty, born 1905, and Geneva Haggerty, born 1908.

Everett Whalen, born 27 June 1889, passed away May 1984, aged 94, buried at Evergreen Cemetery, Houlton, Maine. Spouse: Eleanor Brooks. One child.

Effie, born 15 June 1895, married Kenneth Edwards, 1911, one child, Mabel Mildred Edwards, b. 1911. Second husband, Aubrey P. Dewolf Cottom, married 1912. Third husband, Felix Robinson, married 1920. The last record I found of Effie is when their mother passed in 1942. It had Effie living in Houlton then. No death or interment information known.

Lina D. Haggerty, born February 1898, died March 1899, of tuberculosis (consumption) in Amity, Maine. Buried in Amity Cemetery, also known as North Amity Cemetery. There is no grave marker for Lina (Lena, per death certificate).

Henry, born 1900, married Alberta Estey in 1925. They had Henry Jr., Lillian, Lawrence, and David. Henry was the supervisor of the Houlton Water Company until his death in 1960.

Denis, born 17 March 1905, in Amity, Maine, died 28 November 1995 of rickets, in Houlton, Maine. Records do not seem to indicate where interred.

Geneva was born in 1908. She married Joseph Alfred Vasseur in 1924 and then later married Harry Crane. She had at least 5 children. Geneva, who passed away in 1971, in Houlton, Maine, is interred at Evergreen Cemetery there.

Chapter 2. The Pynns

William Pynn was born 13 February, 1889, in Mosquito (renamed Bristol’s Hope, Newfoundland, in 1903). William would set sail to Maine, landing in 1914. He could neither read nor write so his name and date of birth are inaccurate on almost every document, variously being spelled Pynn, Pyinn, Pinn, and mostly, Penn. William’s date of birth is variously listed on documents as 1890 and 1891, and December 24th and 25th, but his original Mosquito, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland document lists him as William Henry Pynn, born to Edward and Sarah Pynn, 13 February 1889. William seems to have been a fisherman and sailor at heart, showing up on various ports of entry documents in Maine, New York, even Cuba.

William's father, Joseph Edward Pynn, known as Edward, married Sarah (according to both William and Frank's wedding records her maiden name was Workman). Notably, I can't find a reference of a Sarah Workman in Newfoundland that seems to match her. It's likely Workman, Worthman? a much more common NL surname). Nor can I find a record of Joseph (Edward) Pynn and Sarah's wedding. Some Ancestry member profiles have her listed as Sarah Batten, but I believe that surname came from an erroneous transcription in the St. John's records for her son Joseph's military service. I emailed them and got it corrected to her second married surname, Butler. Edward passed away on 11 June 1908, of a sudden attack of peritonitis, after a day of fishing. Sarah appears to have passed away on 5 July 1919, in Bristol's Hope. Death record indicates she passed away from jaundice. The person who passed away and was listed above her in death records was born in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, and an earlier theory was that her blank entry meant "ditto". I now think it more likely that she was from the Trinity Bay Area, likely Heart's Delight, as the Workman/Worthman surname was mostly confined to that area, and she sent a 11 September 1917 letter to her son Joseph's military superiors from Green's Harbour.

Editors' Note: The abbreviation for Newfoundland can be complicated if you don't understand the history. Up until 1949, the abbreviation was Nfld. In 1949 Newfoundland became the tenth province of Canada was known as Newfoundland, Canada but Nfld was still generally recognized. In 2001, Newfoundland's name changed to the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, abbreviated

A very sad death is reported from Mosquito to-day. Mr. Edward Pynn, aged about 40 years, having passed to the Great Beyond almost suddenly. It appears that Mr. Pynn who was out fishing on Wednesday morning went to Carbonear and sold his fish; on the way home he was taken sick, and a doctor was called who pronounced the trouble as peritonitis.. He died at nine o'clock yesterday morning, leaving a wife and family, several brothers and sisters, and a large circle of relatives and friends to mourn his early and sudden demise; to all of whom we extend sympathy.
Hr. Grace, June 12, '08. COR.

Defunctorum Ecclesiae

Mensis	Die	Obit	Notat
Julius	11	1908	Edward Pynn
Julius	5	1919	Sarah Butler
Julius	8	1919	Mary Brett
Julius	11	1919	Harbour Grace
Julius	14	1919	John Walker

In addition to William they had James Pynn, born Mosquito, NL, 1890-1919. Married Lucy Clarke. Died in an iron ore car accident, aged 28, Bell Island Mines. John "Jack" Charles Pynn, born Mosquito, NL, 1892, died in Harbour Grace, 1981, married Lillian Martin of the Hellcat-

Martin line. Amanda May and Ann Pynn, twins, were born 1893 in Mosquito, NL. Amanda died 1896. Sarah also had a baby, Elizabeth Ann Pyne (Pynn), born 1895, died 9 March, 1896, about two weeks before her sister, May (Amanda May). Death record lists Elizabeth as her middle name, Ann, and says cause of death was consumption, but may have been scarlatina (scarlet fever), May's cause of death. Francis Pyn, born 1896. Only record confirmed is birth/baptism, but likely died young, as there was a second Francis (Frank) Pynn, born around 1899 to Edward and Sarah. Pennsylvania marriage records list his parents as Ned and Sarah, with Sarah's maiden name being Workman, echoing the maiden name from brother William's marriage record in 1917. Joseph Henry Pynn, b.1898. Probably the sibling with the most information available. Lived most of his life on Bell Island. Owned a general store with wife Julia (Peddle) Pynn. They eventually separated. She died in 1966 at St. John's, NL, he died on Bell Island, 1976. Of note: Joe and Julia warned the Bell Island authorities that a Nazi attack was imminent. They saw the submarine in Conception Bay as they were fishing. They also were instrumental in the rescue of victims of the Little Golden Dawn and W. Garland ship collision.

It was also Joseph's military record, where he was honorably discharged due to an old hand injury, where we learn his mother, Sarah, was remarried to a Thomas Butler in Bristol's Hope (formerly Mosquito). Like her first marriage, I can't find an official record of this marriage. The same documents refer to his father, Edward Pynn, confirming it's THE Edward.

Four more children - when Edward died in 1908, the newspapers said he left a wife and nine children. The twins had long passed, so that leaves 3 more. Herbert, born 1903, married May Spracklin on Bell Island. A lifelong miner, Herbert died at age 56, in 1959, Bell Island. Edward Pynn Jr. was born 1905-1907 and married Jesse Meadus. Similar to Herbert, he was a Bell Island miner. May have been adopted by Absalom Martin whose biological son, Andrew, was one of the witnesses at the marriage of Edward Jr's brother, John "Jack" Pynn, in 1914. According to the archives in St. John's (not yet transcribed online), Newfoundland, the other child was Mary Ann Pynn, born June 5, 1901.

Chapter three: William and Elizabeth (Lizzie)

William met Lizzie, and they were married 24 September 1917. They had their first child 25 March 1918, William Jr, who died of intussusception (twisting of the intestines), just 6 days later. William Sr. was soon drafted to serve at Fort Williams, in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

On 11 May 1919, the couple welcomed their second child, Ruby Lillian Penn. Ruby would also pass away on 25 June 1919, of intestinal indigestion. She is interred with her mother and siblings at Evergreen Cemetery in Houlton, Maine.

On 21 February 1920, the couple's third child, Violet, would also pass away, on 9 March, 1920, of marasmus (nutrient deficiency). She is interred with her mother and siblings at Evergreen Cemetery in Houlton, Maine.

Lizzie entered the Pownal State School, in New Gloucester, Maine. This particular mental hospital has a very dark past. Lizzie was there for at least 30 years, from some time starting in the 1920s, to around 1960. We know this, as her brother Henry's 1960 obituary lists his sister

Elizabeth in Pownal, Maine. Reasons she was interned here are vague. I have petitioned the Maine State Archives, with the help of Lizzie's great niece, to see if her records can be released about 11 years early. People who knew her personally, however, have said that William was very cruel to her and had her interred. A 1923??? allowed Aroostook County court cost allowance for her for about \$64 (big money for 1923) might give a clue as to when she entered the state school. I did reach out to the Maine state judicial archives to try to get a copy of her criminal record but was told it had been destroyed. The release of the state school records is still pending a decision. When she was finally released, she lived with Melvina Ross in Houlton and later, the Kinney Boarding Home, also in Houlton. There is a 1963 Houlton Pioneer Times record of Melvina, Elizabeth, and others at a child's birthday party in Houlton, so she was out at least by then.

On December 2, 1989, 20 days before Lizzie's 87th birthday, and 29 days before the dawn of the 1990's, she grabbed hold of an auto carrier truck, as she was often known to do walking around town, grasping onto vehicles for support and the truck started to move, pulling her under its wheels and ending her life. Directly across the street a young Billy Day, age 11, was at the pet store, checking out the fish and other exotic animals he'd only previously read about, with his mom. Suddenly someone came in screaming that an old lady had just been run over. When they crossed the street, there she was.

ELIZABETH H. PENN
HOULTON — Elizabeth H. Penn, 86, died Dec. 2, 1989, at Houlton. She was born Dec. 22, 1902, the daughter of Daniel and Aliza (Whaylen) Haggerty. Mrs. Penn is survived by several nieces and nephews, and many friends at the Kinney Boarding Home and in the community. Friends may call 7-9 p.m. Monday at the Dunn Funeral Home, Houlton, where services will be held 10 a.m. Tuesday. Interment will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

Elderly Houlton woman dies after falling under truck

HOULTON — An elderly Houlton woman was killed in an unusual accident when she fell under a truck as the driver pulled out from his parking spot, police said.

Elizabeth Penn, 86, was walking beside an automobile-transport truck that was parked on the side of the road Saturday afternoon.

She was leaning on the truck for support, and the driver was unaware of the woman when he started the truck and drove off, pulling Penn under the vehicle, police said.

The driver, Eldon E. Tardy, 54, of

Plymouth, Mass., did not learn of the accident until contacted at a restaurant on U.S. Route 1.

Penn frequently walked around town and held onto parked vehicles and other objects for support, police said.

The accident was being investigated by Staff Sgt. Daniel Pelletier of the Houlton Police Department. He was assisted at the accident scene by Officer John Carroll, U.S. Border Patrol Agent Kai Libby and the Houlton Ambulance Service.

William's Pynn's fate: In talking to people who knew Lizzie personally I learned that William was very cruel and abusive to her and pushed to have her interred at the state school. After this there are vague references to a William Pinn or Penn on various ships and re-entering New York but very little to confirm it's THE William, after 1915. He likely died at sea, or in port. The last census where he has been found is 1920 in Houlton when he is living with Lizzie and her family. NB. There is a March 28, 1938 record of a William Pynn dying at a poor asylum in St. John's, Newfoundland. Many people have listed this in user profiles on Ancestry, but after corresponding with the Rooms archives in St. John, this was likely a William John Pynn, born Quidi Vidi, St. John's, 1886, whose mother also died in the same poor asylum in 1927, and not Lizzie's husband William.

In September 2023, 34 years after Lizzie's sad death, it occurred to me that I could use the wonders of modern technology to figure out who this person had been. Once I started

researching I became engrossed and couldn't stop. Just as good as any great novel out there and an amazing snapshot of 100 years of North American history

Sources are numerous for this story, so I have created a repository of sorts on Family Search (free to anyone to sign up). By linking to William's father, all sources and media I used for this story can be found. Most of the photos, I uploaded to the "memories" section for each individual.

1. Found this person on FamilySearch:

Joseph Edward Pynn

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/G9JT-3V1>

Additional resources:

2. <https://www.historic-wabana.com/accounts-of-employee-fatalities.html>

3. <https://www.historic-wabana.com/u-boat-attacks.html>



A GRATEFUL FISHERMAN

Bill Whelan

2024 04 10

He Amply Rewards Two Burgeo Families for Their Kindness to Him in Time of Sickness.

Howard Blackburn, a fisherman aboard a Gloucester schooner about 9 years before, went astray from his schooner and suffered great hardship before landing at Burgeo, where he was cared for by two families. He lost most of his fingers and toes to frostbite. However, he recovered and returned to the US and did well in business. He saved all Canadian silver money that came his way and in November of '95 went to Halifax and spent \$500 on food to be shipped to the two Burgeo families and the poor of Burgeo. (Evening Telegram 27 Nov 1895)

REQUESTS FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

THE ELUSIVE NORMANS OF CENTRAL ST. JOHN'S

Janet Morrissey

I am writing this short piece because I am at my wit's end. Everyone faces a brick wall in their family history research, but this one has plagued me since nearly the beginning. And it seems that every new piece of information I get further complicates the story. So, I've decided to stop pulling my hair out and to make an appeal to *The Ancestor's* readership. I'm hoping that, as the saying goes, somebody somewhere knows something.

My grandmother's name was Myrtle Norman. She died in St. John's on December 7, 1957 when my father was only a boy. At only 27, she died due to complications during pregnancy with her fifth child. She was born in St. John's to Caroline Winsor Stone and Bertram Norman. This is where one side of the tree flourishes and the other wilts. Caroline, 19 Jul 1891 – 25 Sep 1930, was the eldest daughter of William Stone and Sophia Louisa Winsor. I've been able to trace both of these ancestors quite far back – the Stones through Trinity and the Winsors through Aquaforte. Myrtle's mother Caroline, my great-grandmother, lived an equally brief life to her daughter, as she too died due to complications during Myrtle's birth. Myrtle never knew her mother, much like my father has few remembrances of his mother. This translates to little family lore being passed down through the generations.

Myrtle's father, my great-grandfather, Bertram Norman, was born 14 Mar 1890 and died 28 Jan 1973; he was born and died in St. John's. His family was poor, and from the few people in my family who will talk about him, I've come to learn that Bertram was not an easy man. After his wife passed, he sent his daughter Myrtle to live with relatives as he couldn't care for her. This is supported by census records which show her living with different family members from 1935 to 1945. He buried his wife in the Forest Road Anglican Cemetery in St. John's without a headstone and he, himself, was buried in the Kenmount Road Anglican Cemetery without a headstone.

Bertram's birth / baptism records were destroyed in a fire at his church (I don't know which church). The date I have comes from his own filing with the Registrar General in 1946, found in the Delayed Births collection at The Rooms. In the document, he lists his mother as Lavinia Norman and his father as Charles Norman. A subsequent search of City Directories shows no relevant Charles Norman. Lavinia can be traced here and there. Mostly, she lived with either her daughter Gertrude (23 Dec 1894 – 27 Jul 1944) or her son Reginald (b. ca. Mar 1896) in the central part of St. John's, in the central city slum. Though Bertram gave his father a name in his filing, Gertrude's birth record in the Vital Statistics Births collection at The Rooms shows her as being illegitimate, and no father's name was supplied. I haven't been able to find Reginald's birth record; despite being born in 1896, his birth has not been located in the Vital Statistics records.

When Lavinia died on 15 Feb 1935, her obituary mentioned four children left to mourn her passing - three sons and a daughter. I've not yet been able to identify this third son. She was 72 years old when she died, so she was born in approximately 1863 (presuming her age at time of death was accurate). A hint to Lavinia's origins was found in the 1921 Newfoundland census, where her place of birth was given as Brigus and her date of birth given as October 1861. This is fitting, as there

were many Normans at Brigus. Unfortunately, finding Lavinia's birth or baptism in Brigus records has only created more confusion. Questions arise, primary among them is "*Is Norman her married name, her maiden name, or both?*" and "*Was she married to Charles Norman, was he only Bertram's father, or was he neither?*"

This is where the trail ends. I am earnestly hoping that someone is familiar with this family and can help me break down the brick wall. Who is Lavinia and what was her story?

If you have any information, please send me a message in the Forum on the FHSNL website. I have started a query in the Surnames and Families section entitled *NORMAN Query—St. John's/Brigus*.

IN SEARCH OF HENRY...OR PERHAPS HARRY

Annette Beales (nacho_cat@hotmail.com)

I have been trying to find out more about my 3rd great-grandfather, Henry Beals, for decades. I've searched everywhere possible and spoken to numerous family members from all over. He remains a mystery. I have tidbits, listed below, but nothing before c.1835 or after 1873.

Apparently, according to other family trees, he was born around 1835. Some say in West St. Modeste, Labrador and others, England or Ireland (which is my belief). A knowledgeable cousin states he was from the old country, landed in the Carbonear area, and then to Labrador. The last "sighting" of him is in 1873. He married Sara Long on August 2, 1851 according to transcriptions on NL GenWeb and an entry from the Mannion Collection. I know of eight children ranging from 1854 to 1866 (approximates). I have checked church records, government publications, and conversed with several newly found relatives about him. Having records from Carbonear, Fogo, Labrador, and Quebec adds to the puzzle. He remains a mystery.

Other tidbits:

The Journal of the House of Assembly, 1873, lists a Henry Beale as the owner of the vessel Mary Ann, Ship Head.

- The McAlpine Directory, 1871 has Henry Beals, fisherman, living in West St. Modeste.
- The 1872 List of Inhabitants of the French Shore shows Henry Beales, wife, and nine children living in West St. Modeste.
- The List of Inhabitants of Newfoundland and Labrador, 1785, has a Henry Deal. Relation? Variant of name?
- Other variations of names seen include Blais, Bates, Bale, Bool.

I have thousands of names in my family tree. Many have incomplete information but for some reason I am obsessed with this one. If others could shake their trees to see if Henry falls out or has knowledge of him I would love to hear from you. Thank you.

The Society invites members to submit a query or information on each of their particular research interests. These submissions will be printed in a future issue and through this column members will be able to contact others with similar interests. Should a member wish to reply anonymously to a query he / she may do so by writing care of *The Ancestor*.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR STRAYS DEATHS AFAR

Compiled by Pat Walsh

What is a Stray? A Stray is defined as a person who is described in a record of an event as being from or connected with a place outside the area in which the event took place. For example, someone born in one place dies in another and the event is reported in a local newspaper. Thank you to The Ontario Genealogical Society for this definition of a Stray.

I do take most of our strays from *The Telegram & The Chronicle Herald*. For more detailed information, please research the newspaper for the dates listed. Strays from Bell Island appear on the Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page. It is a “private” group. The site celebrates the history, culture & people of Bell Island, NL with particular emphasis on the Wabana iron – ore mining operation. Thank you to Gail Hussey–Weir, this private group page has over 500 members. Our regular readers will note the former page has been down for a while, but it is back online with a new name.

Note: Now that we no longer have a daily newspaper in St. John’s, more and more of the strays will be taken from the funeral homes’ website. I ask our readers to submit strays from their own local areas.

Arnold, Helen Elizabeth “Betty” Nov. 30, 1933 – Oct. 28, 2024. In Halifax, NS. Born in NL, she moved to Halifax as a young girl. Predeceased by her parents & her nine brothers & sisters. Wife of 71 years of George. Mother of Debbie Slauenwhite (Stan) & Darlene Hanley (Lester). Obit & photo *The Halifax Chronicle* Oct. 31, 2024.

Bates, Anwyl Barbara (nee Megann) on Nov. 30, 2022 in MA, aged 91. Born in St. John’s on Oct. 18, 1931, daughter of James & Olive (nee Bishop) Megann. She grew up on Maxse Street. In the US, she had a long career with British Airlines. Predeceased by her husband Lane Bates & her sister Judith Myfanwy. She & her husband retired to Martha’s Vineyard, MA. Obit & *The Telegram* photo Jan. 28, 2023.

Bennett, Garth Taylor on Dec. 10, 2022 in Halifax, NS, aged 77. Born in St. John’s on July 15, 1945, son of Dr. Raymond & Peg

(Knowling) Bennett. Predeceased by his parents & his brother John. Husband of Margaret-Anne (Clouter), from Corner Brook. Father of Stephanie Wells (Chas) & Raechel. Brother of Diana (Jack, deceased), Red Deer, AB. He was a Chartered Life Under writer & a Financial Planner. He was also a former radio announcer. Obit & photo Dec. 14, 2022.

Croke, Gunner Edward Joseph, on June 12, 1952, aged 22, in Shilo, MB. Son of James Croke, 56 Livingstone Street, St. John’s. His mother was Sarah, from Perry Cove). Brother of Robert, Boston, MA, James, St. John’s, Mary Sullivan (Patrick), Helen Warford (Douglas), Madeleine Pearcey (Joseph) & Sheila. Obituary notice in *The Evening Telegram*, June 14, 1952 MUN DAI.

Darras, Mary (nee McGrath) on Nov. 27, 2022, in St. Foy, Quebec. Predeceased by

her parents, Anita Kearney & James McGrath of St. John's & her husband Michel Darras of Bordeaux, France. Mother of Eric & Xavier & step-son, Gilbert. Sister of James, Leslie, Antonia, Carol, Robin & Kearney. Predeceased by her sisters & brother, Seumas, John & Sheila. Obit & photo Dec. 10, 2022.

Ferris, Margaret Elizabeth (nee Carter) July 19, 1933 – Aug. 1, 2007 in St. John, NB. Born in Corner Brook, daughter of John & Susan (Moore) Carter. Predeceased by her parents, her husband Donald Ferris & her five brothers & five sisters. Mother of nine. Sister of Della Wells & Shirley Walsh. Obit & photo Fundy Funeral Home.

Fitzgerald, Mary Patricia ``Pat`` (nee Downey) on Oct. 7, 2024 in NS. A resident of Kentville, NS. Born in Corner Brook on Feb. 8, 1930. She spent her childhood in the Codroy Valley. Predeceased by her parents, Bert & Annie (McQuarrie) Downey, her brother Alban & her sister Pauline (in infancy). Also predeceased by her husband Frank Fitzgerald. Mother of Bert, Pauline Melanson (Eric, predeceased), Sheila, Ann, Dennis & Irene. Obit & photo *The Chronicle Herald* Oct. 9, 2024.

Haines, William "Bill" Jr. on April 2, 2024, aged 71 in Ontario. Born on March 10, 1953 in Wabana, Bell Island. Predeceased by his parents William & Catherine, Husband of 50 years of Sue. Father of Megan. Brother of Mary, Gary, Fred, Bruce, Don, Tina & Blair. Obit & photo Tri City Cremation Services.

Hansinger, Gladys (nee Healey) on Dec. 27, 1945 in Orange, New Jersey. Predeceased by her father John J. Healey. Daughter of Annie Healey. Sister of three brothers & one sister. Obit in Observer's Weekly, Jan. 1, 1946, St. John's.

Healey, James Joseph, Cambridge, ON. Jan. 4, 1965 – Oct. 18, 2024. Born in St. John's, son of Edward & Eileen. Predeceased by his father Edward Abby Healey & his brother Bud, sisters Kelly Anne & Shelley. Brother of Janie, Jackie, Donna, Jamie & Barry. Obit & photo Caul's Funeral Home St. John's.

King, Brian James (BJ). Oct. 25, 1946 – Aug. 18, 2023. In Ontario. Formerly of St. John's. Predeceased by his parents Edward & Eileen. See his brother, Wayne's obit below.

King, David "Wayne" May 12, 1945- Jan. 31, 2024. Formerly of St. John's, in Dartmouth, NS. Employee of Royal Bank of Canada for 43 years, Predeceased by his parents, Edward & Eileen King & his brothers Edward, Brian, Aiden, Dermot & his sister Judy. Brother of Frank, Maureen & John. Father of Christine & Jason. Obit & photo The Telegram Feb. 10, 2024.

Lawlor, David Joseph E. of Kitchener, ON, in Cambridge, Ontario, on March 8, 2020. He was from St. Thomas' Line. Husband of 50 years of Lynda (nee Rozle). Father of Sherry & Tanya. Brother of William, Gordon, Gerald & Brian. Obit & photo Henry Walser Funeral Home Ltd, Kitchener. ON.

Littlejohn, Bridget Rebecca "Becky" (nee Cumby) in Calgary, AB, on Jan. 20, 2023. Born in Tack's Beach on Aug. 26, 1928, daughter of Arthur & Rebecca Cumby. Predeceased by her parents & her eight brothers & sisters. Wife of 64 years of Max Littlejohn. Mother of Gina Hoey. She lived most of her life in Portugal Cove until she moved to Calgary in 2003. Obit & photo The Telegram Jan. 28, 2023. See Descendants of Tack's beach, NF, Facebook Page.

Morris, Ralph C. P. Eng, MBA on Oct. 13, 2024 in Oakville, ON. A native of Grand Falls- Windsor. He was a plant manager in the manufacturing sector & a TCC senior superintendent. Predeceased by his parents & his wife Elizabeth (Hudson). Father of Christina & David. Brother of James, Laura, Ann & Judy. Obit & photo *The Telegram* Nov. 1, 2024.

Murphy, Donald Patrick “Murf”, aged 81, on Oct. 13, in Dartmouth, NS. Born on Oct. 3, 1943 in St. John’s. Predeceased by his wife Mary, his parents Nicholas & Bridget & his sister Kathleen Bourgeois. Father of Liam & Todd. Brother of Patrick. He had a fifty-year career with the Trucking Industry. Obit & photo Mattattal – Varner Funeral Home, Truro, NS & *The Chronicle –Herald*, Halifax, NS. Nov. 9, 2024.

Newell, Jack, on Jan. 11, 1971 in Toronto, ON. Formerly of 98 Empire Avenue, St. John’s. Son of Winnie Newell. Husband of Elsie (nee Joyce). Father of Barbara Hierlihy (James), St. John’s & Joyce Hackemer (Edward), Rochester, New York. Brother of Beatrice Brifgt (George), Jennifer North (Tom), Dorothy Briene (Matt), Florence Wiveness, (Roy), Ronald & William. Interment at Mount Pleasant Cemetery, St. John’s. Obit notice in *The Daily News*, Jan. 14, 1991. Memorial University of Newfoundland & Labrador, DAI.

Normore, William (Bill) Joseph Aug. 24, 1944 – Jan. 16, 2024 in Cambridge, ON. Formerly of Bell Island. Husband of 59 years of Sheila, Father of Jacqui Stoyles (Sean), Mark, & Brad. Obit & photo Corbett Funeral Home, Cambridge, ON & Historic Wabana Nfld Facebook page.

Oakley, Oscar “Don” Nov. 14, 1942 – May 20, 2024 in Kitchener, ON. Predeceased by his parents George & Delphine & his brothers, Lloyd, Gary & David. Husband of Veronica (nee Hurley). Father of Susan, Keith, Holly, Stephn, Amanda & step-children, Greg Coombs & Leanne Coombs. Brother of Randy. He was the guitarist & the last surviving member of the pioneer Newfoundland Rock & Roll Band “The Ravens”. Obit & photo Henry Walser Funeral Home Ltd. Kitchener, ON. See also *The Telegram* May 25, 2024.

O’Reilly, Genevieve Joan (nee Connolly) on Nov. 2, 2022, in Cambridge, ON. Born in Kelligrews. Predeceased by her parents, Peter & Mary Connolly (nee Costello), her husband Tom & daughter, Deidre. Mother of Sean & Daria. Also predeceased by her sisters & brothers, Margaret, Frank, Jerry, Bill, Ted, Pat & Mary. Sister of Madeleine, Geraldine & Maureen. She was a graduate of St. Clare’s School of Nursing, in St. John’s, Class of 1962. Interment in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Mount Pearl. Obit & photo Dec. 9, 2022.

Parkinson, Robert “Dave” April 5, 1961 – Nov. 9, 2024 in Chilliwack, BC. Obit & photo Caul’s Funeral Home, St. John’s.

Penney, Richard “Dick” Dec. 10, 1945- Feb. 1, 2024 in Scarborough, ON. Born in St. John’s, son of Alexander & Mary Penney. Predeceased by his parents, his sisters, Loretta & Rosalind & his brother Ron. Husband of 55 years of Elizabeth. They were married on Oct. 25, 1965. Father of twins, Stephen & Cheryl. Brother of Doug, Roger, Dallas & Lully. Obit & photo Jerrett Funeral Homes, Scarborough, ON. Also a notice in The Community of Mundy Pond Facebook page site.

Pike, Glenn Robert, of Windsor Junction, NS. In Dartmouth, NS. Dec. 15, 1958 –April 15, 2024. Born in Carbonear, son of George & Theresa Pike. He grew up in Mount Pearl. Husband of 24 years, of Rhonda (Dill) Predeceased by his father, George. Brother of twin sister Glenda & Sharon, Wanda, Randy & Derrick. He worked in Alberta & in Sackville, NS. Obit & photo Atlantic Funeral Home, Lower Sackville, NS & Arbormemorial.ca.

Ridgley, Ruth (nee Collier) in Hal, NS on April 22, 2024, aged 95. Born in Diamond Cove & grew up in Rose Blanche. Predeceased by her parents Martin & Elizabeth Collier & her husband Hubert & her 12 brothers & sisters. Mother of Reginald, Gordon & Donna Cunningham (Ron) Obit & photo *The Chronicle Herald* April 30, 2024.

Seward, Elizabeth (Betty) of Bell Island, aged 84, on Oct. 22, 2024, in Halifax, NS. Predeceased by her mother Jean (Andrews) Crane. She was raised by her grandparents, John & Elizabeth Andrews. Mother of Todd, Roger & Nicoll. Sister of John Crane, Judy Collins (Robert), Rhonda Walsh (Clint) & Cynthia Sooley (Brian). Also predeceased by her husband Edwin Seward, her step-father, William Crane, her sisters, Barbara Burton & Rhonda Crane & her brother William Crane Jr. She completed her nursing studies at the Grace Hospital School of Nursing in St. John's. Obit & photo, *The Telegram* Nov. 8, 2024.

Spurvey, Anthony James, aged 80, on Oct. 28, 2024 in Ottawa, ON. Predeceased by his wife, Pauline (Bissonnette), from Sudbury, ON & his parents James & Elizabeth from Fox Harbour. Father of Andrew & Paul. Brother of Carmelita, William, Jeanette &

Cyril. Veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces & a fifty-year member of the Royal Canadian Legion. He worked in the mining industry in Sudbury, ON, for nearly thirty years. Inurment in LaSalle Cemetery, Sudbury, ON. Obit & photo, *The Telegram*, Nov. 8, 2024.

Swain, Glenn, formerly of Calvert, on Nov. 15, 2022 in Burlington, ON. Predeceased by his parents Aiden (Oct. 3, 2011) & Madonna (Ledwell) Swain Oct. 25, 2020) of Calvert. Father of Kyle (his mother, Debbie Gamble of Longeuil, Quebec). Brother of Aiden, Vince, John, Danny, Barry & Colin & Monnie Lundrigan, Evie Brothers (Eugene), Miriam Swain, Gloria O'Leary (Ian), Barbara Swain, Shirley Swain & Colleen Jones (Paul). Thirty five year career at Blanchard Company in Montreal & ten years in Burlington & Cambridge ON. Obit & photo Dec. 10, 2022.

Taylor, David S. (Dave) CPA, CMA, on Jan. 21, 2023 in Renfrew, ON. Born on Bell Island on Feb. 4, 1940. Predeceased by his parents Nathaniel Reginald (Reg), 2008 & Eugenie Lester, 1940, his step-mother Dorothy Mews, 1982 & his brothers, Colin 2001 & Robin, 2008, Husband of 53 years of Bernadette Clarke. Father of Andrew & Joanne. Brother of Lester. He had a long career in accounting & was an active volunteer. Obit & photo *The Telegram*, Jan. 28, 2023.

Tremblett, Michael (Mike) Francis on Feb. 5, 2024, aged 76. Born on Bell Island on March 4, 1947, son of Fred & Madeline. Predeceased by his parents & his sisters Marg, Mary, Norma & Florence & his brothers Kevin, Fred & Bill. Husband of 55 years of Neta (nee Rees). Brother of Wayne & Gerard. Father of Michelle & Tracy. Obit

& photo Scott Funeral Home, Mississauga, ON & Historic Wabana Nfld Facebook page.

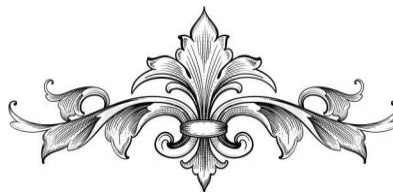
Wells, Mona Marie (nee Hogan) in Prince George, BC. Born in St. John's on April 27, 1941. Predeceased by her parents William & Mary Hogan, her son, Brian, 1974 & her sister, Patricia & her brother William. Wife of Gary. Mother of Paula & Sean. Sister of Jack, St. John's. She graduated from St. Clare's School of Nursing, St. John's in 1962. She retired in 2005. Obit & photo The Telegram, May 9, 2024.

Wood, Paul Dominic on Jan. 31, 2024 in Calgary, AB, aged 60. Born on Sept. 29, 1963. Husband of 30 years of Leona (nee Lawlor). They moved from St. John's to Calgary in 1996. Paul worked as a specialist

in Project Management. Predeceased by his father John Neville Wood, of Manchester, England. Son of Barbara Wood (nee Andrews). Brother of Mark, John, Corey, Gerald & Robert. Obit & photo *The Telegram* Feb. 24, 2024.

Yetman, Gerald on March 1, 2024 in his 73rd. year, in Cambridge, ON. Born on Bell Island on April 17, 1951. Predeceased by his parents, Harvey & Margaret & his brothers, infant Brother Harvey, Harold, Bill, Wallace & Donald & his sisters, Dorothy Leblanc, Mary Woodman, Evelyn Butler & Jean Kirk. Husband of 52 years of Brenda. Father of Jerry, Angie Kartechner (Jim) & Tracy. He was an employee of Walker Exhaust in Cambridge, ON, for 34 years. Obit & photo Tri- City Cremation Services. Kitchener, ON & Historic Wabana Nfld Facebook page.

Note: See Newfoundland 's Grand Banks Web Site for A Collection of Newfoundland obituaries from *The Ottawa Citizen*. September – December 2002.



In lands afar, where dreams were sown, lie souls who left their childhood home
Their journeys etched in time and space, in foreign soil, they found their place

From distant shores, their roots did spread, with stories told and tears they shed
Their legacy, in hearts, remains, a tapestry of joys and pains

Though far from where their lives began, their spirit thrives in every clan
In family trees, their names endure, a testament to paths obscure

So, honor those who roamed and roved, in every branch, their love is wove
Their essence, though in lands unknown, forever in our blood, is shown

COATES OF THE SHORE

Rosalind Stokes

The Earliest Coates to arrive on the shores of Newfoundland may have been John who worked for Slade and Cox in 1786 and Philip from Ilfracombe, Devon, who was an agent for Thomas Stone. Philip married Sarah Taverner on February 4, 1789, in Trinity.

The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador has two acquisitions of Coates, both of the same family but not connected to the above. Our records go back to Ralph Coates of James, born December 27, 1737, buried June 12, 1793 and wife Sarah. This family comes from the historic county of Yorkshire in northern England.

In 1812, Charles, James and George Coates left their home in northern England with their employer, Charles Cozens and crossed the ocean to their new home. Charles, born April 9, 1793, being the youngest of his brothers and the most educated, sailed with his few precious books safely stowed away. It would be their first and only crossing. They were the sons of Ralph and Sarah Coates. Their father had died of smallpox in the north county and their mother was remarried. So maybe it was a blessing to be befriended by Cozens, a gentleman of substance, for their stepfather James Garth was a harsh man.

Charles Cozens was born at Blandford, Dorset, in 1784 and the first owner of a mercantile business at Brigus. He also represented Conception Bay in the Newfoundland assembly of 1832. Charles worked for him from 1812 until the mid 1820s.

On December 20, 1823, Charles Coates married Susanna Roberts, daughter of James and Mary Antle Roberts and settled in Kelligrews on property belonging to Cozens and continued to work for him there. Charles, always an advocate for education, taught a small group of village children as a part time activity while living in Kelligrews. This collection lists some of the Roberts family dating back to 1691 in Brigus.

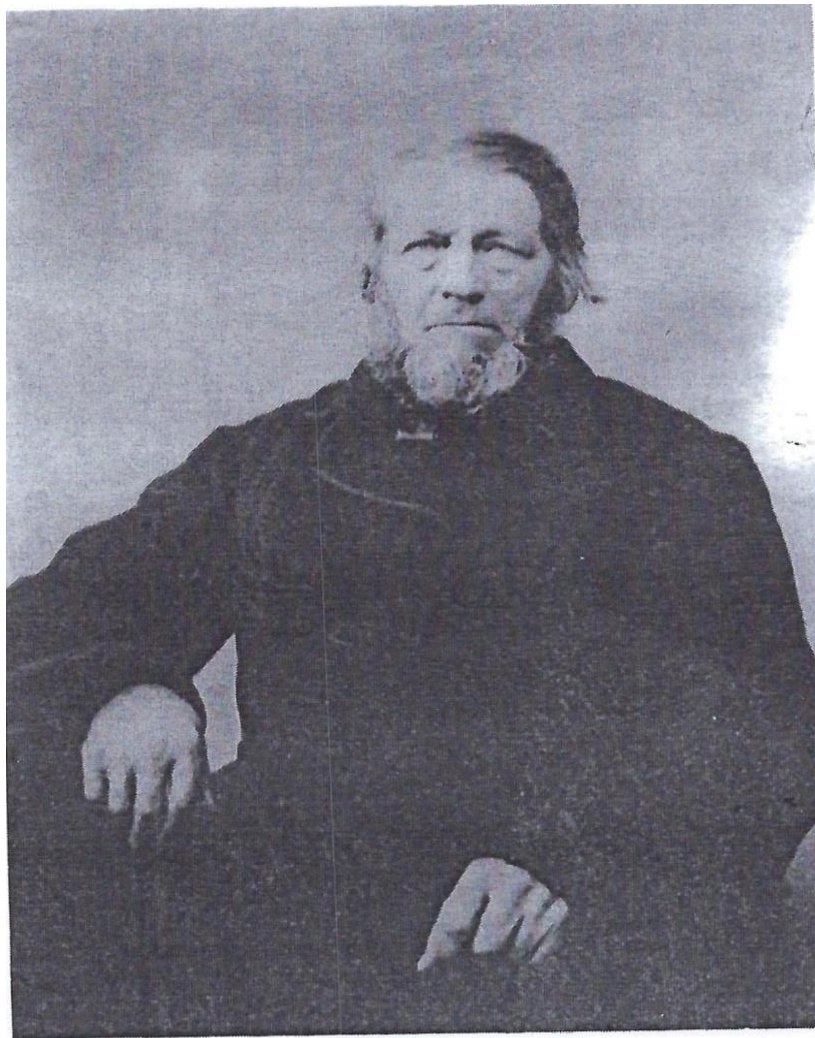
In 1833, after Cozens declared bankruptcy, Charles moved his family to Upper Gullies where he purchased a property from Thomas Stone and resumed the personal battle against illiteracy that he had started in a room at Kelligrews several years previous. Then in the 1850s he built a school house on his own property at his own expense. He was the first teacher in Upper Gullies and also lay reader in the church.

One section of this collection follows the development of the school system on the shore, listing early children and their ages, teachers, subjects and salaries. There is a diagram of Upper Gullies showing the home of Charles and the schoolhouse he built. Other property owners are shown in this diagram.

Both acquisitions have family trees of Charles and Susanna Coates but do not follow all of the descendants of James and Martha Downey Coates, who moved to Trinity or George, who may have moved west to the continent or he may be the George who was on Fogo Island in the 1800s.

If it's a missing date you are looking for you will probably find it here in the births, baptisms, marriages and deaths collected over the years of all the Coates of the shore. If you have this name in your tree it is well worth dropping by the office and viewing.

Sources: Coates of the Shore by Reginald J. Coates and Family Names of Conception Bay by Effie (Rideout) Stringer.



CHARLES COATES
(1793 - 1885)

NEWFOUNDLAND'S CABINET MEMBERS 1949

Submitted by Pat Walsh

On March 31, 1949, just before midnight, Newfoundland became the 10th. Province of Canada. Joseph R. Smallwood, aged 48, was invited by the first Lieutenant-Governor of Newfoundland, Sir Albert Walsh, to form an interim administration of the Government. An election for the members of the House of Assembly, the first since 1932, was scheduled for May 27, 1949.

On April 1, 1949 at 11:00 AM, Joseph R. Smallwood took the oath as Newfoundland's first Premier. The new Premier presented his Interim Cabinet to the Lieutenant- Governor: Leslie R. Curtis, Herman W. Quinton, Herbert L. Pottle, Gordon A. Winter, William J. Keough, Michael J. Sinnott, Charles L. Ballam, Samuel J. Hefferton & Philip F. Forsey. The only two portfolios announced by the Premier were Minister of Finance, Gordon A. Winter & Minister of Natural Resources, William J. Keough. Other Cabinet positions were announced on April 4, 1949. T. Addison Bown of Bell Island was added to the interim Cabinet and sworn in on Saturday, April 9, 1949.

INTERIM CABINET AND FIRST ELECTED CABINET MEMBERS

Charles H. Ballam May 10, 1901 – Dec. 12, 1981. Born in Curling. Interim Minister of Labour. MHA Humber 1949 -1956. Minister of Labour. He retired from politics in 1966. He died in Corner Brook.

Thomas Addison Bown 1905 – 1988. Born in Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. He worked on Bell Island. His father was Manager for DOSCO – Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation. He was Secretary of the Wabana Safety Committee in 1924 and held the position for twenty years. He was correspondent for Bell Island with *The Daily News* from 1928-1934. He was appointed to the Interim Cabinet as Minister of Supply. In the General Election, he was defeated by the Progressive Conservative candidate, David T. Jackman, in the Harbour Main- Bell Island District.

Charles Roland Chalker Oct. 9, 1912 - Aug. 17, 2003. Born in St. John's, son of James Rich Chalker, a St. John's councillor 1928- 1941. He served as MHA for Harbour Grace 1949- 1956, St. Barbe, 1956 -1962, St. Barbe North 1962 -1972. He was Minister of Health 1949-1952, Education, 1952 -1956, Economic Development 1956 -1957, Public Works 1957-1971, Provincial Affairs 1971 -1972. He was a long serving Cabinet Minister during J. R. Smallwood's term as Premier 1949-1972.

Leslie Roy Curtis. Oct. 27, 1895 – Jan. 1980. Born in Twillingate, son of Levi Curtis, a Methodist minister and a founder of Memorial University of Newfoundland. He was admitted to the Bar in 1920. MHA Twillingate 1949-1971. Minister of Justice & Attorney General 1949 - 1966. He resigned from politics in 1971. He died in Toronto, Ontario.

Philip Samuel Forsey Dec. 12, 1912 – Jan. 9, 1965. Born in Grand Bank. A former teacher, he was appointed to the Interim Cabinet after Confederation, as Minister of Home Affairs. He was elected as a Liberal MHA. He served in the Cabinet as Minister of Supply 1949-1952, Minister of Health, 1952-1954. He resigned from Cabinet in 1954 & left politics in 1956 to take a teaching position in Ottawa, Ontario. He died in Ottawa.

Samuel James Hefferton March 28, 1896 – Feb. 16, 1980. Born in Newtown, Bonavista Bay. He began teaching in 1911 & served overseas during World War I. President of the Newfoundland Teachers Association, 1941 -1949. Interim Minister of Education. MHA Trinity North 1949 - 1956. Minister of Education 1949 – 1951. He left Cabinet to become Chairman of the St John's Metropolitan Board. He resigned from that post in 1966.

William (Bill) Joseph Keough 1913 – Oct. 30, 1971. Born in St. John's. Member of the Commission of Government. Appointed Minister of Natural Resources. Elected MHA for St. Georges - Port Aux Basques in the election of 1949 & was appointed Fisheries & Co-Operative Minister.

Dr. Herbert Lench Pottle Feb. 16, 1907- Sept.24, 2002. Born in Flatrock, Carbonear. He was a Juvenile Court judge, 1944 -1947 and was appointed to the Commission of Government. Interim Minister of Welfare. MHA for Carbonear – Bay de Verde, 1949 -1955. Minister of Public Welfare, 1949-1955. He was elected in the first Provincial Election. He resigned from Government in 1955. He died in Ottawa, Ontario. See *The Ottawa Citizen*, Newfoundland's Grand Banks Site .

Herman William Quinton 1896 - April 2, 1952. Born in Red Cliff, Bonavista Bay. Veteran World War I, a Coaker recruit. A former magistrate. A member of the Commission of Government. Appointed Minister of Public Health in the Interim Cabinet. Resigned in 1952, on being appointed to the Canadian Senate. Died in St. John's

Edward (Ted) Russell June 27, 1904 - Oct. 16, 1977. Born in Coley's Point. He began teaching in 1920. He was a Magistrate from 1935 -1942. MHA for Bonavista South 1949 -1951. Minister of Natural Resources 1949 -1951. He resigned from Government in 1951. Well known author. He was well known for his "Pigeon Inlet" broadcasts 1953- 1963. He taught at Prince of Wales Collegiate 1957 & in 1965, he joined the English Department at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Michael J. Sinnott 1874 -Jan. 15, 1965. Born in Placentia. He was appointed a District Magistrate & Justice of the Peace in 1926. He was appointed to the Interim Cabinet as Minister of Public Works, following Confederation in April 1949. In the May 1949 first Provincial General Election, he was defeated by the Progressive Conservative candidate Leonard J. Miller.

Joseph Roberts Smallwood Dec. 24, 1900 – Dec. 18, 1991. Born in Gambo, son of Charles W. & Mary Ellen (Devanna) Smallwood. In the interim Cabinet, following Confederation, he was Minister of Industrial Development. In the May 1949 General Election, the Liberal party, led by J. R. Smallwood, won 23 of the 28 seats around the Province. The Liberal leader was more often known as "Joey". He was MHA for Bonavista North, 1949-1957, 1962-1966, St. John's West

1959 -1962, Humber West 1966-1971, Placentia East 1971-1972, Twillingate 1975 -1977. As Premier, he also served in the following Portfolios: Minister of Economic Development, 1949 - 1956, 1957-1972, Finance 1951, Natural Resources 1952. Education 1959. He received the Order of Canada in 1986. One of his long lasting legacies is *The Book of Newfoundland*, 1937 & 1975 & *The Encyclopedia Of Newfoundland & Labrador*, 1981 - 1994, Author of *I Chose Canada*, 1973.

Edward S. Spencer Jan. 2, 1892 – June 17, 1973. Born on Pilley's Island in 1940, he was the Maintenance Engineer at Gander Airport. Appointed to the Cabinet as Minister of Public Works, (1949 -1979) following the May 1949 General Election. He also later served as Minister of Finance (1957 -1964). He served as the MHA for Grand Falls, 1949-1959, Bonavista North, 1959-1962, Fogo, 1962-1966. He died in St. Johns.

James J. Spratt July 15, 1877 – April 13, 1960. Born in St. John's. He was a member of the St. John's Municipal Council and also served as Deputy Mayor. He was MHA for St. John's West 1949 -1951. He served as Minister of Provincial Affairs 1949 to 1951. He died in St. John's.

Gordon Arnaud Winter Oct. 6, 1912 – August 1, 2003. Born in St. John's. A strong negotiator for Confederation. One of the six signatories to the final agreement. Appointed to the Interim Cabinet as Minister of Finance. He did not run in the first Provincial Election on May 27, 1949. Member of the family firm of T. & M. Winter Ltd. He was a former Lieutenant – Governor of Newfoundland & Labrador, 1974 -1981.

References : Joseph R. Smallwood - *I Chose Canada*; 1973

The Daily News April 1, 1949, April 2, 1949, April 4, 1949 April 5, 1949 & April 11, 1949, and April 3, 1952. From Memorial University of Newfoundland DAI

The Dictionary of Newfoundland and Labrador Biography 1990, Robert H. Cuff, Managing Editor

The Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador Volumes 1- 5, 1981 -1994



*The first elected Cabinet. Seated: H.L. Pottle, L.R. Curtis, J.R. Smallwood,
H.W. Quinlan, W.J. Keough
Standing: E.S. Spencer, C.H. Ballam, J.R. Chalker, E. Russell, S.J.
Hefferon, P.S. Forsey, J.J. Spratt*

1942 Knights of Columbus Hostel Fire and the “Unidentified Dead are laid to Rest”¹

Melvin Baker and Craig Morrissey

Introduction

On the evening of 12 December 1942 at about 11 p.m. the blackout of wartime St. John's was “suddenly and startlingly dispelled by an immense column of flame shooting skywards from the Knights of Columbus Hostel,” a leave centre for the armed services on Harvey Road, the St. John's *Evening Telegram* reported. The centre had opened the previous year on 15 December² and was operated by the international Roman Catholic fraternal organization, the Knights of Columbus.³ About 500 people were in the hostel including about 350 people (a third of whom were women and girls)⁴, mostly service personnel, were attending a live radio concert by Uncle Tim's Barn Dance Troupe in the building's auditorium. In about 12 minutes the whole structure was totally destroyed. The casualties were 99 dead (including 29 civilians) and 102 injured, 34 being civilians. On December 13th Governor Sir Humphrey Walwyn visited the site of the fire, finding it “a most distressing sight, with bodies literally stacked in piles and burned to a cinder. The fire brigade and others did magnificent work and saved what might have been a far worse disaster, as the surrounding wooden houses were already well alight. I congratulated the fire brigade and rescue workers who had worked throughout the night. The troops, including Americans, were magnificent in rescue work.”⁵ This tragedy came about two months following another major one when a German submarine on 14 October 1942 sank the Newfoundland Government passenger ferry *S.S. Caribou* in the Cabot Strait while the ferry was on its Port aux Basques-North Sydney route. The *Caribou* was carrying 238 passengers and crew with only 101 people being rescued from the waters by vessels of the Royal Canadian Navy.⁶

¹ Quote from a caption of a photo in the *Evening Telegram* 19 December 1942, 19.

² *Daily News* 15 December 1941, 3.

³ On the history of the Knights since their organization in Newfoundland in 1909, see Kathryn Pike, *The Knights of Columbus in Newfoundland* (St. John's: Newfoundland Historical Society Pamphlet No. 9, 1985).

⁴ Brian Edward Dunfield, *Destruction by Fire of Knights of Columbus Hostel, St. John's, December 12th, 1942, with loss of 99 lives* (St. John's: Robinson & Co, 1943). On the fire, see also the following accounts: Jack Fitzgerald, *Newfoundland Disasters* (St. John's: Jespersen Press, 1984) and *Battlefront Newfoundland: Britain's Oldest Colony at War 1939-1945* (St. John's: Creative Publishers, 2010); Darrin McGrath, *Last Dance: The Knights of Columbus Fire* (St. John's: Flanker Press, 2002); and Gary Browne, “To Serve and Protect”: *The Newfoundland Constabulary on the Home Front World War Two* (St. John's: DRC Publishing, 2008).

⁵ Quoted in Melvin Baker and Peter Neary, eds. *Out Here. Governor Sir Humphrey Walwyn's Quarterly Reports from Newfoundland, 1936-1946* (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2024) 318-20.

⁶ Douglas How, *Night of the Caribou* (Hansport: Lancelot Press, 1988).

An enquiry into the cause of the fire was conducted by Justice Brian Dunfield.⁷ Dunfield found that the fire's origins was of an "incendiary nature," but there was no proof to dispel widely held beliefs then and later that it was the work of some enemy saboteur.

Burials

"St. John's was a veritable city of the dead again yesterday when funerals of many of the victims of Saturday's night tragedy at the K. of C. Hostel were held," the city's *Daily News* newspaper observed on Thursday 17 December 1942. Sixteen members of the Royal Canadian Air Force were taken by train on Wednesday 16 December to be interred in the Air Force's cemetery at Gander.⁸ Other military personnel and civilians were buried in St. John's in the newly-opened General Protestant Cemetery known as Mount Pleasant on Blackmarsh Road in the city's west end,⁹ the Anglican cemetery on Forest Road and in the Roman Catholic cemetery Mount Carmel located on Torbay Road near Quidi Vidi Pond in the city's east end. Three American service people were interred at the American army base at Fort Pepperrell.¹⁰

On Wednesday afternoon 16 December ten unidentified victims of the fire (nine males and one female) were buried in a common grave in two rows at Mount Carmel with clergymen of the Roman Catholic, United Church and Anglican denominations conducting the committal service. In attendance were members of the Commission of Government and representatives from the Newfoundland Militia and from Canadian and American armed forces.

Mount Carmel Cemetery was consecrated in 1849 and in 1942 was the burial ground for the Roman Catholic parish of St. Joseph's Church. This church was dedicated on 18 November 1917 by Archbishop Edward Patrick Roche¹¹ and ministered to the needs of people living in the city's east end including that area known as the Battery. Where the burial site is in the cemetery is uncertain, as there are no known markings.¹² However, a photo in the *Evening Telegram* of 19 December 1942, page 19 (available at <https://collections.mun.ca/digital/collection/telegram21/id/41380/rec/17>) may provide some insight. In that photograph, the common grave would appear half way up the hill of the cemetery on relatively flat land on the left side. In the foreground of that picture, the background would appear to be that of the hill and land at the south end of Quidi Vidi Lake.

⁷ For the proceedings and report see, respectively, Rooms Provincial Archives (RPA), GN128 "Royal Commission of Enquiry into the Destruction of the Knights of Columbus Hostel, Dec. 12, 1942, with the loss of 99 lives" and <https://dai.mun.ca/PDFs/cns/ReportofJusticeDunfield.pdf>.

⁸ *Evening Telegram* 19 December 1942, 19.

⁹ The new General Protestant Cemetery was dedicated on 9 July 1941, see *Daily News* 10 July 1941, 3.

¹⁰ *Daily News* 17 December 1942, 3; and *Observer's Weekly* 22 December 1942, 10. Earlier in October 1942, three American army officers killed in a plane crash at Botwood on 3 October were buried at this cemetery. See *Daily News* 7 October 1942, 3.

¹¹ 1874-1950, Archbishop of St. John's 1915-1950. For the dedication, see *Evening Telegram* 19 November 1917, 7.

¹² Cemetery records had been stored in a small building in the cemetery that was destroyed in a fire in the 1970s.

Document

A. Bishop,¹³ General Health Inspector, to Secretary for Public Health & Welfare, December 17th, 1942¹⁴

Funeral of Fire Victims:

Following the recent fire which occurred at the K. of C. Hostel causing the death of so many persons, it was evident from the very start that there was sure to be a considerable number of bodies too badly burned to make identification possible, and that these bodies as well as some others (identified) would have to be taken care of this department for internment. At first it was thought that there would be thirty unidentified bodies but as further investigation was carried out by the Police Department under District Inspector Case¹⁵ the number was gradually reduced to ten bodies.

Caskets:

While the Police investigation was still in progress, and while the number of unidentified bodies was still high, contact was made with five (5) of our local Undertakers to ascertain how many caskets could be supplied by them and at what cost, and it was found that sufficient casks could be supplied at a cost of \$60.00 each, which would include removing the bodies from the morgue, preparing them for burial, and depositing the coffined remains at the C.L.B. Armoury.¹⁶ As this amount of \$60.00 appeared reasonable, an order was given with the understanding that the number needed might be lessened.

Grave Space:

As in the case of the caskets a suitable burying-ground was sought, while the number of unidentified bodies was still high, and when it was thought that mechanical digging would be necessary on account of the size of the grave. Upon investigation it was found that Mount Carmel Cemetery was most suitable for mechanical excavation. After consultation with Mr. E. Foran¹⁷ who made plans of the new part of this cemetery, and with Mr. M.F. Caul¹⁸ who is the

¹³ Dr. Alexander Bishop (1895-1954). The St. John's native was a 1923 graduate of the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Toronto. He was in private practice in St. John's until his May 1934 appointment as Chief Health Inspector in the Department of Public Health and Welfare by the Commission of Government.

¹⁴ RPA, GN158.168, Alexander to Bishop to H.M. Mosdell, 17 December 1942. A copy is also in RPA, GN2.5.821.

¹⁵ William F. Case (1899-1975) of the Newfoundland Constabulary.

¹⁶ Owned by the Church Lads Brigade, a Church of England male youth organization, founded in 1892 and located on Harvey Road near the Knight of Columbus hostel. For its history in Newfoundland, see Geoff Peddle, *The Church Lads' Brigade in Newfoundland: A People's History* (St. John's: Flanker Press, 2016).

¹⁷ Edward B. Foran (1904-1970), St. John's city clerk 1952-70.

¹⁸ Michael F. Caul (1873-1947), Gower Street grocer.

Chairman of the Cemetery Board, permission was obtained to open the grave and to use machinery if necessary.

No agreement was made about the cost of the plot, that matter being left till it was definitely ascertained how much space was actually needed.

Mechanical Digging:

Contact was made with Mr. R.R. Hollands¹⁹ of E.G.M. Cape & Co²⁰ who visited the proposed site with me at which time we agreed upon the type of machine to be used, and it was arranged to start work the following morning (Wednesday).²¹

By Wednesday morning it was definitely ascertained that the number of unidentified bodies would not exceed ten, and therefore require a much smaller space than was at first thought; when this fact was made known to Mr. Hollands, he had a gang of his men proceed there and with picks and shovels they dug the grave which when finished looked a very respectable job.

On Wednesday morning the ten bodies, having been placed in caskets, were laid out on forms in two rows in the C.L.B. Armoury where during the forenoon seven wreaths from representatives of the Forces in Newfoundland were received.

At 2.30 in the afternoon a funeral service was conducted by Rev. W.B. Perry,²² Canon E.R. Higham²³ and Rev. Mon. W. Kitchi[e]n²⁴ and Rev. Fr. R. McD. Murphy,²⁵ at which service there was a large representation of high-ranking officers of the Forces as well as guards-of-honour from all branches of the Services. The caskets were then borne on Army trucks in regular military procession to the cemetery where a further ceremony took place which was conducted by the Rev. W.B. Perry, Canon E.R. Higham and Rev. R. McGrath.²⁶

The coffins were placed side by side in a long row from West to East as demonstrated in the attached plan.²⁷ Following the committal the grave was refilled by the men from E.G.M. Cape & Co²⁸ and suitably marked with board markers.

¹⁹ R.R. Hollands.

²⁰ E.G.M. Cape & Co., Montreal. The founding president was engineer and distinguished military officer Edmund Graves Meredith Cape (1878-1962). For the history of the company see its *Fifty Plus 1906-1958: A Short History of E.G.M. Cape and Company Engineering and Construction*.

²¹ December 16.

²² William Bartlett Perry (1897-1970), see *Observer's Weekly* 6 August 1940, 14 and *Daily News* 24 November 1970, 14.

²³ Ernest R.W. Higham (1881-1954).

²⁴ Rev. Mon. William Philip Hogan Kitchen (1879-1946).

²⁵ Rev. Fr. Ronald McDonald Murphy (1900-1985).

²⁶ Richard Thomas McGrath (1912-1987).

²⁷ Note on the file: "not circulated."

²⁸ On the company's founder Edmund G.M. Cape (1878-1962), see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Graves_Meredith_Cape

In with the ten unidentified bodies buried in the common grave was one body which was presumed to be that of Mary Travers²⁹ who, though not positively identified, was the only remaining female victim unaccounted for.

Four identified bodies were also buried at the expense of the Department; they were: Margaret Hunt³⁰ (R.C.), maid at the General Hospital; Chloe Sheppard³¹ (U.C.), maid at the General Hospital; Dulcie Brown³² (U.C.), orphan; and Rose Thorne³³ (S.A.), orphan.

It is presumed that the following will receive official notes of thanks for the assistance rendered to us so willingly on this occasion: Mr. E.B. Foran, City Hall, for his assistance with the finding of a suitable burial space; Mr. R.R. Hollands, E.G.M. Cape & Co for his assistance in opening the grave; Col. Crawford,³⁴ C.L.B., for the use of the Armoury; the military authorities for supplying trucks for transportation and guards-of-honour.



Naval Honour Guard for victims of Knights of Columbus Hostel fire The Rooms A 2-91

²⁹ Mary Travers (1918-1942) from Bruley, Placentia Bay.

³⁰ Margaret Hunt 22 years old from Catalina; see *Fishermen's Advocate* 18 December 1942, 7 and *Evening Telegram* 18 December 1942, 3.

³¹ Chloe Sheppard 22 years old from Carmanville.

³² Dulcie Brown, 18 years old from Pool's Cove, Fortune Bay.

³³ Rose Thorne, 19 years old from Grand Bank.

³⁴ James C. Crawford (1893-1963).

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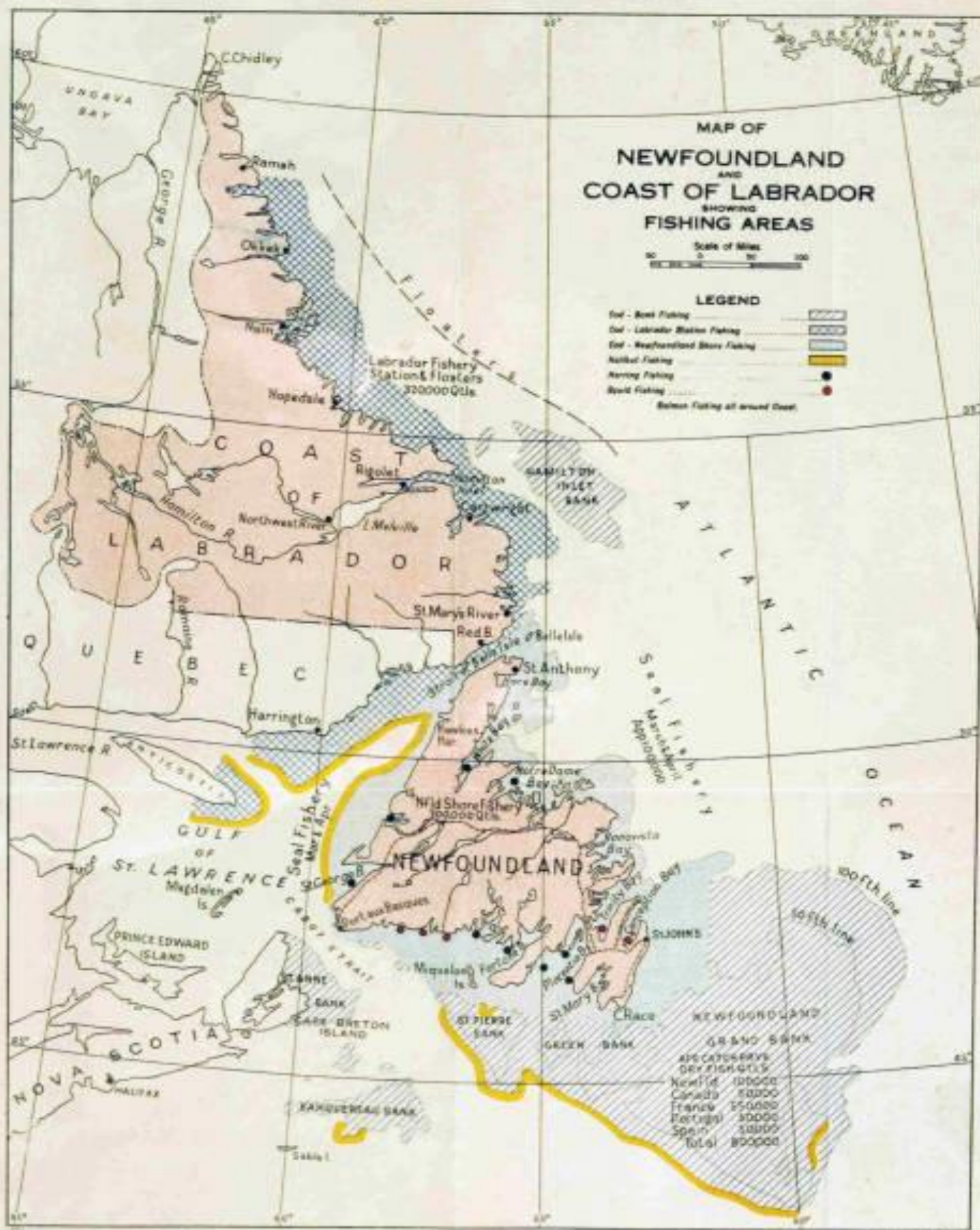
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