

The Ancestor



Vol 42, 1

2026



Inside this edition

- Harbour Grace Fire 1832
- From Farmers Arm Road to Long Island and Back
- Parsons Family Name
- Bay de Verde One Place Study
- Solving a Headstone Puzzle

The Family History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador, Inc.

The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.

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Treasurer: Vacant

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Craig Morrissey
David Pike
Rosalind Stokes
Pat Walsh
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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 may be held in person and/or online and begin at 7:30pm.

ANCESTOR

Editor: **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
**Quarterly Journal of the Family History Society of
Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.**

EDITOR: Paul Dunne

Volume 42 Issue 1

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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OFFICE LOCATION

Our office is located in 50 Pippy Place, Unit 2. From Pippy Place turn into the parking lot in front of the building and enter Unit two.

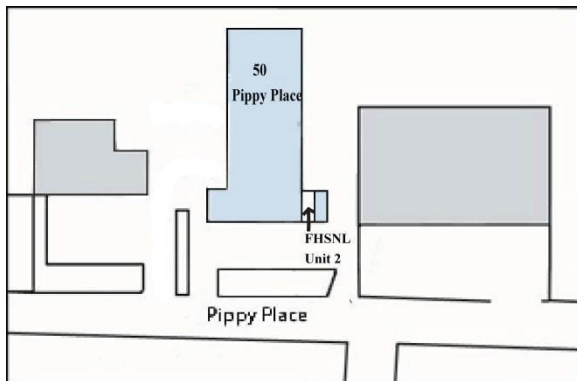


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Cover Picture: Parsons Family; The Rooms; F 54-15

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Janet Morrissey

Thanks to all the contributors to this issue of *The Ancestor*. Without your contributions we wouldn't have these wonderful stories and information to share with the wider membership. Keep them coming! We are always looking for material for our newsletter.

Since the last issue, the Society has been devastated by the unfortunate passing of both our Past-President and long-time editor of *The Ancestor*, Fred Smith, on December 7, 2025, and our Treasurer, Max Grandy, on January 31, 2026. They are both very sorely missed and the condolences of the Society go out to their families and loved ones.

Recordings of all of the Rockbound Roots conference speakers are now on our website, in case you weren't able to join us last July. Additionally, the next speakers in our lecture series are Ian Morris and Kevin Toope from the Trinity Historical Society. On March 24th, they will give a presentation on the activities of the THS as well as genealogy of 18th and 19th century merchant families in Trinity. If you miss it, you can always download it from our website at the end of March. Coming up in April we'll hear from Greg Morgan who'll be speaking about his new book *First Schoolmaster in Random Sound: George Vardy of the Southwest Arm*. And in May, Françoise Enguehard will give a talk about researching your French-Newfoundland roots. We hope to see you there.

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome our two newest Directors to the Board: Jill Ryan and Bert Marche. Both ladies are already making significant contributions to the activities of the Society. To round out the Board, we need a volunteer with some bookkeeping or accounting skills to take on the role of Treasurer. Interested parties are invited to reach out to us at fhs@fhsnl.ca.

We've scheduled our Annual General Meeting for May 27, 2026, and we'll send the details by email in late April / early May.

In a change of pace, we've changed our office hours to include Saturday mornings. If you're in town but can't make it in to check out our holdings during the week, then we invite you to pop by on Saturday.



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
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1867- Early 1900s	\$25.00
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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
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St. James Anglican Church baptisms, King's Cove, B.B., NL

Index by surnames 1835-1900	\$25.00
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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
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NOTE: Postage is not included in the prices listed on this page.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 10:00am-12:00pm

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.



WE REMEMBER FRED SMITH

The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador mourns the loss of our friend, colleague, and Past President, **Frederick Reginald Smith**, who passed away in St. John's on December 7, 2025. Fred's connection to this city ran deep. Born here on December 27, 1945, he was the son of **Frederick Axford Smith** and **Muriel Pike Smith (née Noel)** and grew up on Cabot Street surrounded by the people and places that shaped his lifelong affection for St. John's.

Fred's early education at Holloway School and Prince of Wales College—where he was part of the final class in 1963—was followed by studies at

Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador and the University of Guelph. In 1970 he began a career with Memorial's Science Faculty that would span more than four decades. He was a gifted and well-liked instructor, known for making science accessible and engaging. His commitment to science education extended far beyond the classroom: he was a founding force behind science fairs across the province and a tireless advocate for public understanding of science.

Fred's volunteer life was as rich and varied as his interests. He gave his time generously to organizations including the Royal Astronomical Society, Captain Cook Society, Newfoundland Historical Society, Newfoundland Natural History Society, Sigma XI, the Wooden Boat Museum, the Wessex Society, and of course, our own Family History Society. His contributions were recognized with the **F. A. Aldrich Award for Science Public Awareness** in 1998 and induction into the **Science Atlantic Hall of Fame** in 2013.

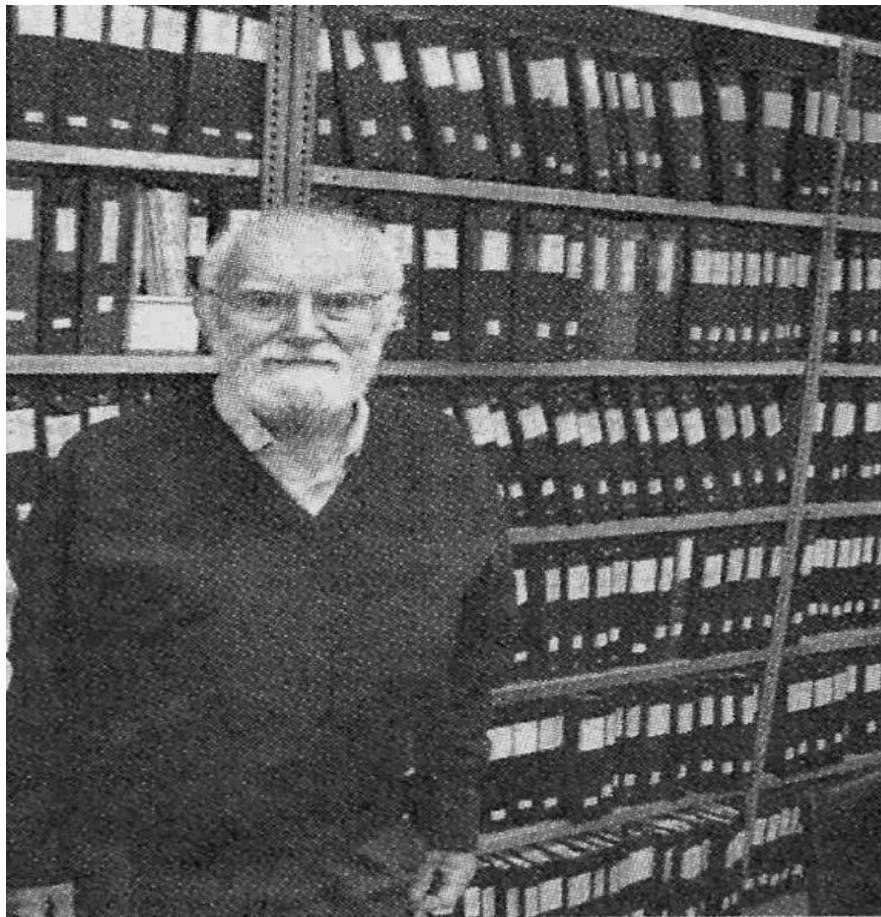
Fred joined our Board of Directors in 2005 and immediately offered to co-edit *The Newfoundland Ancestor*. Two years later he became Editor, and in June 2016 he was elected President. In both roles, he brought energy, steadiness, and a deep sense of responsibility. He guided the Society through major transitions, including our moves from Topsail Road to Kenmount Road and then, in July 2016, to Pippy Place. He handled everything from grant applications to countless trips to the printer and Canada Post - tasks he never treated as chores, but as part of serving a community he cared about.

What many of us will remember most, however, is the atmosphere Fred created at the office. He greeted everyone with laughter, and his puns - delivered with a perfectly straight face - became part of the Society's unofficial soundtrack. He loved talking about the St. John's of his youth,

and those conversations often sparked memories for others, weaving together personal histories in the same spirit that guides our work.

Fred leaves behind his wife, **Linda**, and their daughter, **Samantha**, to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathy. We are deeply grateful that they shared Fred with us for so many years.

His absence is felt every day, but so is his legacy. It lives in the collections he helped preserve, the members he welcomed, the volunteers he encouraged, and the Society he strengthened through his dedication, humour, and unwavering belief in the value of our shared history.



Fred at the FHSNL Resource Centre



ACQUISITIONS - *Compiled by Rosalind Babb Stokes*

TITLE

AUTHOR/DONOR

Dalton Family Materials:

Dianne Jackman

Journal of Dalton Genealogical Society

Dalton Newsletters

Ireland Genealogist Guide for North Americans.

Index of 4 Parish Registers in Ireland.

The Irish at Home and Abroad 1996-1999

(Journals of Irish Genealogy and Heritage).

Irish Family History 1990-2021.

Garland Files which includes the following:

Susan Keats

John Garland 1640-1732

Thomas Garland 1757-1828

John Watts Garland 1777-1834

The above files have various generations included:

Bland/Garland

Augustine Garland (misc. materials re past research)

Misc. Printouts – Family Tree

Also included Garland Files (Keith Matthews),

Working Notes (Bill Garland) and British Factory Lisbon, Portugal

Memories of the Frosty Festival Mount Pearl 40 years

Sandy Newton

Women of the Fishery

Helen Woodrow/

Frances Ennis

A Forest Farm is the History of Tickeridge Farm, West Sussex.

Genealogical Guide for Metis in Eastern Canada.

Elsa Flack.

Erratum - The Acquisition entry in Volume 41,3 should have read:

Hobbs Path, New Perlican Connections

Kathleen Noseworthy

HARBOUR GRACE FIRE, 1832

Janet Morrissey

In this running series of indexed extracts from the Incoming Correspondence of the Colonial Secretary's Office (GN 2/2) at the Provincial Archives, The Rooms, the next feature item is a couple of letters about a devastating fire that levelled Harbour Grace on August 18, 1832. This particular record is found in Volume 9, over pages 514 and 538-542. In the last edition of *The Ancestor* was an 1833 letter from Nicholas Stabb, the Sheriff of Harbour Grace, who was concerned about security measures at the jail given the recent unrest in the town. This fire may have played a small role in that unrest as people's lives were completely upended in its aftermath, the fire being one in a series of events at that time that must have been kept people in a constant state of anxiety and stress.

In the lead-up to the fire, Harbour Grace was becoming an increasingly unsettled place. Between January and March 1832, sealers in communities in and around Harbour Grace and Carbonear went on strike. There were large numbers of men involved and their traditional divisions along political and religious lines vanished in the face of threats to their livelihood. Ultimately, the strike was resolved relatively amicably by mid-March and seal fishery moved ahead that year.¹

The fire itself broke out around 3:00 p.m. on August 18, 1832 between Thomas Marks' premises and those of Thomas Ridley & Sons. It was fast-burning and, within 15 minutes of the fire's discovery, all of those premises were completely engulfed and a cache of gunpowder had exploded. When the day was done, "...all but three mercantile establishments were destroyed along with several retail stores, the Episcopalian Church, three hotels, a dozen public houses and 100 homes, leaving 600 people homeless."² Relief supplies were sent in several boats from Carbonear a few days after the blaze. The rebuilding of the town took place swiftly including the widening of roads and erection of new homes.

Immediately after the fire, over the fall of 1832, Newfoundlanders went to the polls in the first-ever election and one could expect that the fire and the response to it may have had a small influence on the minds of voters. By all accounts, though, the election was relatively peaceful compared with later elections.³ In the background, the fishery was doing poorly, particularly in 1833 and 1834; demand for poor relief was extensive and violent retaliative action was taken by fishermen against merchants.⁴ In 1834, Harbour Grace residents burned a newly-built cholera hospital to the ground to prevent the town from harbouring (and possibly spreading) the disease.⁵ Thus, fire was used in Harbour Grace as a weapon, both to intimidate merchants by residents who were having grave issues feeding their families, and to prevent authorities from further endangering the town's populace.

In the government record, there are two letters. The first is a hurried letter written by a collection of Harbour Grace officials (including John Stark, Nicholas Stabb and Thomas Ridley) to let the

¹ Little, Linda. (1990). Collective Action in Outport Newfoundland: A Case Study from the 1830s. *Labour/Le Travailleur*, 26, 7-36.

² Russell, Linda E. "Harbour Grace" In *Encyclopedia of Newfoundland & Labrador, Volume 2*, edited by Joseph R. Smallwood. (St. John's: Newfoundland Book Publishers (1967) Ltd., 1984), p. 810.

³ Ibid, p. 819

⁴ Collective Action, p. 11.

⁵ Ibid, p. 16.

Colonial Secretary, James Crowdy, know about the tragedy unfolding in Harbour Grace. The date on the letter is simply given as “Saturday”. This letter is clearly written in haste, with scrawling handwriting, on what appears to be a piece of paper cut from a ledger. The fire was still burning as it was being written.

The second letter, written the next day, has more of the trappings of a formal letter. It also is addressed to James Crowdy but is written by three leading Harbour Grace citizens: Thomas Danson, [Rev.] J. Burt and [Dr.] William Stirling (though there was also a merchant in Harbour Grace at the time named Robert Whiting). They wrote to ask Crowdy to inform the Governor of the fire. They noted that people who found themselves suddenly destitute were receiving temporary relief. In that letter they included a list of 92 property owners whose 97 premises were destroyed in the blaze.

List of Buildings destroyed and the sufferers by the Fire on Saturday the 18th Aug^t 1832

No.		No.		No.	
1	Mr. William Danson's House & premises	33	Mr. Richard Power's House	67	Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald's House
2	Mr. George Hippiisley's Shop & Store	34	Mr. John Hanrahan's House	68	Mr. Edward Peters's House
3	Mr. Thomas Marks's premises	35	Mr. Patrick Rohan's House	69	Mr. William Walsh's House
4	Mess ^{rs} Thomas Ridley & Co. premises	36	Mr. Patrick Power's House	70	Mr. James Knight's House
5	Mr. Joseph Innott's	37	Mr. Patrick Murphy's House	71	Mr. Stephen Bennett's Premises
6	Mr. William Meagher's	38 to 41	Mr. Thomas Marks's 4 House[s]	72	Mr. Martin Kelly's House
7	Mr. Roger Hanrahan's	42	Mr. John Higgins 1 House	73	Mr. William Flynn's House
8 & 9	Mr. Mulloony's occupied by Mr Soper & Mr Fitzgerald	43	Mr. Henry Garland's House	74	Mrs. Quinlan's House
10	Mess ^{rs} J & B Henderson's	44	Widow Garland's House	75	Mrs. Thorne's House
11	Mr. William Innotts	45	Mr. John Murphy's House	76	Mrs. Kennedy's House
12	Mr. Maurice Power's	46	Mr. John Richard's House	77	Mr. William Brennan's House
13	Mr. Peter Rogerson's	47	The Established Church	78 & 79	Rogerson's two new Houses
14	Mr. Edward Monohan's	48	Widow Bryan's House	80	Mr. G. Danson's House
15	Mrs. Kennedy's	49	Mr. James McDaniel's House	81	Mr. David Keefe's House
16	Mr. James Lampen's	50	Mr. James Mockler's House	82	The Commercial Room [Commercial Society, formerly the Merchants Society?]
17	Mr. W ^m Pitt's	51	Mr. Robt Ricket's[?] House	83	Mr. David Mehan's[?]
18	Mr. Foley's	52	Mr. John Kinchella's House	84	Mr. Henry Trapnell's House
19	Mr. Francis Lynch's	53	Mr. Richard Walsh's House	85	Mr. Thomas Martin's House
20	Mr. Pat ^r Neagle's	54	Mr. Philip Walsh's House	86	Mr. Walter Whealan's House
21	Mr. Jones Premises	55	Mr. Garret Conden's House	87	Mr. John Shea's House [Larceny]
22	Mr. Woofreys Premises & Shop	56	Mr. Peter Fanning's House [Murderer]	88	Mr. James Prendergast's House
23	Mr. Michael Daily's	57	Mr. Thomas Dunford's House	89	Mr. Richard Morrissy's House
24	Mr. John Richard's Shop	58	Mr. Randal Donovan's House	90	Mr. Robert Oke's House
25	Mr. John Kelly's Shop	59	Mr. Michael Green's House	91	Mr. William Mitchell's House
26	Mr. Daniel Holland's Premises	60	Mr. Thomas White's House	92	Mr. Thomas Griffin's House
27	Mess ^{rs} Donovan & Reagan's Premises	61	Widow McGrath's House	93	Widow Lahy's House
28	Mr. Joseph McGrath's Premises	62	Mr. James Ash's House	94	Mr. George G. Jillard's House
29	Mr. Timothy Cr---?---- House	63	Mr. Arthur Grubert's[?] House	95	Mr. James Walsh's House
30	Mr. Thomas Davus [Davis]	64	Mr. Edward St. John's House	96	Mr. James Bryan's House
31	Mr. Daniel Candler's House	65	Mr. Daniel Green's House	97	Mr. Thomas Candler's House
32	Catharine English's House	66	Mr. Thomas Grant's House		

Readers may recognise a couple of the names on this list as people who found themselves prisoners in the jail just a short year later (and listed in the last *Ancestor*): Peter Fanning (who heinously murdered his wife) and John Shea (jailed for larceny).

The list reproduced here has been written for ease of reading and is not an exact transcription. It was felt that the multiple ditto marks, ditto abbreviations and superscripts would make for a challenging read. Images of the original document are included at the end and the reader is encouraged to review the records at the Provincial Archives at The Rooms.

<i>Buildings destroyed and List of the sufferers by the fire at Harbor Grace on Saturday the 18th Aug^t 1882.</i>	
1 Mr William Danson's House & premises 2 " George Hefpustley's Shop & Store 3 " Thomas Marks's Premises 4 Mess^{rs} Thomas Reddy & Co. do 5 Mr Joseph Ansell 6 " Wm Meagher's 7 " Peter Shearman's 8 Mr Mullowny occupied by Mr Dougan & Mr Fitzgerald 10 Mess^{rs} J & B Henderson's 11 Mr William Ansell 12 " Maurice Owens 13 " Peter Fitzgerald 14 " Edward Monahan's 15 Mrs Kennedy's 16 Mr James Lampan's 17 " Wm Tilt 18 " Mr Foley's 19 " Francis Lynch's 20 " Pat McLaughlin 21 " Jones Premises 22 " Woodpeys & Shop 23 " Michael Doyle 24 " John Richards's Shop 25 " John Kelly's do 26 " Daniel Holland's Premises 27 Mess^{rs} Donovan & Reagan's do	28 Mr Joseph McGrath's Premises 29 " Timothy Brennan's House 30 " Thomas Danson - do 31 " Daniel Candler's House 32 Catharine English's - do 33 Mr Richard Flowers - do 34 " John Shearman's - do 35 " Patrick Potham's - do 36 " Patrick Powers - do 37 " Patrick Murphy - do 38 Mr Thomas Marks's 4 - do 39 " John Higgins 1 - do 40 " Henry Garland's - do 41 Widow Garland's - do 42 Mr John Murphy's - do 43 " John Richards's - do 44 The Established Church 45 Widow Bryan's House 46 Mr James McDaniel's - do 47 " James Mookheri - do 48 " Robt Potham's - do 49 " John Hinchellai - do 50 " Richard Walsh's - do 51 " Philip Walsh's - do 52 " Garrett Condon's - do 53 " Peter Fanning's - do 54 " Thomas Dunford's - do 55 " Daniel Donovan's - do

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- 57 Mr Michael Green's House
 60 " Thomas White's - do
 61 Widow McGraith's - do
 62 Mr James Ash's - do
 63 " Arthur Gropert's - do
 64 " Edward St John's - do
 65 " Daniel Green's - do
 66 " Thomas Grant's - do
 67 " Patrick Fitzgerald's - do
 68 " Edward Peters's - do
 69 " William Walsh's - do
 70 " James Knight's - do
 71 " Stephen Bennett's premises
 72 " Martin Kelly's - House
 73 " William Flynn's - do
 74 Mrs Guinness - do
 75 Mrs Phoenix - do
 76 " Kennedy's - do
 77 Mr William Brennan's - do
 78 & 79 " Pargerson's two new Houses
 80 " J Dawson's - do
 81 " David Keefe's - do
 82 The Commercial Room
 83 Mr David Mahan's - House
 84 " Henry Hooper's - do
 85 " Thomas Martin's - do
 86 " Walter Wheelan's - do
 87 " John Sheehy's - do

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- 88 Mr James Brander's House
 89 " Nathan Morris's - do
 90 " Robert O'hai - do
 91 " William Mitchell's - do
 92 " Thomas Griffin's - do
 93 Widow Lally's - do
 94 Mr Geo. J. Jellard's - do
 95 " James Walsh's - do
 96 " James Boyan's - do
 97 " Thomas Candler's - do

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.

Collins, Jessie Olive (nee Penney) in her 102nd year in St. John's on Dec. 15, 2025. Born on Dec. 28, 1923. Predeceased by her parents, Edward & Ethel Penney, her husband, Sturdee Collins, her eldest daughter as an infant, Elizabeth Fern & her brothers, Donald, Fred & Cyril. Mother of Errol, David & Barbara. Obit & photo Barrett's Funeral Home Ltd. St. John's.

Flight, Graham Ralph, aged 88 in St. John's on March 20, 2025. Born on Cottle's Island, he grew up in Buchans. Predeceased by his parents, James & Flora Flight, stepmother, Reta, brothers, Zebedee & Alfred & his sister, Hazel. He was a 21- year Member of the House of Assembly, Liberal, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador serving the districts of Windsor – Buchans & Windsor - Springdale. He also served a Minister of Forestry & Agriculture. Husband of 66 years of Shirley. Father of Jim, Lee & Shane. Brother of Eugene, Terry. Randy, Joan, Fronie & Chris. Obit & photo Barrett's Funeral Home, St. John's. See also

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graham_Flight

Gray, Caleb (Key), aged 81 in St. John's on July 25, 2004. Veteran, WWII, 59th. Newfoundland Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery. Predeceased by his parents, George & Ada Gray, his brother, Jacob & infant daughter, Jamie. Husband of Melena. Father of Mareta Goodyear (Bob), Bob, Connie Wiseman

(Clayton), Rocky, Jill Colbert (Roger) & Mike. Brother of Dorcas Cuff, Netta Jewer, John & Otto. Interment in the Field of Honor, Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, St. John's. Barrett's Funeral Home, St. John's & The Telegram July 27, 2004.

Maroun, Falah B. Dr. in St. John's, aged 90 on Dec. 19, 2025. Born on Jan. 25, 1935 in Beit-Meri, Lebanon. He graduated from the French Faculty of Medicine in Beirut in 1960. He graduated from the Neurological Institute in Montreal, Quebec. In 1967. he travelled to St. John's to do a locum as a neurosurgeon. In 1968, he was appointed Chief of the Division of Neurosurgery in St. John's. In 2002 he was awarded the Order of Canada. In 2028 Dr. Maroun received the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador. Predeceased by his parents, Bechara & Eugenie Maroun, his brothers, Salah, Najah, Kahlil & Sabah & his parents-in-law, George & Joan Marshall. Husband of Bonnie. Father of Rindala. Brother of his sister, Claude. Obit & photo Carnell's Funeral Home, St. John's.

Penney, Marion Hilda (nee Stead) in St. John's on Dec. 26, 2025, aged 102. Born in Musgravetown on Nov. 28, 1923. Predeceased by her husband, Bond Penney in May 2013. Sister of Jean Kaspyrk. Mother of Kaye Power (David), Clarendville & Randy (Goulds, St. John's). Obit & photo Fillatre's Funeral Home, Corner Brook. **Rowe**, Lucy Ann (nee Cobb)

aged 101, on Aug. 5, 2012 on Fogo Island. Predeceased by her parents, James & Emma Cobb, her husbands, James Newman & Victor Rowe, her daughters, Phoebe Newman, Lorraine Decker & stepdaughters, Ruby Holmes, Audrey Holmes & Marie Budden. Mother of William Newman, James Newman & Elizabeth Ferguson (Stanley) Obit, undated *The Telegram*.

Whalen, Mary Sheila (nee Foster) in St. John's on Dec. 31, 2025, aged 104. Born in St. John's

on Dec. 21, 1921, daughter of Henry (Harry) Foster & Jeanette (Earle). Predeceased by her parents, her husband, Alfred W. (Dec. 15, 1998), her son Gerald (Feb. 18, 2025), aged 83 & her grandson, Geoff (Oct. 2025). Mother of Gail (Jim Herder), Aurora, ON. Also predeceased by her brothers & sisters, John, Phyllis, Ollie, Jean, Alexander, Harry, Nina, Stella & Helen. Obit & photo Carnell's Funeral Home, St. John's.



Nova Scotia Genealogy Virtual Conference 2026 - Registration Now Open!

nsgenconference.ca

May 2-3, 2026

9:00AM-5:30PM ADT (UTC-03:00)

Zoom session recordings available for 60 Days

\$39 for GANS Members

\$69 for non-members

(tip: join GANS for only \$59 annually!)

Speakers & Subjects:

- Bob Chaulk: Researching People Along the Halifax Rail Cut
- Daniel Horowitz: Genealogy Madness: What Did I Get Wrong?
- Andrea Lister: A Wolfe in Dewolfe Clothing: Dewolfe Family Research
- Kathy Litwin: Using NS Land Records and Deeds to Locate Your Family
- Paul Maxner: What's New from the Nova Scotia Archives
- Gabriel Milhet: Black Professionals in Early 1900s Halifax
- Brian Nash: Scottish Kirk & Its Records in NS - 'Free' vs. 'Auld'
- Ken Paulsen: 1700s Foreign Protestants' Inheritance Practices
- Judy G. Russell: Dowered or Bound Out: Records of Widows & Orphans
- Claire Smith-Burns: The Hunt for Hon. Michael Wallace's Parents
- Mark Thompson: New Advances in Artificial Intelligence for Genealogy
- Deborah Trask: Nova Scotia Gravestones and Genealogy
- Jean-Yves Vanier-Verbeek: Acadian history and genealogical research: The parish registers of the Declarations of Belle-Île-en-Mer

**Also: Brick Wall Busters session (submit your mystery!)
& Optional Workshop: Legal Records for NS Genealogy
Visit [NSgenConference.ca](https://nsgenconference.ca) for more info!**

From Farmers Arm Road to Long Island and Back

Submitted by April Earle

Every summer I teach a course on genealogy research for pre-service librarians through St. John's University's Division of Library and Information Science here in my home state of New York. It is short, packed, and overwhelming in the very best way. While my students dig their family histories, I often find myself revisiting mine and longing to travel to ancestral homelands. This past summer of 2025, I did it. I revisited the birth place of my great grandfather, Abram Thomas Earle.

Abe was born January 13, 1891, in Twillingate, Newfoundland. Today, with a population of roughly 2,100, Twillingate thrives on tourism and proudly calls itself the "Iceberg Capital of the World." In the summers, massive icebergs drift past its craggy coastline, luminous and silent, great giants of ice and time. It is a place shaped by sea and salt and survival. It is also where Abe's life began under the shadow of loss.

His father, Abraham Earle (c. 1849 - winter 1890), died at sea aboard a vessel called *The Rise and Go* shortly before Abe was born. His mother, Sarah Samms-Earle (October 13, 1857 - March 20, 1899), remarried in 1894 to James Bromley (January 27, 1849 - October 10, 1927), but less than five years later she, too, was gone, claimed by tuberculosis when Abe was only eight years old.

An orphan before he reached double digits, Abe's life between 1899 and 1903 is largely unknown to me. Family stories suggest that his older sisters helped care for him, but records are sparse and the emotional landscape of those years is lost to time.

What I do know, having ordered his U.S. naturalization papers, is that on or about May 31, 1903, Abe emigrated from Newfoundland. He left Twillingate by boat to Sydney, Nova Scotia, and then continued by railroad to Boston, Massachusetts. The train part surprised me. The Earles were a nautical people. Surely, I thought, he sailed into the great New York Harbour and stood breathless on the bow of a ship peering at the great green Lady Liberty. Right? No, he entered the U.S. "via railroad" at just twelve years old.

Did he travel alone? Who saw him off? Where was he living in Twillingate in those final years before departure? I do not know. I do know that he went to Boston likely to live with his maternal aunt, Jane Samms-Whynot (July 7, 1870 - April 29, 1959), and her family. By the 1910 U.S. Federal Census, though, his sister Susie was living in Boston. Abe does not appear in that census with her but I suspect he was there.

By 1915 Abe had made his way to New York. On June 5 of that year he married Ethel Mae Losee (February 14, 1896 - May 27, 1960) in Freeport, Long Island. In his Declaration of Intent to Naturalize, he described himself as a monotype operator, a printer, 5'5", 142 pounds, fair complexion, brown hair, blue eyes. In 1925 he completed his naturalization in Nassau County, New York. Did he want to naturalize to be an American, to put his proud Newfoundlander past behind him? I don't think that was the case at all.



Ethel and Abram Earle, my great grandparents with their eldest son, Allen Earle, my great uncle

It was a period in United States history when an American-born woman lost her citizenship simply by marrying a foreign man. Under the Expatriation Act of 1907, any American woman, native-born or naturalized, automatically lost her U.S. citizenship if she married an alien. She assumed her husband's nationality. The only way for her to regain U.S. citizenship was for her husband to naturalize after meeting residency requirements and completing the naturalization process himself. Then, in 1922, the Cable Act changed the rules. Women no longer automatically lost their citizenship by marrying a foreign man. However, women who had already lost their citizenship between 1907 and 1922 did not automatically regain it. They were merely made eligible to naturalize on their own. Later amendments in 1936 and 1940 further adjusted the process, eventually allowing women to reclaim citizenship independently of their husbands' status. But in 1915, when Ethel married Abe, none of those protections existed and in 1920, when women gained the right to vote in the U.S., Ethel, an eighth generation Long Islander, wanted that right and to obtain it, Abe naturalized.



My great grandpa Abe holding my father, his oldest grandchild, Edwin

I never knew Abe. He died on November 18, 1973, seven months before I was born. Yet I have walked where he walked.

This visit in June 2025 was my third trip to Twillingate. On my second trip in 2018, I stayed with my Uncle Thomas in a house on Farmers Arm Road in Twillingate called Pumpkin House. Abe's birth registration lists Farmers Arm as his birthplace. When I booked that stay, I thought, *This is probably as close as I will ever get to where Abe was born. He probably knew who lived here. He probably played on this road.*

The homeowners, Charlie Fendley and his mother Nancy, welcomed us like family. During that visit, Charlie invited us to see a nearby property he had just purchased. He unrolled the deed before us. In the corner were names that stopped me cold: John and William J. Earle. Their home, now known as Lupinfield Cottage on Farmers Arm Road, was once an Earle family home.

John Earle (August 11, 1863–May 8, 1913), a fisherman and shipbuilder, was Abe's first cousin, although twenty-eight his senior. I believe John built the original structure that is Lupinfield Cottage.

William John Earle (January 14, 1889–September 9, 1959), John's son, built the addition onto the back of that house.

Charlie and Nancy have lovingly restored it into a vacation rental home. Over the years, Charlie has shared photos of the renovation, discoveries of children's scribbles inside cabinets, protective folk markings on walls, and even a pocket watch unearthed in the yard. Echoes of lives once lived.



My Aunt Rita, Uncle Allen, and me checking into Lupinfield Cottage

On my most recent visit, with my Uncle Allen and Aunt Rita, we stayed in that very house, the one built by Cousin John Earle. It is difficult to articulate what it feels like to stand on the foreign land where your ancestors once stood. For me, it brings a deep, aching reverence. An overwhelming sense that the past is not entirely past, that it lingers in the soil and in the grain of the wood of each floor board.

Honestly, I do not know for sure that Abe ever rested his head inside that house. I do not know precisely which structure on Farmers Arm sheltered him as a boy. But I know this: he was there at some point visiting family. And now, so was I.

Genealogy is not just about dates and documents, declarations and certificates. It is more than ordering records, following hints, and building timelines. It is about something far less tangible. It is about standing on a windswept road in Newfoundland and feeling the astonishing, invisible thread that stretches through time from a twelve-year-old orphan boarding a ship...to home.

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Bay de Verde One Place Study: A Tale of Two Kings

Susan Squires, Susan Snelgrove

Usefulness of One Place Study

As most Newfoundland genealogists know, people in outports are often related. But the lack of documents in Newfoundland before the 19th century makes it hard to figure out those relationships. One approach to this problem is a One Place Study. The first step in this type of study is to gather all the names of those fishing or living in the same geographic location during a specific timeframe. The second step is to find any links among the names – family ties, court records, census data, business partnerships. While it is a lot of work building connections for an entire community, such a study can provide surprising insights about who people were, and how they were related. Importantly, if you can link one of the names to England or Ireland, you may be able to link others to the same geographic area there. To demonstrate how much can be accomplished despite the lack of birth, marriages and death records in Newfoundland, we chose to look at the early settlers of Bay de Verde. All the information we found comes from online archives for Newfoundland, Devon, Hampshire, Somerset and Dorset.

Bay de Verde

Some facts to help understand the story. Bay de Verde is a large port at the top of the Bay de Verde Peninsula and was an important fishing station as early as the 17th century.



Map of Newfoundland: Blue Arrow points to Bay de Verde

In 1805 the British Government surveyed properties in Conception Bay from Bay de Verde to Brigus to establish the ownership of “plantations.” The information was recorded in the Plantation Book (Colonial Office, 1805 Volume 13). Pages 2-9 record properties in Bay de Verde. On page 9, there is an entry for Henry King who had received his property “By deed of gift from his Father” in 1766 (Plantation Book, 1805, pg. 9, entry 49). Given that Henry received his property from his father in 1766, it is safe to assume that the Kings were very early settlers of Bay de Verde. Who were Henry King’s ancestors and when did they arrive at Bay de Verde?

Starting Point for the Study

The first families living in Bay de Verde can be found in censuses taken between 1675 and 1682. Each census recorded seasonal fisheries and permanent settlers. In the first census of 1675 there were 95 inhabitants and their servants. By 1682 the “winter” population had grown to 121 settlers. In 1697 the French priest, Abbe Baudoin, recorded in his journal that 14 families were living in Bay de Verde (Williams 1987)

<u>1675-1682 Families</u>	<u>Individuals & Families who “Wintered Over” 1 or 2 years</u>
Taverners	Gardener 1675
Peirce Smith	Fabian 1675
Christopher Hill wife & children	Baily 1675
William and son, James Jeffreys	Bennett 1676 -1677
	Batten 1676
	Boking 1681
	Garret – 1681 - 1682
	Emy/Amy 1681-1682

Residents of Bay de Verde 1675 - 1682

During this 17th century there were no Kings recorded. In 1697 the French raided the Avalon Peninsula burning most of the settlements including Bay de Verde. People were slow to return. By the 1708 summer census only 30 people were recorded at Bay de Verde. (Colonial Office 194:4). Included on the census were:

1. William Tillage
2. John Roles
3. John Taverner

4. Matthew Spencer, wife & 3 children

5. John Stone, wife & 2 children

6. John Cabbaduck, wife & 3 children

7. Abraham King, wife & 2 children

Only one of the names in the 1708 census, Taverner, is found in previous censuses. Who were these newcomers people?

William Tulledge (Tillage) of Abbotsbury, Dorset, Planter of Bay de Verde

On 15 July 1726 Elizabeth Tulledge of Abbotsbury, widow of William Newfoundland Planter, was in the Bristol Consistory Court to settle her husband's debt to Joseph White, merchant of Poole. She told the court that the greatest part of her husband's estate was in Newfoundland. There is no evidence that Elizabeth ever left Abbotsbury. William died in Dorset.

We learned:

- William had connections to Bristol, Abbotsbury and Poole, Dorset.
- William likely lost his Bay de Verde property to pay his debts

John Rolles (Roles, Rolls)

John Rolles, Newfoundland Planter from Wimborne, arranged an apprenticeship for Samuel Cain alias King in 1710 (Apprenticeship Indentures, Hampreston Dorset Poor Roles, 1710). Poole is a short distance from Hampreston. John Rolles had married Mary Phillard in 1699/1700 at Poole. Phillard is a Bonavista family surname, and she may have been a daughter of either Richard or William Phillard. The Bay de Verde property stayed in the Rolles family until 1801 when Samuel Roles sold it. (Newfoundland Wills and Deeds vol 16 pg. 155).

We learned that:

- John Rolles had ties to Hampreston, Wimborne and Poole in Dorset.
- The Rolles plantation stayed in the family until 1801.

John Taverner

John is the only Taverner who is at Bay de Verde in 1708. By this time, his brother, Jacob, had moved his part of the fishing business to Trinity Bay. John was the son of William and Margaret Taverner. He was born about 1640 possibly at Bay de Verde. (Dorset, England, Wills and Probates, 1565-1858, Canford and Poole Peculiar, 1679 Last Will & Testament of William

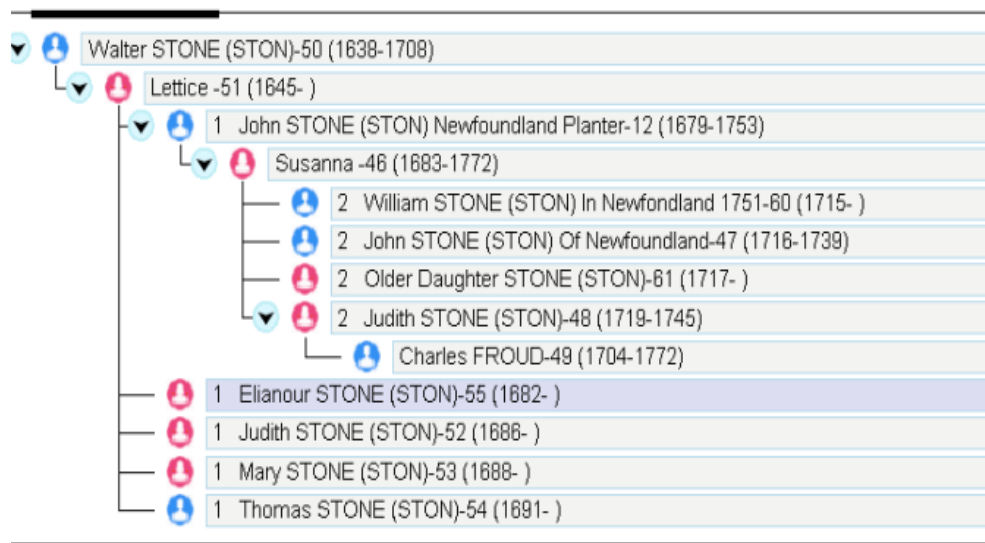
Taverner, Fisherman of the Town & County of Poole on Ancestry. Film slide 3). He died at Poole about 1738.

What we learned:

- The Taverners had connections in Poole.
- Jacob Taverner moved the business to Bonavista.
- John Taverner was likely the last Taverner at Bay de Verde

John Stone

John Stone was a Newfoundland Planter from Hampreston, Dorset (Dorset History Center Online and Hampreston Church Records. Dorset on FamilySearch.org). His son, John Jr, was born in Newfoundland, and baptized in 1716 in Hampreston, Dorset. When young John Jr died in 1737, he was again listed “of Newfoundland.” John Stone and wife Susanna may have had other children born in Newfoundland including daughter Judith who married Charles Froud of Hampreston and Bonavista, Newfoundland. Mr. Stone was still in Newfoundland in 1730 where he signed a petition. He also witnessed the will of William Bowers of Bay de Verde in 1739 (Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1739) . John Stone Sr. died in 1753 and was buried at Hampreston. On the burial record he is listed as a “Newfoundland Planter”. (Dorset History Center and on Ancestry). In his will, John noted his son, William Stone, was at the Bay de Verde plantation and would inherit the property.



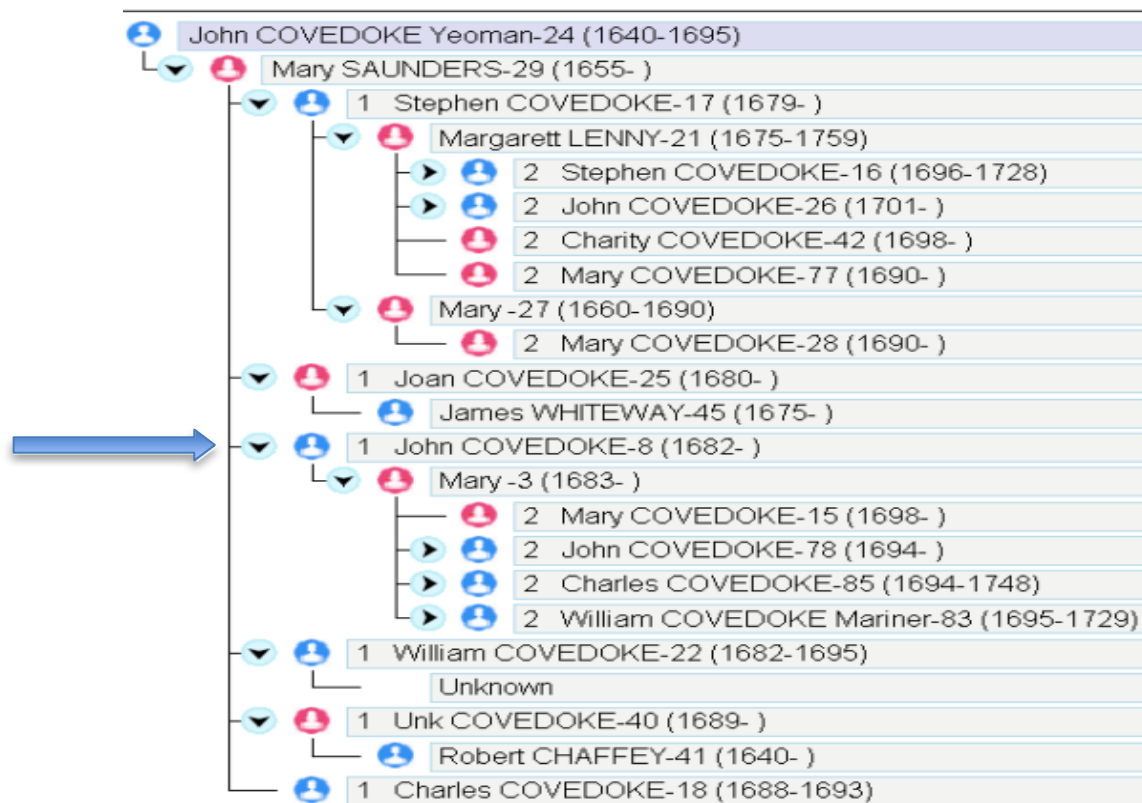
Family Tree of John Stone

What we learned:

- The Stones were from Hampreston, Dorset and returned there toward the end of John Sr. life.
- The Bay de Verde property stayed in the Stone family until at least 1751

John Cabbaduck

There are several variations of this very unusual name including Covedock, Coppeduck, Copedock, Coppidoak. All found in and around Christchurch, Hampshire as far back as 1553. For consistency we will use Covidoke. Christchurch was a major hub for maritime trade and the Covidokes were involved in it by the 1600s. Christchurch records include the birth of children to John and Mary Covidoke, but no marriage is recorded. If this is the same John Covidoke in the 1708 census, he may have married Mary in Newfoundland.



Family Tree - Covidoke of Hampshire

What we learned:

- The Covidokes of Christchurch were mariners. Christchurch is 13 miles (20km) from Poole.
- Covidokes is an unusual name found in Newfoundland and Hampshire in 1700s including the combination of first names, Steven and John, used in both Newfoundland and Christchurch families.

Matthew Spencer

Matthew Spencer is a mystery. If Matthew married and had his family in Newfoundland, records may not exist. The Spencers did own a Plantation in Bay de Verde. In the Colonial Office Petition of 1730 William Spencer is in Trinity Bay (CO194.23) perhaps at Bay de Verde. However, there is no documentation linking Matthew to William.

What we learned:

- Matthew Spencer left few records.
- The Spencer name continued in Trinity Bay into the 1730
- No link connects Matthew to England yet

Abraham King

The name King occurs at Bay de Verde for the first time in 1708 (CO 194/4). Abraham King was there with a wife, two children and six servants. There is no further information of Abraham King of Bay de Verde after this census. However, there was an Abraham King in censuses at Carbonear between 1676 - 1681 (CO 1/38/41/47) where his fishing operation was one of the largest at the time with a house, 2 storehouses, a garden, 2 boats, and a stage in Carbonear. None of the censuses list a wife or children.

Abraham King of Newfoundland is also found in other records. In February 1677 Abraham King was in Bristol arranging for three apprentices to join his Newfoundland fishery (The Bristol Registers of Servants).

- 1 February – Samuel Curtis to Abraham King, 6 years Newfoundland, sent by the ship, Mary & Joanne, Mr. William Ashton, Captain. (pg. 332)
- 10 February – Philipp Saunder to Abraham King, 9 years Newfoundland, by the ship, Jacob; Mr. Thomas Edwards, Captain. (pg. 333)
- 24 February – Robert Cripps to Abraham King, 5 years Newfoundland by Jacob. (pg. 333)

In September 1708 Abraham King wrote his Will. An abstract of the Will is in Fitzroy Jones Manuscript Collection, Somerset Archives in England as follows:

Abraham KING, Laranory, Newfoundland, planter, 1 Sep 1708

He names in his Will:

- Widow HILL of Baynardes
- Mary CONDOUCK
- Margaret SEBET
- Susanna

SPENCER

- Ann STON
- Sarah BUTE
- Mary KING exec.
- Witnesses Thomas WODMAN, Mary Heill, Frances

SPENSER

The Will was proved 10 Jan 1709.

Abraham's Will was in with others from Chew Magna, Somerset. Although no birth record has been found in Chew for Abraham, administrative records list Arthur King of Chew Magna as his brother. (Abraham King Prerogative Court of Canterbury Admon Act - FHL 93274, image 308. April 7, 1709 accessed by David Anstey November 2025.) The individual who transcribed Abraham's Will was unfamiliar with place names in Newfoundland. Given what we know about Abraham King, we think Laranory is a misinterpretation of Carbonear while Baynardes is an alternative spelling of Bay Verdes. This Will provides evidence linking Abraham King, planter of Carbonear, to Abraham King of Bay de Verde Newfoundland. From other Wills written during this period, we can make some guess about the people he names. When a woman is named executor, it is almost always the wife or daughter of the deceased. Mary King is probably Abraham's wife. It was not unusual to make bequests to sisters, aunts, mothers, or even friends. The other women listed, Mary Condouck, Margaret Sebet, Susanna Spencer, Ann Ston and Sarah Bute, were likely Abraham's relatives.

Widow Hill of Bay de Verde is not on the 1708 census, but she was in Abraham King's Will. The relationship of Abraham to Widow Hill is unknown. However, she was likely the wife of Christopher Hill who appears in the Bay de Verde censuses 1675-1682 with a wife, a son and a daughter. Christopher Hill had built a house and stage at Bay de Verde, owned a Boat, and had 5 men working for him.

Four of the women named in Abraham's Will match the last names of three families on the 1708 census:

1. Matthew Spencer, wife & 3 children
2. John Ston, wife & 2 children
3. John Cabbaduck, wife & 3 children

Was there a connection between the women in Abraham's will and the men who were fishing with him in Bay de Verde?

- Susanna Spencer, Frances
Spencer
- Ann Ston
- Mary Condouck

After 1708 there are no Kings at Bay de Verde. However, a William King was in the Bonavista census for 1708 with a wife (Colonial Office Records 194/4). And, in 1730, a petition signed by inhabitants of Trinity Bay includes James King. James King of Trinity Bay may be the same James and Elizabeth King of Newfoundland who baptized their children in Somerset: William 1733, Elizabeth 1735 and James 1741 (Parish register of Corton Denham, Somerset, England: Inserted after 1725 baptisms).

There is one other link for the Kings of Bay de Verde to Carbonear. In his will Abraham also names a woman named Sarah Bute. Roger Butts of Carbonear was one of the oldest settlers in Carbonear recorded there in the 1675 census. Is Bute an alternative spelling of Butt? If so Sarah may very well be the wife of one of Roger Butt's sons.

What we learned:

- Abraham King was a planter of Carbonear.
- Widow Hill in Abraham's Will links him to Bay de Verde
- The 1708 census links Abraham to Bay de Verde
- Arthur King of Chew Magna was Abraham's brother
- James King of Newfoundland is also linked to Somerset
- Women in Abraham's 1708/9 Will have the same last name as men fishing at Bay de Verde with Abraham King in 1708 – Stone, Covidoke and Spencer
- There are no sons listed in the 1708 will of Abraham King
- No Henry is listed in the 1730 baptisms of James and Elizabeth King of Newfoundland.
- There were no Kings recorded at Bay de Verde after 1708 until the record in the Plantation Book for Henry King.

Conclusions of the One Place Study

- Using records from England and Newfoundland we connected the people in the 1708 Bay de Verde census to a small geographic in England: A triangle with Bristol at the north, Poole at the south and Christchurch to the west.
- Combination of Abraham's Will and the 1708 Census provided possible ties among those at Bay de Verde: Hill, Spencer, Covidoke, Stone and King.
- English archives are a treasure trove of information about Newfoundland Planters

Despite the documentation collected, nothing links Abraham King to Henry King of Bay de Verde. There are no sons listed in Abraham King's Will. However, the research did point us to a relatively small area in England to continue the search. In part 2 we continue the story revealing the ancestor of Henry King of Bay de Verde.

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A 13-26.1; Bay de Verde; The Rooms

PARSONS

Submitted by Rosalind Babb Stokes

Parsons is a widespread name with concentrations at Bay Roberts, Bryant's Cove, Carbonear, Corner Brook, Rose Blanche, Burgeo, Indian Bay, Lumsden North and Parsonsville, Bell Island. Parsons has also given its name to ponds, coves, rivers, brooks and a point. There is also a place called Parsons Ground in Labrador. There are several files at The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador containing information on Parsons as listed below.

Bay Roberts

There may have been a Parsons in Bay Roberts as early as 1667, making Parsons one of the oldest family names in Bay Roberts. James and William Parsons resided in Bay Roberts in 1769. They claimed land in the area which had been in their family for 102 years.

A Samuel Parsons born 1798 arrived in Bay Roberts about 1825 from Bidford, Devon, England and married Rachael French. They settled at Runny/Running Brook, Bay Roberts. Family tradition maintains that he was the paternal ancestor of most of the Parsons family who presently live in Bay Roberts, Coley's Point, Country Road and Shearstown. There are many names in this family history - Bradbury, Crocker, Dawe, Green and Spencer to name a few.

William Ralph Parsons, son of William and Dorcas Parsons and a descendant of the early Samuel, said his forebears had lived on the land in Bay Roberts area for more than 200 years before 1881. William Ralph Parsons was the last Fur Trade Commissioner of the Hudson Bay Company where he spent four decades during which time he had many adventures and accomplishments as are recorded in the book, *The King of Baffin Land*, which is how he was referred to in the Hudson Bay area. He was a legend in his time. This book contains much information about the families from the Bay Roberts area where you find the Devonshire accent. If you are from the Bay Roberts area it is well worth looking into.

Bryant's Cove

Edward Parsons, born about 1725 in Devon, settled at Bryant's Cove between 1750 and 1775. We have a family tree of descendant, Joseph Parsons, born 1802 in Bryant's Cove and Eleanor Yetman, born 1805 also of Bryant's Cove. This is a large family tree that traces their descendants for 7 generations including the names Babb, Bickford, Kennedy, Hutchings, Rees and many others. Many branches of this family moved to Parsonsville, west end of Bell Island. When Joseph Parsons moved from Bryant's Cove his brother Edward took Joseph's land and divided it among his sons. Edward Parsons, Sr. is my 5th great grandfather. I have traced many descendants of this side of the Parsons family and this is also available at the FHSNL office.

Carbonear

One of the earliest known places we find Parsons is Clowns Cove, Carbonear where John Parsons owned land as early as 1665 and Joseph Parsons was there in 1675. There is an early Will of Henry Parsons of Wincanton, Somersetshire, England but late of Carbonear, probate year 1830. A Thomas Parsons from Bristol settled in Carbonear about 1821.

There is a Family tree of Eleazer Henry Parsons and May Gordon Pike who were married June 18, 1891 in Freshwater, Carbonear. May Gordon Pike was the sister of Alfreda Pike who was murdered January 5, 1870 as she walked home from her grandmother's house in Harbour Grace to Mosquito. Her assailant was never caught and for years rumours and speculation placed the blame unjustly on her boyfriend Thomas Pike. Over 50 years after the murder, the real killer, ex-constable Furey, who had been involved in the actual Pike murder investigation, shocked those close to him by confessing to the murder. The murder of Alfreda Pike, considered one of Newfoundland's unsolved mysteries, was a mystery no longer. Details of this story are included in this file.

Harbour Grace

There may have been a Parsons in Harbour Grace as early as 1673. John and Anne Parsons, Harbour Grace, have a tree showing seven children born 1826-1841 in Bears Cove, but only tracing the first born, Henry Charles who married Elizabeth Jeffers. He moved to Freshwater after the marriage. There is also a file with the descendants of John and Anne whose children were born in Bears Cove and later moved to Freshwater.

A file of William Parsons 1808, who married Catherine Munden, shows their children and the ancestors of William.

Another family tree traces the descendants of Charles and William Parsons, born in Bears Cove, Harbour Grace. The father's name is not known. This file contains Wills for Abraham 1830, Mary (Parsons) Stretton 1831 and Robert Parsons 1835. This file also contains an account of the United Church in Harbour Grace which began in 1765 with the arrival of Lawrence Coughlan just 35 years after Methodism originated in England. It was the first overseas mission in Newfoundland.

A bit of Newfoundland History in 1800 by W. A. Mun tells us that Admiral Parsons of the Blue and his brother, who fished at first from Harbour Island are said to be the start of the Parsons family.

Northern Peninsula

Descendants of Samuel born 1842 Ochre Pit Cove and Amelia Parsons, his two brothers and mother all moved to Curzon Village. Samuel died 1902 Woody Point. Joseph Parsons and Martha Halfyard also of Ochre Pit, children Nicholas, Samel, Selina, George, Joseph and Alfred also moved to Curzon Village. Henry Parsons and Jane settled at Silver Point now Shoal Brook. They were from Carbonear. Offspring of Henry and Jane moved to Trout River. Rocky Harbour descendants of Meshach Parsons (1830-1902) came there in 1870s from Rose Blanche. Meshach's father came to Rose Blanche from Guernsey.

Port de Grave

We have a Will of William Parsons, the elder of Port de Grave probated November 1828.

St. John's

We have three Wills from St. John's, although I believe their ancestors came from Harbour Grace or Carbonear: Jonathan Parsons probate year 1831, Alfreda Parsons probate year 1918 and William Edgar Parsons probate year 1921.

South Coast

We have 79 pages of births, marriages and burials of Parsons from the South Coast of Newfoundland. Most of these records are from Burgeo, Grand Bruit, Petites and Rose Blanche with a few mentions from Hunts Island, Morgans Island and Otters Point. The earliest burial being Harriett Parsons who died in 1815, age 28 years. This file brings us into the late 1900s.

Folklore has it that one of the earliest settlers named Parsons was actually a deserter from the Royal English Navy who settled at Diamond Cove and changed his name from Williams to Parsons, probably to protect himself from hanging if he were ever caught.

Sunnyside

Edgar Parsons from Salmon Cove and his wife Alice along with a Parsons from Carbonear were living at Sunnyside in 1892 when their first child John Nicholas was born. Other children of this family were Joseph 1895, Moses 1898, William Thomas 1900 and John Edgar 1903. This file traces these families and their grandchildren.

Sources:

John and Ann Parsons by Frazer Clouter

Joseph and Eleanor Yetman by Cheryl Parsons

Parsons/Yetman by Phyllise Stickel

Joan Adams Parsons Webb

Families of the South - Arm of Bonne Bay 1800s – 1930s by Roy M. Osmond

Sunnyside by Judy Snook

Gordon Miles Collections

Elizabeth Hopkins Squires Collections

Family Names from the Island of Newfoundland - E. R. Seary

The King of Baffin Land by John Parsons and Burton K. Janes

A Bit of Newfoundland History in 1800 by W. A. Munn

William Parsons Will - Boxes 35, 56 – Unknown Donor

Northern and Western Newfoundland and Southern Labrador as Seen in 1912 from the Deck of the *Solway*

Melvin Baker and Craig Morrissey

Introduction

The *Solway* was a Scottish steamer built in 1881 and purchased in 1911 by the Reid Newfoundland Company. The steamer arrived in St. John's on 2 July 1911 after a 12-day voyage from London and began operation soon afterwards on the Company's Labrador postal and transportation service route under contract to the Newfoundland Government. The steamer was 220 feet in length, 30 feet in width, 15 feet in depth and had 163 nominal horsepower. The steamer had accommodation for 42 saloon and 70 steerage passengers and had a doctor's room and hospital with the "wards being separated from each other and complete privacy secured."¹ The following abridged article was published in the St. John's *Free Press* newspaper on 20, 27 August and 3 September 1912. It is an account by an anonymous writer of a trip along Newfoundland's northeast coast to Labrador and then from Labrador to Humbermouth (now modern-day Corner Brook). The writer had previously travelled in this area in 1894 and wrote about it in the Newfoundland press.

Document

S.S. *Solway* – The good ship *Solway* has not yet been dignified with a recognized "Reid" name,² but it is not the less on that account a comfortable boat, and well-adapted for the services in which she has been engaged since coming here... A boat of the size of the *Solway* has advantages that larger and more pretentious vessels have not. To the traveler on pleasure bent, it is a home on the waters. Of course, there are drawbacks, but the hypercritical, or the lovers of ease, can find these anywhere. Taking the vessel all round, she offers attractions and comforts that many a more pretentious one fails to provide. It came as an agreeable surprise to travelers to find the *Solway* lighted throughout with electricity, the work of Messrs. Snow and Tucker, of the Electrical Department of the Reid outfit, who had just made the round trip for the purpose, and returned to Bay of Islands by the boat to complete and test their work.

Captain and Crew – The *Solway* is fortunate in her commander, that splendid old sea dog, Capt. Jacob Kean³ – old only in experience, not in years. With him there is an assurance of safety that not even the densest fogs nor innumerable icebergs can disturb; whilst Mates Carter of Greenspond, and Morgan, of Clarke's Beach, are worthy seconds. The Chief Engineer is Mr. McFarlane, quietest but most efficient of men whose kindly interest in his juniors makes them loyal friends, as well as faithful aids. Mr. Pollock and Mr. Parsons, of St. John's, form his staff. A Trinity man, Mr. Gardiner, is the purser, with Mr. Wyse, of Placentia, as the Chief Steward. Discipline at sea is an essential and on the *Solway* it is well maintained; but it is a discipline without angles. Seamen and firemen work with a willingness and lightheartedness that are very pleasant in these days of labour troubles. A finer body of men, most of them from this city, it would not be easy to find. Capt. Kean has reason to be justly proud of the personnel of his crew.

¹ *Evening Telegram* 3 July 1911, 7. In 1913 the Reid Company renamed the *Solway* the S.S. *Meigle*.

² On the Reid fleet, see Maura Hanrahan, *The Alphabet Fleet: The Pride of the Newfoundland Coastal Service* (St. John's: Flanker Press, 2007).

³ Jacob Kean (19 Feb 1867- 20 Aug 1939).

The efficient mail officer is Mr. Jeans, a veteran in the service, well known to northern travelers for many a long year.

Fog Free Zone - On a Wednesday morning in drizzling rain, anchor was weighed, and the good ship *Solway* started on her trip to Bay of Islands. The first port of call was Exploits. Many have been the changes since last the writer was privileged to visit there. Notable was the absence of the merchant-prince, Josiah Manuel,⁴ to whose splendid enterprise and faith in his northern home, is due the progress of recent years. His business is still carried on by his sons, Messrs. Jabez⁵ and Chesley Manuel,⁶ who are not alone reaping the harvest sown by their sire, but year after year are garnering crops of prosperity, the seed of which has been sown by themselves. The shipbuilding docks of the Manuels are known all over the Island, and beyond its boundaries, not only for the excellency of their output, but for the peculiarity of the names given to the vessels...⁷

Fortune Harbour – For the traveller in search of variety the Straits route offers exceptional attractions. Between Lewisporte in Notre Dame Bay and Humbermouth in the Bay of Islands are not less than fifty ports of call each with its peculiar interest. To many of these ports we came as a stranger to others it was the revival of memories of 18 years ago. The second port of call was Exploits, and the description written in 1894 is just as true today. “One of the prettiest localities in Notre Dame Bay is Fortune Harbour. The Church on the hill, the beautiful forest lands around it, the sward sloping to the land-locked harbour, hill and dale chasing each other in rapid succession, and with the picturesque house of Mr. Hamilton, half-hid by the aspen trees in the foreground mark the settlement as thriving and prosperous, and the residents not only as industrious, but as having an eye for the beautiful, cultivated by the aestheticism, whose apostle in Nature.” And Fortune Harbour is the same now, smiling on the waters with almost the emeraldry of fair Erin itself. The trees in the immediate background are fewer, and some who played a prominent part in the up-building of Fortune Harbour have passed away or gone to other parts. The good work done by Rev. Father Walsh, now of Avondale,⁸ and his assistant Father Tarehin, is continued by the Rev. Fr. [John] Nolan.⁹ Fortune Harbour is today what it is, because her pioneers and her leaders put into practice their agricultural theories. In some respects this snug harbour affords an object lesson to many a settlement with equal possibilities, but less performance.

Little Bay Islands – The next leading port is Leading Tickles, followed by Little Bay Islands where Strong¹⁰ and Mursell¹¹ carry on their extensive business. A general air of prosperity pervades the little town, which has not been content to rest upon past glories, but shows faith in the future by work in the present. A curious landmark in the harbour is a large store, built on a low rock, a hundred yards away from land, and without connection except by boat. Whatever the

⁴ Josiah Manuel (1831-1906).

⁵ Jabez Manuel (1866-1913).

⁶ Chesley Manuel (1879-1932).

⁷ On the Manuels, see Calvin D. Evans, *Master Shipbuilders of Newfoundland and Labrador: Volume Two, Notre Dame Bay to Petty Harbour* (St. John's: Breakwater, 2014), 29-40.

⁸ Richard F. Walsh (c1842-1918), see Francis A. Coady, ed., *Lives Recalled: Deceased catholic Priests who worked in Newfoundland, mini biographies: 1627-2010* (St. John's: The Editor, 2010-2011), 644-45.

⁹ John Joseph Nolan (c1880-?).

¹⁰ James Moores Strong (1849-1938).

¹¹ Richard Mursell (1848-1929).

idea of the original builder may have been, to the passerby it looks as though human motives prompted the work. The store serves as effectually as a lighthouse or a beacon, to protect incoming vessels from the dangers of the treacherous reef, that under other conditions might prove invisible. The store gives evidence of daily use, and serves the double purposes of commercial utility and brotherly love. "Little Bay is a paradise ... However cold it may be in the winter, during the summer it is one of the most beautiful of the many lovely spots that bountiful Nature has placed along our Island shores," were the words penned after our first visit in 1894, and they stand today. Newfoundlanders who run eagerly to other lands, know little of the beauties of their own. Even on the East Coast, within comparatively easy reach of the city, are beauty spots to none on the great Continent of America. Custom stales variety, and distance always lends enchantment; but as the tourist traffic increases, the scenery, majestic, the scenery, majestic, picturesque or placid, of Newfoundland will meet with the recognition it deserves. When last at Little Bay Island, its minister was the Rev. W.J. Hutcheson, once of St. John's, and now of North Dakota. Changes everywhere, Nature alone unchangeable. Her grandeur remains uninfluenced by the years, whilst humanity is tossed upon life's water as jetsom on the ocean.

Little Bay – A curious place is Little Bay. Time was when it promised to be a centre of industry, the Pittsburgh or Swansea of Newfoundland.¹² Even today there are reminders of its past greatness. A miner was aboard the *Solway*, returning to visit scenes in which he had actively participated thirty years before. Most of the mining houses were gone, had fallen victims to the flames, but one still remained, the house of the Manager. Here and there were relics of the days of Little Bay's greatness, but relics only... It was pleasing to notice that our mining friend, nothing appalled by the changes wrought by the years, quietly stepped ashore, leaving behind an impression that his visit was not alone of sentiment. When will Newfoundland be prospected? We have reports from one place and another; prospectors wander promiscuously throughout the land, but no serious, well-defined plan has been attempted, and even now, after half a century's experience, the rule of thumb prevails. One glory Little Bay still retains – a Magistrate, a Policeman, and a Court House.¹³ True, the population is but a handful, and to the casual visitor this imposing array suggests superfluity; but first impressions are not always correct. Little Bay is the centre of a large district, in which the officers of the law find their time fully occupied. The harbour of Little Bay is of extraordinary depth, and the decline of the banks must be almost perpendicular. A steamer of the size of the *Solway*, when tied to the wharf appears to have her jib boom hanging over the land itself...

Nipper's Harbour – At Nipper's Harbour came the foretaste of the experience of the next few days. It was fairly clear when the harbour was reached, and the work of loading and unloading went merrily on. Then came the whistle, the anchor was weighed, and the "run" to Tilt Cove commenced. The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley" and so it proved that night, for after running a few miles the good ship *Solway* found herself enveloped from stem to stern in so thick an environment of fog, that to proceed was folly and to retreat not easy. Slowly the return was made, and the anchor again dropped in Nipper's Harbour. A few hours previously the newly appointed Methodist Minister, Rev. F.H. Phillipson, with his bride, formerly Miss Vigus of Burin, had stepped ashore to commence the circuit duties. If apt illustration for a sermon was desired, the *Solway's* story offered it. Gaily and confidently she had rushed from the haven of

¹² See E. Doyle Wells, *All Quiet: The Diaries of Sergeant Thomas E. Wells, Newfoundland Constabulary, Little Bay, Notre Dame Bay, NL* (St. John's: DRC Publishing, 2012).

¹³ On Little Bay, see also <https://historyoflittlebay.com/>

safety into the unknown; slowly and timidly she crept back. In these days of modernism and the new Theology men sail confidently into the mists and fogs of doubt, only to find return a process always slow, and often impossible. But the application must rest with the preacher; and it was probably the presence of so many “sky-pilots” on the trip that turned the wandering layman’s thoughts to sermonizing. Moreover, heredity, as well as environment, counts. Nipper’s Harbour shows many signs of prosperity and enterprise. For many a decade the house flag of Goodridge¹⁴ has been a familiar sight to those who have visited the busy harbour. It still waves there, and may it long continue to wave, emblem of the fortunes of the firm and its dealers – one and indivisible.

Around Cape St. John – To the assertion that “a man must live,” the cynic has replied that the necessity is not apparent. But for the safety of the public a man must sleep, and where can he sleep more soundly than when lulled to rest by the motion of the waters? On a holiday, sleep has its disadvantages, and one of them was arrival at Tilt Cove¹⁵ in the small hours of the morning. It is said that that the northern mining town is witnessing its closing years, and that the end is at hand. May be so, and may not be so! It is at least noteworthy that the same story has been told for the past twenty years, and the Tilt Cove copper mines are still worked. May they continue to flourish. A dull day was the Thursday. La Scie, Harbour Round, Coachman’s Cove and Fleur de Lys were called at amid difficulties, sufficient to tax the patience of the most phlegmatic and cautious of mariners, and at Big Harbour Deep anchor was cast for the night. Wonderful harbours are these around the coast of Newfoundland. It seems as though the Island has sprung like a mighty mountain from an almost fathomless sea. A steamer may enter many a harbour, and sail within a few feet of the land and find perfect anchorage, indeed not infrequently the difficulty is to find a resting place at thirty fathoms. Big Harbour Deep although not big is well named deep. Except close to the land, the line will drop over sixty fathoms.

White Bay – We are now well in White Bay. Williamsport, formerly the Greenspond of St. Barbe District, now called after our Governor,¹⁶ was passed in the small hours. At Canada Hr. came a welcome diversion, resulting in a much approved addition to the larder. Heretofore there had been small opportunity of landing in comfort at the various ports, nor was it any too attractive at Canada [Harbour]. But curiosity and an oil coat are irresistible factors in sightseeing. With the Rev. A.S. Adams, a recently ordained minister, who has volunteered for a year’s service at Red Bay, as coxswain, and three of the jolliest A.B.’S at the oars, the passage in the mail boat was made. The presence of the Chief Steward suggested an object, nor were we disappointed. On first enquiries the reply was, “no fish,” but perseverance resulted in success and triumphant return was made to the *Solway* with a hundredweight of fish, that an hour before had been enjoying freedom in the waters. It is a curious though not a recent development that to gauge the actual catch of our fishermen is difficult. In the old supplying days, on the landing of a few quintals a season’s voyage was built. Today men are more cautious, and wisely so; they underestimate rather than exaggerate. Twenty years ago it was generally a safe proposition to cut a reported catch in half. Today this happy but baneful boastfulness has given place to more conservative estimates. Our fishermen have learned that to exaggerate their successes reacts

¹⁴ Alan Goodridge & Sons, fish export firm of Renew's.

¹⁵ Wendy Martin, *Once Upon a Mine: Story of the Pre-Confederation Mines on the Island of Newfoundland* (Montreal: Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, 1983) 16-29.

¹⁶ Sir Ralph Williams, see <https://www.heritage.nf.ca/articles/politics/colonial-ralph-williams.php>

injuriously on the market, and the lesson thus learned in the best of all schools, the school of experience, is not alone beneficial in itself, but is also a move in the direction of better prices.

Conche – A brief but pleasant walk at Englee, a hurried glance at the Church, scene of the dispute between Methodists and Adventists, and all aboard for Conche, a thriving and picturesque town of the North. In 1894 we met there the late Edward St. George,¹⁷ whose writings under the name of Eros Wayback, won for him a merited place in the rank of Newfoundland's best writers. Some years have elapsed since his passing, but even today the Christmas and special numbers that appear from time to time seem incomplete without the gems of thought and poesy that were wont to flow from his muse-inspired pen. La Conche was the home of that John Doure, or Dower,¹⁸ as the name is now spelled, who single handed saved a boat's crew of French fishermen from death. This was in 1853. Doure was be-medalled and be-ribboned. An offered pension he refused; but the privilege of fishing unmolested and untrammelled by so-called French rights, he enjoyed till his death; and his descendants after him. He has passed, but has left behind in Conche successors who physically and intellectually are second to none in the Island. In farming as in fishing Conche takes a foremost place, and the intelligent, and almost scientific manner in which the work on the land is carried out speaks volumes for the industry and enterprise of the residents. St. John's farmers will learn with surprise that despite the distance north, the crops in Conche were far further advanced than in and around the city. A notable feature here especially, though elsewhere in the East Coast in limited degree is the increase of motor boats for purposes of the fisheries. On the West Coast they are carrying all before them, but of that more anon. From Conche to Goose Cove proved too long a run for the foggy night, and harbour was made at Croque.

Croque and Goose Cove – The entrance to Croc or Croque was a run between Scylla and Charybdis, but, thanks to the Captain's skill, the passage was safely made. To starboard huge icebergs towered threateningly, whilst to port the waves dashed angrily on an angrier coast, and this within a fog-contracted horizon whose diameter seemed little more than a dozen times the vessel's length. Happily the passage was accomplished and in a few moments the wrath-ridden seas were exchanged for the peaceful harbour. Croque was long an important centre of French influence in Newfoundland, and here it was the French men-of-war made their headquarters whilst engaged in Fishery protection service. Around are many relics of French occupation, and, as we gaze at the surrounding coast and remember its former prosperity, the impression is that there is yet a future before the little harbour of Croque, but under the exclusive protection of the Union Jack. At daybreak on Saturday the voyage was resumed, Goose Cove, being the first port of call. The work done by Mr. Brenton Symons and his son, although presently discontinued, may yet prove the nucleus of success. There is a large quantity of ore on the surface, and it is hoped that at least one cargo will be shipped this year. Copper like every other commodity depends upon the law of demand and supply. The day will come when the low grade ores will have their innings, and when that day arrives not a few of Newfoundland's copper properties will come into their own.

St. Anthony - St. Anthony was reached just before breakfast, when few were astir. The post office being on the opposite side of the harbour it was not possible to visit the R[oyal] D[eepest] S[ea] M[ission] premises at close range. The commodious hospital, hospitable guest-House and

¹⁷ (1850-1906) of Carbonear.

¹⁸ (c1821-c1889).

the comfortable and well-appointed residence of Dr. Grenfell¹⁹ stand out in striking contrast to the smaller dwellings in the vicinity. Every convenience is there – from electric light to a satisfactory water system. A large number of gentlemen and ladies from the United States flock annually to St. Anthony, and other centres of the Mission, where they manage to put in about as good a time, and as thoroughly enjoyable a holiday as any part of the American continent can offer. Altogether, St. Anthony appears to be about as pleasant a place as this earth offers for a summer residence; and now that so many comforts and luxuries have been provided a desirable spot in which to spend a Newfoundland winter. There is abundance of good, healthy sport, to sweeten labour; and the service of humanity offers its own reward. The medical Mission²⁰ is doing good work; and numbers amongst its physicians some of the most devoted and skillful of men, who would be the first to laugh at the stories of awful hardships that are told in impressive whispers by valiant visitors who brave “the rigours of the Arctic” in some well-appointed yacht or yawl,... On the whole there is a flavor about St. Anthony hardships that would taste very pleasantly to the all round sportsman who, loving the strenuous life, does not despise the conveniences and luxuries of living. As the mail boat was pushing away from the wharf the Rev. Mr. Dahl, accompanied by a Theological student, came aboard, to continue his missionary work along the coast. The Rev. H. Allenby is the resident Methodist Minister. Gradually small motor boats are being availed of in the church missions, but few of the missionaries on the French Shore or Labrador have been thus privileged. Theirs is the luxury of the open boat, oilskins, switchel and hard tack. But they do their work right well, as their forerunners have done throughout the past half century.

An Unknown Bay – There was a peculiar fascination about the *Solway's* voyage. In these days of schedules and time-tables men know with comparative certainty just where they will be at a certain hour. But fog plays a small part in land life – unless it be a genuine November fog in England of the London variety, to which a Newfoundland mist is as gauze to a veil of cloth. Stopping at Nipper's Harbour and Big Harbour Deep was unexpected; entering Croque was a surprise; but the greatest surprise was reserved for the commencement of the run across the Straits. The intention to reach Quirpon had to be abandoned and two young lady passengers, Miss Crocker and Miss Parsons, with the Rev. Mr. Dahl and his colleague, were landed at St. Leonard's. Cook's Harbour was admittedly impossible, and it looked as though the *Solway's* course was to bid goodbye to the North East coast and run direct to Battle. But it was not to be. The ever present fog, and the dangers of the innumerable bergs, made another run to shelter necessary and this time the good ship found herself riding contentedly on the placid waters of a bay, which by the writer, and most of those aboard, was unknown even by name. Fortune Bay in the South and Fortune Harbour in Green Bay we know, but the Fortune of the north east peninsula is rarely visited by travelers. Not the less may the day be not far distant when the one fishing room, sole survivor of the days when the French carried on the fishery, shall be one among many. A cross in the distance suggested a cemetery, whilst beach rocks, artificially laid out, gave evidence of former activities. To the south could be dimly discerned the masts of vessels anchored at Griquet, and visiting bankers from there sent contingents to board the

¹⁹ Sir Wilfred Grenfell (1865-1840), see Ronald Rompkey, *Grenfell of Labrador: A Biography* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991).

²⁰ See Jennifer J. Connor and Katherine Side, eds., *The Grenfell Medical Mission and American Support in Newfoundland and Labrador, 1890s-1940s* (Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2019).

Solway. Capt. Kean, wishful if at all possible, to deliver the mails of every scheduled port of call, dispatched second mate Morgan with the second Engineer and a seaman, to them by road to Quirpon. By road? march across the hills and convey. That may be a euphemism, but they got there, and they returned, some the worse for their adventure, but somewhat reticent as to the pleasures of the “half hour’s” journey... It was while waiting for their return that Mr. William Alcock,²¹ and his bonny lad came aboard, bringing the sad news of the very serious illness of the venerable Azariah Alcock,²² of Griquet, whose death occurred a few days later. At one time it looked as though the dash across the Straits would have to be postponed till another day; but late in the afternoon the signal was given and goodbye said to Fortune Bay, and for a day or two to Newfoundland as well.

Cape Charles – It was 4 o’clock on Saturday afternoon before the *Solway* left her anchorage to cross the Straits. The objective was Battle Harbour, but so thick was the fog that except to the watchful mariners on the bridge for some time all sense of distance was lost. When the fog lifted, the ghostly figure of the lighthouse told us that Bell Island was being passed; and ere night fell the Straits were crossed and Labrador was reached. The logic of events suggested the wisdom of anchorage at Cape Charles for the night, and Battle [Harbour] was left for Sunday morning. This unexpected visit to Cape Charles was a pleasant surprise, as it afforded the opportunity of witnessing the peace and quiet which prevails in a busy fishing settlement on the eve of the Sunday. A call at the Post Office and a hurried glance at scenes often talked of in the old Carbonear days, summed up the actual experiences, but as we glanced around the rugged harbour line, many a once familiar face appeared in the shadows. We asked for the rooms that for nearly a century had been the headquarters of the Carbonear Taylors. They are still there and a Carbonear Taylor worthily carries on the old traditions, but the old race have passed, the four brothers, Solomon, George, Joseph and Richard, at rest in their own home town, and others of the name scattered throughout the world, none of the active generation active, and many even of the younger race at rest. To the passerby Cape Charles will suggest the idea of being “at the back of beyond,” and there are as “loyal hearts and true,” to their place of birth to be found amongst the residents of the Eastern head of Labrador, as in many parts of His Majesty’s domains. The houses are warm and comfortable, and their inmates bright, active, intelligent and happy. Isolation exists only when out of harmony with environment...

The Village Orchestra – The Cape Charles Band has a fame peculiarly its own. Other villages boast their nightly concerts, but none in range and column excel, and few approach the far-famed chorus of Cape Charles. As the daylight disappears preparations commence. As the violinist tunes his instrument before the performance, so the members of the canine orchestra, make their vocal preparations. Until darkness has settled in there is no uniformity. Harmonies and discords alike are individual and intermittent. But when night falls all is changed, and from one end of the long coast line to the other, the choristers unite in one long weird chorus, whether of pain, of pleasure, or of protest who shall say? And night after night, year after year, the Band continues its self-appointed task. Listening to it from the deck of the *Solway* unseeing and unseen, there seemed something almost human in the now terrifying, now almost harmonious sounds. Dogs bay the moon in all lands, but to the true dog of Labrador the hours of darkness are most sacred; and the darker the night the more weird the wild chorus from the shore. It is as the wailing of lost souls; the shrieking for help of the perishing; the howling of impotent rage; the united protest

²¹ William H. Alcock (c1869-1955).

²² Azariah Alcock (c1835-1912).

against the violations of the solitudes by man; and the loud voiced echoes of that day long gone by, when their wolfish ancestors roamed the forests of the wide spread peninsula, seeking for their blood-stained prey. So much for the band – and at any Labrador station it may be heard, though to Cape Charles belongs the foremost place, by right of history and of skill – but despite all that may be said about them, they are invaluable to the resident, who would be almost helpless without them. No other animal can take their place. The reindeer experiment²³ so far as actual service to man is concerned appears to have proved a failure. They find no employment as beasts of burden and have done no little injury to gardens and pasturage. Well-protected they afford neither milk nor meat to those who stand most in need of these. These reindeer have not demonstrated their value, and it is significant that not the reindeer but the dog team is employed by the officers of the Mission, when in pursuance of their winter's work. Not for many a long year will a satisfactory substitute for the Labrador dog be found. He may be fierce and noisy, but when work calls he is there to do it; and if kept in wholesome dread of authority, is as harmless as his less wolfish cousins. Long will the dogs of Labrador continue to chant their mysterious discords, and howl weird music to the northern skies.

(To be continued in next issue...)



201309191730060.Solway 1881-9-20 Caledonian Maritime Research Trust

²³ See Rompkey, *Grenfell of Labrador*, 130-33.

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*, <https://www.saltwire.com> & *The Chronicle Herald*, Halifax, Nova Scotia. 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 website celebrating 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. See also Historic Wabana Facebook Group Blog.

Note: Now that we no longer have a daily newspaper in St. John's, we will increasingly source more strays from funeral home websites. I ask our readers to submit strays from their own local areas.

Bailey, Bridget M. (nee Murphy) in Cambridge, Ontario, on Dec. 26, 1985. Formerly of Belmont & Bell Island. Predeceased by her husband, Gordon Bailey & son Frederick & daughters, Blanche McGilvray & Lorraine Rowe. Mother of Chester F. Interment in Belmont Cemetery. Obit in *The Boston Globe*, Dec. 27, 1985. Also on the Bell Island Genealogy Facebook Group page & Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page.

Bartlett, Charles, aged 87, on Sept. 15, 2025 in Halifax, NS. Born in English Harbour on Sept. 5, 1938, son of Isaac & Ida Bartlett. Predeceased by his parents & his brother, Jim. Husband of Gladys (nee Barnes). Father of Richard. He worked for Natural Sea Products for fourteen years & with the Coast Guard, Department of Fisheries & Oceans for twenty-five years. Obit J. Albert Walker Funeral Home, Halifax, NS & *The Chronicle Herald*, Halifax, NS Sept. 20, 2025.

Belliveau, Gertrude M. (nee Neary) in Roslindale, Ma on Sept. 3, 1968. Predeceased by her husband, Nelson J

Belliveau. Mother of Nelson J. Belliveau. Sister of Elizabeth Stein of Sarasota, Fla., Mary Burke, Flatrock, Stephen & Peter. Obit on the Bell Island Genealogy Facebook page.

Byrne, Ronald "Ron" Gerard of Calgary, AB. Aug. 12, 1960 – Nov. 28, 2025. He moved to Calgary in the Fall of 1981. He was employed as a production accountant. Predeceased by his parents, Alex & Violet (nee Yetman) Byrne, his sister Ellen Hogan & his partner of 26 years, Gerald Hein. Brother of Joan, Mary, Gerry, Bob, Carol, John, Marie, Michael, Sharon, Donna, Tony & Chris. Stepfather of Kelly Hein & Sonya Elias. Obit & photo Caul's Funeral Home, St. John's.

Ezekiel, George Robert, aged 97 on Oct. 17, 2025 in Truro, NS. Born on Bell Island in 1927, son of Edward & Mary (Anthony) Ezekiel. Father of Carol & Susan. Obit *The Chronicle Herald* Oct. 25, 2025 & Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page.

Fava, Daphne Pearl (nee Gosse) aged 83, on Aug. 31, 2025 in Ontario. Born on Bell

Island on March 6, 1942. Predeceased by her husband, Vincent, 2019, her sisters, Betty, Edna, Isabel & her brother Charles. She moved to Galt in 1966. She was employed at Kralinator Filters in Preston for 48 years. Interment at Mount View Cemetery, Cambridge, On. Obit Historic Wabana Facebook Group Blog.com.

Fewer, Dennis of Calgary, Alberta on April 21, 2025, aged 64. Born in Holyrood on Nov. 5, 1960. Predeceased by his parents, Patrick & Elizabeth (Reynolds) Fewer & his sister Rosemary. Father of Kori Hudyma (Steve) & Renee. Brother of Joe, Richard & Ann. He worked in construction for many years. Obit & photo Dunphy's Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Holyrood.

French, Lloyd Lorenzo, aged 57 in Nova Scotia. Sept. 26, 1967 – June 5, 2025. Born on Bell Island. Predeceased by his parents, Arthur & Lorraine (Noseworthy) French. Step-son of Russell D. Rogers. Husband of Angela. Father of Nicholas & Victoria. Brother of Judy Pardy, Dartmouth, Sandra French, Halifax & Russell Rogers, Yarmouth, NS. He was a Power Engineer at the Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre in Waterville. Obit & photo Historic Wabana Facebook Group Blog.com.

Hanlon, Elizabeth "Betty" (nee Hammond) of Allston, Ma. On Dec. 6, 2006, aged 89. From Spaniard's Bay & Bell Island. Resident of Allston for 51 years. Predeceased by her parents, Jim & Lizzie Hammond of Bell Island, her husband of 44 years, Mick (Portugal Cove), her son Leo, her brothers, Tom, Pat, Steve, & Frank & her sisters, Alice & Rita. Mother of Michael, Jim, Liz & Mary. The Boston Globe, Dec. 7, 2006, the Lehman & Reem Funeral Home, Brighton, Ma. & Bell Island Genealogy Facebook page.

Johnstone, Catherine Delores "Cathy J" March 28, 1940 – Aug. 13, 2025 in Halifax, NS. Born on Bell Island. Predeceased by her parents & her husband Donald. Sister of three brothers & three sisters. Mother of Kim & Cindy. She was active in the Real Estate Business in Halifax. Obit & photo Arbour Memorial & Historic Wabana Nfld 2.0 Facebook page.

Lemelin, Eva Dora (nee Pitts) aged 91 on Sept. 11, 2025 in Ontario. Born in Wabana, Bell Island on Oct. 11, 1933, daughter of John & Amelia Pitts. Predeceased by her parents & her three husbands, Douglas Haynes, Roger Lemelin & James Landers. Also predeceased by her son Peter Haynes & her twelve brothers & sisters. Mother of Paul Haynes & Mark Haynes. Obit & photo, Graham A. Giddy Funeral Home, Fergus, ON & Historic Wabana Facebook Group Blog.

Luther, Edwin Roy (Ted) on Nov. 15, 2025 in Halifax, NS. Born in Corner Brook in 1942. Predeceased by his parents, James Luther & Doris Hale. Husband of 61 years of Donna (Taylor). Father of Susan, Karen, Craig & James. Brother of Scott. Obit & photo *The Chronicle Herald*, Nov. 18, 2025.

McKenzie, Christopher William (Chris) aged 69 of Lower Sackville, NS, on Sept. 12, 2025. Born in Goose Bay, Labrador, Newfoundland & Labrador. Predeceased by his parents, Reginald & Dorothy Jean (nee Battie) & his brother Marc. Husband of Catherine (MacEachern). Father of Scott & Sarah. Brother of Jonathan. Obit & photo *The Halifax Chronicle* Sept. 16, 2025.

Pitcher, Henry "Ford" in St. Peter's, NS, aged 95. July 25, 1930 – Oct. 31, 2025. Formerly of Winterton & Wabush. Born in Winterton, Trinity Bay. He ran Pitcher's Taxi Service in Winterton, before moving to Wabush in 1968. Predeceased by his

parents, Uriah & Susie (Piercey) Pitcher, his wife Doris, 1983 & his sisters Miriam & Joy. He retired from Wabush Mines in 1983 & moved to Cape Breton, NS. Father of Sharon Spencer (John) of New Alnany, NS & Susan Herbert (Bud) of Oyen, AB. Brother of Roy, Mount Pearl. Interment at the Salvation Army Cemetery, Blackmarsh Road, St. John's. Obit & photo Barrett's Funeral Home, St. John's & Memories of Wabush Facebook page.

Pynn, Clifford Joseph of Cambridge, Ontario, on Oct. 26, 2025, aged 75. Born on Wabana, Bell Island on Oct. 24, 1950, son of Edward Pynn & Jessie Meadus. Predeceased by his parents & his brother Edgar. He was employed at Metekote. Father of Harley Shea & Ashley Shea. Brother of Eric, Fred, Ed, Doris Bennett (Sandy), Florence & Margaret. Obit & photo Historic Wabana Nfld. 2.0 Facebook page & Eco Conscious Cremation & Burial, Inc.

Robinson, Maureen Agnes (nee Sulley), on Sept. 6, 2025, aged 89, of Oklahoma City, Oka. Born on April 15, 1936 in St. John's. Predeceased by her parents, her husband, John Robinson, her daughter, Patti Keough Daniels & her stepson, Jeffrey Robinson. Mother of John Keough & Laura Keough Beer (Greg). Sister of Gerald & Harold. Obit & photo *The Telegram* Sept. 20, 2025.

Ross, Donald, aged 84 on June 21, 2025 in Ottawa, Ontario. Born in St. John's on June 14, 1941. Predeceased by his parents, Alex & Dorothy (Wiseman) Ross. Sister of Doreen, Manchester, NH & Karen Alcock (Ralph). Obit & photo Caul's Funeral Home, St. John's.

Swanson, Willma Dorothy (nee Butler), aged 83, on June 27, 2006 in Ma. Born on July 8, 1922, daughter of William & Annie (Day) Butler of Bell Island. They moved to Somerville, Massachusetts in 1927. Wife of Reverend Edward I. Swanson. Sister of

Marie Wilkinson of Norwood, Ma. Mother of David & Peter. Obit Boston Sunday Globe, July 2, 2006 & Bell Island Genealogy Facebook page.

Sweeney, Sylvia (nee Mugford), aged 92, on Jan. 19, 2025 in Bathurst, NB. Born on Bell Island. Predeceased by her parents, Thomas & Ursula (Penny) Mugford & her daughters, Beverley & Barbara. In 1959 she married Bernard (Bern) Sweeney. Mother of Jenny, Nancy, Tommy, Patricia & Gary. Obit & photo Historic Wabana Facebook Group Blog.com.

Whelan, William Francis (Bill), aged 85 in Nova Scotia. Born in St. John's on Dec. 31, 1939, son of Leo & Florence (Sullivan) Whelan, Predeceased by his parents, his sisters, Judy, Doreen Haggerty, Mary Ryan & Philomena Perry & his son Martin in 2022. Husband of Lillian (White). They were married on June 20, 1969. Father of Stephen, Sharlene & Christine. Brother of Rosalita Lacey & Deborah Martin. A former member of the Congregation of Christian Brothers, he served as a Superintendent with four School Boards in Newfoundland & Labrador & Nova Scotia. Funeral services in Truro, NS. Obit & photo *The Chronicle Herald* Dec. 4, 2025.

White, Joan Marie (Bennett), aged 86, in Fort Saskatchewan, AB, on Sept. 17, 2025. Born on Nov. 20, 1938 in Corner Brook. She began her nursing career in Halifax, NS. She married Gerard White in 1960 & moved to Labrador City & worked in the Captain William Jackman Hospital. She was an avid skier. They moved to Fort McMurray, Canmore & Fort Saskatchewan. Mother of Sylvia Nelson (Randy) & Becky Crowther (Doug). Sister of Bonnie Klein, Debbie White, Phyllis Hache, Wayne Bennett, Perry Bennett & Joe Bennett. Predeceased by her husband, Gerard, her granddaughter, Hannah Crowther, her sisters, Claudine

Wall, Sylvia Wellon & Geraldine Delaney & her brother DonBennett. Obit & photo *The Fort Saskatchewan Record* Sept.26, 2025. Born on Bell Island, daughter of Herbert & Mina (Bartlett) Parsons.

Zera, Ivy Rachel (nee Parsons), aged 82 of Sunderland, Ma. On March 15, 2006.

Predeceased by her parents & her brother Maxwell, 2003. Wife of Albert J. Zera. They married on Feb. 17, 1945 in New Orleans, La. (note, he died on Dec. 13, 2010). Mother of Janice Dilorenzo, James & Michael. Sister of Nada Harvey & Elsa Shea. Obit Historic Wabana Nfld. 2.0 Facebook page.



General Protestant Cemetery, St. Johns West, Newfoundland; E 66-23; The Rooms

A Trip on the SS Fort Townshend

Submitted by Pat Walsh



E 71-46; The SS Fort Townshend leaving St. Johns, NF

The SS Fort Townshend was built in 1936 in Glasgow, Scotland by the Blythswood Shipbuilding Co. Ltd. The ship's first owner was Furness Withy & Co. Ltd, London . It was a sister ship of the SS Fort Amherst. It served as a passenger and cargo ship. In 1940 the ship entered war service in Canadian coastal convoys as a commodore ship. In 1952 she was sold for conversion into a yacht, It exchanged owners a couple of times before it was broken up in Belgium in 1962.

On Sunday , August 11, 1940 the SS Fort Townshend sailed from St. John's Harbour to New York. My mother Frances Roberts, (1920 - 2011) aged 20 was one of the passengers on the ship on that day. Two of Mom's friends were also passengers, Mary Shea, aged 31, from Pouch Cove and Charlotte Maud Squires, aged 28 from Harbour Main. The three women were heading to Brooklyn, New Year. Mary may have been a resident of Brooklyn then. Charlotte resided in Chamberlains. The ship's papers indicated that Mary's mother was Alice Shea , Pouch Cove , Charlotte's mother was Caroline Squires. Mom's mother was Mary Roberts, George Street, St. John's. Mom was joining her friend, Mary at #87, 89th Street, Brooklyn . Charlotte was visiting her sister Mrs. D. Stone , on the same street, #305, 89th Street, Brooklyn.



The picture on the left taken on board the ship on August 11, 1940 shows, left to right, Mary Shea, Frances Roberts and Charlotte Maud Squires. If anyone has any information on Mary or Charlotte , please contact me at the Family History Society office. Frances worked as a Nanny in New York for two years. She returned home in 1942, following the death of her father , Thomas in May 1942. He was killed in an industrial accident while working as a longshoreman on the St. John's Waterfront. Later in St. John's, Frances was employed as a clerk typist at the St. John's Telegraph Office.

SOLVING A HEADSTONE PUZZLE MYSTERY IN GOULDS

Submitted by Bob Power

I read with great interest your story in the latest issue of The Ancestor (Vol 41,4 pg. 154) about a most mysterious and unusual headstone, a Puzzle Headstone, so to speak. What caught my eye immediately was its location, my hometown of Goulds or 'The Goulds' as it is more commonly known. Goulds is a small farming community on the outskirts of St. John's as you head down the Southern Shore of the Avalon Peninsula. When I was growing up however, Goulds was a town in its own right with its own municipal council. I grew up in Goulds from age 6 until I left the province in 1991 after finishing my Business degree at MUN.

If you grew up in Goulds, you know that there are a few surnames that are foundational to the community and while very pervasive within its boundary, are not found broadly anywhere else in the province. Names like Howlett and Dinn are a couple of examples of these deep rooted Goulds names. This is the second thing that caught my attention upon the initial review of the headstone. Quite prominently one can see Howlett and Dinn and also Goulds.

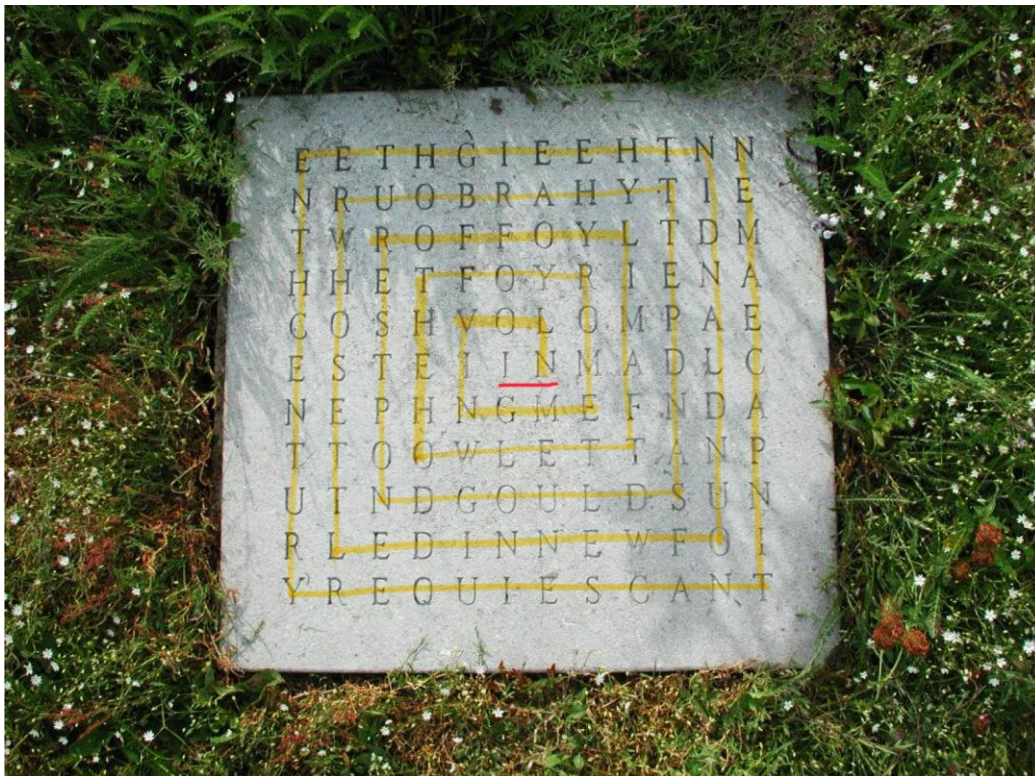
I knew I had to try and figure out what the stone said, who placed it there and when. As for when, I knew it had to be placed there after 1986, the year I graduated from St. Kevin's high school. You see, since the graveyard was located very close to the school where I spent 12 years – and as kids we spent a fair amount of time in and around the graveyard - a puzzle of this significance would have been observed, discussed and solved years ago - or may have frightened the bejeesus out of us.

My first attempt to solve the puzzle was using Google's AI tool called Gemini. Call it a crutch or an assistant but Artificial Intelligence, when given the right task, can be quite helpful in interpreting and solving complex tasks. A puzzle like this, I thought, might be an easy task for AI. Since AI is good with text I figured it would be able to unlock the secrets engraved into this stone without issue. I was sadly wrong. You see AI tools use existing sources on the internet to train themselves, and if you type in Puzzle Headstone into any search engine you get many hits on the Bean Puzzle Headstone found in the rural Rushes Cemetery outside Wellesley Ontario. It is clear that Gemini used this headstone solution as a basis for its recommended interpretation of the Goulds headstone. I was not at all satisfied with the result...and told Gemini this in no uncertain terms. It apologized profusely.

After AI proved to be wrong, I thought I'd turn to HI, Human Intelligence. As a genealogist with 30 years of experience in researching brick walls, I should have known better and started with the humans first. I posted the story about the headstone in the 'Goulds - Community and Friends' Facebook group and within an hour the puzzle was solved by several members of the group.

The solution to the puzzle is to start in the middle of the headstone where you will see the word IN. You then continue above the N and go in counter clockwise squares from the inside out (wrapping around the word IN) to read the following words:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE HOWLETT FAMILY OF FOREST POND GOULDS AND
 PETTY HARBOUR WHO SETTLED IN NEWFOUNDLAND IN THE EIGHTEENTH
 CENTURY REQUIESCANT IN PACE AMEN



The last words being Latin for RIP.

So riddle solved right?! Well not so fast. I am a genealogist and needed to know more about who placed it there, what was their background and to see where they fit into my Goulds Family Tree. (NOTE: Over the past decade I have been working on a Goulds Family Tree to see how closely knit all my classmates were.) Luckily, a couple of people who commented on my post were clearly daughters of the source of the stone. In fact, one daughter, Vanessa, commented “Dad loved a good puzzle! He’d also love that people were talking about it here, trying to figure it out.”

I then reached out to another daughter, Jennifer, who told me her Dad was a man named Eddy (Edward Malcolm) Howlett who died in 2018 at the age of 57. She said, “the headstone was placed in the graveyard likely in the late 1990s or early 2000s...when he replaced the older monuments on the site...after my great-grandfather passed away.” She also said that her dad “was very into our family history and along with her great uncle had traced the family tree back many years which is why he placed the riddle marker. He loved crosswords and solving puzzles like that.”

On top of being a genealogist, I was not surprised to find in Eddy's obituary that he was also an award-winning certified memorialist...he knew headstones better than anyone.

From his obituary we learn the following:

"Eddy was president of Muir's Marble works and became the first certified memorialist in Atlantic Canada, along with the first certified master memorialist in Atlantic Canada. He was a long time MBNA Canadian Trustee, OMBA Director, a member of Association of Gravestone Studies, a recipient of Governor General Caring Canadian Award, Veterans Affairs Commendation, Queen's Jubilee Medal, three time winner MBNA Aspire Award, four time winner of OMBA Ted Hayden Award."

Sounds like the exact type of person who would be making headstones to cause genealogists to scratch their heads and investigate further. The Headstone Puzzle mystery solved!

As a postscript to this story, after placing Eddy and his family into my Goulds family tree, it turns out 'unsurprisingly' that I went to school with many cousins of his and even delivered newspapers to his grandfather Heffernan and uncles for many years as a kid.



St. Kevin's Cemetery, Goulds; (Find a Grave Photo)

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