

# The Ancestor



Vol 40,3

2024



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- The Knights of Pythias
- Happy Anniversary to Us

The Family History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador, Inc.

# *The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.*

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

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

## **ANCESTOR**

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

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

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

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**EDITORS:** Frederick R. Smith and Paul Dunne  
 Volume 40 Issue 3

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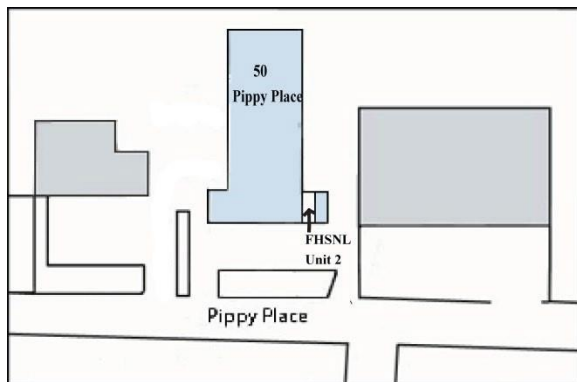
Subscription to *The Ancestor* is available to individuals or institutions for \$45 per year and includes membership in the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. Life membership is also available for \$700. Membership is for a twelve month period beginning on the date fees are received.

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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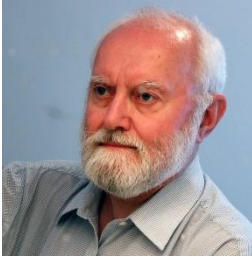
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Cover Picture: Pittman Family at 1 Atlantic Avenue  
 The Rooms A 16-32



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Fred Smith

I hope everyone has had a great summer and managed to do some great family research. It was a good summer and hopefully the good weather will last well into fall.

We don't hold our lectures during summer but will start again in September. We have all of our lecturers booked and confirmed for the 2024-2025 lecture series. It looks like we are going to have a really good and interesting year.

I am happy to report that our application for 2024-2025 Cultural and Economic Development Program (CEDP) funding was approved, and we will be funded for the coming year. It may only be \$7500 but it certainly helps subsidise the rent. We thank the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for the support.

As I noted in the last issue of *The Ancestor*, the first meeting of the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador was held on 9 October 1984. That means that in October of this year we will have our 40th anniversary.

Also, as I noted in the last issue, we are planning a family history conference for July 2025. We are hoping people from all over the world will attend. You will hear lots about it as details are worked out.

As always, we are always looking for Articles for *The Ancestor*. They don't have to be long articles. They can be just a half page letting people know you are searching for a particular ancestor. Articles of any length are important but very long articles may be split between two issues of *The Ancestor*.

Good luck with your family history research.

## CONFERENCE 2025

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

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## ROCKBOUND ROOTS 2025 GENEALOGY CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT!

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

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



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

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

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## NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

### PUBLICATIONS

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

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

Index of names, baptisms, marriages, and burials

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

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

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

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

Index by surnames 1835-1900 \$25.00

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

**Copies of The Ancestor** \$11.50

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

### OFFICE HOURS

**Wednesday: 12:00noon-3:00pm**

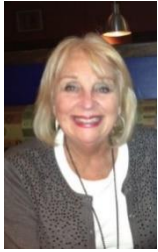
**Thursday: 10:00am-2:00pm**

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

All request for research, articles and general information should be directed to the main office at 709-754-9525, e-mail at [fhs@fhsnl.ca](mailto: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](mailto:ancestor@fhsnl.ca)**

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

**ACQUISITIONS - Compiled by Rosalind Babb Stokes**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AUTHOR/DONOR</b>
Unholy Orders	Michael Harris
The Winds Softly Sigh	R. F. Sparkes
We Love Thee NL.	Frank W. Graham
The Last Voyage of the Lusitania	A.A. & Mary Hoehling
Bandits and Privateers	Harold Horwood & Ed Butt
The Million Dollar Rock (Wadham Island)	Roland Abbott
The Perfect Storm	Sebastian Junger
Yes My Dear (Joan Morrissey)	Debbie Morrissey Stafford
The Letters of Mayo Lind	Francis Lind
Always and Beyond the Virgin Rocks	John Parsons
Probably without Equal	John Parsons
The Enigma	T. C. Badcock
Last Dance (Knights of Columbus Fire)	Darren McGrath
People of the Landwash	George Story
A Sea of Mothers Tears	F. Galgay and M. McCarthy
Take a Deep Breath	Harry Cuff
A Man of My Word	Beaton Tulk
Sailors and Their Ships	Rev. John Ellis Currey
Chocolate Bars and Rubber Boots	Doug Letto
Killer Snow	David Liverman
The Best of the Barrelman	William Connors
Beneficial Vapors	Ray Guy
Call Me Joey	James R. Thoms
The Hull Home Fire	Linda Abbott
A Broken Arrow	T.C. Badcock

## ARTHUR PITTMAN'S FEBRUARY 7, 1934 ACCOUNT OF "THE PITTMAN FAMILY OF NEW PERLICAN"

by

Melvin Baker and Craig Morrissey

### Introduction

Arthur Pittman (23 March 1854 - 31 May 1940) was born in New Perlican to a family of well-known shipbuilders. In 1867 he left school to work in the Labrador fishery and for a decade worked as a fisherman and ship's carpenter. He entered the teaching profession in 1878 and was Schoolmaster at the Tilt Cove Mines in Notre Dame Bay from December 1878 to June 1883. In October 1883 he entered Queen's College in St. John's to train for the Church of England ministry. He was ordained a deacon at the Church of England Cathedral on 6 December 1885 and admitted to the priesthood by Bishop Llewellyn Jones (1840-1918) on 29 September 1887. His first appointment in 1885 was as a curate to Canon Robert Temple (1837 - 18 June 1912)<sup>1</sup> at Twillingate where he served for three years and then he was appointed rector of Green Bay where he ministered for 25 years (1888-1913) at Little Bay and Tilt Cove. On 2 October 1890 he married at Twillingate Clementine Lethbridge (30 September 1866 - 30 April 1945) of that town with Temple presiding over the ceremony at St. Peter's Church.<sup>2</sup> There then followed five years of ministry at Trinity East and then in 1918 to Topsail from which he retired in August 1934 as the oldest Church of England clergyman then in active ministry.<sup>3</sup> He and his wife Clementine moved to Toronto to live with their daughter Callista (nee Pittman) Hutchings (1902-1992).<sup>4</sup> From Toronto he wrote several articles on his experiences ministering in Green Bay as well as on the history of New Perlican.<sup>5</sup>

Before going to Toronto to live, in 1934 Pittman gave a friend a written record of the Pittman family for donation to the Newfoundland Historical Society and the donation was accepted by the Society at its March 23, 1934 meeting. As Memorial University College President Albert Hatcher<sup>6</sup> was the Society's Vice-President, he had the document placed in the Society's archives

<sup>1</sup> *Daily News* 20 June 1912, 4; *Evening Telegram* 21 June 1912, 10; and *Diocesan Magazine* (July 1912), 107-08.

<sup>2</sup> *Twillingate Sun* 4 October 1890. See also *Newfoundland Who's Who 1930* (edited by Richard Hibbs 1930), 140.

<sup>3</sup> *Diocesan Magazine* (August 1934), 247-48; and (June 1940), 189, 191; and *Daily News* 21 July 1934, 3, and *Observer's Weekly* 4 June 1940, 15.

<sup>4</sup> She married Gordon Graham Hutchings (1902-1983) of Twillingate on 2 July 1927 at Detroit, Michigan. Arthur and Clementine's other children were Blanche (1891-1983); Eliza Charlotte (1896-1970), married to the Rev. William James Rowe (1893-1953) on 7 September 1920 at Topsail; Eda Mabel (1896-1980), married to Alan George Carter (1891-1970) of St. John's on 13 September 1921; and Minnie (1900-1925). See Arthur Pittman's obituary in the *Daily News* 3 June 1940, 12.

<sup>5</sup> See, for example, "The Days that are Past," in *Diocesan Magazine* (April 1935), 147-48, (May 1935), 178-80 and (June 1935), 227-28, and his "History and Description of New Perlican," in *Newfoundland Quarterly*, vol. 35, no. 3 (December 1935), 17-8.

<sup>6</sup> Albert George Hatcher (1886-1954), President of Memorial University College (1933-1949) and President Memorial University 1949-1952.



located in “our fine strong-room” at the College.<sup>7</sup> It is now MG238 “Pittman Family Collection” at the Rooms Provincial Archives, St. John’s.

**Document – “The Pittman Family of New Perlican”**

A little while ago Mr. H.F. Shortis when writing<sup>8</sup> to the *Evening Telegram* said a miniature painting of Mr. C.H. Pittman had been presented to the Historical Society by Dr. Philip Gosse<sup>9</sup> residing in the south of England. On hearing of that picture’s whereabouts I went to the Memorial College to see it, and found that it is a facsimile, but about half the size, of a painting that I have in my study of Charles White Pittman but he was not the astrologer of whom Mr. Shortis speaks.

In order that correct information of the Pittman Family of New Perlican may be given I shall go back to the year of Our Lord 1774 when on January 3<sup>rd</sup> of that year Corbet Pittman of Abbotsbury was united in wedlock to Mary Gibbons, by James Harris, Vicar of Abbotsbury.

About 37 years ago I wrote to the Vicar of Abbotsbury to know if there were any records of our family to be found in his Church Registers, and the following is a copy of his reply to my enquiry –

Abbotsbury, Dorchester  
July 16<sup>th</sup> 1896

Dear Sir

Herewith I enclose you a certificate of the baptism of William Pittman. There is also an entry of his father’s marriage to Mary Gibbons Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1774 by James Harris, and the death of Corbett Pittman March 7<sup>th</sup> 1771.

Believe me

Yrs. very truly  
J.H. Douglas

To Rev. A. Pittman, N.B: ... [text missing]

Corbet & Mary had a son born to them who was baptized William June 27<sup>th</sup> 1746 by James Harris, Vicar. I have a certificate of that baptism but the day of month of the child’s birth are not given.

<sup>7</sup> Memorial University, President’s Office Files, Box PO-13, Pittman to College Librarian (Sadie Organ), 8 September 1934. Pittman at the time could not remember whether that friend was Henry Francis Shortis (1855-1935), founding member of the Society in 1905, journalist and historiographer at the Newfoundland Museum or William Azariah Munn (1864-1940), both prominent members of the Society. Munn was a leading Harbour Grace fish exporter and historian who chronicled the history of his home town of Harbour Grace in the *Newfoundland Quarterly* and was an avid student of early Norse travels to Newfoundland and Labrador.

<sup>8</sup> *Evening Telegram* 13 December 1933, 14.

<sup>9</sup> Philip Henry George Gosse (1880?-1959), was a medical doctor in 1929 associated with the British Radium Institute. See *Daily News* 6 January 1929, 6 and 28 June 1929, 3.

I have also in my possession a Book, “A Supplement to Dr. Burnet’s Letters” that was written in the year 1687 and printed in 1688. On the fly leaf of which is written: “Willm. Pittman, Abbotsbury, near Dorchester, Forset. Leverno or Leghorn, Onboard the *Diana*, Jany. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1774.”

William son of Corbet & Mary Pittman married Ann White and to them were born 8 children.

Ann<sup>10</sup> December 24<sup>th</sup> at ½ hr. past 6 o’clock am 1776

William, Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 o’clock in the afternoon 1778

Charles White Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 o’clock 1783

Corbet November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 o’clock in the afternoon 1784

Ann March 5<sup>th</sup> at 6 o’clock in the afternoon 1789

George White December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9 o’clock in the afternoon 1790

Mary January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 o’clock in the morning 1793

Elizabeth September 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 o’clock in the morning 1796

William the son of Corbet & Mary Pittman was a master mariner. He with his wife & some of their children emigrated from Dorset to Trinity<sup>11</sup> & made that their home, & there they died. The following entries are in St. Paul’s Church Burial Registers: “September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1808 interned Captain William Pittman 62 years”; “August 19<sup>th</sup> 1821 interned Ann Pittman aged 68 years.” These entries are endorsed by the inscriptions on their headstones in old St. Paul’s Churchyard. From the fact that there are no records in the Registers of their first four children, and that their last four children are carefully registered in the Baptismal Register there, we must conclude that Captain Pittman did not live in Trinity till about 1788; as the first baptism of his children registered in Trinity is that of his fifth child Ann in 1789. Capt. Pittman was a believer in the theory that, a child’s earthly future is governed by the position of the child’s birth, hence the case of a slip of paper found in his pocket-book giving the year, month, day, & half hour, when each of his eight children was born.

His second child William born in 1778 was my grandfather. He removed from Trinity to New Perlican (I can’t say what date) and married Sarah Dean (I think of Bay de Verde). He made that his home until he was called hence by order of Heaven. The third child Charles White Pittman whose “miniature painting” is in the Memorial College [at] St. John’s, was in Slade’s<sup>12</sup> employ from 1815 to 1819. He lived in Poole, England & died there about the end of 1836. I have an account of my father’s with David Durell & C, Poole dated 1837 the first item therein is Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>. By net proceeds Charles White Pittman’s legacy £52.13.8.

The fourth child Corbet was a master mariner in Slade’s employ. I had his log from Trinity to Poole in a ship called the *Industry* and in the autumn of that year he returned in a brig called the

<sup>10</sup> Pittman’s note “There is no further mention of this Ann. As their fifth child is called Ann it is probable that the first Ann was called to rest early in life.”

<sup>11</sup> On the history of Trinity, see Edmund Hunt, *Aspects of the History of Trinity* (St. John’s: Harry Cuff Publications, 1981) and Gordon Handcock, *The Story of Trinity* (Trinity: Trinity Historical Society, 1997).

<sup>12</sup> Poole-based fish merchants operating in the Fogo-Twillington area. See Gordon Handcock, “SLADE, THOMAS,” in *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, vol. 5, University of Toronto/Université Laval, 2003–, [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/slade\\_thomas\\_5E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/slade_thomas_5E.html).

*Minerva*, but gave it to my nephew Corbet Pittman who is now residing in Boston, U.S.A. I may add that nephew fought in the Great War on Gallipoli & lost two of his fingers in the July drive 1916.

Capt. Corbet Pittman, during the Napoleonic Wars of France with England, was taken at sea and carried to France as a prisoner of war; he with a relation of the late Captain Richard Ash<sup>13</sup> escaped and were recaptured. After that they watched for a favourable opportunity to get away again. When it offered they took a fisherman's boat in the night and crossed the Channel to England a few months before the Battle of Waterloo.<sup>14</sup> After that he settled down in Poole and there taught a navigation school. In 1886 I met Mr. William Waterman the head man of the firm of Messrs. Waterman and Hodge who was on a visit to Twillingate from Poole. I asked him if he ever met any Pittmans in Poole & he replied "one Corbet Pittman taught me navigation." I told him he was my great uncle. He said we often sat after the lesson while he told us of his experience as a prisoner in France. I can't say when the voyage of life was ended with him; but I have a copy of his last will and testament dated 1851 and I have his watch which was made in 1802. The late Dr. George Skelton<sup>15</sup> told me he met him in Poole in 1854. His remains lie buried in Poole cemetery.

Their fifth child died in 1854 aged 96 years. Their sixth child George White Pittman began his first cruise before the mast in the Brig *Hannah* October 20<sup>th</sup> 1818. All I know of him after that is that he died in 1822 at the age of 32 years, and that his remains were buried in the old cemetery, Carbonear. His headstone was in a good state of preservation when I saw it four years ago. Mary, the seventh child was married to Samuel Augustus Gent<sup>16</sup> and lived to the ripe old age of 93 years.

Elizabeth the eight child became the wife of John Skelton.<sup>17</sup> Her marriage is entered as follows – John Skelton of Kirby, Misperton to Elizabeth Pittman in St. Paul's Church, Trinity, October 11<sup>th</sup> 1824, by Rev. William Bullock.<sup>18</sup> Witnesses: Samuel August Gent, George Skelton, Thomas Drawbridge. She became the mother of Doctors John & George Skelton<sup>19</sup> and Mrs. Bayly, of Bonavista. Mrs. Bayly became the mother of the late Cannon Bayly<sup>20</sup> and Mrs. (Bishop) White<sup>21</sup> and the grandmother of Colonel W.F. Rendell<sup>22</sup> of the Church Lads Brigade,<sup>23</sup> and others.

<sup>13</sup> This may be Richard Ash Sr (1776-1839) of Trinity.

<sup>14</sup> This battle was in 1815.

<sup>15</sup> George Skelton (1826-1920).

<sup>16</sup> Samuel Augustus Gent (1782-1853). See Canon Lockyer's Trinity column in the *Evening Telegram* 8 December 1923, 9.

<sup>17</sup> 1791-1859, medical doctor at Bonavista 1815-1859.

<sup>18</sup> William Bullock (1797 - 7 March 1874).

<sup>19</sup> John Gent Skelton (1830-1891).

<sup>20</sup> Augustus George Bayly (1868-1933).

<sup>21</sup> Frederica Thorne Bayly White (27 May 1870 - 9 December 1957), the wife of William Charles White (1865-1943), who was Church of England Bishop of Newfoundland 1918-1942.

<sup>22</sup> Walter Frederic Rendell (1888-1951).

<sup>23</sup> See Geoff Peddle, *The Church Lads' Brigade in Newfoundland: A People's History* (St. John's: Flanker Press, 2016).

My grandfather was of the same Christian name as his father – William – and like him was a believer in astrology. In my boyhood days I often heard him spoken of by old men, as a man of superior knowledge and ability to that of the common people. Philip Tocque<sup>24</sup> was not correct when he said New Perlican was his birthplace. He must have been born in England – also his two brothers Charles White, and Corbet and his eldest sister Ann seeing that there is no record of their baptisms in the Baptismal Register at Trinity while that of Ann, George White, Mary and Elizabeth are to be found there today. He was a shipbuilder as well as a qualified sea captain and all of his sons of which he had five, viz: Charles, George, James, Corbet and Albert followed in his line. Which of them modelled the brigantine *Corsair* I can't say, but they built two other vessels for Mr. Howley,<sup>25</sup> the *Jim Crow* & the *Falcon*.

There is not another family in Newfoundland that built as many vessels as the Pittmans did. George built more than either of the others. He had the oversight of over a hundred in his day. He removed from New Perlican to Hant's Harbour long before I was born and there built many vessels for Messrs. Job Bros. & Co.<sup>26</sup> There his family was brought up to man and woman. William his son was a builder also. Uncle James Pittman built some vessels for a business man in Placentia about 80 years ago, one of which I have it heard said was a very fast sailor. For a time he was foreman carpenter in Woods' Dock, Maggoty Cove<sup>27</sup> – since renamed Hoylestown – St. John's. In the days of the cholera in St. John's<sup>28</sup> he was smitten by it and barely escaped death. He had even a closer call in 1856. In the autumn of that year he was coming from St. John's to New Perlican in a vessel called the *Emily Tobin*. He was to have repaired her the following winter for the seafishery. She harboured in Trinity enroute with a head wind to wait for a time up the Bay. When that time offered they hove up and got under way. The vessel was moving slowly out the harbour with a light wind when an explosion took place in the cabin by the igniting of a keg of gunpowder set off by a candle that was left burning in the stern locker. The skipper and sailors were cutting the anchor and attending to other ship's duties, my uncle was standing on the quarter deck looking forward, the decking was blown off at his heels, the man at the tiller was thrown up in the air and lodged on the cheeks of the main gaff between the throat halfyards of the mainsail & the main mast, and there rested dead until the mainsail was lowered down. There is a man, Mr. Fred Oakley,<sup>29</sup> now living in St. John's who was a lad in Trinity when that catastrophe occurred and can give better details of that sad event than I can.

The oldest daughter, Emma, of my said Uncle James married one John Allward<sup>30</sup> in St. John's. They lived on Rennie's Mill Road, and the baptisms of some of their children are recorded in the

<sup>24</sup> Philip Tocque (1814-1899), Tocque's claim is in *Newfoundland as It Was and as It Is in 1877* (Toronto: John B. Magurn, 1877) 137.

<sup>25</sup> Michael Howley (1809? – 26 October 1867).

<sup>26</sup> See Garry Cranford and Ed Janes, *From Cod to Crab: Stories & History of Hant's Harbour* (St. John's: Flanker Press, 1995) 16-7.

<sup>27</sup> A shipyard owned by John Woods (1808-1896) in the eastern end of St. John's harbour. See Paul O'Neill, *The Oldest City: The Story of St. John's, Newfoundland* (Portugal Cove-St. Philips: Boulder Publications, 2003) 709-13.

<sup>28</sup> This was in 1832. On the epidemic see Melvin Baker, "Disease and Public Health Measures in St. John's, 1832-1855," *Newfoundland Quarterly* vol. LXIX, no. 1 (Summer 1983) 26-29.

<sup>29</sup> Frederick Oakley (1847-1938).

<sup>30</sup> John Allward (1833-1903) and Emma (Pittman) Allward (1839-1905).

Cathedral Register. After a few years of marriage they went to Toronto, Ontario and there their children were educated. Their son Walter S. Allward became a sculptor, and in order to be the more efficient in the art he went to France & took lessons there. It was he who erected the Simcoe Statue and the Northwest Rebellion memorial in Queen's Park. He modelled the Toronto South African Memorial which cost about \$30,000. And he modelled and built the Monument on Vimy Ridge, France to the memory of the Canadians who bravely fought and nobly died in the Great War.<sup>31</sup>

To come back to Uncle George again, Corbet Pittman now living in St. John's in his 89<sup>th</sup> year is his son and Frank E. Pittman, Passenger Agent of the Newfoundland Railway, is his grandson. And Gordon Christian through his daughter Elizabeth who married James Mews is his great grandson, Doctor Burden is his grandson through his daughter Amelia whom Mr. Kenneth Burden married.

My father's brother Albert was master builder of some vessels also. I have an idea that it was he who built the *Jim Crow*. He had six sons, one of which Luke the youngest, a retired schoolmaster in his 80<sup>th</sup> year and still living. Two others of his sons William and Albert each added to the many Pittman built vessels in this country. Charles Pittman, engineer at Buchans mine and Anderson his brother, a foreman on the Newfoundland Dock, are his grandsons. Also William Pittman, Halifax N.S. agent for the Steel Company of Canada, Limited, and John Pittman, who holds a position of trust at the Gasoline Refinery on the East Side of that city, are Uncle Albert's grandsons.

My father's name was Corbet. I can't name any vessels that he modelled; but his qualifications as ship's carpenter and house joiner was second to none of his brothers. He worked for one Mr. Pack<sup>32</sup> and did a good deal in housebuilding in Carbonear. My two brothers James and Willis did their part also in adding to the fleets of Newfoundland vessels. James built several for Messrs. Munn & Co,<sup>33</sup> Harbour Grace. The last that he built was the *Rorke's Drift* at Carbonear in 1880 for Messrs. John Rorke & Sons.<sup>34</sup> After that he removed to St. John's and for a time was ship's carpenter in the Firm of Messrs. P. & L. Tessier Exporting fish merchants<sup>35</sup> of St. John's. Thence he went to the U.S.A. and became foreman carpenter on the building of Uncle Sam's ships of war viz: the *Rhode Island* & the *New Jersey* about 15,000 tons each, the *Vermont* 16,000 tons and the *North Dakota* 20,000 tons. I may say more about the scattered branches of the family but just now time fails me.

Arthur Pittman  
Topsail  
February 7<sup>th</sup> 1934

<sup>31</sup> On Allward, see *Daily News* 8 August 1936, 3 and Philip Dombowsky's 2021 Art Canada Institute's *Walter S. Allward, Life & Work* at <https://www.aci-iac.ca/art-books/walter-allward/>

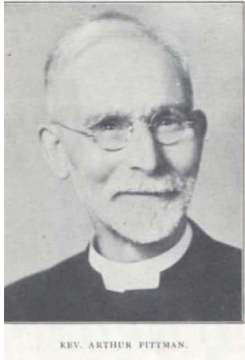
<sup>32</sup> Most likely Robert Pack (1786-1860).

<sup>33</sup> Firm first established in the early 1830s in Harbour Grace by John Munn (1807-1879) and William Punton (?-1845) and re-organized in 1872 by Munn's son William Punton Munn (1845-1882) and his nephew Robert Munn (1829-1894).

<sup>34</sup> Firm established at Carbonear in the 1830s by John Rorke (1807-1896).

<sup>35</sup> Fish export firm established in 1847 by Peter Germon Tessier (1819-1886) and Lewis Tessier (1820-1884).

N.B. I am beholden to the late Canon Lockyer<sup>36</sup> for the extracts from St. Paul's Church Registers, Trinity.<sup>37</sup>



REV. ARTHUR PITTMAN.

Photo Source: *Newfoundland Quarterly* vol.40, no. 1 (1940), 17



The Rooms:VA 15D-24.4; St. Pauls Church, C of E [Church of England], Trinity, TB

<sup>36</sup> William James Lockyer (3 July 1857 – 30 November 1924).

<sup>37</sup> Lockyer had provided this information in 1922 and published some of it in his "Trinity" column in the *Evening Telegram* 25 November 1922, 10.

**THE KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS AND MY MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPH.**

by Lynn Fogwill (member 2732)

In The Ancestor, Volume 38,3 2022, I had a story about a mystery photograph that, for over 15 years, I had tried to solve. I had two questions; who were the nine men in the photograph and what was the organization they represented?



Just to re-cap, the photo is a formal studio photograph from the E.W. Lyon Studio in St. John's and features nine men, four of whom are seated in front, with the other five standing behind. Each of the men wears a similar but not identical "jewel" on his lapel, two of the seated men are holding gavels and two of the men standing in the back are holding swords.

The man seated second from the left is my great grandfather, William Irving. I have been able to date the photograph to between 1900 and 1912 but have not been able to solve its mysteries.

I had dismissed several possible organizations: a Masonic Lodge, the Sons of Temperance, the St. Andrews Society. The photo certainly suggests the group was some type of fraternal organization. At the end of my piece in The Ancestor, I asked FHSNL members for help. A year passed and in November 2023, Paul Snook, a family historian with interests in Newfoundland,

Dorset and Somerset, sent an email to FHSNL, saying that he thought the men in the photograph were members of the Knights of Pythias.

Having never heard of the Knights of Pythias, I set out to learn about the organization, its history and whether there had ever been a lodge in Newfoundland, particularly St. John's.

Naturally the first thing I did was "google" Knights of Pythias. There are many sources, including Wikipedia, that provide a history of the Knights of Pythias.

The Knights are a fraternal organization established in the United States in 1864, with a motto of "Friendship, Charity, Benevolence". During the period of the "Golden Age of Fraternalism" (the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century), lodges spread rapidly in the United States and expanded into Canada.

The Knights of Pythias certainly fit with the timeframe for my photograph. However, what excited me the most is that the Knights of Pythias had swords as part of their regalia, which seemed particularly pertinent!

Wondering if the organization had left a documentary record, I sent email enquiries to the Provincial Archives (PANL), the City of St. John's Archives and the Centre for Newfoundland Studies (CNS), asking if there was anything in their collections connected to a Knights of Pythias Lodge in St. John's or Newfoundland.

None of them had records in their collection related to the Knights of Pythias, but Donna Doucette from the CNS sent me links to newspaper articles that "seemed informational". I'm a frequent user of MUN's Digital Archives Initiative (DAI) and that's where I began my search.

In a May 1925 issue of The Newfoundland Weekly, in a section called "Glances Backward", there was a note that in 1894 the first lodge (Far East) of the Knights of Pythias was formed in St. John's.

Starting with that tidbit I set about searching for any articles about the Knights of Pythias in the St. John's newspapers. I narrowed my searches to The Evening Telegram and The Evening Herald because the DAI has digitized issues for 1882-1920 (for The Herald) and 1879 – 1932 (for The Telegram), covering the time period relevant to my search. What a treasure trove I found!

From the 120 "hits" in The Evening Herald and The Evening Telegram, I was able to pull together a brief history of the Knights of Pythias Far East Lodge, St. John's.

In The Evening Herald, Saturday, September 23, 1893, there was a notice inviting the "Charter Members of the proposed lodge of the KP" to a meeting in the offices of W.T. Whiteway, Architect, at 370 Water Street on the following Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. "A full attendance particularly requested."





In late 1893 and early 1894 there were a series of “organizational” meetings, initiated by W.T. Whiteway, to form a Knights of Pythias Lodge. Some of the organizing “Charter” members had been a “member of a Lodge in B.C.”, as well as men who had been members of Lodges in “Manitoba, New York and the Maritime Provinces.” They were particularly inspired by the recent formation of a Lodge in Halifax.<sup>(i)</sup>

The Evening Telegram had a short article in the Friday, April 6, 1894 issue, which listed the following men as some of the “Charter” members: W.T. Whiteway, J.W. Colwell, J.R. Robertson, P.J. Nolan, J.C. Orner and C.A. Leverman.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 1894, “Mssrs. Henry and Knight, grand officers of the Knights of Pythias, arrived by the *Portia* to establish a branch of the Knights of Pythias in St. John’s.

The Lodge was formally organized, and the first candidates initiated at a meeting held in the Temperance Hall on Wednesday, June 27, 1894. The Evening Telegram reported the next day (Thursday 28 June 1894) the institution of Far East Lodge No. 14 was completed at the Temperance Hall by “Deputy Grand Chancellor Henry” who had come from Canada for that express purpose. There were twenty-seven charter applicants, and the following were appointed officers: E.W. Lyon, Past Chancellor; W.T. Whiteway, Chancellor Commander; J.C. Orner, Vice-Chancellor; S.C. Drury, Prelate; M.A. Lash, Master of Work; C.R. Thomson, Keeper of Records and Seals; J.R. Robertson, Master of Exchequer; W. Fogwill, Master of Finance; W.F. Butler, Master-at-Arms.

Will Fogwill was my grandfather; he married one of William Irving’s 6 daughters! So, it seems I have even more connection to the Knights of Pythias than I realized!

The articles and notices I found in the two newspapers were enthusiastic. The Knights of Pythias met regularly, generally on a Tuesday evening. Each time a new slate of officers was elected, the newspapers reported in full the names and their positions.

For the first year the Knights of Pythias held their meetings in the Temperance Hall on Victoria Street. But, by the summer of 1895 the notices indicated their meetings were in “their Lodge Room, Fraternity Hall”. I don’t know for certain but suspect that the Knights of Pythias may have joined forces with the Oddfellows and the Sons of Temperance to lease a building of their own, which they called “Fraternity Hall”. A year following their formation, the Knights of Pythias celebrated with a “Grand Social Dance” held in the British Hall on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April 1895. Tickets cost \$1.25 for a gentleman and lady and 60 cents for a lady.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.	NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.
	<b>GRAND SOCIAL DANCE</b>
— TO BE HELD IN THE —	
<b>BRITISH HALL, ON APRIL 17th,</b>	
Under the auspices of	
<b>FAR EAST LODGE, KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.</b>	
Tickets can be had from members of the Committee.	
Tickets, admitting Gentleman and Lady, \$1.25; Lady, 60 cts.	
m30,ap13,fp	<b>W. T. WHITEWAY, Sec.</b>

The Evening Herald reported that the Knights of Pythias had “spared no pains to make the sociable a success in every particular.”<sup>i</sup> Professor Power’s band would be providing the music for the dance and Mr. Thomas Gale was providing the catering. That day, for the first time in the City, the Knight’s flag, a tri-colour, was raised at the British Hall. It was red, yellow and blue, representing the three ranks of the order.

The next day The Evening Telegram pronounced the dance a decided success with about 75 couples attending. “All through the night the spirit of friendship and good fellowship prevailed ... dancing continued until an early hour this morning ... when the young men and ladies went home to steal a few hours sleep”.<sup>ii</sup> Over the next several years this dance was an annual event.

An outing and picnic at the Royal Octagon, Irving Station was a popular event. The first picnic was held on Thursday, July 4, 1895, and there were advertisements in both The Evening Herald and The Evening Telegram in the weeks beforehand. The Octagon grounds were reserved for the event and the train left the St. John’s station early in the morning, returning at 11 p.m. that night. Once again Professor Power’s band provided the music while Professor Danielle provided the catering. It was a family affair; tickets for children under the age of twelve were half-fare!

**:: Knights of Pythias**  
**PIC-NIC.**  
 A Pic-Nic under the auspices of the Knights of Pythias will be held at  
**The Royal Octagon, Irving Station**  
**ON THURSDAY, 4th JULY,**  
 under the excellent catering of Prof. Danielle.  
**Tickets, Round Trip, 60c.**  
 Children under 12 years, half fare.  
 Tickets, including Dinner, Tea and Dance in the evening:  
**GENTS.....\$1 60**  
**LADIES ..... 1 50**  
 Music: Professor Power’s Brass Band and Orchestra. The Octagon grounds are especially reserved for this Pic-Nic. Train will leave Station 9.15 a.m.; return 11 p.m.  
**E. W. LYON,**  
 Sec. Committee.  
 june22,29,tp

On the morning of the picnic, The Telegram reported that the train left at 9 a.m. for the 22-minute trip to Irving Station, with the brass and string band playing for the 60 people aboard. The English and American flag fluttered from the rear car of the train. As the people got off the train “the band rendered the sweet and lively strains of ‘Yankee Doodle’, which seemed to be much appreciated by the American Consul, present.”<sup>iii</sup> Several hundred people went out on different trains to spend the day.

The Knights of Pythias held “soirees” several times each year, in the fall, winter and spring as well as other outings. The Evening Herald reported on one such “soiree” on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1895:

“The Knights of Pythias and their lady friends held a dance in Fraternity Hall last night. There was a splendid gathering and the hall was decorated for the occasion. Dancing was kept up with spirit and animation until early this morning. This being the first affair of this kind held there, and being a decided success, the lodge intends holding a similar one at an early date.”

Two years later the Knights of Pythias were involved in the St. John’s parade marking Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee. An article in The Evening Telegram on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1897 (the

Jubilee itself was on June 22<sup>nd</sup>) gave the order in the procession of all the fraternal organizations. The newspaper remarked it would be the largest ever known in the island, likely some 3000 strong! The listing provides insight into the large number of fraternal organizations in the city, giving the date when each was formed. The order in the procession was: British Society (1837), Sons of Temperance (1848), Total Abstinence Society (1858), Star of the Sea (1871), IOGT (St. Thomas Lodge & Prohibition Lodge - 1872), Society of United Fishermen (1873), CETS (1881), Oddfellows (1895), Knights of Pythias (1895), Sons of England (1896), Royal Templars (1896) followed by the Boys Brigades with their bands.<sup>iv</sup>

In February 1898 the Knights held a “Smoker” with songs, recitations, etc.” and a “room full of smoke and cigars”. The notice declared “What more is required?”

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1899, the last article listing the newly installed officers of Knights of Pythias Far East Lodge No. 14 appeared in The Evening Telegram. I have transcribed all the names in the newspapers over the years and set them out in a companion piece to this article, with the hope that some members might find a gem for their own research.

After 1900 there were very few mentions of the Knights of Pythias in either newspaper, but newspapers were changing, with less focus on local events and more international news.

I have no idea if and when the Knights of Pythias Far East Lodge No. 14 came to an end. As I noted, they left no documentary record with any of the repositories one might expect.

There are some active Knights of Pythias organizations in Canada, including one in Quebec, which has a website; <https://www.knightsofpythias.qc.ca/>. It was a very lucky find and I received an immediate response to my email from their Grand Secretary. He provided me with an email address for the Grand Secretary of the Martimes Lodges, whom I contacted, and he also quickly replied. They do not have any records for the Far East Lodge, but he confirmed there was a lodge in St. John’s around the turn of the century that was part of the Maritimes Domain.

These two men provided me with comments and insights into my mystery photograph. They agreed that the jewels did look like Pythian jewelry. The shape of the jewel is right and the variance between them is because each jewel represents a particular Grand Lodge position. If I had a higher resolution scan of the photo it might be possible to see more clearly the centre of each jewel, which would confirm they are Pythian jewels.

There are usually nine elected officers for a term, which would explain the nine men in the photograph. Based on the newspaper coverage when new officers were installed, the positions in the early years of the Far East Lodge always included these nine: the Past Chancellor, the Chancellor Commander, the Vice-Chancellor, the Prelate, the Master of Work, the Keeper of Records and Seals, the Master of the Exchequer, the Master of Finance and the Master at Arms. Later articles also mentioned the positions of Inner Guard and Outer Guard.



I did find a photo of a Past Chancellor Knights of Pythias jewel in the collection of the Yale University Art Gallery. It looks remarkably similar to the jewel my great grandfather William Irving is wearing. Perhaps he was the Past Grand Chancellor when the photo was taken.

The gavel is the symbol of authority at a lodge meeting and the two gentlemen holding gavels were probably the current Grand Chancellor and the Grand Vice Chancellor.

In the early years of the Knights of Pythias, when a member was initiated into the order, he was given a ceremonial sword by his family or friends or business associates. It is possible that one of the men holding a sword, the man on the left, was the newly installed Master at Arms; his jewel resembles that of the current Master of Arms for the Maritimes Grand Lodge.

I still don't know who the other eight men in the photograph are, but I am confident they were the officers of the Far East Lodge No. 14 of the Knights of Pythias from 1905 or so. I imagine it is no coincidence that the photo was taken at Edwin William Lyon's studio, given that he was one of the founding officers of the Lodge.

- i. The Evening Telegram, Friday 3 August 1894, page 3. Lengthy Article on the formation of the Far East Lodge Knights of Pythias.
- ii. The Evening Telegram, Monday June 25, 1894, page 4.
- iii. The Evening Herald, Wednesday April 17, 1895, page 4.
- iv. The Evening Telegram, Thursday April 18, 1895, page 4.
- v. The Evening Telegram, Thursday July 4, 1895, page 4
- vi. The Evening Telegram, Friday June 18, 1897, page 4.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO VICE PRESIDENT PAT WALSH



On September 22, 2024, Society Vice- President and former two-time President and co-editor of the Ancestor, Pat Walsh was a recipient of the 75th. Anniversary of Confederation Medal presented to a number of volunteers throughout the province. Pat received his Medal from Mount Pearl - Southlands MHA Paul Lane.

## THE MOTOR CYCLE CLUB OF ST JOHN'S

Bill Whelan

A quaint picture postcard, number 1292 L, published by Ayre & Sons at a date that is unknown, shows eleven men with their eleven motorcycles. They are drawn up to be photographed near St Thomas Church in St John's.



It seems reasonable to think that the postcard photograph was taken before the outbreak of the Great War, say in 1912 or thereabouts.

Now, who were these eleven men? More to the point, what became of them in the years that followed that meeting of the Motor Cycle Club of St John's? It is likely that the families of these men persist in Newfoundland today. Perhaps these descendants can identify the men of the Motor Cycle Club?

These men were comfortable, surely. To import a motorcycle was far beyond the means of many Newfoundlanders of that time. A 1914 Triumph sold for \$200 in Toronto - serious money, the more so in Newfoundland. But the men of the Motor Cycle Club could import these devices and sport them around the town, perhaps frightening the horses. As a diversion from their busy lives

in business, they might make a Saturday ride to Torbay, say to Mrs. Liddy's establishment, or perhaps to Bay Bulls, or to Topsail, where they had a club house or club rooms.

Again, who were these men? The Great War would soon be upon them, though of course they knew nothing of that as they stood to be photographed. When the war came, these men were the officer class, expected to lead from the front. Were they among the First 500? That seems likely.

And what about these motorcycles? Some were manufactured in Coventry by the Triumph Engineering Company. A later version of these motorcycles was the *Triumph Trusty*, a fabled motorcycle of great service in carrying battlefield dispatches in the Great War.

Your reporter consulted an expert, Mr. Allan Johnson:

*Numbering from the left to right (1 to 11): Numbers 1,3,4,7,8,9 and 11 are Triumph single cylinder side valve motorcycles made by the Triumph motorcycle company of Coventry, England. They would have 450 to 500 cc engines and belt drive to the rear wheel from the engine belt pulley.*

*Number 6 with the heavy and peculiar front fork is a Metz, made by Charles Metz of Waltham, Massachusetts, USA from 1906 to 1913. Numbers 2 and 5 may be Marsh-Metz (aka M-M) motorcycles made in Brockton, Massachusetts, USA (1906-13)*

*Number 10 is an Indian v-twin probably made in 1909,1910 or 1911, and made in Springfield, Massachusetts, USA. By 1913, Indian was the largest motorcycle manufacturer in the USA.*

Thank you, Mister Johnson.

Of course the world knows of *The World's Fastest Indian*, starring Anthony Hopkins as a New Zealander obsessed with his Indian motorcycle and speed. You can look it up. It is a good movie. Is no 10 in our picture Newfoundland's fastest Indian? Probably.

But again, who were these men? Some information can be found in the Evening Telegram's report of the annual dinner of the Club at their rooms in Topsail in June of 1911:

*Cycle Club Dinner. About thirty members attended the Motor Cycle Club dinner at Topsail last night. The celebration was most enjoyable and included toasts, songs and instrumental music. Mr. Gerald Harvey occupied the chair. The toast of "The King" was the first on the list and was heartily responded to by the singing of the National Anthem. Mr. A. Salter proposed "Motor Cycle Club"; resp, by Mr. G. Harvey. "Our Guests," prop. Mr. P. E. Outerbridge; resp. Mr. C. Clift. The vocalists who added so much pleasure to the occasion were Messrs. Harvey, C. Clift, K. Blair and Dr. Smith. The club rooms were tastefully decorated for the occasion, lilacs and tulips being conspicuous. The ladies who served the tables were praised for their good work, but the general success of the whole programme was credited to Mr. Harold Harvey, the genial Secretary of the Cycle Club. Evening Telegram, 1911-06-30*

What fun! Yes, these gentlemen were very comfortable.

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## THE BALSOMS

H. Joseph Seward

The first recorded spelling of the family name Balsom was Epaphroditus Balsom, who was Christened on February 14, 1613, in London, St. James Garlickhithe. The surname Balsom is ranked 21,044 in the world ranking.

The Balsom family name has a long history dating to the Saxon times in England. The name is derived from the village of Balsham, Cambridgeshire, England. In 974, it was known as Bellesham, and it was destroyed by Viking raiders in 1015.

The surname Balsom was traced to Devon, England. In Newfoundland: George, Joseph, and Jonathan Balsom settled at Dark Hole (Clareville) in Newfoundland and Labrador. Early arrivals were Henry Balsam of Hants Harbour, 1827; John Balsam of Scilly Cove (Winterton); John Balsom of Random Arm, 1858; and Robert Balsam, fisherman of Bay de l'Eau; Maria of Heart's Ease.

The attractive and unusual name Balsom is a variant of the English name Balmer, a perfume and spices seller. It derives from the old French base, meaning Balm or ointment. Its spelling in the modern Idiom includes Balsam, Balsom, Belsom, Bolsom, Bulsum, and Balson, the most significant variant of the Balsom surname. Some of those name bearers could be of German origin. Throughout the centuries, surnames have developed in every country, often leading to astonishing variants of the original spelling.

## THE BALSOM FAMILY

On Saturday, 29 April, 1911, in Fox Harbour (Now Southport), Robert Maxwell Balsom (April 29, 1911-April 15, 1991) was born to Priscilla Ann Balsom (1870-1955) and John Robert Balsom (1867-1948). The temperature was .6C to -6.7C, with 2.5cm of snow. While nothing significant happened in Newfoundland and Labrador on that date, in the USA Midwest, a cold wave and a storm occurred, with a temperature range of 34C before and -19C after the storm. When Maxwell Balsom was born, Newfoundland was a British colony and a time of momentous change. The economy was primarily based on fishing, declining due to overfishing and competition from other countries.

Robert Maxwell Balsom married Lucinda May Ivany (1910-1957). They had nine children: Alan Chesley Balsom (1932-1947), William Garfield Balsom (1934-Living), (m. Melvie Avery), Janet Marion Balsom (1938-Living), (m. Oliver Tucker), Violet Elizabeth Gladys Balsom (1940-Living), (m. Lewis Lambert), Robert Maurice Balsom (1944-Living), (m. Hilda Seward), Dorothy Mary Balsom (1947-2017), (m. Edwin Miller), Arthur Charles Balsom (1948-1957), a stillborn unnamed boy (January 22 1952-January 22 1952), Florence Marie Balsom (December 18 1953-Living), (m. Randy Simms).

John Robert Balsom (August 15, 1867-September 27, 1948) was born in Dark Hole, now Clarenville, Newfoundland, Canada. He died in Southport, Newfoundland, Canada; when he was three years old, his father, Samuel Balsom (1842-1870), drowned in the Northwest Arm with three others from Hant's Harbour, Newfoundland. John lived with Samuel Lambert and his wife, Sarah, in Southport until he married; Samuel gave John Robert Balsom property on which he constructed a house, wharf, and fish storage buildings.

On January 4 1894, he married Priscilla Ann Balsom (October 17 1870-January 30 1955) of George's Cove, Newfoundland, Canada. She died in Southport, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. They had nine children: Mary Maud Balsom (1895-1895), Florence Lucy Balsom (1895-1963), (M. Edwin Charles Parrott), William James Balsom (1896-1965), Violet Frances Balsom (1898-1984), (M. Josiah Avery), Dorothy Victoria Balsom (1901-1922), (M. William Piercey), Delilah Florence Balsom (1903-1984), (M. Edgar Smith), Richard Samuel Balsom (1906-1913), Arthur Eddy Balsom (1910-1910) and Robert Maxwell Balsom (1911-1991).

Samuel Balsom (November 5, 1842-1870) was born in Dark Hole, now Clarenville, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. He was born to John Balsom and Priscella Green. On June 27, 1867, in Trinity North.

Samuel Balsom married Jane Seward (1850-1917). They had eleven children. John Robert Balsom (1867-1848), Priscilla Ann Balsom (1869-1955), Richard Balsom (1872-1947), Mary Elizabeth Balsom (1874-1959), Harriet Balsom (1877-1949), Delilah Eliza Balsom (1879-?), Robert Balsom (1879-1922), Victoria Balsom (1881-1892), Alice Amelia Balsom (1885-1914), Florence Lucy Balsom 1 (1889-1893), Florence Lucy Balsom (1893-1894).

John Balsom (1804-July 1873) was born in Rampisham, Dorset, England and died in Newfoundland, Canada. He married Priscella Green (1810-?) on October 29, 1828, at Hants Harbour, Newfoundland. They had seven children: Robert Balsom (1833-1899),

Harriet Balsom (1835-1893), Elizabeth Balsom (1839-1900), John Balsom (1840-1915), Samuel Balsom (1842-1870), Hubert George Balsom (1747-?) and Margaret Magdalen Balsom (1850-1905).

William Balsom (Note name change) (April 1759-September 6, 1835) was born in Corfe Castle, Dorset, England, and died in Tyneham Parish Church, Dorset, England. He married Elizabeth Miller (1773-1854) on January 28, 1789, in Tyneham, Dorset, England. They had eleven children: Thirza Balsom (1789-1858), Nahala Balsom (1791-1855), Harriett Balsom (1793-1875), Delilah Balsom (1796-1877), William Balsom (1801-?), Henry Balsom (1802-?), John Balsom (1804-1873), Robert Balsom (1806-1856), Sarah Balsom (1809-1892), William Balsom (1811-1881), Peggy Balsom (1815-1901).

On July 20, 1815, William Balsom married his 2nd wife, Ann Bibbs, in Corfe Castle, Dorset, England. I cannot find any children from this marriage.

John Balsom (July 7, 1731- June 1796) was born in Coombe-Keynes, Dorset, England. He married Margaret Butler (1722-1800) on November 21, 1752, in Corfe Castle, Dorset, England.



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They had five children: John Balson (1754-1821), Margaret Balson (1757-1830), William Balsom (1759-1835), Thomas Balson (1762-1833), Elizabeth Balson (1763-1827).

Richard Balson (June 26, 1705-March 19, 1764). He married Mary (1710-1757). They had five children: John Balson (1731-1796), Elizabeth Balson (1734-?), Robert Balsom (1737-?), William Balsom (1739-1777), Richard Balson (?-?).

Robert Balson (December 2, 1676-August 25, 1726) was born in Dorset, England. He died in Guildford, Surrey, England. He was born to Robert Balson and Susannah Stedman (1651-1706) in Dorset, England; He married Mary Cox (1680-?) on May 10, 1764, in Langton Herring, Dorset, England. They had one child, Richard Balson (1705-1764).

Robert Belson (1658-1726) (Note name change) was born and died in Frimley, Surrey, England. He was buried on October 25, 1726, in Worplesdon, Surrey, England. He married Susannah Stedman (1651-1706) on June 11, 1675, in Guildford, Surrey, England. They had eight children: Robert Belson (1676-1726), John Belson ((1677-?), Joseph Belson (1680-1680), Josiah Belson (1681-1759), Susannah Belson Smith (1684-?), James Belson (1868-?), Ann Belson (1688-?), Anstis Belson (1691-1691).

Robert Balson (Name change) (1638-?) was born in Dorset, England and died in Unknown. He married Mary Belson (?-?) They had one child, Robert Belson (1658-1726).

Robert Balson (1614-?) was born in Dorset, England, and died in 1705 at possible Allington, Dorset, England. He was buried in Allington, Dorset, England, in 1705. He married Alice Balson (1618-?). They had one son, Robert Balson (1638-?).

Thomas Balson (1583-?) was born in Hawkchurch, Dorset, England. His place of birth and death is unknown. On February 6, 1611, he married Joanna Minterne (1595-1615) in Yetminster, Dorset, England. They had one child.

Thomas Balson (1545-1592) was born in Hawkchurch, Dorset, England, and died in Bridport, Dorset, England. I cannot find a wife or date of marriage. He had one child, Thomas Balson.

John Balson (1527-1587) was born and died in Hawkchurch, Dorset, England. In 1547, he married Edith Elizabeth Sampson (1528-1589). They had eleven children: Sylvester Balson (1542-1628), Anthony Balson (1545-?), Richard Balson (1545-1592), Margaret Balson (1545-1581), Thomas Balson (1545-1592), Anne Balson (1549-?), Avice Balson (1550-?), Thomasine Balson (1551-?), Mary Balson (1552-?), Elizabeth Balson (1553-1600), Christopher Balson (1554-1592).

Thomas Robert Balstone (1500-1553) was born in Hawkchurch, Dorset, England. He married Katherine Christen (1502-1567). They had nine children: Thomas Balston (528-?), Peter Balstone (1520-1587), John Balson (1520-1542), William Balson (1522-1572), Robert Balson (1524-1587), Alice Balstone (1524-1581), Dorothy Balstone (1526-?), Anthony Balston (1527-1587), Henry Balston (1530-1542).

John Balstone (1485-1587) was born in England and died in Dorset, England. He married Lydia Stronge (1472-1500). They had one child.

1. House of names.
2. Page 21, Family Names of the Island of Newfoundland.
3. Surname SB.
4. Lucinda May Ivany married Robert Maxwell Balsom. Lucinda May was my mother (Rebecca Ivany's sister). This is where the Ivany's and Seward's became relatives of the Balsom's.
5. Life in Newfoundland was characterized by hard work and poor living conditions. Some modern conveniences were just being invented, and even if they were for sale, only the extremely rich could buy them. (Sources); Schoolwork helper. Net and heritage. [nf.ca](#)) A booming fishing industry, religious tensions, and political upheavals characterized Newfoundland in the 1900s. People fished with handlines, trawls, or seines, and they spent most of their day at sea, eating there and sometimes sleeping there, as their day started so early. Logging was difficult and dangerous during the first half of the 20th century, yet workers received some of the lowest wages in Newfoundland. From sunrise until sunset, loggers hauled logs and helped bring the wood to the mill site. They returned to dirty, drafty, and overcrowded bunkhouses in the evening. (Sources: Wikipedia.org and [heritage.nf.ca](#)).
6. John Balsom, every spring before the cod fishing season, would set out his marker buoy (a float to fix the location of his cod trap for the coming fishing season) in Western Cove. (pronounced locally as Wester) After his retirement, his son Maxwell continued the family tradition until he moved to Clarendville in about 1970. The population of Newfoundland in the 1800s varied depending on the source and the year. In 1806, the population was estimated at 26,505. In 1816, it was estimated at 52,672. In 1823, it was 122,638; in 1871, it was 146,536; in 1891, it was 181,113. (Sources: [heritage.nf.ca](#), [thecanadianencyclopedia.ca](#)).
7. Life expectancy at birth in England in the 1800s was in the high 30s. Poor housing conditions, long working hours, the ravages of infectious disease and premature death were the consequences. Machines replaced workers, which caused unemployment. For every 1000 children born in the early 1800s, almost 500 died before they were two.
8. The Industrial Revolution was a period of technological advancement and social change in the 18th and 19th centuries. It had a profound impact on society, and it influenced almost every aspect of daily life. 1. increased productivity: 2. Improved living standards: 3. New job opportunities: 4. Improved transportation: 5. Technological advancements. The Industrial Revolution also had some adverse effects, such as 1. poor working conditions, 2. poor living conditions, 3. Low wages, 4. Child labour, 5. pollution: (Sources: [history.com](#), [historycrunch.com](#) and greenly. Earth).
9. In the 1700s, England was characterized by two different lifestyles: the rich and the poor. The rich, only a tiny minority of the population, lived in lavish, elegant mansions and country houses. The poor had a difficult life, with no government aid for the unemployed, and many had trouble finding their next meal or a warm place to sleep. Cities were dirty, noisy, and overcrowded. Many lower classes did not attend school. -Sources: [blogs.ancestry.com](#), [short-fack.com](#), [prezi.com](#).
10. European fishers had been working off Newfoundland coasts for about 100 years by the turn of the 17th century. Most arrived by May or June to exploit abundant cod stocks before returning overseas in the late summer or early fall. The enterprise prospered until the early 19th century, becoming a resident industry. The household became an essential part of the industry because resident fishers were increasingly able to rely on relatives for help instead of on hired hands. The emergence of the seal hunt and other winter industries allowed fishers to diversify into other sectors and work year-round. A growing population also led to social and political changes, giving anglers and their families access to schools, churches, hospitals, poor relief, and many other services and institutions. In the early 1600s, the English set up multiple colonies on the east coast of Newfoundland, with the first in Cupers Cove (Now Cupids). But after several rough years, it was abandoned in 1632—sources: [Hiddennewfound.ca](#) and [heritage.nf.ca](#).
11. According to [tudoration.com](#), in 1500, the population of England was about 3 million. There was a general shortage of labourers, which meant wages were high and rents low. All classes, therefore, enjoyed a reasonable standard of living. Wars, plagues, and famines marked events of the late 16th century. An interest in classical learning and the Reformation led to the establishment of Protestantism as a significant religious force. In 1509, Henry VIII became king of England. In 1534, Henry VIII declared himself head of the Church of England. In 1558, Elizabeth I became queen of England. In 1588, The Spanish Armada was defeated by the English navy.
12. The children of John Balsone and some of the children of Thomas Robert Balston spelled their last name as Balstone or Balston. (Source: Ancestry, com, [ancestry.co.uk](#), and [ancestry.ca](#).) The reason for the variation in spelling needs to be clarified. The spelling of the name may change over time due to the influence of

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varied factors such as regional dialects, phonetic pronunciation, personal preference, or other factors that are now lost to history. Unfortunately, there is no definitive answer to this question.

### Additional History.

R. J. Balson and Son is a high-street butcher in a market town in Bridport, Dorset, England. The business was founded in 1515 and has been in the Balson family since its start. It is the oldest business in England. I have been in contact with the current owner, Richard Balson, and have received the history of R.J. Balson and Son. They have been in business for over eight hundred years. I have also received a copy of two of the family trees, which I will be entering in my family tree later.

The Documentary website is [www.rjbalson.co.uk](http://www.rjbalson.co.uk).

### **The Balsom Family.**

A poem By H. Joseph Seward.

Balsom, Balsom, what a name,

It's sure to bring you fame,

From Cambridgeshire, it first did hail,

And now it's spread across the vale.

From Newfoundland to other lands,

The Balsom name is known and grand,

With roots that stretch so far and wide,

It fills us all with pride.

The family tree is solid and trustworthy,

With branches reaching out anew.

## 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. I do take most of our strays from *The Telegram*, as noted below. Thank you to The Ontario Genealogical Society for this definition of a Stray.

Strays from Bell Island appear on the Historic Wabana Nfld Facebook page. It is a website celebrating the history, culture & people of Bell Island, NL with particular emphasis on the Wabana iron ore mining operation. Thank you to Gail Hussey –Weir, this public group page has over 4, 000 members.

The obituary information which follows has been taken from past issues of *The Telegram*, a daily newspaper published in St John's, NL unless another newspaper has been noted. For more detailed information, please research the newspaper for the dates listed.

**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.

**Atkins**, Clyde, on Feb. 17, 2024, aged 84, in Owen Sound, ON. Born on Bell Island on Sept. 14, 1939, son of Joseph & Mary. Predeceased by his parents, his wife Alice Russwurm & his brothers Richard & Donald & his sisters Rachel Osmond (Ray) & Effie Atkins. Brother of Hubert & Winnie Fletcher (Leslie). Father of Bonita Luckie (Brian), Ronald & Charles. Obit & photo Grey Bruce Cremation & Burial Services, Owen Sound, ON.

**Benteau**, Anne Margaret (Huna) (Nee Strang) on Sept 2, 2024 in Nova Scotia. Born in Lawn, on Aug. 19, 1935, daughter of Celest & Martin Strang. Predeceased by her husband of 57 years, Maurice Berteau on June 15, 2017. He was born in Lories, Point May. Also predeceased by her ten brothers & sisters. Sister of Marlene, Marie, Lynn & Harold. Mother of Elaine & Dorothy. Obit & photo *The Chronicle Herald*, Halifax, NS Sept. 4, 2024.

**Brown**, Shawn Jerome, on June 28, 2024, aged 62, in Cambridge, ON. Born on Bell Island. He spent his youth in Preston, ON. Predeceased by his sons, Brandon & Jordan, his parents Frank & Edna Brown, his brothers Gary & Frank & his sisters Janet & Virginia. Brother of Blanche, Carol, Glenn, Laura, Marlene & Connie. Obit & photo, Coutts Funeral Home & Cremation, Cambridge, ON & Historic Wabana Nfld Facebook page.

**Cabral**, Mary E. (nee O'Brien) on Feb. 26, 2024, aged 77, of New Bedford, MA. Born on Bell Island, daughter of Gerald J. & Mary A. (McCarthy) O'Brien. Predeceased by her parents, her son Paul Cabral, Jr. & her sisters, Vivian Niles, Margaret Lopez, Sheila Jones, & her brothers, Robert & Gerald. Sister of Patrick O'Brien, New Bedford, MA. Obit & photo Historic Wabana Nfld Facebook page & Saunders-Dwyer Funeral Home, New Bedford, MA.

**Crann**, Kevin Douglas, Nov. 12, 1938 – March 3, 2024 in Toronto, ON. Born on Bell Island, son of Isaac & Katie. Husband of 62 years of Ivy (Gosse) Father of Jeannette Kidd (Kevin) & Doug. Brother of Byron, Ike & Wayne. Predeceased by his parents, his sister Rosalind & his brother John. Obit & photo Roadhouse & Rose Funeral Home, Newmarket, ON & Historic Wabana Nfld Facebook page.

**Hefferton**, William (Bill) Conrad Oct. 5, 1946 – May 6, 2024 in London, ON. Born in St. John`s, son of G. Bernard & Rita. Husband of 53 years of Donna. Father of Shelly & Mark. Brother of Barbara, Bernice & Harold. A graduate of Prince of Wales Collegiate & Memorial University of Newfoundland & Labrador. He was a Physical Education teacher in NL for thirty years. A long-time resident of London, ON. Obit & photo May 11, 2024 & *The London Free Press*.

**Janes**, Derek Todd, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Constable, on August 19, 2024, in London ON, aged 58. Formerly of St. John`s. Predeceased by his parents Chesley Janes & Ruth (Fowler). Husband of Sherri (Reynolds). Father of Katie & Thomas. Brother of Gladys Coish (Arnot) NS & Greg, ON. Obit & photo August 24, 2024.

**Kavanagh**, Tony in Ottawa, ON. April 3, 1966 – Sept. 29, 2023. Predeceased by his parents Frank & Joan (Lawlor). Father of Kolin. Brother of Patricia, Janet, Brenda, Frank & Denis. Employee of the Department of National Defence, Ottawa. On. Inurnment with his parents at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Topsail Road, Mount Pearl. Obit & photo Caul`s Funeral Home, St. John`s.

**Kennedy**, Hubert Peter James `Huey` Sept. 5, 1948 – Dec. 19, 2023 in Ontario. Born on Bell Island. Predeceased by his parents James & Edna & his wife, Jane. Brother of Myles, Frances & Anita. Photo & obit Historic Wabana Nfld Facebook page & Smiths Funeral Homes. Funeral services in Brantford, ON & interment at Greenwood Cemetery, Georgetown.

**Lomond**, Melvin Thomas “Tom” of Bedford, NS in Halifax, NS on Aug. 7, 2024. Formerly of Corner Brook. Born in Channel on Nov. 11, 1939, son of Victor & Elizabeth (Nelson Ingram) Lomond. His father, Victor was lost in the sinking of the *SS Caribou* in 1942. Former 31 year employee of the Federal Government. Predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Dorothy in 2021. Father of Arlene Butt (John), Heather Roman & Lisa. Brother of Margaret Hayman (Allan), George Ingram, Leander Ingram, Brenda Ingram & David Ingram. Obit & photo Aug. 15, 2024 & T. J. Tracey Cremation & Burial Specialists.

**Mifflin**, George Augustus Feb. 19, 1937 – July 8, 2024 in Halifax, NS. Born in Southern Bay. Predeceased by his parents, Augustus & Ena Mifflin. Brother of Sylvia Hollett (Robert), St. John`s. Former member of the Canadian Armed Forces (Army) Oct. 1957 – Aug. 1980. He was employed in Pictou, NS by the Michelin Company. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Fairview Branch, Halifax. Obit & photo Dignity Memorial.com & JA Snow Funeral Home, Halifax, NS.

**Moakler**, Ann Marie (nee Kearsy), of Bedford, NS, in Halifax, NS on June 29, 2024, aged 96. Born on Nov. 29, 1927 in the Windsor Lake area, outside St. John`s, daughter of William & Alice (Dawe) Kearsy. Predeceased by her parents & her

husband, Alfred (1974) , her sons Paul, 2012 & David, 2020 & her sisters, Mary Codner, Agnes Ansara (Joe, deceased). Also predeceased by her brothers, John (infant), Jack & Tom. Mother of Ron, Ken & Philip. Sister of Helen Cull (Joe, deceased), Frank, Pat, Patricia, Mercedes Patton (Doug) & Bill. Obit & photo July 6, 2024 & *The Chronicle Herald*, July 6, 2024.

**Newhook**, Peggy Louise, in Nice, France on Feb. 1, 2023. Wife of Lionel Busson. Predeceased by her parents Frederick W. & Evelyn S. Newhook & her brother-in-law, Austin V. Sheppard. Sister of Roberta Sheppard, Diane Martin (Kevin) Julie Newman (Harry) & Derek Newhook. Internment in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, St. John's. Obit & photo June 30, 2023.

**Noseworthy**, Graham Stuart on July 3, 2024 in Ontario, aged 77. Born in St. John's. Predeceased by his parents, Graham & Doris, & his sister Carol Lockyer. Husband of Debby (Starkes). Father of Dawn Zwicker (Ryan) & Matthew. Brother of Greg, Rick, Cheryl, Ken, Rodney, Celeste, Charlyn & Mark. Former employee of Parks Canada, the Atlantic Service Center for Canadian Heritage & the Canadian Border Services (Southern Ontario). Funeral services held in St. Catherine's, ON. Obit & photo July 10, 2024.

**Oakley**, Oscar `Don `Nov. 14, 1942 – May 20, 2024 in Kitchener, ON. Predeceased by his parents George & Delphine & his brothers Lloyd, Gary & David. Husband of Veronica (nee Hurley). Father of Susan, Keith, Holly, Stephen, Amanda & step-children, Greg Coombs & Leanne Coombs. Brother of Randy. Don was the guitarist & the last surviving member of the pioneer Newfoundland Rock & Roll band The

Ravens. Obit & photo Henry Walser Funeral Home Ltd., Kitchener, ON.

**O`Keefe**, Barry, in Dartmouth, NS on May 20, 2024, aged 68. Born in St. John's. Predeceased by his parents Jim & Kitty & his brothers Walter & Kevin. Husband of Lois (King). Brother of Dennis, Brian & Noreen. A former student of St. Bonaventure's College, St. John's. Obit & photo Caul's Funeral Home, St. John's.

**Powell**, Valerie "Lynette" on Feb. 9, 2024 in Mississauga, ON, aged 68. Born in Carbonear, daughter of Lloyd & Ada Powell. She graduated in Nursing at Memorial University of NL & later decided to attend Medical School. She became an Anesthesiologist. She worked in Toronto, ON, Germany & New Zealand & also as a ship doctor for the Norwegian Cruise Lines. Predeceased by her parents. Sister of Ken, Lloyd & Dianne. Obit & photo Aug. 3, 2024.

**Power**, William Patrick on May 27, 2024 in Toronto, ON. Born in Chapel Arm, Trinity Bay on March 14, 1935. Predeceased by his parents Andrew & Sarah (Pretty) Power & his wife of 50 years, Kathleen "Kay" Elizabeth (nee Dunnion). He was employed as a High School history teacher with the Toronto District School Board. Father of John, Mike, William & Kathleen. Obit & photo May 30, 2024. Also Lynett Funeral Home, Toronto, ON.

**Tremblett**, Gerard Pius ``Cook`` 1955 – July 2, 2024 in Calgary, AB. Born in St. John's, the youngest of ten, born to Thaddeus & Muriel (Nolan) Tremblett of Mount Carmel. Partner of Ellie Sundberg. Father of Mark (son of Cass Whittle) Predeceased by his parents, his brothers

John & Bert & his sisters, Pat Cook (Lloyd).  
Brother of James, Albert, Ted, Ruth, Helen  
& Kathy. Obit & photo July 9, 2024.

**Wellman, Bonnie** (nee Hussey) of  
Calabogie, Ontario April 13, 1957 -June 23,  
2023. Formerly of Bell Island. In Renfrew,  
ON. Predeceased by her parents Arthur

Stanley Hussey & Jessie Gay (nee Dawe).  
Wife of 46 years of Stephen. Mother of  
Katie & Janna. Sister of Don, Phyllis  
Parsons (Ken) & Gail Weir (Harvey,  
deceased, Jan. 10, 2024). Obit & photo  
Pinnacle Cremation Services Ltd., Renfrew,  
ON. Services held in Calabogie, ON. See  
also Historic Wabana Nfld Facebook page.



The Rooms: A 108-18; Three grave stones in overgrown cemetery

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## THE GUEST LIST – NEWFOUNDLAND CONFEDERATE ASSOCIATION DINNER JANUARY 5, 1949

Revised from an article in *The Newfoundland Ancestor* # 15, 3 Fall 1999 Submitted by Pat Walsh

For the first time “O Canada” was sung at a banquet in Newfoundland when the Newfoundland Confederate Association held a 160 guest dinner at the Newfoundland Hotel in St. John’s. The President of the Association was F. Gordon Bradley. During the dinner a presentation of a sterling silver cup was presented to Joseph R. Smallwood and to F. Gordon Bradley. See the article in *The Daily News* January 6, 1949.

Capt. Eli Antle	Patrick Antle	John Ash
T. G. W. Ashbourne	Mrs. Badcock	A. B. Baird
Chas. H. Ballam	William Banfield	George Barrett
John Noah Barrett	Kevin Barry	N. S. Batten
Enos Benson	Harold Bragg	Frank Brenton
Jas. Burgess	Rev L. Burry	Chas. Butler
Wm. Butler	Jesse Butt	Max Button
E. J. Cahill	Mrs. C. W. Carter	Major Carter
Wm. Case	Max Chambers & Wife	William N. Clarke
Don Clouston	Thomas Collier	J. R. Courage
Hubert Crane	Max Craniford	T. Croucher
L. R. Curtis	Capt. George Dalton	Claude Dawe
Don K. Dawe	Rev. Mons. Dinn	Capt. Charles Downer
Solomon Drodge	J. Duggan	Andrew Edwards
Mrs. Emberley	Frank Farrell	Percy Figary
Irvine Fogwell & Wife	Robert Fogwell	M. Foley
Philip Forsey	Mr. & Mrs Frampton	M. Furlong
C. F. Garland	Ted Garland	Henry Genge
Herb Gill	Dr. Goodwin, Jr.	Solomon Gosse
Augustus Greene	Bernard Groves	Joseph Hall
Clarence Hancock	Clarence Harding	W. H. Hayward
Bernard Hefferton	S. J. Hefferton	Daniel Hillier
Chas. Horwood	Harold Horwood	Max Hutchings
Norman Janes	Mrs. Johnson	Capt. A. Kean
Mr. & Mrs. Kelsey	William. Keough	Capt. King
Maxwell King	Fred Kirby	Aubrey Lake
Gilbert Lake	H. B. C. Lake	Spencer Lake
L. Lush	Aiden Mahoney	W. J. Martin
William. May	Miss Meaney	James Mercer
Horace McNeil	S.W. Moores	Anthony Mullowney
Pat Murray	Jerry Nealey	Howard Patten
Henry Payne	Capt. J. Payne	George Penney
Ray Petten	Mrs. Peters	Harold Pike
John Pomeroy	Hon. H. L. Pottle	J. P. Powell
Gregory Power	C. S. Reid	Philip Roach
Dr. William Roberts	Frank I. Robinson	Ray Rogers
Harold Rowe	Ed. Russell & Wife	Phil. J. Ryan
T. Sargeant	Fred Saunders	David Saxon
Errol D. Seaward	Jos. Seaward & Wife	R. W. Sheppard
Philip Slaney	A. W. Smith	George M. Sooley
Stan Spencer	Capt. L. Stick	Eric St. George



John St. George  
Mr. & Mrs. Templeman  
Ted Vincent  
Ralph Wight  
W. Winter

Stanley Sullivan  
Leo Thistle  
Mrs. Wells  
Rudy Williams  
Capt. S. H. Wiseman

William. B. Taylor & Wife  
Don Tibbo  
Herbert Wells  
Charles Winsor

Note: One of the Family History Society's members, Aiden Mahoney was on the guest list, but was unable to attend due to work commitments in Ramea.

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*Through the branches of time, our roots entwine,*

*Genealogy's tapestry, stories divine.*

*Ancestral whispers echo in our veins*

*A legacy of history forever sustains.*

*In the family tree, a twisty vine,*

*Genealogy's puzzle, quite a design.*

*Great-grandma's secrets, Grandpa's wild escapades,*

*Our roots are a comedy, through generations displayed!*

*In lineage's embrace, stories unfurl,*

*Ancestral whispers, a timeless swirl.*

*Through blood and time, connections entwine,*

*Genealogy's tapestry, a legacy divine.*

*Through the branches of time, our roots entwine,*

*Grandpa was a pirate, with a penchant for wine.*

*Aunt Mabel ran off with a circus clown, Family tree's a jungle, upside down!*

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## **BUTLER - ONE OLD NAME**

Submitted by Rosalind Babb Stokes

When asked which family I would feature in the fall edition of *The Ancestor* I couldn't decide. Going through the list of family names Butler stood out and I was reminded of my childhood, days spent at Uplands in Chamberlains, picnics under the spreading branches of an apple tree, the tinkling of a cow bell and a large collection of books that occupied my sister and me for hours. I remember my uncle, Jesse Blackmore, reading out a letter from a Harry and Jessie Butler who now lived in Boston and were the owners of the house. I began to wonder who were these Butlers who owned all this land and were they related to another Butler who owned the grocery store and so my search began.

The name of Butler has been connected with the new world from very early times. Benjamin Butler, gentleman, was with Sir Humphrey Gilbert on his 1578 voyage.

In the seventeenth century there are two instances of the surname Butler. One is Samuel Butler who may be English, possibly from Bristol. Another source says Samuel was from Ireland and arrived in Cupper's Cove in 1612 with John Guy. The second one is Thomas Butler who may be Irish. There are charts indicating the likely relationship of Thomas born 1620 with the Butlers of Ireland.

The Butlers of Chamberlains were the descendants of Thomas Butler. We may conjecture that Samuel is the forerunner of Thomas Butler, a planter of Port de Grave, who had been recorded in the 1675 census as having a wife and three sons, 5 boats, 2 stages along with 50 head of Cattle and 20 sheep. Across the narrow body of water separating Port de Grave from Cupids he owned a "castle", presumably a fortified residence and it would seem he was availing of the abandoned site for pasturage. In 1675 Stephen Alkins, keeper of the castle belonging to Butler, was the only man residing at Cupids. H. F. Shortis, historian, was of the opinion in 1910 that Mr. Butler's estate was whatever remained of John Guy's old fort or house which Samuel had acquired as John Guy's companion.

In this file there is also a description of the seafront of Cupids naming the areas and the early people who lived there and a Butler family tree going back to 1150 compiled by Lord Dunboyne.

James and John Butler were sons of the original Thomas. In 1706 - 1708 James Butler was on Little Belle Isle and in 1709 was governor there. John Butler was on Kelly's Island in 1708.

One day in the late 1880s, Jabez Butler of Port de Grave was sailing to St. John's when a storm forced him to land on the north side of Bell Island. He ballasted his boat with loose rock from the island and continued on to St. John's. As he unloaded the rock its obvious iron content attracted the curiosity of an English captain who took a piece home to be assayed. Jabez and John obtained a legal lease on the iron rich land and in 1893 after the valuable red hematite was finally identified they sold it to Nova Scotia Steel Company for what would be considered a large sum

of money at the time. Jabez later moved to Chamberlains where he lived on a large piece of land named "Uplands". His son, Jabez H. immigrated to Cambridge around 1890 where three of his children were born, returning to "Uplands" in the early 1900s. Jabez Harry, son of Jabez H. later sold all his property in Chamberlains and returned to Boston. Son Walter remained in Chamberlains and that is where his son Cyril ran a large dairy farm.

Peter and Joseph Butler of Chamberlains were both born in Port de Grave and Peter and son Ted ran the grocery store in the community.

The Butlers of Chamberlains and Topsail came from the area of Port de Grave. The family tree of many members of the Chamberlains and Topsail branches go back to the original Thomas Butler.

In another Butler family tree the author traces the descendants of John Butler whose great grandson Edward 1876-1952 traces his line into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**BUTLERVILLE:** A small inland community located about 5 km west of Bay Roberts was named for the Butler family who settled there around 1840. This Butler family were descendants of Edward Butler of County Limerick, Ireland, who was first reported to be settled on the north shore of Conception Bay near Northern Bay in 1790.

**Sources for the above:**

**One Old Name in One Old Place and The Newfoundland Ancestor Postscripts and Charts**  
by Arthur Melvin Butler

**The Beautiful Isles** by Rev. John Hammond

**My Newfoundland Family The Whelans of Cupids – A Butler Family Tree** by Dorothy M. Saavedra.

**Butler Genealogy** by Edward Luther Johns

**Butlers of Chamberlains and Topsail Family Trees** by R. Stokes

**So longe as there comes noe women** by Gordon Hancock

**Once upon a Mine** by Wendy Martin

**The Miners of Wabana** by Gail Weir

**Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador: Volume One** by Joseph R. Smallwood.

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## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US

Submitted by Pat Walsh

The Newfoundland and Labrador Genealogical Society ( now the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador ) was formed at a founding meeting held on October 9, 1984, at Memorial University of Newfoundland. We thank all those who were involved in the Society forty years ago. We remember all those who have passed away.

### LIST OF FOUNDING MEMBERS

Andrews	Cliff	Hutchings	Rosalind
Baker	Melvin (Dr.)	Hutchings	David
Butler	Frank	Ivany	Ruby
Chafe	Edward	Kelland	Jocelyn
Coates	Reginald	Kenney	Paul
Crosbie	Gertrude	Martin	Gillian
Davis	David	Miller	Aquila
Davis	Keith	Mullins	Margaret
Drover	Gerry	Pitt	Janet Miller
Foote	Judy	Pitt	Robert
Foote	Lloyd	Randell	A.C.
Hochwald	Elsa	Squires	Douglas
		Tucker	Otto (Dr.)

## SPECIAL GIFT SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Members in good standing may give a non-member a gift subscription to *The Ancestor* for the special price of \$25.00 for one year. This is a saving of \$17.00 on the regular subscription rate/membership rate of \$42.00 per year.

The gift subscription includes free membership in the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador.

### Existing Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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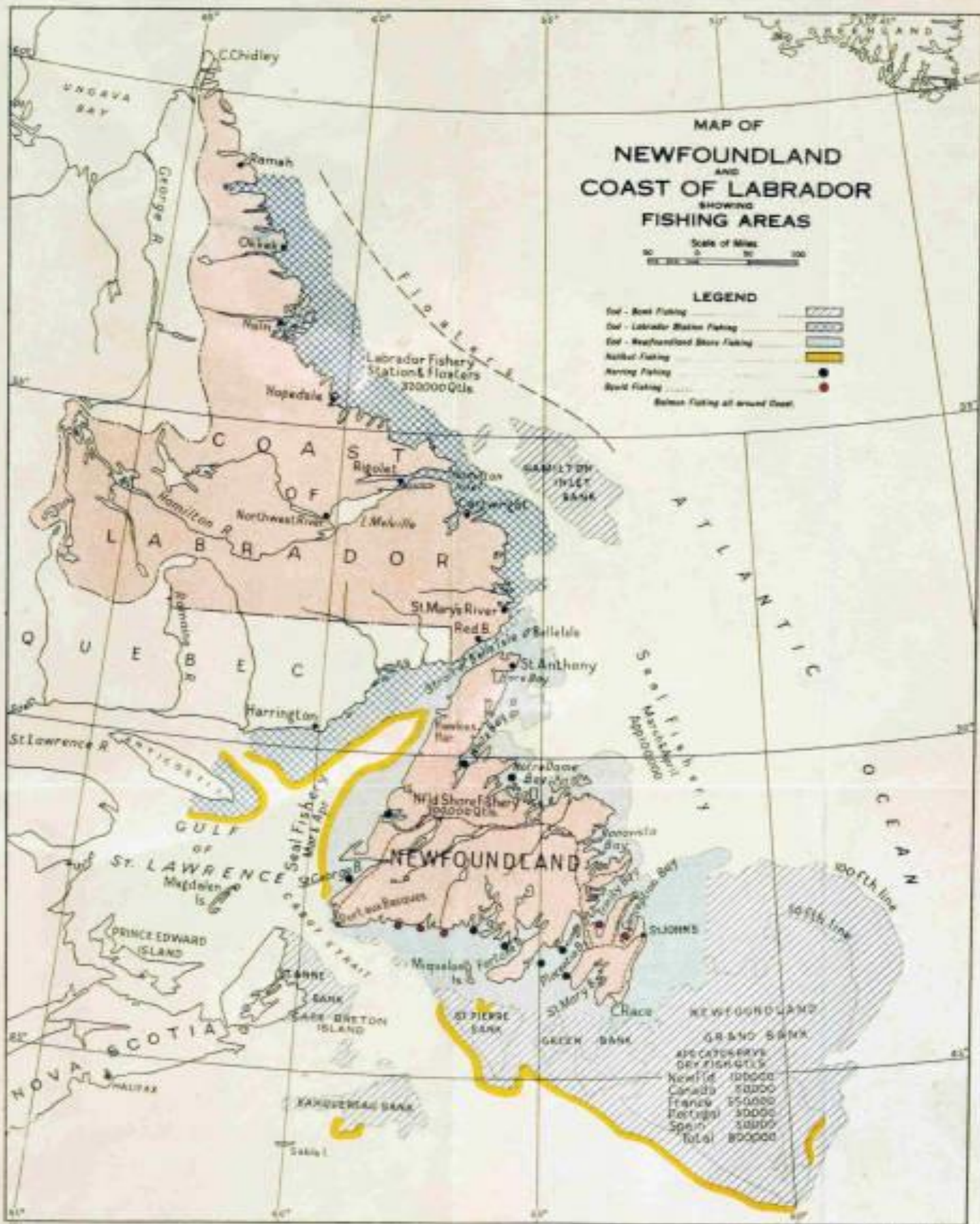
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