

The Ancestor



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2026



Inside this edition

- Who Was Thomas Howe
- The Rise and Fall of an Outport Merchant
- Morgan Family Name
- Teaching in 1913
- William and Dorcas (Garland) Street of Lower Island Cove

The Family History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador, Inc.

The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 8008
St. John's, NL, Canada
A1B 3M7

Telephone: 709-754-9525
FHSNL e-mail address: fhs@fhsnl.ca
Our Website: www.fhsnl.ca
Ancestor e-mail: ancestor@fhsnl.ca

OFFICERS

President: Janet Morrissey
Vice President: Paul Dunne
Secretary: Jill Ryan
Treasurer: Ken Venkamah

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Ed Oldford
Linda Crocker
Bert Marche
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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.

Lectures 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. Lectures are held on the fourth Tuesday of the following months: January, February, March, April, May, September, October, and November. Lectures may be held in person and/or online and begin at 7:30pm.

THE 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
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EDITOR: Paul Dunne

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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.

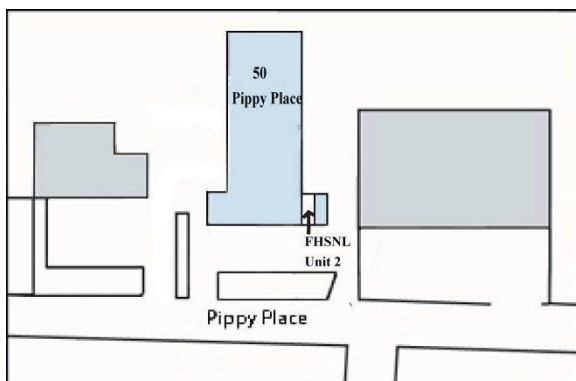


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Cover Picture: Eleven members of the Samuel Acreman family, representing several generations of the family; The Rooms A 115-119;

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Janet Morrissey

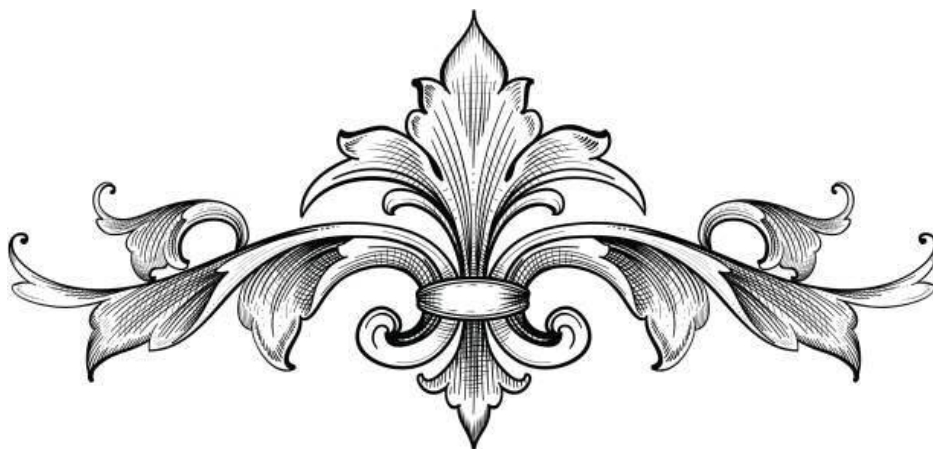
Summer is upon us...well, at least it's trying. I'm about to embark on a camping trip, so I hope it improves!

Our lecture series is done for the year. I hope everyone enjoyed our last speaker in May, Françoise Enguehard. We don't usually dig deep into the French ancestry side of Newfoundland genealogy, so her lecture was a special treat. The recording is on the website in case you missed it. This means we are on the hunt for speakers next year. If you have an idea or would like to present something, please get in touch!

The Annual General Meeting was held on May 27 where, amongst other things, the Society adopted a new set of by-laws. Many thanks to VP Paul Dunne for re-working these to align with current legislation.

We've got some new faces around the office as well. Our new Treasurer, Ken Venkamah, will be helping to sort our financial affairs in the wake of Max's passing. We have a new hire, Lucy, per our Canada Summer Jobs grant and Ida Linehan Young has been hired as the Project Coordinator on our Mapping the Mobility of 19th-Century Conception Bay North Women project, funded by a New Horizons grant. Because of Lucy's presence, we will have regular open hours this summer. Starting June 29, the office will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays.

Have a wonderful summer! We hope to see you in the office, or, if summer takes you away from your research, join us starting September for a new raft of lectures and activities!



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 SUMMER HOURS: June 29 – August 21, 2026

Monday - Thursday: 10:00am - 3:00pm

Friday: 10:00 am – 12:00 Noon

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.



Remembering Max Grandy

We were deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Maxwell "Max" Caleb Grandy on January 31, 2026. Max volunteered with the Society in 2017 when he came to the office to help work through our financial statements. It didn't take long before he joined the Board and became our Treasurer. From that point on, Max was fully engaged in every aspect of the Family History Society's work.

Max served on the planning committee for our Genealogy Conference, *RockBound Roots*, held in July 2025, and he was a steady, enthusiastic presence at the office and at Society events. He was well liked by everyone who met

him. His warm personality, quick humour and easy smile greeted you the moment you walked through the door. In every conversation and discussion, Max offered thoughtful advice, practical insight and genuine encouragement.

The many tributes shared through Barrett's Funeral Home speak volumes about the impact Max had on his family, friends, and community. He touched so many lives, including ours. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Bonnie, his sons Jonathan, Matthew, and Christopher, and all their family.

Max was born on March 16, 1951, the son of Oscar and Winnifred (née White) Grandy. He grew up in Grand Bank and moved to St. John's in 1968 to attend Memorial University of Newfoundland. He later worked with Canada Agriculture in Corner Brook for five years before beginning his long career with the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans in 1982. His work brought him to Grand Falls in 2004 and he remained with the Department until his retirement in 2011.

In retirement, Max devoted his time generously to volunteer work. He was active with the Family History Society, the MUN Botanical Garden (Friends of the Garden), and the community choir, Chordially Yours. His dedication, kindness, and good humour enriched every organization he touched.

Max will be remembered with gratitude, affection, and great respect. His contributions to the Society - and the warmth he brought to our community - will not be forgotten.



ACQUISITIONS - *Compiled by Rosalind Babb Stokes*

TITLE

AUTHOR/DONOR

Norman Family of Brigus (Percy, Leamon and Bartlett)

Janet Morrissey

First School Master in Random Island - George Vardy
of the South West Arm

Greg Morgan/Craig Morrissey

Strong as the Ocean

Francis Ennis & Helen Woodrow/Elsa Flack

Kellys of the Outrigger

John W. McDermott/Pat Kelly

Foote Prints among the Kauri

Bill Haig/Pat Kelly

Ungava, Labrador North
Births as far back as 1845, Baptisms 1900-1929
(Parish of Essex)

Elizabeth Cox



Cemetery Transcription Collection at FHSNL Research Center

Who Was Thomas Howe?

Wanda (Jennings) Garrett

Did you ever wonder how the Thomas Howe Demonstration Forest, on the Trans Canada Highway at Gander, got its name? Who was Thomas Howe? Some may know that he was the first chief woods ranger in Newfoundland but what else do we know about him?

Some background...

Thomas Howe is my late husband's great grandfather so over the years I have researched Thomas and the Howe family. Thomas was a very interesting man.

In 2004, before you could find genealogy records and information on the web, my husband and I travelled to Dorset, England to learn more about Thomas and his family. All we had when we went was a copy of his birth certificate that I had ordered and received before our trip, and a handwritten letter from one of his siblings. The letter was found with other family items in the attic of my husband's family home in Port Blandford.

From his birth certificate we knew Thomas was the son of Thomas and Mary Ann (Loveless) Howe. He was born on 7 June 1860 on Kezworth Farm near Wareham, Dorset England.

Our first day in Dorset was spent at the records office in Dorchester. We searched birth, marriage, and death records as well as census records. We discovered Thomas was the fifth child in the family and he had five sisters (Emily (who died young), Ann, Sarah Jane, Emily, and Alice) and three brothers (George, Joseph, and William). His parents also raised a grandson, Walter. We learned that the family moved around quite a bit. His father, Thomas, was an agriculture labourer.

Thomas Howe (Sr) was born in 1828 in Upwey. Mary Ann Loveless was born in 1828 in Alton Pancras. They were married in 1851 in Corfe Castle. Their two eldest daughters, Emily and Ann, were born in Woolgarston in 1851 and 1854. A third daughter, Sarah Jane, was born in Corfe Castle in 1856. George, their eldest son, was born in Bushey, Wytch Heath. In 1859, their eldest daughter Emily passed away at the age of seven at Thrasher's Lane in the parish of Corfe Castle.

In the 1861 census, the year Thomas (Jr.) was born, the family is listed in Wareham. They were still living at Kezworth farm, Wareham when his sister Emily was born in 1862. In 1865, when Joseph was born, the family lived in Hants, Southampton, Hampshire. By 1868, when Alice was born, the family was back in Dorset living at Woolgarston, Ulwell. By 1870, they had moved to Langton Matravers when Thomas' youngest sibling, William, was born.

The last census for Dorset that listed Thomas (Jr.) is the 1871 census for Langton Matravers.

According to the 1881 census, the family was living at Ulwell, Swanage. When the 1891 census was taken, the family was living at 64 Ulwell Road, Swanage. Thomas and Mary Ann Howe were living at Dean Hill, Studland when the 1901 census records were taken and they lived there until their deaths in 1907 and 1909.

As mentioned above, the other piece of history that we had when we visited Dorset was a 1907 handwritten letter written by one of Thomas' siblings. The letter was written shortly after their mother had passed away and his sibling was thanking him for the money he sent to help cover

the cost of their mother's headstone. We didn't have the end of the letter, so we didn't know which sibling wrote the letter, but we did have the return address – Fox Ground Cottage, Rempston, Corfe Castle, Dorset!

Our challenge, when we went to Dorset, was to find both Fox Ground Cottage and the headstone of Mary Ann (Loveless) Howe. We had no idea where either was located.

Without going into the details, we did succeed in both of our challenges. We discovered the letter was written by his youngest sister, Alice (Howe) Battrick. She was living at Fox Ground Cottage on the Rempstone estate in 1907. We visited the cottage and the current owner invited us in for a tour. It was an amazing feeling to not only see this cottage from the outside, but to also be invited in and learn about the cottage.

We found Mary Ann's headstone in St. Nicholas Anglican churchyard in Studland. She has a lovely headstone which she shares with her husband. We also managed to find the last cottage Thomas' parents lived in – Dean Cottage on Dean Hill, Studland. This thatched cottage has an interesting history. Thomas and Mary Ann's son, Joseph, was the first golf professional at the Purbeck Golf Links and Dean Cottage doubled as the original clubhouse. Visitors to the golf club paid their fees at the cottage.

Back to our Thomas....

My husband's oral family history tells us that Thomas came to Newfoundland about 1877 when he was only 17 years old. It is believed he came here to work, for two years, for a friend of his father who had either a shipping or fishing business in St. John's.

We know he was not listed in the 1881 census for Dorset.

According to a Dorset newspaper article written about his brother George in 1937, on the occasion of George's 79th birthday and 54th wedding anniversary, "Mr. Howe's younger brother [Thomas] has lived in Newfoundland for 56 years." This would mean Thomas came to Newfoundland about 1881.

The first documented reference I found for Thomas in Newfoundland was in the 21 July 1881 issue of the Twillingate Sun newspaper. It listed Thomas Howe and M. D. Stares as surveyors for Brooklyn, Bonavista Bay.

So... Thomas arrived in Newfoundland sometime between 1877 and 1881, probably closer to 1877.

Thomas married Anna Jane Sutton Stares, daughter of Meshach Daniel and Mary Kirkland (Moore) Stares on the 11 April 1882 at Brooklyn. He was listed as a fisherman when he married Anna and when their first two sons (Alberto and William George) were baptized. When their third son (William Alonzo Charles) was baptized in 1887, Thomas was listed as a farmer. According to the Patroit newspaper of 22 June 1885, Thomas petitioned the government of the day "praying that a sum of money may be granted to him to commence farming and cultivation of the land."

Thomas did eventually start a farm in the Brooklyn area. The Evening Telegram of 20 September 1899 ran an article on "Possibilities of Our Soil. Mr. Thoms Howe's farm at Glenville, South-East Arm of Goose Bay, is one of the many places that anyone interested in the agricultural

possibilities of the soil of Newfoundland would settle with interest and pleasure. Though Mr. Howe is settled here only four years he has quite a large area under cultivation. He will raise 70 barrel of potatoes this fall and six tons of fodder. His oats are 6 ½ feet high, and 69 ears came from a single grain of barley, and 29 oats from one grain. The straws of some of the growing oats were found to measure one and a half inches in breadth. The soil is a rich, dark loam and requires very little manure."

As noted above, along with farming, Thomas was a surveyor. On 22 May 1888, Thomas was appointed to the Department of Agriculture and Mines and worked there for 46 years. It was recorded in the Twillingate Sun on 16 June 1888 that "His Excellency the Governor in council, has been pleased to have appointed Thomas Howe and George Haines of Goose Bay to be Surveyors of Lumber – Royal Gazette."

An interesting item appeared in the 24 May 1904 edition of the Free Press; "According to the Herald, Mr. Thomas Howe, of Brooklyn, B.B. has succeeded in taming a caribou and training it to draw light loads. He captured a young fawn last fall, properly cared for and fed it until it became quite tame, and during the spring has been using it bringing out wood from the forest."

Thomas was appointed the first ranger of forests in 1905. His appointment was announced in the Evening Telegram on 14 July 1905. "First Ranger Appointed. Mr. Thomas How[e], of Brooklyn, Goose Bay, has been appointed Chief Ranger of Forests by the Government, and will take up his duties immediately. No better man could have been selected for the position. Besides being a surveyor, Mr. How[e] has had thirty years experience in the woods of this country in a general way."

According to the Newfoundland Vital Statistics, Anna (Stares) Howe died of heart disease on 5 December 1905. Her death announcement was printed in the Evening Telegram on 8 December 1905; "There died at Brooklyn, B.B., on Tuesday last, the 5th inst., in her 54th year, Anna J. S. Howe, beloved wife of Mr. Thomas Howe. Deceased, who was an estimable woman, a good wife and mother, had been in delicate health for several months past, and her demise was not unexpected. Her husband, who was in town about three weeks ago, was summoned home by a telegraph despatch saying that his wife was dying. Deceased leaves her husband, two sons and a large circle of relatives and acquaintances to mourn her. The Telegram extends its sympathy to Mr. Howe in this his hour of affliction."

Thomas married Selina Andrews, daughter of William Zacariah and Lavinia (Haines) Andrews of Upper Gullies, Conception Bay, on 24 April 1907. At that time Thomas was listed as a surveyor from Brooklyn. Thomas and Selina moved to Port Blandford in 1907. Their first child (Mary Ellen) of five children was born in Port Blandford in November 1907.

We learn from W. J. Carrol in his book, *A History of Newfoundland Forest Protection Association*, that "Thomas Howe was a pioneer in promoting forest conservation and in attempting to educate government leaders and the public in appreciation of the great value of the forest resource. He was entirely dedicated to the task of fire prevention and was forerunner of a number of individuals in government and in industry who would later commit much time and effort to the task of promoting the prevention and control of forest fires."

Carrol quotes Thomas, from one of his annual reports, as saying, "It is regrettable that greater interest is not taken by people in protecting our great forest wealth. They do not realize its great valuation nor the benefits which are being derived yearly therefrom."

Sir William Coaker, a prominent Newfoundland politician of the 20th century, also became aware of Thomas' commitment to forest prevention. As noted by Carrol, "Once, when clearing land on his farm in Paradise, near Bonavista, Sir William was burning brush under conditions considered by Howe to be unsafe. When Howe told him that his fire was in contravention of the Forest Fires Act he angrily retorted saying 'My man don't you know that I can have that Act changed at any time.' Howe responded saying, 'but sir, you haven't changed it yet,' and he charged Sir Will under that Act and had him pay a fine."

After 29 years, Thomas retired in May 1934. Edgar Baird succeeded Thomas as chief woods ranger. At the opening of the Thomas Howe Demonstration Forest in 1992, Edgar remembered a time when Walter Monroe was the prime minister of Newfoundland and he intended to cut back on the allocation of funding to fire services. "When Tom heard this he hopped on a train, that was the only way to get to St. John's at the time, and spent two hours lecturing Mr. Monroe on the importance of fire protection for the forests. When Tom left Mr. Monroe showed him to the door and told him until then he didn't even know forests existed in Newfoundland," Edgar said. Monroe didn't cut back on the funding.

In 1935, King George V awarded Thomas with the Imperial Service Medal (I.S.M.) in recognition of his long and meritorious service. After being invested, Thomas addressed those in attendance, but he first spoke to the children. Thomas used every occasion to educate the youth and the public.

Selina Howe died at the age of 66 years on 10 May 1943 and was buried in Port Blandford. Thomas died on 9 January 1944 and was buried next to Selina.

The following is Thomas' obituary which was printed in the Daily News on 11 January 1944 and abridged by the author:

Thomas Howe I.S.M., J.P.

"News was received in the City by Mr. Charles Brown, Brownsdale Hotel, on Sunday last, of the passing of Thomas Howe I.S.M., J.P., at his home at Port Blandford in his 84th year.

Of Devonshire stock the late Mr. Howe came out to St. John's in a sailing vessel 68 years ago at the age of 16 and in the intervening years played a very important part in the life of the country, particularly in connection with the growing timber, its game and wild life generally. Arriving at this port he remained a short time and then went north to Fogo and Twillingate, finally settling down at Goose Bay, Bonavista Bay, where he farmed. In 1884 [1888] he was appointed a deputy Crown Lands Surveyor, being the oldest practising surveyor in the country, and it is only two years ago that he made a survey of Crown Lands. In 1904 he contested the district of Bonavista for the party led by Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Bond but was defeated. In 1905 the Fire Patrol was set up under a special Statute and he was appointed Chief Woods Ranger, a post he filled until 1934, when he was retired on pension, being brought back however to active duty for another two years. In 1934 [1935] he was honoured by His Majesty the King with the Imperial Service Medal. He was also a Justice of Peace.

His wife predeceased him twelve [eight] months ago. He leaves to mourn four sons, William at Upper Gullies; Thomas, formerly of the Forestry Unit but now with the Fire Patrol, department of Natural Resources; Bert at Corner Brook and Raymond [a grandson raised by Thomas and Selina] with the Newfoundland Regiment; and three [four] daughters, Mary (Mrs. Benjamin Stead) at Whitbourne; Enith [Enid] (Mrs. John Burton) at Port Blandford and Annie [Alice] (Mrs. [Walter] Garrett) also at Port Blandford [and Anna (Mrs. Augustus Ford) of Port Blandford]. The funeral takes place at Port Blandford today.”

Last words...

I can only imagine the interesting evening we could have listening to Thomas relating his experiences! It is said that he was an excellent raconteur, and we could learn so much about Newfoundland and her forest wealth in a conversation with him. Thomas had a lifelong commitment to our forestry, both as an official and as a citizen. He not only realized the value of our forests, but he loved them and worked for them.



Small islands dot the head of Goose Bay near Brooklyn – MUN DAI

In Memoriam

Submitted by Pat Walsh

Note: In this and previous issues of The Newfoundland 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.thetelegram.com/. Lest We Forget. Please submit selected obituaries to me care of the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Andersen, Rita, of Nain. Inuit elder and advocate for Labrador Inuit on Nov. 5, 2025. She began her career with the Public Service in Nov. 1976 with the former Labrador Inuit Association. She retired in 2016 as Interpreter/ translator Coordinator with the Nunatsiavut Government. She was a recipient of the Newfoundland and Labrador Seniors of Distinction Award, 2015 the King Charles III Coronation Medal & the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. Obit information & photo on many news services and Government web sites.

Barbour, William on Nov. 18, 2020. Respected Labrador Inuit leader. Born in Nain in 1959. Husband of Doreen. President of the Labrador Inuit Association for nine years, 1994 -2003. He was a leader in Nunatsiavut and part of the signing of the Labrador Inuit Lands Claim agreement & Impacts & Benefits agreement with the Voisey's Bay Nickel Company. He attended Grenfell College in Corner Brook. He was an integral part of the First Nunatsiavut Assembly. Obit information & photo on many news services and Government web sites.

McDonald, Eleanor (Nell) Frances (nee Pearle) on June 21, 2025 in her 101st year in Cambridge, ON. Born in 1924 on Bell Island. Predeceased by her parents, Michael

& Julia Pearle & her seven brothers & sisters. She was a resident of Cambridge for thirty - five years. Obit & photo T. Little Funeral Home & Cremation Centre, Cambridge, Ontario.

Marshall, William Walter "Bill" on June 28, 2023 in St. John's. Born in St. John's, son of Walter Marshall & Gertrude Bolt, on Aug. 23, 1935. Predeceased by his parents & his brother John & sister Anthea. Following University he was called to the Newfoundland Bar in 1958 & practised law in St. John's. He married Joan Rooney in 1960. He was a Member of the House of Assembly for Newfoundland & Labrador, Progressive Conservative from 1970 -1986. He was a Cabinet Minister & served as President of the Executive Council. He was named to the Court of Appeal of Newfoundland in 1986. He was active with the Anglican Diocese of St. John's & received an honorary doctorate degree from Memorial University on October 20, 2016. Father of Timothy, Valerie & Beth. Obit & photo *The Telegram* July 1, 2023.

Melendy, John Wilson (Jack) in St. John's on July 17, 2013, aged 87. Veteran, WWII, Merchant Navy & USA Army Veteran. Predeceased by his parents, John & Eva, his wife Dorothy (nee Snow) & his brother George. Past Master of Avalon Lodge # 2.

Brother of Karl. Obit *The Telegram* July 18, 2013.

Parsons, George G. R. on Oct. 9, 2012 in St. John's in his 94th year. Veteran, WWII. Commanding Officer of HMCS Cabot, St. John's. Retired President & CEO of the George G. R. Parsons Ltd. Group of Automotive & Industrial / Marine/ Recreational Equipment dealerships. Active as a volunteer with many charitable organizations. Husband of 67 years of Sheila Anderson (nee Winter). Father of Gregory, Vicki Rodd (Parker) & Beverley MacDonald (Wally, predeceased). Obit *The Telegram* Oct. 11, 2012.

Pauls, John, March 16, 1924 – May 20, 2026 in St. John's, aged 102. Veteran, World War II, Merchant Marines. Born in Rencontre East. He worked on oil tankers & was a marine engineer on the Great Lakes.

Member of the Royal Canadian Legion and was a founding member of Branch 9 in Spaniards Bay. Predeceased on January 1, 2014 by his wife Violet Chipman of Spaniards Bay. They married in 1948. Also predeceased by his brothers & sisters. Father of Dr. John (Jack) & Elaine Seymour (Wayne, predeceased on June 12, 2021). Obit & photo Slade's Funeral Home, Spaniards Bay.

Woodruff, Dr. Frederick William June 19, 1923 – Nov. 22, 2020 in St. John's. Veteran, WWII REME. In 1963 he emigrated from the United Kingdom to Twillingate where he served as a physician until his retirement. Husband of 70 years of Mary. Father of Stephen, Janet Goosney, Kate Saunders (John) & Paul. Obit & photo Carnell's Funeral Home, St. John's & *The Telegram* Nov. 25, 2020 & Obituary article Nov. 28, 2020, *The Telegram*.



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

Melvin Baker and Craig Morrissey

A Feat in Navigation – On Sunday morning early Battle Harbour was entered. It was a disappointment to miss this flourishing little town, over which the flag of Baine Johnston's house has so long waved.¹ Mr. Croucher, who has been for several years, we think since Mr. Bendle's day, in charge, has always a welcome for a visitor, and few leave Battle Harbour without words of grateful praise for their willing host. There is an English church at Battle [Haebour] where the Rev. M. Gardiner continues the faithful ministrations of a long line of earnest predecessors. There, too is a Hospital over which Dr. Grieve² presides. Several visitors from the States were there, as at St. Anthony, enjoying their summer holiday, so far as the unusually prevalent fogs permitted. After a brief stay the run was resumed, but it was at Cape Charles that they met at breakfast. Halt was made there until the fog pretended to lift. Chimney Tickle followed, and another unexpected visit - surely the irony of fate when the weather is remembered - to Pleasure Harbour. A memorable day was the Sunday; and better seamanship was never witnessed. That the course from Battle Harbour to Red Bay should have been made within the 15 hours was little short of marvelous. The entrance to Chateau was a revelation of what a Newfoundland coastal captain can do. From Pleasure Harbour the *Solway* forged slowly ahead, now stopping, now half-speed, never at full; running when the fog was less dense than darkness, stopping when it was blackness felt. But Captain Jacob knew what he was doing, and, crawling cautiously along, the good ship *Solway* emerged from her foggy covering, exactly half way between the points of the narrow entrance to Chateau; a feat in navigation that could only have been accomplished by a combination of skill, caution and confidence...

Chateau – These are the days of celebrations, memorials and ter-centenaries. Sometime Chateau's turn will come. Nearly three centuries and a half ago Anthony Parkhurst³ spoke of it as an excellent harbour. Two centuries later in 1766 Capt. [James] Cook and the great naturalist Sir Joseph Banks⁴ there formed a friendship that endured throughout their long and useful lives. It was there that Governor Palliser arranged a treaty of peace with the Esquimaux,⁵ and there in

¹ On Baine Johnston's business, see Sean Cadigan, "Battle Harbour in Transition: Merchants, Fishermen, and the State in the Struggle for relief in a Labrador Community during the 1930s," *Labour/ Le Travail* vol 26 (Fall 1990) 125-50; and Robert Lewis Hardy, *Battle Harbour was in my Blood* (St. John's: The Author, 2020).

² Dr. John Grieve (1877-1944), see his obituary in *Daily News* 3 July 1944, 3 and Nigel Rusted, comp. *Medicine in Newfoundland c1497 to the early 20th century: The Physicians and Surgeons* (St. John's: Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University, 1994) 45.

³ David B. Quinn, "PARKHURST, ANTHONY," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 1, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed February 18, 2026, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/parkhurst_anthony_1E.html.

⁴ Averil M. Lysaght, "BANKS, Sir JOSEPH," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed February 18, 2026, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/banks_joseph_5E.html.

⁵ William H. Whiteley, James Cook and British Policy in the Newfoundland Fisheries, 1764-1768," *Canadian Historical Review*, vol. 54 (3) 245-72; "James Cook, Hugh Palliser and the Newfoundland Fishery," *Newfoundland Quarterly*, vol. 69, 2 (October 1972) 17-22; and "Governor Hugh Pallister and the Newfoundland and Labrador Fishery," *Canadian Historical Review*, vol. 50, 2 (June 1969) 141-63.

1825 Governor Cochrane's edict⁶ was directed for the holding of circuit court. So says Mr. Gosling, the historian of the Labrador.⁷ Chateau has had a past, and if natural advantages count there may be a future in store. At present all is quiet and peaceful. If relics exist of a former greatness little attention is paid to them, but there are not a few amongst the older school who believe that Chateau holds within its bosom valuable secrets for the diligent searcher to discover. Little more than a century ago Chateau was a busy centre of trade. Buildings of brick and stone were there, and wealth abounded. Those were the days of the wars with France. Information came that French privateers were about to swoop on Chateau, make the settlement prisoners and loot the settlement. There was no talk of surrender, no thought of parley. Three large vessels were in the harbour, and these were laden with valuable freights. The buildings were then demolished and everything not aboard the three ships was consigned to the flames. Chateau fell, but not into the hands of Britain's enemies. Whether the *Antelope* and her consorts escaped in safety we know not. The patriotic British owners of ships and freight at least deserved success. The site of the old stone residence has for generations been occupied by the Joyce families of Carbonear and Freshwater, some of whom continue to carry on the fishing business. If Chateau's winter glories have departed she still brings wealth and comfort to many a home in Newfoundland.

Red Bay – Arrived in the harbour it is something of a puzzle to know how the passage has been made. To the uninitiated Chateau appears like a large basin without ingress or egress. Winds may blow without, fogs cover the waters, icebergs founder, and shipping meet with perils by storms and seas, but Chateau remains wholly oblivious. No harbour on the coast of either Labrador or Newfoundland could offer greater vantage to the privateer or the pirate. The stationers are nearly all from Carbonear and Freshwater, and in addition to their vessels several schooners were relying snugly at anchor, amongst them Capt. Winsor's of Wesleyville.⁸ The genial MHA was promptly aboard the *Solway* to get tidings of the fishery along the coast. The *Home*, too, was there with two anchors down, awaiting the lifting of the fog outside before resuming her journey. There too the passengers of the *Solway* expected to remain, but after a very brief delay the anchor was weighed, the illusive narrows passed, the point rounded, and the staunch ship was en route for Red Bay. Twice it was necessary to anchor in the Straits, but every gleam of light was availed of and, cautiously crawling along, the goal at least was reached, its proximity being brought to the attention of the passengers by the canine chorus. Unhappily it was too late to renew acquaintanceship with this thriving fishing settlement. For over thirty years Red Bay has been a Methodist Mission, whose boundaries stretch from Henley Harbour to Forteau, and there many men now prominent in Church life have labored. The *Solway* brought the latest appointee, the Rev. A.S. Adams, a native of Tilt Cove, who was ordained at the last conference. Mr. Adams volunteered for the work and was looking forward to a year of varied activities, and coveted opportunities. The missionaries around these bleak coasts have few comforts, and fewer luxuries;

⁶ See Augustus G. Lilly and Christopher P. Curran, eds. *The Journals of George Simms, J.P., and the Records of the Labrador Court*, 2 vols (St. John's: St. John's: SS Daisy Legal History Committee, Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, 2017). On Cochrane, see Frederic F. Thompson, "COCHRANE, Sir THOMAS JOHN," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 10, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed February 20, 2026, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/cochrane_thomas_john_10E.html.

⁷ Melvin Baker, "GOSLING, WILLIAM GILBERT," in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 15, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed February 17, 2026, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/gosling_william_gilbert_15E.html.

⁸ William Charles Winsor (1876-1963).

but theirs is an experience that benefits those among whom they work, and which leaves an enduring influence for good in their future lives. Mr. Adams takes up his work, well-fitted to fill the post, and will prove a worthy successor to those of the earlier years. One regrettable fact in Red Bay was that several prominent planters, who had been there for many years had withdrawn; and amongst the vacancies was the well-known room on the Island, silent for the first time for probably three quarters of a century.

Lance au Loop to Blanc Sablon – For the first night since starting the *S.S. Solway* continued on her route. Red Bay gave way to West St. Modiste, and shortly after daybreak a call was made at Lance au Loop, the fishery room where Job's flag has so long flown.⁹ That Labrador has no roads, is not literally correct for there is at least one fair road running between Lance au Loop and Point Amour where the oldest lighthouse in the Straits continues its beneficent work. Forteau was reached at 730 am on Monday, and offered a scene of more than ordinary interest, for Forteau like Chateau has a past. It is nearly sixty years now since the Episcopal church of Forteau was erected by Mr. James Furneaux. The first clergyman was the Rev. Mr. Jeffard, who is said to have been the first minister of any Church to reside on the Labrador coast. It was a disappointment that circumstances prevented a landing, but we must be content to await the opportunities that the future may offer. Blanc Sablon, where Mr. Grant carries on Job's largest Labrador business, presented the busiest scene yet witnessed. Motor boats and tugs were seen running here and there; some bringing freight to and from the steamer, others towing the fishing boats back to harbour after their long morning's work. After the untoward weather of the previous week, and the losses sustained by ice and storms it was particularly pleasing to find that kindly fortune had once again smiled upon the fishermen, and the morning of our arrival, the first day of a new week, had brought if not greater results, at least better luck than for several days past. There is a curious anomaly at Blanc Sablon, and one which calls for an explanation which we are, as yet, unable even to suggest. The boundary line between Newfoundland and Canada is indisputably there. But that seems no justification for the postal business being transacted on the Canadian side, the more so, as all the business of Blanc Sablon is Newfoundland's, and ninety per cent of its residents, whether permanent or passing. As it is the Newfoundland mail boat calls on the Canadian post office for Newfoundland mail matter, upon which Canadian stamps are placed, to the loss, no matter how small it may be, of the Newfoundland revenue. In these days when three telegraph lines run side by side within our Island, there is apparently no reason why Newfoundland Blanc Sablon should not have its own Post Office. We say "apparently", because there is often a reason, for what appears unreasonable, and it is generally the obvious which is most easily overlooked.

Isle au Bois – From Blanc Sablon to Isle au Bois is a very short run. Business in this famous Jersey fishing room was brisk on the morning of arrival, and Messrs. Eben and Albert Penney with their men were making up for lost time. Our brief visit brought back pleasant memories of the long ago, when good Captain Edgar, the kindest and truest of men, was at the helm. It is about a quarter of a century since the Le Boutelliers sold out to the Carbonear firm. A peculiarity about Isle au Bois is its name. Just as Paradise Row and Eden Garden are generally the names given to the most uninviting sections of a city, so a woodless Island bears the name of Woody. It is with the land as with the individual. Time was, and no so very long ago, when the forests

⁹ Job Brothers & Co of St. John's. See Robert Brown Job, *John Job's Family: Devon-Newfoundland Liverpool 1730-1953* (St. John's: The Author 1953); and C.R. Fay, *Life and Labour in Newfoundland* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1956).

covered the South Side Hills.¹⁰ Time was when many a bald and shining crown was covered with luxurious locks. Isle of Fish not Isle of Wood would better apply today. Formerly the boundary line, the Island and two iron ringbolts attached to the rocks, remain to remind the visitor of the day when part of Isle au Bois belonged to Canada. Leaving Isle au Bois was bidding adieu to the Straits and commencing that part of our journey to which we had looked forward with the greatest interest. During the past thirty years it has been our privilege to visit many parts of Newfoundland and to become more or less familiar with the coast line, the only section wholly unknown being that which stretches from Flower's Cove to Humbermouth. The visit to this part of the coast was the principal attraction of the trip, and the fates were kind. As Isle au Bois was left our old friend the fog, enveloped the *Solway* in a brief but clinging embrace, and bade a figurative farewell – though so far as the *Solway* was concerned, if subsequent reports are true, “au revoir” would have been the more appropriate greeting. From Flower's Cove until arriving at Humbermouth neither ice nor fog was seen, the weather was pleasant and during the last twelve hours delightful.

Flower's Cove to Brig Bay – Flower's Cove is the North West corner of Newfoundland and differs greatly from the other ports of call. It lies low, and extended stretches of flat islands take the place of the accustomed hills. Prosperity appeared everywhere, fish has been abundant, and attention to the soil bore its rewards upon the surface. What Flower's Cove was doing proved a true index to the whole West Coast. A brief stop at Current Island and Brig Bay was reached – a delightful place, well-wooded, rich in fertility of soil and sea alike. Good crops rivalled good fisheries and smiling faces told of prosperity and success. There are but seven families in Brig Bay but it is not the less an important centre, and boasts a telegraph office of its own. From Current Island to Point Rich is said by some to be the most beautiful part of the country. Whilst we are not prepared to endorse that assertion in its entirety, we do so with few limitations. This section of the west coast is rich in possibilities, and has made wealth for many. What the codfishery fails to do, the lobster fishery does, and what the fisheries omit the soil provides. The story of the good old Frenchman Garroux, who burying his money in lobster tins, made mother earth his banker, is well known around the coast, and what was true of this wealthy, shrewd and successful fisherman, is true of many a West coast man. With the establishment of branch banks, this primitive form of banking will disappear, and money will find itself reproductive...

New Ferrole to old Port aux Choix – New Ferrole is another prosperous settlement. Here the Rumboldts live and thrive. Fishermen, farmers, and lobster catchers, they reap rich harvests from land and sea. At Flower's Cove a pony for the new Point Ferrole lighthouse had been sent aboard, and the landing took place here. It was a simple process, well enough in the warmer southern seas but savoured of cruelty in these northern waters. The horse was slung into the water and left to swim ashore. Apparently no harm was done, despite the icy monsters not very far away; for before the *Solway* passed the range of vision, the pony was placidly grazing, wholly oblivious of its ice-cold bath of brine. On the hill an unexpectedly witness of the scene, was the Rev. J.T. Richards,¹¹ the Church of England missionary of Flower's Cove, whose devoted work has done so much for the people of St. Barbe. A marriage was to take place that afternoon, and Mr. Richards was to perform the ceremony. It was only forty miles or so in an open boat, but trifles like these do not disturb the equanimity of our northern missionaries, who quietly and

¹⁰ The area overlooking the southern side of St. John's harbour.

¹¹ On Richards, see Irving Letto, *Sealskin Boots and a Printing Press: Piecing Together the Life of Canon J.T. Richards* (The Author 2012).

unostentatiously do their work, content to find their reward in service. The masts of the Canadian steamer the *S.S. Montcalm* could be seen in the distance, engaged in connection with the construction of the Ferrole lighthouse, a much-needed aid to mariners.¹² At Bartlett's Harbour the first of a large shipment of lobsters was put aboard. Away in the distance on the Outer Twin Island could be seen the wreck of Reid's first *S.S. Fife*, twin sister of the *Dundee*, which several years ago was piled up on the rocks, so snugly, that she stands today a monument to the possibility of the apparently impossible...

The Lobster Regulations – Port aux Choix does considerable business, but where the people come from is more or less a mystery. Here too is a telegraph office, and the store of Mr. Darby of Great Burin. Amongst those met here was Mr. George Badcock, who is directing the conduct of the new Lobster Regulations. He has no sinecure, but seems indifferent to discomforts. It is fortunate for the success of the new policy of conservation that it has in Mr. Badcock, neither a visionary, nor a machine, but an official, who recognized what may be done to promote the Lobster Fishery is doing all he can towards that end. It was pleasing to learn from him that the new conservation policy is meeting with general approval, very few offering any objection to the principles, though some changes in details may be worthy of consideration. A curious discovery was that of a spawning lobster under six inches, and judging from the marks, no juvenile. Evidently there are dwarfs or “noseltripes” – if that is the correct spelling – amongst the crustaceans. It was dark when Port aux Choix was left. A brief stop at Hawk's Harbour was followed by a longer delay at Port Saunders, where business seemed unusually brisk. Several prominent Bonne Bay men were there, and the ship's capacity for freight was fairly tested. The passage down the West Coast was an object lesson in values. To connect with the train at Humbermouth about 1000 cases of lobsters were being carried. They did not occupy much room, but they represented at least \$17,500, a valuable cargo for the forehatch of a small coastal steamer, and an illustration of the wealth which abounds in the waters around our coasts. During the night progress was made towards Bonne Bay. Daniel's Harbour, Cow Head and Rocky Harbour were called at, and when the new day opened, the approach to Bonne Bay was commencing.

Beautiful Bonne Bay – It is many years now since we wrote of “Bonnie Bay of Islands” and the impressions gained on that far-off visit there have been deepened with the passing of the years. But what shall be said of Bonne Bay? Beautiful for situation it is, like Zion of old. The long approach is a panorama of the picturesque, the pastoral, and the majestic. Bonne Bay is a little town nestled between protecting hills. Above it towers the volcanic plateau, whose very bareness seems to place the green clad mountains in more glorious contrast. Range after range raise their stately crests, and here and there are peaks enwreathed with the everlasting snows. Adown the slopes the luxurious foliage of stately trees add beauty and colour to a scene, equaled in few lands and excelled in none. Great arms of the sea stretch into the far distance, as though offering a haven to the shipping of the world. Bonne Bay combines the beauties of Bay of Islands and Trinity, with the added glories of Switzerland. And what nature has given with such bounteous hand, the sons and daughters of Bonne Bay appreciate. It was pleasing to witness the evident desire not to lessen Nature's charms by that indifference to the beautiful that would exchange a Landseer for a chromo: regard trees as encumbrances, and life itself as something to be endured

¹² See Malcolm MacLeod, *Connections: Newfoundland's Pre-confederation Links with Canada and the World* (St. John's: Creative Publishers, 2003) 55-64.

rather than enjoyed. Some of the gardens are feasts of colour; delighting their owners, and wayfarers alike. Well might the French of an earlier day have named this region Bonne Bay. To the eyes of the wanderer it appeared good; and good it remains to the present time – the land like Canaan of old is a good land, and, if not actually flowing with milk and honey, it abounds in assurances of wealth and comfort. The day is not far distant, when Beautiful Bonne Bay, directly connected with the railway system of the world, will have a reputation coextensive with the North American continent. With such natural parks, scenic attractions of land and sea, and exceptional opportunities for the tourist and the holiday seeker, there is no reason why the unexcelled beauties of Bonne Bay, Bay of Islands and other sections of Newfoundland, should not be the summer home of much of the wealth of Canada and America.

The Mecca of Tourists -- When at Bonne Bay the Rev. Mr. Massiah was temporarily filling his former place as incumbent of the Parish. Dr. Bagg and Mr. Richards, who have spent many seasons whipping the inexhaustible waters of rivers and ponds, or following the caribou in arduous chase, were there on the homeward way. Magistrate Duder,¹³ whose serious illness caused much anxiety, was happily better; and in the absence of Dr. Mosdell who was at Bonne Bay, he was visited by Dr. Bagg, the eminent New York physician, during the two all too short hours of delay. Amongst those whom we had the pleasure of meeting were Mr. Garcin, Mr. Wilton, Mr. Haliburton, Mr. Squires, all builders up of the northern Paradise. Mr. Barnes,¹⁴ who is doing much good in the educational training of the future teachers, was spending his vacation here, and from the fact that this is by no means his first experience, voicing in practical manner his appreciation of beautiful Bonne Bay as a health and holiday resort. We left with the determination, when time and opportunity offered, to make a visit of longer duration, to this beauty spot of North America, which in the course of time, whether the day be near or distant will become the Mecca of tourists and health seekers from at home and abroad.

Nature as Sculptor – First impressions of the approaches to Beautiful Bonne Bay are confirmed on the return, for there is a long stretch of water to be retraced before the journey is resumed. A peculiar freak of Nature is the carving of the rocks into curious and, at times, fantastic shapes. An active imagination, without any great strain upon its powers, can easily trace the portraiture of life in the inanimate stone. There is a signal instance of this a few miles from Bonne Bay, and one distinctly visible from a vessel's deck. This natural sculpture is known as Rogerson's Head, and is supposed to represent the Hon. J.J. Rogerson,¹⁵ the great apostle of Temperance, who passed away at a venerable age, some few years ago. Passing it the first time neither the likeness nor the face itself may be apparent but we were fortunate on the return trip to catch the face at the correct angle, and though not disposed to call it a likeness of the late Mr. Rogerson, there is certainly a strikingly familiar appearance in its placid features. The profile is as clearly cut as if it was the handiwork of a sculptor – and so it is, the artist being the most experienced, whose chisels are the elements, and whose workshop the universe.

Bay of Islands – Trout River was the last of the distinctly fishing settlements to be passed. Differing in some respects from most of the west coast villages, it was as one in the appearance of prosperity; and in beauty of situation. A notable feature was the stretch of golden beach, so

¹³ Thomas C. Duder (1850-1912) see Gerald J. Barnable, "Biographical Data on the Magistrates of Newfoundland since 1729" (Unpublished manuscript, 1996 and revised 2001).

¹⁴ Arthur Barnes (1866-1956); educator; minister of education 1920-24, and colonial secretary, 1928-32.

¹⁵ James Johnstone Rogerson (1829-1907).

rare on the East Coast. The sail to York Harbour and Lark Harbour is a delightful one. At York Harbour an air of industry was beginning to be felt, indicative of that resumption of work in the copper mines which has since been fulfilled. As a mining village York Harbour is, as yet, in its infancy, the appliances appear rudimentary and such buildings as there are, are of the simplest; but who shall say what the future may have in store? York Harbour may yet develop into the Tilt Cove of the West Coast. At Lark Harbour is the whaleless whale factory, and a busy people who are combining farming and fishing to advantage. And now the end of our coastal trip is in sight...

Birchy Cove – During the past ten years Curling, as the quaintly and charmingly named Birchy Cove is now officially called, has developed into a town, with the inseparable accompaniments of town life, the newspaper and the bank. Only a few years ago and Bay of Islands was almost a solitude, into which a few venturesome spirits had entered. Today it has in Curling a busy centre, with stores and shops galore. Churches and schools abound. Roads, though none too numerous, and none too good, stretch from point to point. Convenient hotels are filled with travelers for pleasure and commerce alike. The Bank of Montreal building adds dignity and inspires confidence. Magistrate March's¹⁶ palace, memory of the old days when the French Shore was under direct imperial control – is no longer alone; other buildings, not so large maybe, but commanding alike in size and situation, are springing up around. Mr. A.L. Barrett,¹⁷ who for many years was a trusted member of the *Free Press* staff, conducts the *Western Star*, a newspaper which is having a very beneficial effect on West Coast interests, and is doing a great deal to make more widely known the scenic and sporting attractions of Newfoundland. Since our visit Mr. Barrett has met with a serious accident which has invalidated him for some time, but a speedy convalescence is looked for.

Faith and Horace Greeley – Bay of Islands is fortunate in having a man of Mr. Barrett's character and ability at publicity's helm. Not alone is he a craftsman of skill, but an ardent lover of and believer in the West Coast. And it is just this sort of thing that is causing the West Coast to advance. Easterners love their home towns, but if they have faith and confidence, fail to show it. The westerner, and it applies to the West Coast of Newfoundland as well as to that of the American continent, not only believes in his own town but is determined to make others believe in it; and life, whether religious, social, or commercial, has no greater influence for good or evil – happily in by far the most instances, for good – than faith. If St. John's had but a little of the faith in its own city, that the people of the West Coast have in the future that awaits them, instead of being a city, whose splendor of situation and beauty of environment is ruined by the apathy of its citizens, who witness unmoved conditions that are staggering in their results, the capital of Britain's oldest colony would be an attraction and a delight to all; and a haven of health as well as happiness to the dwellers within its boundaries. The "Go west, young man" of Horace Greeley had a wider meaning; but unless the East of Newfoundland wakes up to its privileges and its possibilities; Greeley's advice may find a too little acceptance in the coming years.

Corner Brook – The *Western Star* has just come to hand, and contains information of exceptional interest – Bay of Islands has established a Board of Trade. To use the *Star's* words this is "a progressive step on the part of citizens to inaugurate an era of public improvements." We quote this as another evidence of that go ahead spirit, animating the West Coast, to which

¹⁶ Levi March (1841-1933), see Gerald J. Barnable, "Biographical Data on the Magistrates of Newfoundland since 1729" (Unpublished manuscript, 1996 and revised 2001).

¹⁷ Andrew Loveridge Barrett (1877-1960), see *Western Star* 3 June 1960, 3.

reference has been made. Whilst Curling is the “county town”, there are other villages and incipient townships in the vicinity. Leaving Curling for the terminus Summerside where the Carters long lived and flourished is passed on the one side, and Corner Brook on the other. It was a very different scene, on which nearly half a century ago, Mr. Christopher Fisher¹⁸ first cast a prophetic glance. Today, the oldest mill-owner, in point of experience and continuity, he sees the wilderness giving place to the conveniences and luxuries of modern civilization. There is a true greatness about this sturdy woodsman. These are the days when the forest is butchered for its wealth; when greed of gain obliterates all thought for the coming years. Mr. Fisher is today logging on the same limits, conducting the same mill by the same water power, on the same site. He has taught a lesson that Newfoundland has hitherto been slow to learn, that conservation of our timber resources is a matter of judicious cutting, rather than re-forestation. Lewis Miller¹⁹ said the same, but left the work to others. If they carry out his policy, re-forestation may be unnecessary. Christopher Fisher has done the work himself and the limits first are still productive. The mill at Corner Brook has been improved and enlarged, but its success is due to those methods of “human” lumbering which have accompanied its growth. To Mr. Fisher, most modest and unassuming of men, is due much of the progress of Bay of Islands. In the mill he is assisted by his eldest son, at Humbermouth another son conducts a large business and hotel, whilst the popular physician for the district is his youngest son. It is men like Mr. Fisher, not timber butchers, who are denuding the world of its forests, who deserve the name of Lumber Kings.

Humbermouth – It was disappointing to find that both the slate quarries were silent. Opinions vary as to their value, but men qualified to speak, assert that a combination of persistence and capital would meet with handsome returns. The marble quarries are also not utilized now, and apparently discontinuance of work is justified by the facts. And now the *Solway* is at the Humbermouth wharf. Here are the Railway Machine shops; some stores, erected in anticipation of the day when Humbermouth shall be a town; telegraph, post and customs offices, church, school and two hotels, one of which is kept by Mrs. Norman Fisher,²⁰ mainly for tourists. Charmingly situated, it overlooks the waters of the Bay, embracing in the view miles of unexcelled, and at times unrivalled scenery of land and sea alike. To the advantages of situation are added the comforts of home. A stay at “Fisher’s” is always enjoyed... Farming is in its infancy, but the infant is a lusty one. Acres of land are under cultivation and the agricultural germ is well entrenched. There is a future for fruit growing at Humbermouth. The garden-orchard of Mrs. Bagg at Birchy Cove, whose wonders have often been told in these columns, promises to have imitators, if not rivals in the near future. Altogether the outlook for Humbermouth is full of promise, and those who have courageously invested faith and capital in the present may look with confidence to substantial dividends in the not distant future. As an illustration of the attractions to sportsmen of Humbermouth, we may say that within a mile of the hotel, Mr. Layard took 78 trout from 1 to 4 pounds in one morning; fishermen netted salmon within half a mile; whilst the best of sport, shooting, fishing and boating abound.

¹⁸ Christopher Fisher (1839-1927).

¹⁹ (1848-1909), see J. K. Hiller, “MILLER, LEWIS H.,” in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 13, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, accessed February 22, 2026, https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/miller_lewis_h_13E.html.

²⁰ Ida G. Fisher (1877-1967)

Farewell to the *Solway*—And so closed the *Solway* trip run, with fog and ice for six days, sunshine for one and heat for a half day, a poor weather record, but amply atoned for by the variety of incident, absolute rest, and opportunity afforded of witnessing the skill of Newfoundland Mariners, when tested to the utmost. Despite the fog and ice by which the ship was constantly surrounded everything was done with the precision of clock work. Not a note of anxiety was betrayed. Discipline was perfect, and it was that discipline which is most reliable, in which mutual respect is the predominant factor. Indeed, so enjoyable had the trip proved, that on arrival at Humbermouth the return voyage to Lewisporte was seriously considered, and would have been undertaken, if guarantees for the absence of fog during the day time would have been obtained. Now the *Solway* is to take up the Labrador route, and some other steamer will share with the *Home* the responsibilities of the water journey across Northern Newfoundland. With a service, as good as that given by the *Solway*, tourist traffic through the Straits would soon rank among the most popular of our coastal routes. Fog there has been this year, and ice in galore, but these are minor matters when the bridge is manned by men who have been trained in the world's best school of navigation, the seas and banks of Newfoundland. May Captain Jacob Kean, his officers and crew, meet with success and prosperity afloat and ashore; and may their own voyage of long duration be the one great journey of the sea of life, and so farewell to these Vikings of Newfoundland and the good ship *Solway*.



On board SS *Solway* (R.N. Co.), Exploits The Rooms, VA 105-9.1

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. I also search other newspapers online. 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. See also Historic Wabana Facebook Group Blog.com.

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

Adams, Christopher (Chris) Edward, of Carleton Place, ON, in Ottawa, ON, on Jan. 30, 2026, aged 57. Born in Labrador City in 1968, son of Edward (Ed) & Sharon (nee Roberts) Adams. Ed was originally from St. John's. Chris was predeceased by his mother in 2022. Brother of Kim Hendley (Mike). He received his Bachelor of Chemical Engineering from Queen's University and worked for the mining industry in Labrador City for ten years. He later moved to Ontario to work with Unimin Canada & Omya in Perth. Obit & photo Pilon Family Funeral Home, Arnprior, ON.

Basha, Mary Elizabeth (nee Miller) on Dec. 25, 2020 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Born in Howley on April 22, 1937, daughter of Harry & Phronie Miller. Predeceased by her parents, her husband Jerry Basha & her son Mark. She trained as an x-ray technician at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, Quebec. Mother of Carolyn, Maureen & Andrew. Sister of Jane, Doris, John, Peter, Carolyn & Judy. Obit & photo *The Telegram* Jan. 9, 2021.

Carrol, Lisa Marie (nee Joy) on March 4,

2026 in Fergus, Ontario, aged 49. Born on May 30, 1976 on Bell Island, daughter of Patrick & Madeleine Joy. Wife of Darrell Carroll. Mother of Kalei & Landon. Sister of Sharon, Lesley, Patrick & Darrin. She graduated from St. Michael's High School in 1994. She earned degrees from Memorial University & Laurentian University. Obit & photo Historic Wabana Facebook Group Blog www.historic-wabana.com

Churchill, Cyril Llewellyn on Jan. 12, 2021, aged 79, in Calgary, AB. He lived most of his life in Portugal Cove. Master mechanic. Service manager of the Automotive Dept. Of Canadian Tire on Elizabeth Avenue & Kenmount Road, St. John's. Predeceased by his parents, Reginald & Annie (Dyke) Churchill, his son Douglas, his brother Wallace & sister Sylvia Garland (Alex). Husband of 59 years of Margaret (Druken) Father of Karen & Andrea. Brother of Lionel, Brian, George & Jocelyn Miller (Roger). Obit & photo *The Telegram* Jan. 15, 2021 & Leyden's Funeral Home Calgary, AB.

Curtis, Keith on Dec. 15, 2025, aged 62, in Edmonton, AB. Predeceased by his parents, David Curtis, Dec. 24, 1932 – Nov. 20, 2010 in Corner Brook & Blanche Curtis, Sept. 23, 1935 – June 11, 2016. in Corner Brook. Brother of Dana & Craig. He worked in accounting and later in IT in several countries and across Canada. Interment in the Anglican Cemetery, Kenmount Road, St. John's. Obit & photo Carnell's Funeral Home, St. John's.

Dooley, James Joseph of Vernon, BC, on Feb. 8, 2026, aged 78. Born in St. John's on Feb. 23, 1947; son of James & Mary (Murphy) Dooley. Husband of 56 years of Roz (nee Laidley). Father of Lisa & Paul. Brother of Tom & Doreen. Obit & photo Pleasant Valley Funeral Home, Veron, BC.

Forward, Lloyd Augustus in Nova Scotia. May 23, 1937 – Dec. 6, 2025. Born in Carbonear, son of Augustus & Bertha Forward. Predeceased by his parents, his wife of 61 years, Shirley (Elliott) & his sisters & brother, Barbara Penney (Carl), Robert Forward & Rose Warren (Willis). He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in 1958 & retired in 1982. He then worked with the Federal Government in a number of locations. In 2002 he was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal. He moved to NS in 2004. Husband of Joan (Chamberlain). Father of John, Susan & Sandra. Stepfather of Paula Dobson, Susan & Arthur Chamberlain. Brother of Wendel, Georgina & Phyllis. Obit & photo *The Chronicle Herald* Dec. 10, 2025 & *The Telegram* Dec. 19, 2025.

Hart, Catherine (Kit) (nee Dwyer) , aged 86 on Sept. 21, 2025, in Cambridge, ON. Born on July 11, 1939 on Bell Island, Predeceased by her parents Martin & May Dwyer, her husband Gerald, her son Gerry, July 6, 2025, her daughter Dorothy (Dolly), Sept. 14, 2025, her sister Margaret Power, & her brothers Bill Normore, 2024, Dick Normore, Joe Dwyer, Dennis Dwyer & Ronnie Dwyer. She was employed at Long Manufacturing for 40 years. Burial was at Parklawn Cemetery, Cambridge,

ON. Obit & photo Historic Wabana Face Book Group Blog, www.historic-wabana.com & Barthel Funeral Home, Cambridge, ON.

Kelly, Patrick Joseph, aged 86 in Dartmouth, NS on Jan. 9, 2026. Born in Middle Cove on May 15, 1939, son of John (Jack) Kelly & Mary Pine. He had a career in Sales. Patrick married Margaret Hartley in 1967. They moved to Dartmouth in 1980. Predeceased by his parents, his wife, his brothers, John, Michael & Thomas & his sister, Loretta. Father of Christopher, Jill & Sally Tzogas. Brother of Harold, Mary Power (Ray), Eileen Kelly-Freake (Barry), Theresa Morris (Peter), Claire Stamp (Rick) & Nicholas. Obit & photo *The Chronicle Herald* Jan. 14, 2026.

Long, Lawrence in Cape Breton, NS on Dec. 23, 2025, aged 83. Born in Great Jarvis on Aug. 5, 1942, son of Lawrence & Lucy (Collier) Long. Predeceased by his parents, his first wife Blanche, his second wife, Judith, his brother, Eric & his sisters, Roseleen Collier & Mabel Scott. He was a member of the Canadian Armed Forces for 25 years, with the Black Watch Regiment & the Royal Canadian Regiment. He later worked with Brinks for 12 years. Father of Bill. Brother of thirteen brothers & sisters. Obit & photo *The Chronicle Herald* Dec. 30, 2025 & *The Cape Breton Post* Dec. 28, 2025.

Manning, Mary (nee McGrath) March 14, 1934 – Sept. 20, 2025 in Sackville, NS. Born in Patrick's Cove, Placentia Bay, daughter of George & Lucy McGrath, the youngest of seven children. Predeceased by her parents, her husband Allan, her brothers Ronald, Bartley & Anthony & her sisters, Agnes Brennan, Bridget Bennett & Alice Kenny. She completed her teacher training at St. Bride's College, Littledale, St. John's. In 1969 she moved with her five children to Liberia, West Africa to join her husband Allan, who was working there. Mother of Kathleen Pottle (Wayne), Dianne Bennett (Bobby), Nora Campbell (David), Desmond & Darryl. Interment at Oakridge Memorial Gardens, Middle Sackville, NS. Obit & photo Arbor Memorial & *The Chronicle Herald* Sept. 26, 2025 & a Facebook post.

Mugford, Kelly Marie (nee Mercer) of Parkland County, Alberta, formerly of Shearstown, on

Jan. 7, 2021, aged 51. Predeceased by her father, Victor. Daughter of Mildred Mercer. Wife of 30 years of Gordon (Buck). Mother of Ryan & Erica. Sister of Wendy, Alvin, Derek, Carl, Eldon, Billy, Darren & Stephen. Obit & photo *The Telegram* Jan. 23, 2021.

Munro, John Alexander of Halifax, NS on Feb. 25, 2026, aged 87. Born in Grand Falls on July 23, 1938, son of Alister Malcolm Monro & Agnes Cameron Frew. Predeceased by his parents, his wife Lorrain Lillian, 2008 & his brother Peter. Father of Katherine, Kenneth & Michael. A graduate of Macpherson Academy in St. John's in 1956. A Forestry Professional with the Government of Newfoundland & Labrador & the Federal Government until his retirement in 1996. He received the Tree of Life Award in 2006. Obit & photo *The Telegram* March 13, 2026.

Normore, Joan (nee Pottle) of Cambridge, ON , on Sept. 12, 2025 in her 84th. year. Predeceased by her husband, William in 2004 & her brothers & sisters, Marjorie, Gail, Sylvia, Johnny, Raymond, Melvin, Gerald & Fred. Mother of Nancy. Sister of Linda & Carol. Obit & photo Historic Wabana FaceBook Group Blog,

Noseworthy, James (Jim) Ernest Feb. 18, 1957 – Feb. 9, 2026 in Nova Scotia . From Bell Island. Predeceased by his parents, Charles & Gloria Noseworthy. Brother of Gloria & Ross. Obit & photo Caul's Funeral Home, St. John's.

Peckford, Mildred Blanche (nee Foster) on Dec. 31, 2020 in Russell, Ontario. Born on Sept. 22, 1927 in Botwood, daughter of John & Jessie Foster. Predeceased by her parents & her sisters, Ella, Maud & Gladys. Mother of Judy, Sheila & Carolyn. *The Telegram* Obit & photo Jan. 9, 2021.

Potter, Roberta Genevieve (nee Kelly) on Nov. 25, 2025 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Born in St. John's on April 30, 1938. Predeceased by her parents Robert Graham Kelly & Bridget (Kearney) & her sister Bernice Moore & her brother Graham Kelly (June 4, 2019). Wife of Dr. Roger Potter (married on Jan. 25, 1964). Mother of John & Father Harold . She earned a Master's Degree in Social Work. As her husband

was a Military Doctor, they moved a number of times. Obit & photo Arsulowicz Brothers Mortuaries, Inc. Grand Rapids , Michigan. Thank you to a Society member for the obituary information.

Rabun, Annie Janet (nee Thorne) on Dec. 2, 2003 in Welland, Ontario. Born in Norman's Cove, Trinity Bay, in Sept. 1923. Predeceased by her parents, Caleb & Sarah Elizabeth Thorne & her husband Neal, 1981. Sister of Floretta Pender, Emily Maud Branton, Louisa Hatcher (Jack), Elizabeth Miller, Ecelyn , Pearl Dicks (Eric) & Robert Thorne. Burial in Oconee Hill Cemetery, Athens, Georgia. Obit *The Telegram* Dec. 5, 2003 . Thank you to Newfoundland's Grand Banks Genealogy Site ngb.chebucto.org

St. Pierre, Valerie Madonna Theresa (nee Lahey) of Hammond, ON, on Feb. 1, 2026, aged 68. Born on April 29, 1957 on Bell Island, daughter of Michael Francis Lahey & Bridget (nee Somerton). Predeceased by her parents & her brothers & sisters, Don, Brian, Barry, Regina, Margaret (Hugh Golden, predeceased) & Doreen (Peter Johnson, predeceased). Wife of 44 years of Andre St. Pierre. Mother of Micheline & Jean -Francois. Sister of Lorraine (Mac Eachern, predeceased), Daphne, Dale, Diane, Sharon Ann & Blair Michael. Obit & photo Historic Wabana Facebook Group Blog.

Sheppard, David on March 6, 2026 in Ontario. Born in St. John's on April 8, 1945, son of Clarence & Violet. Predeceased by his parents, his brother Gerald & half-sister, Sylvia. Husband of Bernadette. Father of David, Trina & Tony. Brother of Charles, Gordon, Wayne, Roger, Shirley Walsh (Vince) & Dianne Doyle (Ron). Obit & photo Henry Walser Funeral Home, Kitchener, Ontario.

Simpson, Elizabeth (Betty) (nee Dunne) on March 6, 2026, aged 83 in Nova Scotia. Born in St. John's on Aug. 15, 1942, daughter of William & Annie (O'Neill) Dunne. Predeceased by her parents, her husband William Simpson, her brother Leo Dunne & her sister Joan Power. Mother of William & Bobbie Power (Mike). Sister of David Dunne. She was active with the Royal Canadian Legion, Breton Branch 008 in Sydney Mines, NS. Obit & photo J. M. Jobes Funeral Home , Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia.

Smith, Millard Kenneth Karl on March 12, 2026 in Pembroke, Ontario, aged 73. Predeceased by his parents, Andrew (Feb. 23, 2019, aged 90.) & Helen Muriel Liebeck (May 8, 20022, aged 90) & his sister Gayle Muriel Suley (Bill), Aug. 7, 2001. He grew up in Mount Pearl & attended Morris Academy. Brother of Wayne, Alberta & Carol , Perth, ON. Obit & photo Malcolm, Deavitt & Binhammer Funeral Home, Pembroke, Ontario.

Squires, Marilyn Judy on Oct. 30, 2020 in Ottawa, Ontario, aged 65. Born in Goose Bay, Labrador on Feb. 4, 1955. Mother of Allison Hennebury & Matthew Hennebury (their father, Mark Hennebury). Sister of Karen. Obit & photo Nov. 7, 2020.

Tarrant, Augustine A. 'Gus', aged 94. in Antigonish, NS. Born in St. Lawrence, Aug. 28, 1928, son of Patrick & Clara (Shea) Tarrant. He and his wife, Helen (Molloy) moved their young family to Shefferville, Quebec to work in the iron mines. When he retired from the Iron Ore

Company of Canada (IOC) in 1993, they moved to Nova Scotia for a short time. Later, they moved to Elliot Lake, Ontario for thirty years. Predeceased by his parents, his wife of 67 years, Helen & his sisters, Fluorina, Ella & Carmel. Father of Alan, Ted & Ella. Following the death of his wife, he moved to Antigonish, NS. Brother of Cyril, Antigonish , NS. & Madeleine & Margaret, Ontario. Obit & photo C. L. Curry Funeral Home, Antigonish, NS.

Tilley, Gerald Francis (Gerry) in Calgary, AB on Jan. 18, 2026, aged 83. Born in St. John's on Jan. 7, 1943. Predeceased by his wife of 52 years, Lois Ennis on Jan. 10, 2019. Father of Greg & Paul. He served as a pharmacist in St. John's for over fifty years. He was a former owner of Duckworth Pharmacy and later worked with Lawton's & Sobeys. He grew up in the Battery, Signal Hill area of St. John's. Brother of Mary & Jim. Obit & photo *The Telegram* Feb. 6, 2026.

*Far from home, in distant lands, they quietly breathe their last,
Yet love still threads through memory, unbroken by the past.
Though earth may hold them far away beneath another sky,
Home lives on in hearts that keep their name and never say goodbye.*

The Rise and Fall of an Outport Merchant

By James Webb

My great-grandfather, William Linton Webb, was born in Merriott, Somerset, England in 1848. He arrived in Newfoundland in 1860 at the age of twelve. It is presumed that he arrived as an indentured servant for the merchant/planter, Joseph Earle (1824-1910) in Rencontre West. The Newfoundland Population Census for the District of Burgeo and LaPoile in 1935 records his arrival in Newfoundland in 1860. At the age of twelve, he would probably would have been considered a “youngster”.

Most indentured servants who came to Newfoundland had contracts to stay for two summers and a winter before they returned to England. If my great-grandfather arrived as an indentured servant, it can only be surmised that he made the decision to remain in Newfoundland and make a go of it. The fact that his father, William Simeon Webb, deserted the family in Merriott for London was very disruptive. Under these circumstances, it is reasonable to assume that my great-grandfather was sought or recruited to be an indentured servant by the local village overseer in Merriott. Under these circumstances, it is believed that my great-grandfather had no reason to go back home.

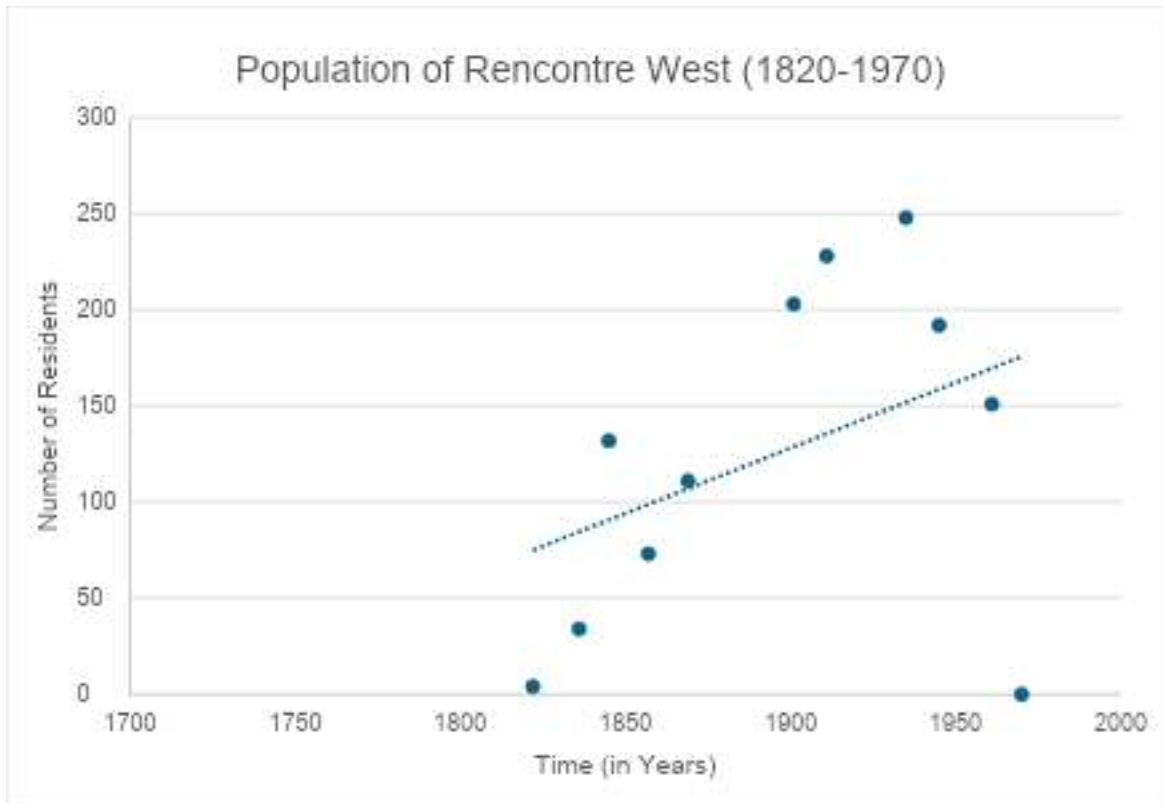
Despite these family circumstances, it is believed that my great-grandfather did admire his father. This business card is part of the family heirloom below that he may have took with him to Newfoundland and was his compass in life.



Business card of William Simeon Webb (Circa 1850), the father of William Linton Webb
(The business card is currently in the possession of his great-grandson, James Webb)

Joseph Earle married Edith Childs (1826-1917) on August 13, 1859. There is no indication that they had any children. It is surmised that my great-grandfather easily slipped into his role, not only an indentured servant, but as a welcome family member too. By 1871, William Linton Webb married Jane Spencer on September 12, 1871 in Hermitage Bay. They had five boys and one girl.

The outport of Rencontre West grew in the nineteenth century as shown in the graph below.

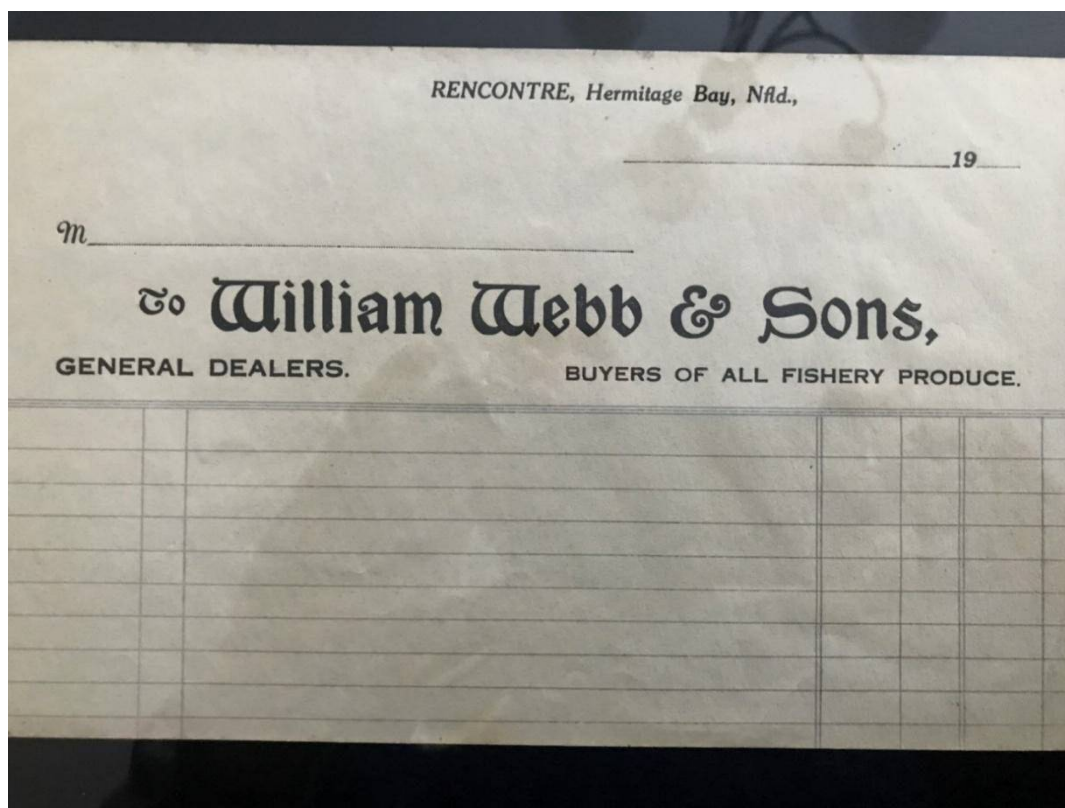


Some of the population data was taken from the Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador, Volume 4, pg. 573. Other data was taken from other sources during my research. In 1970, the last resident departed from Rencontre West. The points on the graph represent the actual population of Rencontre West.

By the twentieth century, the population of Rencontre West had reached nearly two hundred inhabitants.

In *Tolls of the Seas*, by Robert C. Parsons, the book mentions the establishment of William Webb & Sons and identifies William Webb as the chief merchant in 1890. It is speculated that William Webb & Sons was established sometime shortly after 1888 when the government of Newfoundland invoked the Bait Act. Prior to 1888, many fishermen along the South Coast of Newfoundland were actively trading with the French Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. Bait caught by the fishermen from the South Coast of Newfoundland was being exchanged with these French Islands for illegal alcohol and other household provisions. The Bait Act now required the fishermen to have a license to trade with foreign competition. The impact from the Bait Act mostly likely created economic hardship and affected the income of the fishermen on the South Coast of Newfoundland. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that the business of William Webb and Sons was established to help the fishermen have a source of income by taking the fish that they caught to market in St. John's. As the business grew, my great-grandfather established stores along the coast with his son Benjamin in Parson's Harbour and his other son, James Abram in Burgeo around 1914. Later, his younger son, Robert Webb, ran Williams Webb & Sons in Rencontre West.

My great-grandfather was identified as a trader in the McAlpine Directory of 1894-1897 of the Burgeo and LaPoile District, and then as a Dealer in 1904. Having his name in this directory gave him the recognition of a business of interest for those who wish to buy fish produce. Below is one of his invoices.



My great-grandfather expanded his operations at the turn of the twentieth century by the acquisition of several schooners; the Globe (#107319), built in Lockport, NS in 1899), the Joseph Earle (#126825, built in Tancook, NS in 1910), and the Ebros (#103506, built in LaHave, NS in 1896).

The Evening Telegram on April 18, 1918 (pg. 7) reported William Webb as a well-known figure in West Coast commercial circles. On July 19, 1919, the Evening Telegram (pg.10) reported that William Webb & Sons was coordinating shipments of provisions back to Rencontre West on the schooner Hubert Mac by Captain Levi Bagg. And by 1925, and perhaps before, William Webb and Sons was shipping fish to Oporto, Portugal (See Daily News, July 8, 1925 and the Newfoundland Trade Review, December 19, 1925).

World War I had created a global demand for fish for those who could get their fish to market and demand a very high price for their fish. Unfortunately, the high price of fish also reduced the efforts of the fishermen and the merchants to cull their fish before going to the market.

By the end of the war, in 1918, the global economies began slowly returning to normal and global competition was creating a surplus of fish on the market. Thus, the surplus lowered the price for fish but did not improve the culling of the fish.

In 1927, William Webb and Sons brought a load of fish to St. John's where the buyer hired cullers to examine the load of fish as it came off the boat resulting in a significant reduction in the total price for the fish (See Decisions of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, 1927-1931). Thus, unbeknown to many, the period of easy credit was slowly fading into the abyss of the great depression.

By 1931, William Webb was selling his fleet of schooners and resolving an alleged insolvency filed with the Supreme Court of Newfoundland in September 1931.

The Amulree Report, under the title, "Summary of Recommendations, Chapter VI-The Fisheries", recommends that Action should be taken to retire the credit system by stages, and as a beginning, regulations should be issued provided that in 1934, "no merchant shall purchase fish from the fishermen without a minimum cash payment of 20 per cent of its value." (See Newfoundland Royal Commission Report, 1933)

After centuries of operating on a truck system, where fish caught by the fishermen in remote outports was exchanged for provisions from the merchants, now a cash system was being invoked. This new system, as recommended by the Amulree Report, may have been cumbersome or difficult to implement for both the fishermen and the outport merchants who were not used to handling cash.

In 1935, my great-grandfather passed away. His son, Robert Webb was left to run Wm. Webb and Sons. Robert settled the remaining debt and retired to Pictou, NS sometime in the late 1950s.

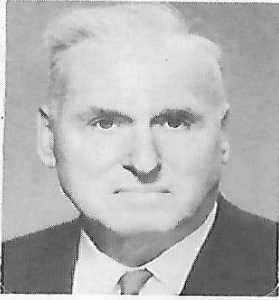
The saga of my great-grandfather was best captured in the words of C.R. Fay, a British Economic Historian in "Life and Labour in Newfoundland" where he states,

"In Rencontre West (1952), I made the acquaintance of Mr. Robert Webb, a storekeeper there. His father was a Somerset man (Merriott, near Crewkerne) and married to a Rowsell: and he told me how the old man made and lost a fortune in the 1920s, finally owing money to several firms at St. John's: and he added, I am sorry to say some fishermen. I carried the thought with me to Notre Dame Bay, and when I left I was quite clear that the merchants of each place are as attached to the fishermen with whom they deal as any schoolteacher to his or her pupils."

In Memory of William Linton Webb (1848-1935)

James Webb is the great grandson of William Linton Webb and currently lives in Williamsburg, VA. He joined the FHSNL in 2025. His mother and father are from Trinity and Burgeo, Newfoundland, respectively. James Webb can be reached at sirjameswebb@msn.com





Allan Bishop

TEACHING IN 1913 by Allan Bishop

Submitted by Pat Walsh

Allan Bishop was born in Burnt Head, Cupids in 1896. He was educated in Coley's Point. He began teaching at Bay du Nord, Fortune Bay in 1913. His first salary was \$16.00. He then went to Badger's Quay and, in 1917, he enlisted in the Newfoundland Regiment. Following the Great War, he taught at Greenspond & Bell Island. Bishop joined the staff of Bishop Feild College in St. John's in 1926. He was President of the Newfoundland Teacher's Association 1939 -1941 and again in 1949, for a short while, when Samuel J. Hefferton resigned to enter politics. Hefferton became the Minister of Education in the new Provincial Government led by Premier Joseph R. Smallwood. Bishop retired from teaching in 1952 to become the General Secretary of the NTA.

In September 1964 he was given an honorary Master of Arts from Memorial University of Newfoundland at its first Fall Convocation. Allan Bishop was awarded an Honorary Membership in the Newfoundland Teacher's Association in 1982. The first Allan Bishop award was presented at the NTA Annual Convention on April 4, 1991. It is awarded to a teacher in recognition of outstanding service to the Association at the provincial level. It was very fitting that the first recipient was Ray Goulding, who served as President from 1983 -1985. He was chairperson of the Association's 100th Anniversary Co-ordinating Committee, which helped plan the Celebrations for 1990- 1991.

This account of Allan Bishop's first encounter with the teaching profession was taped by him in February 1980. It was published in The NTA Journal Fall 1980. This article was distributed to local media during the NTA's 100th Anniversary celebrations 1990-1991. Allan Bishop died on February 19, 1991, aged 94. He was predeceased by his first wife, Lillian Edgar, in 1982 & by his second wife, Ena Winsor, in 1990. He was the father of three sons & two daughters.

"I started teaching in 1913. I was seventeen. My first school was in Bay du Nord, down in the very bottom of Fortune Bay. My salary was \$16.00 a month for ten months.

I went down to Placentia on the train and then took the Glencoe and went up coast to Belleoram. Now there was a boat that used to go around Fortune Bay. I think she was called, the SooSoo, but, at least when I was down there, she was nearly always up in Sydney getting a load of coal or something.

Anyway, there was no boat in Belleoram when I got there. The clergyman, when I called on him, told me that there was a man, a trapper by the name of Mr. Brewer, and that I could go down to Bay du Nord with him in a dory the next morning. The next morning Mr. Brewer turned up. He was a short man and had a whisker about half as long as he was. He took my trunk on board his dory and then looked at me and asked. "Do you know anything about boats?" "Well," I said, "yes I've been in a boat." He said, "Can you steer a boat?" I said, "I can steer a boat." "Sail boat?" "Yes," I said, "I can steer a sail boat." "Fine," he said. "now

I'll tell you what. I'm a bit tired. I'm going to put the sail up and then I'm going to sleep. You see that point down there, right on the horizon?" I said I did, and he said, "You keep her like that, head for that point and when you get about a quarter of a mile off that point, you call me up.", I said okay. Of course I wasn't used to a dory. It was a boat I was used to. This thing had no keel. A dory, you know, will go every which way.

Anyway the wind was pretty free, I had no trouble, I kept her going. Finally, we got off the point and I called him up. He awoke and looked round, "That's good, you know all about it. Now you see that down there, right on the horizon again some white specks?"

I said I could and he told me these were the houses in Bay du Nord. "Now," he said, "you run her right down there and run her up on the Beach. I'm going to get something to eat now, and then I'm going to sleep again."

Then he got some hard bread out of a bag and started soaking it overboard. Now I had been reading that if you drink salt water you'd go mad, and here he was soaking his bread in the salt water and eating it.

Well, I said to myself, if he goes mad and jumps overboard I don't know what I'm going to do. But, as I found out later, this was not salt water. You see Bay du Nord river comes out there - it is beautiful you know - the river is about a quarter of a mile wide and when it flows out over the sea there is about two or three feet of fresh water - the fresh water on top, because the salt water is heavier. So he was drinking fresh water. He went right to sleep again and he only woke up when we got there, I ran her up on the beach. Then I went to see my boarding mistress, a Mrs. Ben John Lamb. Mrs. Lamb lived on a rock - it was all rocks down there. But they made gardens in Bay du Nord - they did in those days anyway - to grow potatoes. But there is no soil - all rock. You see they have a lot of dories around, second-hand dories that are left over from the banking. They all go banking. Gordon Pugh Company was banking out of Belleoram and all the men go out on the banks catching fish. They have good dories and after using them for several years they leave them ashore. That was the first time I ever knew that the women went fishing, but they do, they did then. They used to take the dories up the river and bring down soil and spread it out on the rock to make a garden. There wouldn't be much the first year and they would maybe plant a few potatoes in it. They would put a layer of potatoes and they would put some kelp and another layer of potatoes and so on, to build up the ground you know, and after awhile they would build a fairly decent plot bringing soil down from the river every year.

There were two schools in Bay du Nord. There were two denominations, Church of England and Roman Catholic. They were separated though, there was a big hill between them. Bay du Nord is a place where they had very little road and there was steps in the road to go up the hills. It is very interesting.

The school I was to teach in was a school chapel, it was up on the back and the first day I was in Bay du Nord I went up to have a look at it. The door was open and the goats had gotten in. The school chapel had an altar, it was not covered up or anything and there was a goat standing on the altar when I went in. The stove piping was all down and the stove tipped over. Well, I drove the goats out and I painted the windows and cleaned it up. The clergyman came down later and brought down an outfit to go on the windows so that we

could open them.

As soon as school started I discovered that the place was seething with smallpox. The youngsters came to school with smallpox on their faces and I started to send them home. The next day they would be back and I'd send them home again. Then the parents got up in arms - one fellow came up to the door ready to fight me. He didn't see why I should send the children home just because they had smallpox. Thought I was trying to get out of teaching them.

Now there was no telegraph office in Bay du Nord, no way to communicate at all. I got in a dory and I rowed out to Pool's Cove, the nearest telegraph office. I wired Dr. Blackall, the Superintendent of Education, and told him that the place was full of smallpox and what should I do about it. He wired back "Close the school until the epidemic is under control". So I closed the School.

Then I went hunting everyday, across Bay du East. I had partridge, rabbits, both were out of season, so was caribou. One time I got a shot at an old stag.

Eventually Dr. Fitzgerald came down from St. Jacques. Now if anybody got sick at Bay du Nord and sent for the doctor, they had to go to Pool's Cove and wire Belleoram, and he would come down for \$75.00. Whoever wired for him had to pay the \$75.00. People were born, lived, and died, and never saw a doctor. \$75.00 was a large amount in those times, but still you know they had made good money banking in those days out in Belleoram. They made more money that they did anywhere else in Newfoundland. In Bay du Nord they were hard working people, very hard working.

Vessels could come right in and run up the river at Bay du Nord, the water was very deep. There was a lot of timber in there too and a big waterfall. I am surprised they don't tap it and use it for hydro power.

Bishop Meaden had been teaching at Bay du Nord two years before I went there. They like him very much. He had put up the flagpole by the school. The pole was about a hundred feet high so that the youngsters could see it on the other side of the mountain. The flagpole was only about twenty or thirty feet from where I stayed. I'd get up in the morning and put my head out the window and tell them to hoist the flag and by the time I got up, dressed and had my breakfast the youngsters would be all there. I climbed that pole one time, I would never do it again. The halliards broke, I told the Bishop about it later, told him he did an awful thing by putting up that pole, as far as I was concerned.

There was some noted characters in Bay du Nord. There was one old man called Louie John, he died while I was down there. One Saturday when we were talking I asked him how he came to Newfoundland. "I'll tell you how it was," he said.

"I didn't like school and I was getting on in age - I was ten. This was in a seaport town in England (maybe it was Poole, I don't quite remember). One day when I was going to school, I noticed there was a big ship down at the wharf, so I thought I would stowaway on her, get

out of the place, I didn't like it. So I came out of school at four o'clock and took the stuff out of my book bag and I shoved it under the steps of a house, under the front steps, all except a mirror and a comb. I got the mirror yet, it's cracked now.

"I went aboard this ship when there was nobody watching, I sneaked down the hole. She was filled up with empty barrels and one thing and another. I hid away and that night I heard her getting ready and she went to sea. I didn't know where she was going and I stayed in the hole until the next evening. By that time I was starved to death and I thought I'd come up.

"So I went on deck and showed myself. The Skipper was so mad he threatened to throw me overboard. He wouldn't go back. He was two days out and bound for Fortune Bay, fishing. They anchored at Stone's Cove, or near Stone's Cove, fishing, they put me to work and I worked all that summer.

"In the fall, around October, she was loaded. They were getting ready to go back to England and they paid no attention to me. That last night they were there I sneaked up about 3 o'clock. There was nobody watching, I untied the little boat from the stern, rowed ashore, pushed the boat off and let her drift away. Then I went into the woods. " I guess I walked about half a mile and hid away. About daylight I saw them coming. They came ashore from the boat and they searched for several hours, couldn't find me tho' and the boat set sail and went on."

"Then," the old man said, "I made my way to Stone's Cove and I persuaded somebody to take me in. I stayed there for several years and later on I moved to Bay du Nord."

This had all happened seventy years before, he was eighty when he told me the story in 1913. He showed me the bit of glass, the little mirror, he had brought from England. It seemed incredible, a ten-year old child leaving England and coming out here like that. I asked him if he'd ever thought about going back and he said no but he had made contact with his people and they knew where he was.

I spent the year in Bay du Nord and when it came time to come home two things happened. One thing was the boat, the SooSoo, was gone again. The other thing was I had no money to pay my passage to get home. I had a gun and I sold that but still didn't have enough. So I borrowed some. After a year of teaching I had no money, never had a cent!

So one Saturday night, some time after school closed, I met a man called Bobby Rose. He travelled quite a bit and he asked me if I was going down the coast on the Glencoe. I said I would if I could find a way to get to Belleoram. He said he was going down too.

"We'll borrow a boat and row to Belleoram," he said, "we'll do it now tonight." I said okay. So about 12 o'clock he took my trunk by one end and I took the other and we went down on the wharf. There were all kinds of dories you know. "Now there's a nice dory there," he said, "that belongs to so and so. We'll put the trunk in that one." "Now," he said, "we'll get a couple of good pairs of paddles." he picked out a pair of somebody else's, and we started off to row to Belleoram, about ten miles.

We rowed steadily for a couple of hours. Now we'd brought some stuff to eat, we got it out - it was as calm as a clock - and after we ate, Bobby fell asleep in the bow of the boat and I fell asleep in the stern. I woke up with a start with water splashing in my face. We had driven ashore at a place called Corbin Head, about half way up to Belleoram. It was calm and there was no danger. There would have been if we had gone in on the rocks but it was a nice little sandy spot there where she hid. We just pulled out and rowed into Belleoram just at daylight.

In those days you know they had no shops at Bay du Nord, or in a good many of the places around there. They had what they called Traders. There are very few people in Newfoundland who remember the days of the Traders. There was Charlie Poole from Belleoram and there was a man called Mr. Dicks, there were others too. They had big boats and once a month they went around the bay. The cabin was fitted up like a shop and they would come into the wharf and tie up and people would go aboard and buy their stuff.

Well there were two traders in the harbour at Belleoram when we got in. So we went aboard of this one owned by Mr. Dicks and Bobby asked him to hoist the dory up on deck, and so he did. We told him who the paddles belonged to. He was going down to Bay du Nord the next day, so he said he would take them down, give the dory and paddles back to the people who owned them. And so we came down the coast on the Glencoe a couple of days later and that was how I got home.

I never saw Bay du Nord until about forty years after that. In 1956, I think it was, I was going up the coast and went in there. The oldest lady in the place, Aunt Martha Davidge, remembered me. I landed on the wharf and there were some young fellows around and I asked one of them if Aunt Martha Davidge was still alive. "She's my grandmother," he said, and he took me up to see her, and she remembered me after forty years.

The school chapel had been torn down by then. The next morning I went over to look at the Cemetery. The last thing I did before I'd left in 1914 was buy some wire to put a fence around the Cemetery. It wasn't fenced when I left, Bobby Rose was going to put the fence around, and when I looked you know part of that wire mesh fence is still there! But now there is no one in Bay du Nord at all. They are all gone, they have left it. It was very harsh but a beautiful place in its way, they've gone out of it altogether now.

References:

- Dictionary of Newfoundland And Labrador Biography*, Editor Robert H. Cuff 1990
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- A Legacy of Leadership A Commemorative Book Honouring the Centennial Celebrations of the Newfoundland Teachers' Association*, Robert D. Pitt 1990
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William Street and Dorcas (Garland) Street - Lower Island Cove
Beverly (Street) Escott

Births, Deaths, and Documentation

William Street and Dorcas Garland of Lower Island Cove were married on December 16, 1885 (GS Film #0023133796, DF #004554294). Their marriage is also recorded in the Methodist Church's parish records for Lower Island Cove. The witnesses were Abraham Snelgrove and Rebecca Garland.

William and Dorcas had three children - Martha, Jack (William John) and Abraham (Abram) - all of whom were raised in the Methodist faith.

Martha Street, born on August 14, 1887, married Andrew Harbin and remained a devoted member of the Salvation Army in St. John's throughout her life. The author remembers Martha as a tall woman with a dignified presence.

Martha and Andrew had seven children: William ("Dutch"), Lillian, Georgina, Joyce, Wayne, Harry and Victor.

Jack (William John) Street (1892 - 1960) served with the Newfoundland Forestry Unit in Scotland during the First World War. His exact date of birth remains unknown, as neither the month nor the day was recorded in his military records with the Newfoundland Forestry Corps (Regimental No. 8315). At the time of his enlistment, Jack and his wife, Rose Ellen, resided at 27 LeMarchant Road, St. John's.

Researchers encountered considerable difficulty locating Jack's military records because his surname was incorrectly recorded as "Streat" rather than "Street" on his War Office registration. Despite this obstacle, copies have since been obtained of his discharge papers following the war, records relating to an illness he contracted while overseas and documentation identifying the vessels that transported Jack and his brother, Abraham, home. Marriage certificates and census records were also located.

Confirmation of Jack Street's service number was obtained by cross-referencing his military records with those of his brother, Abram (Abraham) Street, who served with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (Service No. 4970). A particularly significant piece of evidence appears in Abraham's Army Form B.108, dated November 3, 1918. At the bottom of the form, Abram wrote in his own hand: "My next of kin is my brother John Street, of 27 LeMarchant Road, St. John's, N.L."

Additional evidence confirming the connection between the brothers is found in Abram's military records. Before his address was later changed to that of his sister, Abram was residing with his brother, Jack Street, and sister-in-law, Rose Ellen, at 27 LeMarchant Road, St. John's.

To address the error in Jack's military records, a request to correct the misspelling of his surname from "Streat" to "Street" was submitted to The Rooms Provincial Archives by email on January 6, 2020.

Jack Street passed away on January 7, 1960. He was predeceased by his son, Gordon Street, who died on October 8, 1931, at the age of 11 (NL Death Record, GS Film #002168731, Digital Folder #004554315).

Jack is buried in Mount Pleasant Cemetery (Affiliate Record Identifier: 112068360). His military headstone, which had gradually tilted forward over time, was straightened in 2024 following a request submitted to Veterans Affairs by the author, helping to preserve the dignity of his gravesite and his service record for future generations.

For the Reader's Information:

Headstone assistance for war veterans-The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is responsible for the graves of 110,355 Canadian war dead who died during the periods of:

- *the First World War - 4 August 1914 to 31 August 1921, and*
- *the Second World War - 3 September 1939 to 31 December 1947.*

Information regarding the maintenance of military grave markers can be obtained through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). While VAC is not responsible for all veterans' grave markers, it does maintain military markers that were provided and installed for veterans who qualified for funeral and burial assistance at the time of their death.

For information concerning eligible gravesites requiring maintenance, or for further details about the Grave Marker Maintenance Program, contact Veterans Affairs Canada at 1-866-522-2122.

Abraham (Abram) Street

Abram Street (1898 - 1924) enlisted in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (Regimental No. 4970) on August 5, 1918, during the First World War. His enlistment records state that he was 20 years old at the time, suggesting a birth year of approximately 1898.

However, conflicting information appears on his death certificate. The handwriting is difficult to decipher, and the document appears to record his birth year as either 1893 or 1896. It also lists a birth date of November 16, although the year is unclear. The same certificate records that Abram died of tuberculosis on July 8, 1924 (GS# 002168730, Film #004554314).

Because the military records and death certificate provide differing information, Abram's exact year of birth remains uncertain. Based on his age at enlistment, the military records support a birth year of approximately 1898, while the death certificate suggests an earlier date.

Abram's grave remained unmarked until 2018, when his great-niece, the author, located his burial site and contacted veterans' authorities to request the installation of a military headstone. His grave is situated in the Old Protestant Cemetery.

Today, a tall veterans' headstone marks his final resting place, serving as a lasting tribute to his military service and ensuring his grave is never forgotten.

Life in St. John's

Following the family's move from Lower Island Cove to St. John's, their mother, Dorcas (1864 - 1899), died at the age of 42. After her death, their father, William Street (1858 - 1903), continued to live with his children on Wickford Street. Tragedy struck the family again when William died on November 5, 1903, at the age of 43, leaving his three children orphaned.

Following their father's death, the children reportedly survived on their own for approximately one to two years, caring for one another as best they could. Martha, the eldest, was only 12 years old at the time, while her brothers were younger. She eventually secured employment with Mr. and Mrs. C. A. C. Bruce of Rennie's Mill Road.

Family accounts indicate that when Martha entered service with the Bruce family, her brothers were taken in by one of their maternal uncles. Dorcas had two brothers, Frederick Garland of Dildo and George Garland of St. John's, either of whom may have provided a home for the boys. However, no surviving records have been found to identify which uncle assumed their care or where the brothers were subsequently raised.

Information concerning the three orphaned 'Street' children was preserved through conversations among Martha Harbin, her son William ("Dutch") Harbin, Jack Street, Jack's daughter-in-law Lena (Selina Conway Street), and the author during the 1950s through the 1970s. Although some of this family history has not been verified through official records, one important piece of supporting evidence survives. A handwritten letter from Dutch Harbin, who'd been told stories by his mother, was given to the author in the 1970s and preserved today. The letter provides valuable insight into the family's recollections and serves as an important documentary source concerning the circumstances of the orphaned children.

Abram (Abraham) Street

Before enlisting in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment (Service No. 4970), Abraham (Abram) Street resided with his brother, Jack Street, at 27 LeMarchant Road, St. John's. He later moved to the home of his sister, Martha, at 38 Flower Hill, after her marriage to Andrew Harbin. Military records confirm that Abram sent money home to his sister during his service.

Abram never married; however, surviving evidence suggests that he had a romantic interest in Elsie Garland. Family tradition holds that she may have been his cousin, although this relationship has not been confirmed through documentary evidence. During the First World War, Abram sent Elsie several postcards from overseas postings.

One such postcard, mailed from Germany in 1918, is included among the family documents. It depicts a well-dressed young man and woman and bears the German greeting “Herzliche Neujahrsgrüße,” which translates to “Happy New Year” or, more literally, “Heartfelt New Year's Greetings.”

The message Abram wrote in cursive on the back of the postcard suggests that his writing skills may have been limited. In contrast, his signature on military documents is flowing and ornate, indicating that he had practiced signing his name. Such differences were not uncommon among Newfoundlanders of the early twentieth century, many of whom had limited access to formal education due to economic and geographic circumstances.

The message on the postcard reads:

“This is not a good card, but I only wish I had his clothes on. It won’t be long before I would be back with you, my love. I don’t think it will be so very long. So, kiss this card for my sake. This is from your best love ever. I dearly love you, my dear. I will be true to you.” The affectionate tone of the message provides a rare personal glimpse into Abram’s life and his relationship with Elsie Garland during his wartime service overseas.



Abraham Street. 1918

Jack (William John) Street and Rose Ellen (Mooney) Street

Jack Street married Rose Ellen, a devout Roman Catholic from Placentia, twice within the same year. Their first marriage took place on January 26, 1912, in Jack’s Methodist church, with

Albert and Bessie Jones serving as witnesses. Just over a month later, on March 3, 1912, the couple married again at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, with Henry Thomas and Annie Dunn as witnesses.

The reason for the second ceremony has not been documented. However, given the religious differences between Jack and Rose Ellen, it is possible that faith played a role in the decision. During the early twentieth century, mixed-denomination marriages were often a source of concern for families and churches alike, and a second ceremony may have been viewed as a way to satisfy the expectations of both religious traditions.

Notably, the couple's second marriage took place only weeks before the sinking of the RMS Titanic in April 1912 off the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. The marriage lasted until Jack's death in 1960.

The first marriage ceremony is recorded in the Register of Marriages for the District of St. John's, Newfoundland Vital Records, 1840 - 1949 (GS Film #002168996, Digital Folder #004151855, Image 00269, Marriages 1909 - 1912, Volume 06). The second marriage ceremony is also recorded in Newfoundland Vital Records, 1840 - 1949.

Life with Rose Ellen (Mooney) Street and Jack Street

Rose Ellen was born on June 10, 1889, and died in 1963, three years after the death of her husband, Jack Street. She passed away following several strokes and was buried in Mount Carmel Cemetery, Plot 17. In 2026, her grandchildren erected a headstone, replacing the wooden cross that had previously marked her resting place.

Rose Ellen was the daughter of Patrick Mooney and Cecily Power of Placentia. The family was Roman Catholic and attended the Church of the Sacred Heart. Information concerning her siblings is derived primarily from oral history and remains only partially documented. Known siblings included Theresa Mooney, born in 1883, and Mary Ellen Keough.

See also Patrick Mooney of Placentia, a lighthouse keeper who died on May 30, 1908, at the age of 84 in St. Mary's.

Life changed significantly for Jack and Rose Ellen when, in recognition of his wartime service, Jack was granted a 100-year land lease. The original document remains preserved with Crown Lands and Deeds. The seven-and-a-half-acre property was located on what was then known as Blackhead Road, now known as Shea Heights.

There, Jack established a bakery and later worked as a cook for the American military at the Base during and after the Second World War. An entrepreneur by nature, he later recognized the growing demand for local entertainment and expanded his home by adding a long room at the front, which became a popular dance hall.

Among its patrons were Portuguese fishermen arriving aboard vessels of the famed White Fleet, whose ships could often be seen floating in the harbor like white gulls upon the tide. The hall became a lively gathering place for local residents and visiting fishermen alike.

The author fondly recalls the jukebox, the pinball machines, and ‘chips’ served in small brown paper bags, standing like soldiers in their dugouts, generously sprinkled with salt and black malt vinegar. She also remembers the warmth and friendliness of the young Portuguese fishermen. Among her most cherished keepsakes is a coin given to her in the 1950s by one of these fishermen when she was only a toddler—a small memento of a vibrant community gathering place that has long since disappeared.

Following Jack’s death, the property was sold, and the house was later destroyed by fire in the 1990s, bringing an end to a chapter of local history that remained vivid in the memories of those who knew it.

Jack and Rose Ellen’s children

1. Gordon-deceased as a child.
2. Frank Street married Daisy Chafe. They had two children: Alex and Shirley
3. Lillian Street married Jack Francis. They had four children: John, Joan, Lorretta and Gloria.
4. George Joseph Street married Selina (Lena) Conway-Bishop from St. Brides. Born on February 9th, 1924, he died of Leukemia on October 27th, 1968. He is buried at Mount Carmel Cemetery. They had seven children: Yvonne, Ambrose, Beverly, Sharon, Daniel, Juanetter and Elain.

George and Lena Street

George Street married Lena Bishop in 1945. For many years, Lena believed her given name was Helena. However, in 2000, she obtained a copy of her birth certificate and discovered that she had been christened ‘Selena.’

On their wedding day, Lena wore a small blue suit with a matching hat, while George wore his distinctive quiff cap, a favorite item that he rarely removed. The couple walked "over the hill" from Blackhead Road to St. Patrick’s Church for the ceremony.

Born in Placentia Bay, Lena lost her parents at a young age and, from the age of four, was raised at the Belvedere Orphanage. For much of her life she knew little about her family background. Later research revealed that her mother, Priscela Conway of St. Brides, had long red hair, while her father, George Ambrose Bishop, was from Merasheen Island in Placentia Bay.

Merasheen Island, approximately 35 kilometers in length and up to 9 kilometers wide, is the largest island in Placentia Bay. During the years when Lena’s father lived there, the island supported a thriving fishing community with several hundred residents. Like many

Newfoundland outposts, however, Merasheen was eventually affected by the provincial government's resettlement program, and its inhabitants were relocated to larger communities.

In the early years of her marriage, Lena's mother-in-law often spoke proudly of a contest in which her daughter-in-law had been recognized for having the prettiest and healthiest hair. Lena's long black tresses contrasted strikingly with George's blond hair. Interestingly, none of their seven children inherited their mother's dark hair.

George was a gifted musician and singer who could play almost any instrument he picked up, including the guitar, accordion, harmonica and even the spoons. Music was a central part of his life, undoubtedly influenced by his upbringing in his father's dance hall, where music and entertainment were constant features of community life.

For many years, George worked aboard coal boats. Lena later recalled that the first time she saw him, he was covered in coal dust and all she could clearly see were the whites of his eyes - a memory she recounted with amusement throughout her life. George died when he was only forty-four; Lena died at age seventy-seven.

The author fondly remembers the music, the songs, and the lively sing-alongs of the 1950s when neighbors regularly gathered at the house for an evening of entertainment and companionship. She also recalls the many fairy stories that were shared during her childhood, reflecting a rich tradition of Newfoundland folklore.

As a young child, she often carried a piece of bread in her pocket because she had been told, "The fairies won't get you if you carry bread in your pocket." To a child, this simple belief provided a sense of comfort and courage, making the world seem a little less mysterious and a little less frightening.

George and Lena Street's Children

Yvonne Street was born on April 26, 1946, and married Joseph McGrath. They had four children.

Ambrose Street was born on September 10, 1948. At the age of 17, he left Newfoundland for mainland Canada. He remained in the workforce until the age of 77, when he returned to Newfoundland. Ambrose married twice: first to Anna Odell, with whom he had one daughter, and later to Jeanette, with whom he had one son.

Beverly Street was born on June 3, 1950, and married David Edward Escott in June 1971. Known to family and friends by his middle name, Edward passed away in August 2020. Beverly and Edward had three children.

Sharon Street was born on June 30, 1951, and married James Groves. They had four children.

Daniel Joseph ("Dan") Street was born in November 1952 and died on January 19, 2012, at the age of 59. Dan married twice. With Danielle, he had a son and a daughter; with Ann Croft, he had two sons.

Juanette Street was born on February 24, 1957 and married Michael Anthony. They had two sons.

Elaine Street was born on March 16, 1961, and married Randy Hamlyn. They had four children: one daughter and three sons.

Additional information concerning George and Lena can be found in the Newfoundland Census records of 1935 and 1945. Other supporting documentation is available through Ancestry.ca.



Danny J. Street 1985

MORGAN

Submitted by Rosalind Babb Stokes

The Morgan name is well known in the Conception Bay area. Throughout the 1800's many Morgans spread out from Port de Grave to other communities in Conception Bay. Supposedly the Morgan family was one of the founding families of Port de Grave. Oral history says the original ancestor, George Morgan, was a bosun on a naval ship who defected to settle in Port de Grave in 1715. George Morgan was a resident of Wales.

Edward Parsons, descendant of George, was born in 1786 in Ship Cove and married Patience Parsons from Bryant's Cove in 1824. Descendant Jacob Morgan and his sister, Sarah Ann Morgan Babb, my great grandmother, resided in Bryant's Cove. Jacob Morgan was the grandfather of Dr. Moses Morgan, third president of Memorial University.

Another file has a list of births and baptism dates 1842-1895 for Burnt Head. A previous article in The Ancestor talks about the parish of St. Lukes and the Morgans that were known as the Si Morgans because of patriarch, Josiah.

We have a very thorough account of the Morgans of Manuels at our office. In this family history Len Morgan talks about his 30 years of research for his ancestors. He refers to it as a "Labor of Love". Included in this research are 16 handwritten letters exchanged between 1921 and 1927 and land documents with the following names: John Smith 1886, George Squires 1889, Jacob Porter 1904, Hezekiah Morgan 1905 and Amos and William Hiscock Jr. 1924 - all of Manuels. Len also talks about his DNA experience and research which connected him to many cousins. There is an early Manuels land map with some newer modern changes along with maps of the Morgan property. Len has included many photographs of the family in his Morgan history. This family tree includes the direct Morgan line from James (c 1816) to George Benjamin. For George Benjamin onwards he has included all generations.

A photograph of Villa Nova Orphanage, Manuels is included in this file. Built in 1885 from the remnants of the former Bellevue Hotel, owned by Mary Tobin Squires, this orphanage was founded by Reverend Michael P. Morris to facilitate the needs of orphaned boys. It operated until 1891 when it was forced to close after the Typhoid outbreak of 1889. The orphanage's guardian, Reverend Morris, selflessly nursed the infected children but contracted the disease himself and died Aug 1, 1889 along with 5 orphans.

Not a part of Len's research, but included, is a short history of the following communities of Conception Bay South: Topsail, Chamberlains, Manuels, Long Pond, Foxtrap, Lawrence Pond, Kelligrews, Upper Gullies and Seal Cove.

SOURCES:

Morgan Births and Baptism Dates at Burnt Head, C.B., 1842-1895 by Clayton Samuel Morgan.

The Si-Morgan Family by Marilyn Hindmarch.

The Morgans of Manuels by Leonard Morgan

Family Tree of Edward Morgan and Patience Parsons of Bryant's Cove by Rosalind Babb Stokes.

Founding Families of Port de Grave by Stephen Anthony.

Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador: Volumes 3 & 4.

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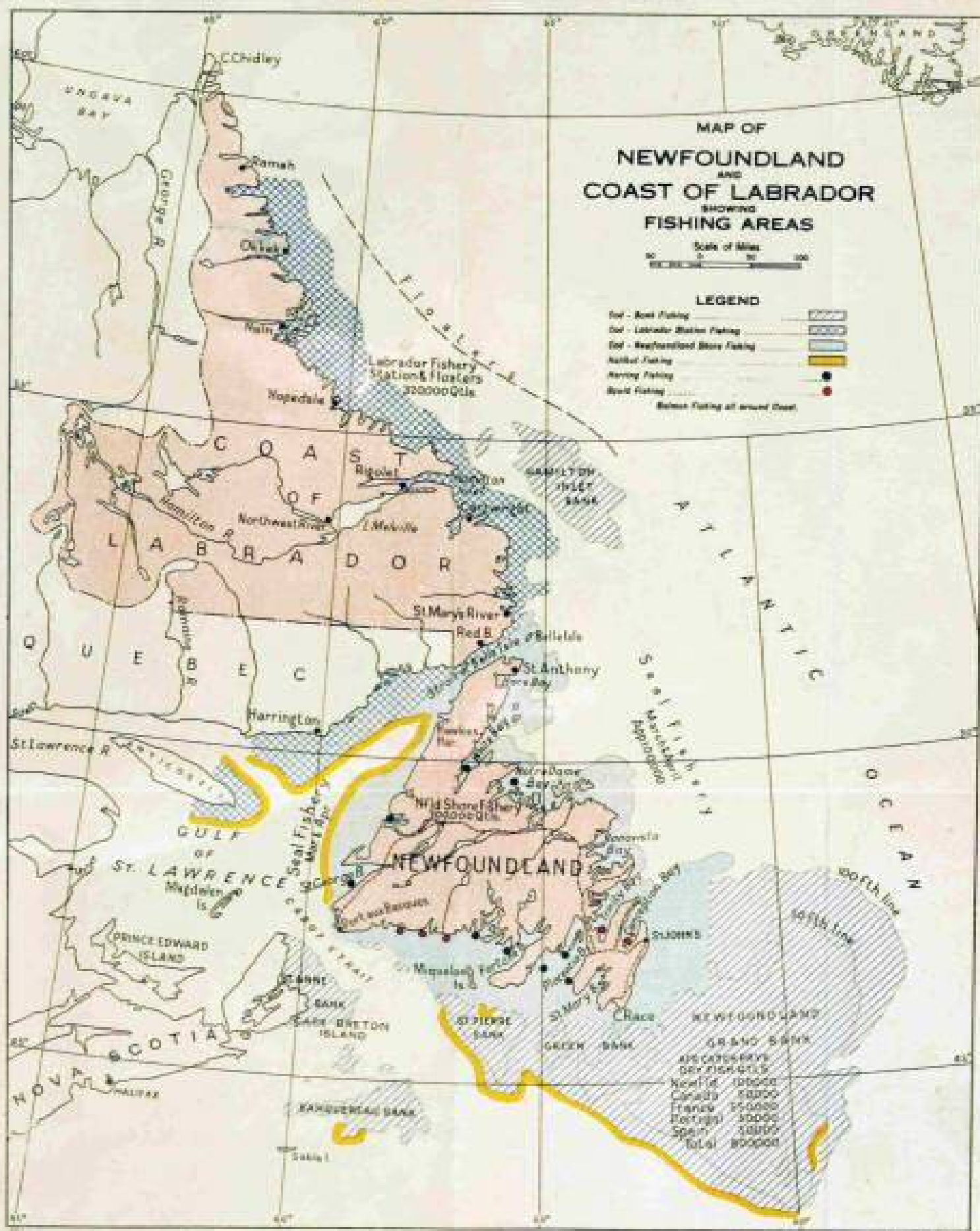
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