

# The Ancestor



Vol 38,1

2022



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- Goldstone Street
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The Family History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador, Inc.

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

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## **OFFICERS**

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Vice President: Patrick Walsh  
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Treasurer: Max Grandy

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Craig Morrissey  
David Pike  
Rosalind Stokes

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 19, 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 online and begin at 7:30pm.

## **ANCESTOR**

Editors: **Frederick Smith, Ethel Dempsey, Cindy Tedstone,**  
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.

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**SUBSCRIPTION**

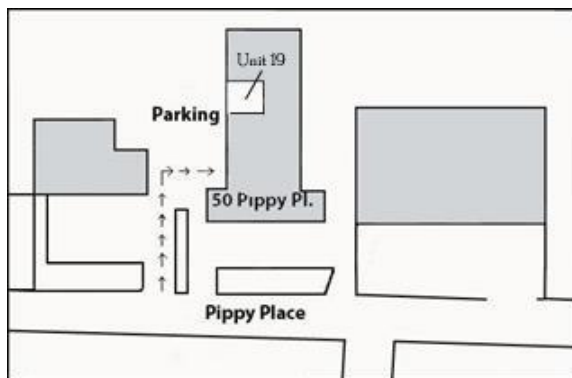
Subscription to *The Ancestor* is available to individuals or institutions for \$42 per year and includes membership in the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. Life membership is also available for \$700. Membership is for a twelve month period beginning on the date fees are received.

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 19. From Pippy Place turn right into the driveway on the left of the building. We are located upstairs in Unit 19.



Cover Photo: Bell Island Women on the Beach  
(MUN DAI)

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## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Frederick R. Smith

For some time, the Family History Society board has been discussing the name of the Newfoundland Ancestor. We live in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador and it was felt that our provincial name should be on the cover. We looked at many mock ups for a new cover but it was hard to produce one that wasn't crowded. For years we have been referring to the publication as "The Ancestor" and that is the title we decided to use. The provincial name will be in the bar just under the title. Any comments you have, for or against, will be welcome.

Over the last few years, we have developed liaisons with many family history societies across North America, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. With many we exchange journals and we have posted them on our website. To check them out, go to our website, [www.fhsl.ca](http://www.fhsl.ca), click on the drop-down menu "The Newfoundland Ancestor", then click "journal exchange". Recently we received an email from the The Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire Family History Society with the following request:

"We'd be very pleased to hear stories from anyone with Cambridgeshire or Huntingdonshire ancestors who made their way to Newfoundland." [webmaster@cfhs.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@cfhs.org.uk) If your ancestors came from that area in England, please contact their society and we would love to hear about it too.

As I always request, if you have any of your research that you would like to publish in our journal, please send it in. It doesn't have to have any special formatting but if possible, we would like to have it typed in MS Word in 12 point Times New Roman. Also, if you have any suggestions for speakers, for the fall, please drop us a note.

Hopefully by the time we publish the next issue of The Ancestor I will be able to announce when our office will be open for members and the public. I have no idea of when we will be able to meet in person in Hampton Hall. However, so many people from across North America are attending virtual lectures, once we go back Hampton Hall we will have to develop a way to deliver the talks both in person and virtually. It is amazing how our membership has grown since starting virtual lectures.

Good luck with your research!

*The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, respectfully acknowledge the territory in which we gather as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk, and the island of Newfoundland as the ancestral homelands of the Mi'kmaq and Beothuk. We would also like to recognize the Inuit of Nunatsiavut and NunatuKavut and the Innu of Nitassinan, and their ancestors, as the original people of Labrador. We strive for respectful relationships with all the peoples of this province as we search for collective healing and true reconciliation and honour this beautiful land together.*

## EDITORS' REPORT

Welcome to the first issue of The Ancestor for 2022. In this issue you will see our new name *The Ancestor* as well as a new design for our cover. We hope that you will agree that these changes more adequately reflect our province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

As we now ready ourselves for the easing of pandemic restrictions, we hope members will be able to enjoy in-person meetings with extended family members and others who can help with your research. Archives, libraries, and other institutions continue to be important sources of family history information. Their gradual reopening to the public is welcome as not everything we need for our research is online. These sources often contain information we need to verify findings from elsewhere and make your research and subsequent articles more accurate.

As always, we encourage your feedback on any item that we publish in this journal as well as general observations, advice on what you would like to see etc. If you know of someone who has material suitable for publication but is not a member of the society, please remember that articles from non-members are accepted. Pass along this information along with our contact details if you know someone in this position. The Ancestor only survives because of your involvement and input. We once again extend thanks to our regular contributors who supply us with fresh material on an ongoing basis. If you are pondering making a submission, please remember that if a longer article seems too daunting, a shorter one is most welcome. In fact, they add interest here and there throughout the publication as do any interesting old pictures of people and communities. We would also welcome reviews of any books related to NL genealogy/social history. Don't hesitate to contact us for advice on a suitable topic, questions on formatting etc. We are happy to assist in any way we can to ensure that your article makes it to an upcoming issue of The Ancestor.

We would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you Brian Mallard for his contribution to The Ancestor and wish Brian all the best.



Editors Cindy Tedstone Fred Smith Ethel Dempsey

## NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

### **Vital Statistics (Deaths 1950-1968) Digital Collection Now Online**

#### **Submitted by Pat Walsh**

On January 26, 2022, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador announced the release of Vital Statistics records for deaths registered in Newfoundland and Labrador from 1950 to 1968. The records are now available online via The Rooms website at: Vital Statistics (Deaths 1950-1968) digital collection.

The certificate states the cause of death, age, residence and in many cases, place of birth and other information.

In 2021, Digital Government and Service NL's Vital Statistics Division provided an initial transfer of 59,698 death certificates, to allow public access for research purposes. This is the first time a collection of vital statistics records has been digitally transferred to The Rooms Provincial Archives.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

The FHSNL office remains closed to members and the public but we anticipate that the office will reopen in mid April. Details will be posted on the Society's website: [www.fhsnl.ca](http://www.fhsnl.ca)

If you have a research request, membership information etc., please email your request or leave a telephone message. One of our volunteer staff will get back to you at their earliest convenience but due to current circumstances, expect a two to three weeks delay in answering correspondence and telephone calls.

All requests 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 Newfoundland Ancestor, please let us know and we will attempt to find the information for you. Topic suggestions are always welcome

## PUBLICATIONS

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

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

Index of names, baptisms, marriages, and burials

1767-1867	\$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 King's Cove, B.B. Baptisms**

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.

<b>The Ancestor</b>	\$11.50
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**NOTE:** Postage is not included in the prices listed on this page.

The FHSNL has an exchange journal program by which we exchange journals with similar organizations worldwide. The editor of one recently wrote "We'd be very pleased to hear stories from anyone with Cambridgeshire or Huntingdonshire ancestors who made their way to Newfoundland."

[cfhs.editor@gmail.com](mailto:cfhs.editor@gmail.com)

## 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.the-telegram.com/](http://www.the-telegram.com/). Lest We Forget.

**Butt**, Sophia Jan. 31, 1919 - Nov. 30, 2021 in Carbonear, aged 102. Formerly of Freshwater, Carbonear. Predeceased by her parents Mark & Patience (Pottle) Butt, her husband Henry, son Vincent & daughter Marilyn. Mother of Herbert. Obit & photo Dec. 3, 2021.

**Crewe** Pearl (nee Simmons) Feb. 27, 1921 – Jan. 26, 2002 in Grand Falls-Windsor. Born in Campbellton, Notre Dame Bay, daughter of Becil & Gladys Simmons. Predeceased by her parents, her husband Herbert Crewe, her brothers Augustus, Tom & Dotson & her sister Hurllett Pinksen. Mother of R. James. She & Herbert married in 1945. Interment at the Philadelphia Pentecostal Cemetery, Lewisporte. Obit & photo Gordon Woolfrey Funeral Home, Lewisporte.

**Efford**, Reuben John of Port de Grave, aged 77 on Jan. 2, 2022. In Carbonear. Born in Port de Grave on Jan. 6, 1944, son of John & Diana Efford. Predeceased by his parents & his brothers & sisters Sam, Jean, Elaine Petten (Calvin) & Violet Russell. Husband of Madonna (Peddle). Father of Jackie Fitzgerald (Wayne), John & Lee. Brother of Winston, Kathleen Follett, Harold, Lewis & Diane Walters (Keith). Former teacher, businessman & Member of the House of Assembly, 1985 – 2001, Provincial Government of NL, Liberal Cabinet Minister & Member of Parliament, House of Commons, Liberal, Bonavista – Trinity – Conception Bay, Minister of Natural Resources. See *The Telegram* Jan. 4, 2022 & *The Ottawa Citizen* Jan. 4, 2022. Obit & photo Slade's Funeral Home, Bay Roberts.

**Hiscock**, Ruby Gertrude (nee Haye) Dec. 9, 1918 - Dec. 3, 2021, in her 103<sup>rd</sup> year. Predeceased by her

husband Gilbert, 1997, her son, Gilbert, 2006 & her daughter Lona, 2015. Mother of ten. Interment at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, St. John's. Obit & photo Dec. 4, 2021.

**Hogan**, William 'Bill' Patrick of Dunville, Placentia Bay, in St. John's on Jan. 12, 2022, aged 84. Predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Mary (Hawco) in 2015 & his parents Constabulary Sgt. William & Mary Hogan of St. Mary's & his sister Patricia. Father of Pamela Constantine (Dave). Colleen, Lynn Hogan Gillespie (Bill), Tim & Diana Gibbons (Albert). Brother of Jack & Mona. Former Mayor of Dunville & Placentia. Member House of Assembly, Provincial Government of NL. Liberal Cabinet Minister. Active in baseball & softball. CEO of Atlantic Safety Centre. Obit & photo Jan. 15, 2022.

**Hudson**, George T. in St. John's on Jan. 8, 2022, aged 99. Veteran, WW II. Predeceased by his parents Gilbert & Julia Hudson, his brothers Bramwell, Reginald & his sisters Olive Ball (pastor Wilfred), Harriette Ball (Pastor Eric) & Stella Pittman (Eric). Husband of Margaret. Father of Pamela & Regina Vachon (Tom) Obit & photo Jan. 11, 2022.

**Lake**, Hedley W. of Fortune, on Dec. 1, 2021 in Burin, aged 103. Veteran, World War II, Royal Navy. Last known survivor of the sinking of the SS Caribou by a German submarine on Oct. 14, 1942. The ship was sailing from Sydney, NS to Port aux Basques. He was 24 at the time, on leave from serving in the Mediterranean on the corvette Hyacinth. Predeceased by his parents Samuel & Ada Lake, his wife Jane (Petten), sister Eleanor Smith & brothers Fred & Eli. Father of David, Paul, Samuel & Elizabeth Ford. Obit & photo Wiseman's Funeral Homes, Fortune.

**Newman**, Hugh Walter March 2, 1931 – Dec. 11, 2021 in St. John's. Veteran. Predeceased by his parents Harry & Annie (Chard) & his brothers & sisters, Gladys Adams, Edward, Walter & Lucy Young. Husband of 66 years, Margaret. Father of Dean, Ronnie, Hugh, Lucille & Teresita. Obit & photo Barretts Funeral Home.

**Parsons**, James Phillip in St. John's, Jan. 21, 1927 – Jan. 26, 2022. Veteran, WWII. Born in Codroy Valley & long-time resident of Mount Pearl. Predeceased by his parents William & Lillian (Samms) Parsons & by his wife Una Lillian (Skanes), 2021, his sister Janie Lemoine (George) & his brothers Harold & Charlie. Father of Philip, Christine Phillips (Paul) & Colleen Pitt (John). Obit & photo Jan. 29, 2022.



**Petten**, Violet Effie (nee Akerman) of Port de Grave. On Dec. 9, 2021, aged 105. Predeceased by her parents, John & Mary Akerman (nee Morgan), her husband Ralph Petten, her brothers, Edward, Cuyler, Donald & Clayton, & her sister Mary Holwell (Clarence). Mother of Chorine Yetman & Ellsworth Petten. Obit & photo Dec. 15, 2021.

**Roberts**, Edward Moxon CM. OC, ONL, QC Sept. 1, 1940 – Jan. 14, 2022 in St. John's. Born in St. John's, son of Dr. Harry & Katherine Roberts. Lawyer, politician, author & historian. Predeceased by his parents & his brothers Peter & Douglas. Husband of Eva, Father of Catherine, Caroline, Jessica & Alison. Appointed Lieut-Gov of NL in 2002 & served until 2008. Former Liberal Member of the House of Assembly, Govt. of NL. & Cabinet Minister. He was first elected in 1966, aged 26. He served as Honorary Colonel of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. In 2003 he received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Memorial University of Newfoundland. He received the Order of NL in 2004 & he received the Order of Canada in 2009. Obit & photo Jan. 15, 2022.

**Rowe**, Clara (nee Cave) 1917- Dec. 15, 2021, aged 104 in St. John's. Predeceased by her husband W. Ralph Rowe, her parents George C. Cave & Elizabeth Ann (Snow) Cave of Bay Roberts, her sister Hazel V. Pittman, 2011 (Eric, 2010), Ivy Anthony (Walter), Evelyn Hampton (George), Cavell Noseworthy (Gordon) & her brother Wilson Cave. Mother of Marie Snow (Terry, deceased). Obit & photo Dec. 16, 2021.

**Steele**, Harold (Harry) Raymond OC June 9, 1929 – Jan. 28, 2022 in St. John's. Born in Musgrave Harbour, son of Stanley & Kathleen (Power) Steele. Husband of 68 years of Catherine (nee Thornhill) Father of Peter, Rob & John. Predeceased by his parents & sister Audrey Tulk. Following university in St. John's, he joined the Royal Canadian Navy & served from 1950 -1974. Well known businessman with interests in aviation (Eastern Provincial Airways & Universal Helicopters), newspapers, printing & publishing, radio stations & transportation. Member of the Board of a number of Canadian companies. He received the Order of Canada in Nov. 1991. See *The Telegram* Jan. 31,

2022 & an article by Rex Murphy, Post Media New on Feb. 1, 2022. Obit & photo Jan. 31, 2022.

**Templeman**, Ethel Elfreda (nee Hounsell) in St. John's on Jan. 17, 2022 in her 102<sup>nd</sup> year. Born in Pond Cove, Bonavista Bay on March 18, 1920. Predeceased by her husband Sandy James Templeman, March 25, 2013. Mother of Shirley. Obit & photo Jan. 18, 2022.

“ I am bound to them, though I cannot look into their eyes or hear their voices. I honour their history. I cherish their lives. I will tell their story. I will remember them.” – Author unknown. From the Newfoundland & Labrador Genealogy Facebook page.

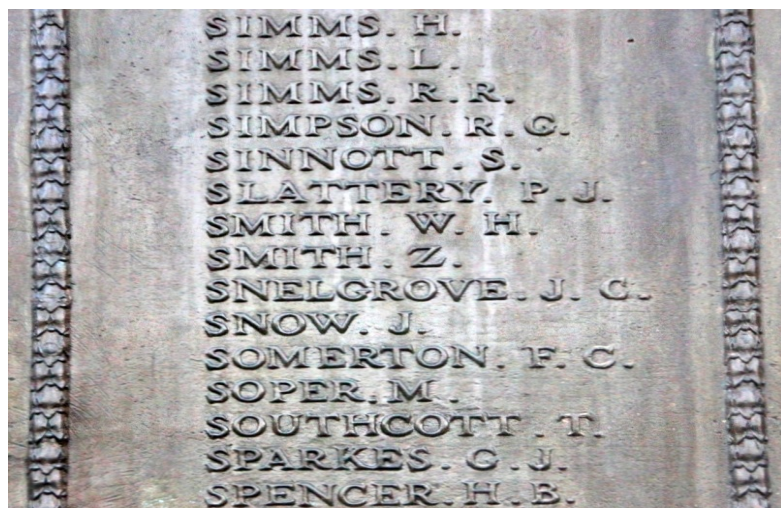
## A FOLLOW UP TO “ENLISTED MEN FROM LOWER ISLAND COVE”

By Chris Morry

I was interested in Judy Roger’s article in the last issue of the Ancestor concerning the veterans memorial being erected in Lower Island Cove. A familiar name jumped off the page at me: Pte John Charles Snelgrove, Regt. # 895 in the RNR in WWI.



In May 2015 I was invited to take part in the filming of “Newfoundland at Armageddon”. Although the primary figures appearing in that film were intended to be youths who had an ancestor with the regiment in WWI, they chose me to tag along as a sort of old hand, having written about my grandfather’s experiences in the regiment a year earlier in “When the Great Red Dawn Is Shining – Howard L. Morry’s Memoirs of Life in the Newfoundland Regiment”.



During the course of our travels for the filming, which took us to Scotland and then to France and Belgium, on one day in particular we visited the area surrounding Beaumont Hamel. I pointed out to the director (Brian McKenna) that we were only a short distance from the place where the regiment was billeted the night before

that fateful battle in the little village of Louvencourt. I urged him to take the filming crew there because my grandfather had written in his diaries (the source material for the book) about how the wonderful people of that town welcomed the men and boys from Newfoundland, how they attended church with the villagers there just before heading into battle, and how the women lined the streets crying as they left knowing that for many of them this would be their last day, as had been the case for so many of their sons and husbands when they wished them goodbye.



Louvencourt Church



Mansion and Billet

The director agreed to make this minor diversion and, while looking in vain for the graves of Newfoundland soldiers we had been told had been buried in the local churchyard (they had subsequently been moved to a nearby military cemetery), I suddenly realised that the estate that shared a twelve foot high stone wall with the church was clearly the only place in the village where the regiment could have been billeted. With some trepidation and a little difficulty in conversing with the grounds keeper in French, we were permitted in and were told that there were names of men carved on the walls inside the two huge outbuildings on either side of the wide lane leading up to the chateau. The Chateau de Louvencourt was the historical home of the Duke de Lestocq, who built the church and chateau in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and whose descendant, the wife of M. le Sellier de Chezelles, still owns the property. It didn't take us long to discover that, while many of the carved inscriptions coincidentally dated from a stay by Canadian soldiers in WWII, others were indeed the names of men of the Newfoundland Regiment in WWI.

By now you will have guessed it. One of the first names we discovered was that of Pte. Snelgrove, and indeed this inscription was made on his last night alive, as he went missing during the battle the following day. His name therefore appears on the Beaumont Hamel monument which lists the names of soldiers and sailors killed in WWI for which no known grave exists.

The pictures attached show his inscription in the outbuilding of Chateau de Louvencourt and his name as it appears on the Beaumont Hamel monument. I also include a photograph of the church and the wall shared with the estate and a photo of the outbuilding where the inscription was found. I hope that these will be of interest to any of his family still living in the Lower Island Cove area or elsewhere in Newfoundland.

In my haste to send you the message below concerning my discovery pertaining to Pte Snelgrove, who is listed amongst the veterans to be commemorated in the new Lower Island Cove memorial, I overlooked another name on the very next page of the article: Pte. Arthur Driscoll, Regimental # 1054 Royal NL Regiment.

This came as quite a shock because he too carved his name on the wall of the outbuilding in Louvencourt the night before he died in the Battle of Beaumont Hamel. I enclose a photograph of his inscription.

What are the chances that two men from this tiny community would have spent their last night on this earth in this billet and both of them left as a reminder their names carved into the wall before departing?



## ANOTHER FOLLOW UP TO “ENLISTED MEN FROM LOWER ISLAND COVE”

By Robert R. (Bob) Halfyard

I found the article *Enlisted Men from Lower Island Cove* very interesting. My father, Levi Halfyard (1884-1937) taught at the Lower Island Cove [Methodist] School from 1906 to 1908. I have a photograph, which I am fairly sure is of Lower Island Cove pupils. He taught previously at Ochre Pit Cove and the photo is not of Ochre Pit Cove, so it has to be Lower Island Cove. When I saw the article, I realized that some of those men were probably in the school photo, but I have never had any way to identify any of them. Perhaps Judy Rogers could.

I am attaching the photo. My father is easily identified as the man in the back with the bowler hat. I am also sending a photo of Susie Snelgrove, which she sent to my father. She may have been the Susannah Snelgrove who married Henry (Harry) Garland.



## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR STRAYS DEATHS AFAR

Compiled by Pat Walsh pwalsh1919@gmail.com

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 and people of Bell Island, NL with particular emphasis on the Wabana iron-ore mining operation. Thanks to Gail Hussey-Weir, this public group page has over 3,000 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 shown.

**Barnes**, Beryl Patricia (nee Davis) in her 83<sup>rd</sup> year on Jan. 22, 2022, in Brockville, ON. Predeceased by her husband Clayton and her son Jeffrey. Mother of Dean, Boyd, Derek & Bill. Sister of Nancy Randell & William Davis. A memorial service is to be held in St. John's at a later date. Obit and photo Jan. 29, 2022.

**Bessey**, Michael Lee of Weirdale, SK, originally from Raleigh, on Jan. 18, 2022, aged 48. Son of Norman and Marilyn Taylor Bessey. Husband of Ann-Marie Hartman. Brother of Dean & Bobby. Obit and photo Jan. 28, 2022.

**Bindon**, William "Bill" John July 14, 1953 – Oct. 4, 2021 in Brampton, ON. Born in St. John's. Predeceased by his parents William and Beatrice and his older sister Anne Van Biezen (Dec. 18, 2019). Husband of Kate Rowe. Brother of Sandra Mitchell (Kirke), Carol Wright (Philip), Janice & Michelle

(Ken). He retired as a District Chief with the Toronto Fire Services in 2018. Obit and photo Oct. 13, 2021.

**Bishop**, Kevin Charles, aged 75, on Jan. 8, 2022 in Brantford, ON. Born on Sept. 9, 1945. Husband of Mary. Father of Rob, Elizabeth, Kevin Jr., Rick, Blair, Bill & Ashley. Obit & photo Historic Wabana NF Facebook page and Corbett Funeral Home, Cambridge, ON.

**Brown**, Kenneth "Ken" on Oct. 8, 2021 in Toronto, ON, aged 53. Born in St. John's on April 25, 1968, son of Norm & Mary. He was an employee of the Royal Bank of Canada for 24 years. Step-father of Taylor Clarke. Brother of Robert & John. Obit and photo Oct. 16, 2021.

**Butt**, Geraldine "Anne" (nee Snow) on Sept. 22, 2021 in Toronto, ON. Born in Corner Brook, daughter of Gerald "Worrell" Snow & Evelyn Batstone. She moved to St. John's in 1953 to study nursing at the General Hospital. Mother of Paula, Judy Elizabeth & Andrea. Sister of David & Gerald. Obit and photo Oct. 9, 2021.

**Collins**, John Francis on Jan. 24, 2022 in Edmonton, AB, aged 86. Born in Lamaline in 1935, son of Michael & Bridget. Predeceased in 2018 by his wife of 60 years, Rena Mae. Also predeceased by his parents and brothers and sisters, Mary, Tom, Andrew, Carmel, Mike, Bill, Peter, Bernie, Joan & Marjorie. Brother of Elizabeth, Max and Paul. John moved to Edmonton in 1954. Father of Peggi, Kathy, Linda and Sean. Obit and photo Jan. 29, 2022.

**Costello**, Frank William, Oct. 3, 1939 - Oct. 13, 2021 in Brampton, ON. Husband of Margaret (Barron) Father of Sandra, Bonnie and Shawn. Brother of Mary, Jim & Raymond. Photo and obit Brampton Funeral Home & Cemetery & Historic Wabana NF Facebook page.

**Crummey**, Daphne (nee Rose) in Moncton, NB on Oct. 8, 2021, aged 85. Born in Salmon Cove on April

7, 1936, daughter of Alfred and Mary Ann (Noftall) Rose. Predeceased by her parents and her husband Edward Frederick Crummey, 2005 and her sister Hilda Clark (Sandy, deceased) and her brother, Berkley Rose (Wilma, deceased). Mother of Catherine Mary MacEwen (Mark), Robert Edward & Ian Alfred David. Sister of Marie Thomas (Joe), Phyllis Ivany (Lloyd), Bernice Poffley (Richard) and Warren. Obit and photo Oct. 14, 2021.

**Dove**, Anne Marie of Dartmouth, NS, in Halifax, NS on Jan 19, 2022, aged 71. Born in Gander, daughter of Donald & Gloria (Archibald) Dove. Predeceased by her parents. *The Chronicle Herald* Jan. 24, 2022.

**Evans**, Sandy Richard of North Sydney, NS on Dec. 10, 2021 in Sydney, NS, aged 84. Born in English Harbour West on July 31, 1937, son of Albert and Phoebe (Barnes) Evans. Predeceased by his parents and sister Nina Campbell and brother Levi. Husband of Esther Jackson). Father of Dawn and Jennifer. Brother of Ruby and Peter. Employed in the banking industry and with the seafood industry. Obit and photo Dec. 14, 2021.

**Flynn**, Frank (Francis) Ronald, aged 74, on Dec. 12, 2021, in Burlington, ON. Predeceased by his parents, Frank and Edith Bewhey, his brother Jim and sisters Margie, Jean & Joan. Husband of Joan. Father of Paul and Kelly Ann. Brother of Jerome and Wayne. He worked in Mount Pearl as an auto body technician and taught at the College of Trades and Technology. Obit and photo Dec. 18, 2021.

**Hogan**, Thomas (Tom) Patrick Feb. 24, 1939 – June 18, 2021 in Pembroke, ON. Born in Red Head Cove, son of Patrick & Annie-May (Rice). Husband of 54 years of Cynthia Ann (Tucker) of St. Jones Within. Father of Thomas Andrew and Elana Ann Graham (Steve). Brother of Shirley Ann Hogan, Stephenville. Former employee of the Iron Ore Company of Canada in Labrador City and Exxon in Barranquilla, Columbia. Obit and photo June 22, 2021.

**Hollohan**, Gertrude (nee Carroll) Oct. 21, 1929 – Jan. 20, 2022 in Ottawa, ON, aged 92. Predeceased by her husband Edmund (Jan. 1996) and her son James (April 29, 2020 in Ottawa). She was a former resident of Badger. Mother of Linda Walsh (Robert), Ottawa and Anthony (Tony). A Graveside service is planned for Mississauga, ON in May or June, 2022. She worked at the CNE in the 1960s and also with Sprague Electric. In the 1970s she worked at a Child Care in Etobicoke, ON. Obit and photo McEvoy-Shields Funeral Home & Chapel, Ottawa, ON.

**Hollohan**, James Roy on April 29, 2020 in Ottawa, ON. Born in Badger on June 1, 1948. Predeceased by his father Edmund. Son of Gertrude (deceased on Jan. 20, 2022). Brother of Linda Walsh (Robert), Ottawa and Tony. Former member of the Royal Canadian Navy, Marine Engineer. He completed submarine training in 1968. Obit and photo McEvoy-Shields Funeral Home & Chapel, Ottawa, ON.

**Jackman**, Catherine “Kate” (nee Cahill), formerly of Bell Island, on Dec. 3, 2021 in Kitchener, ON, aged 73. Predeceased by her parents Martin & Gertrude Cahill. Partner of John Faimon. Mother of Johnny, Stephen and Reggie. Sister of Regina Warren (Larry), Judy Melay (Eugene), Marie Barrett (Fred), Theresa Edwards, Josephine Murphy (Peter) & Francis. Stepmother of Robert Faimon and Marcella Thatcher. Obit and photo *Waterloo Record* Dec. 9, 2021 and Historic Wabana NF Facebook page.

**Johnson**, John Francis on Sept. 21, 2021 in Toronto, ON. Born in 1944, he grew up in St. John’s. Predeceased by his parents George and Esther (nee Hefferan) and his son Steven Benjamin Johnson. Husband of Lorna (Kennedy). Brother of Jim, Mary Godsland (Peter) and Kay Parsons (Wince). Obit & photo Oct. 9, 2021.

**Kielley**, John Joseph on Dec. 25, 2021, aged 57, in NB. Former business owner of Amazon Tool Repair in St. John’s. Former member of the Canadian Armed Forces. Predeceased by his parents, Jack and Myrna Kielley and Joan and Alec Davis. Brother of Jackie, Darlene, Shelley, Myrna, Mike & Bernard. Husband

of Kim. Father of Joe & Josh. Obit and photo Jan. 20, 2022.

**Murley**, Samuel Roy Macpherson in Bedford, NS. Oct. 13, 1927 – Oct. 12, 2021. Born in St. John's. He was a son of a church Minister and he lived in Victoria, Fortune, Bonavista and Botwood. He received a Bachelor of Engineering Degree from McGill University in 1951. Served as Mill Manager of the Bowater Pulp and Paper Mill in Corner Brook for ten years. Husband of 70 years of Cynthia. Father of William, Anne & Susan. Predeceased by his sister Edna and his brother Donald. Obit and photo Oct. 16, 2021.

**Parker**, Geraldine Mary Jill (nee Sharpe) on Dec. 7, 2021 in Ontario. Born in St. John's on Nov. 28, 1928, daughter of Dr. E. Leo Sharpe and Ellen (Bishop) of Waterford, Ireland. She attended Memorial College and entered the General Hospital School of Nursing in St. John's and graduated in 1950. In 1951, she married James W. (Jay) Parker (Parker and Monroe). Mother of Joan, Janet, Brenda, Barbara, Elizabeth, Louise and James. Predeceased by her brothers and sisters, Patricia Russell, Zita, Edward, Eleanor Blair, Duncan and Noreen. Sister of Irene Normandin (Washington, DC) Obit and photo Dec, 16, 2021.

**Reddy**, Francis Joseph "Frank" on Dec. 10, 2021, aged 78 in Windsor, NS. Born on April 21, 1943 in St. John's, son of Thomas & Mary (Cooper) Reddy. Predeceased by his parents and his brother Derm. Husband of 57 years of Mary (Walsh). Father of Tom, Karen Naugle (Tim), Mike and Chris. Brother of Gerry. Obit and photo DeMont Family Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Windsor, NS.

**Reid**, Philip Harvey, MD in St. John, NB on Jan. 11, 2022. Born in Norris Point in 1940, son of Stanley and Alma (nee Laing) Reid. Predeceased by his parents, his wife Charlene (married in 1966) and his sister Jenny. He graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 1966 and received his MD from Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS in 1968. Veteran, Cana

dian Armed Forces, 1957 -1992. He practiced medicine for 53 years. Obit and photo Jan, 18, 2022.

**Rose**, Brother John Andrew (Christian Brothers) in Vancouver, BC on Jan. 7, 2022, aged 89. Predeceased by his parents John and Margaret (Whelan) Rose, his brothers and sisters, Harold, Tom, Andy, Alice Mary Leblanc and Margie. Brother of Patricia Byrne. He attended St. Bonaventure's College in St. John's. Interment in the Christian Brothers' plot in Surrey, BC. Obit and photo Jan. 15, 2022.

**Swinimer**, Margaret Hannah (nee Fleming), aged 83 of Chester, NS on Dec. 15, 2021. Born in St. John's, daughter of Frederick & Kathleen (nee Boland) Fleming. Predeceased by her parents, her husband John (Jack) Swinimer and her sisters Anita, Mercedes and Theresa. Mother of Stephanie and John Michael. Sister of Frederick and John, both of Hamilton, ON. Obit and photo Jan. 4, 2022.

``It is good to have an end to journey toward, but it is the journey that matters in the end `.

Ernest Hemingway



*Biography is the rudder of History,  
both risk shipwreck without Genealogy.<sup>1</sup>*

## ABOUT THOSE GUYS.....

### Historical Notes Part 11

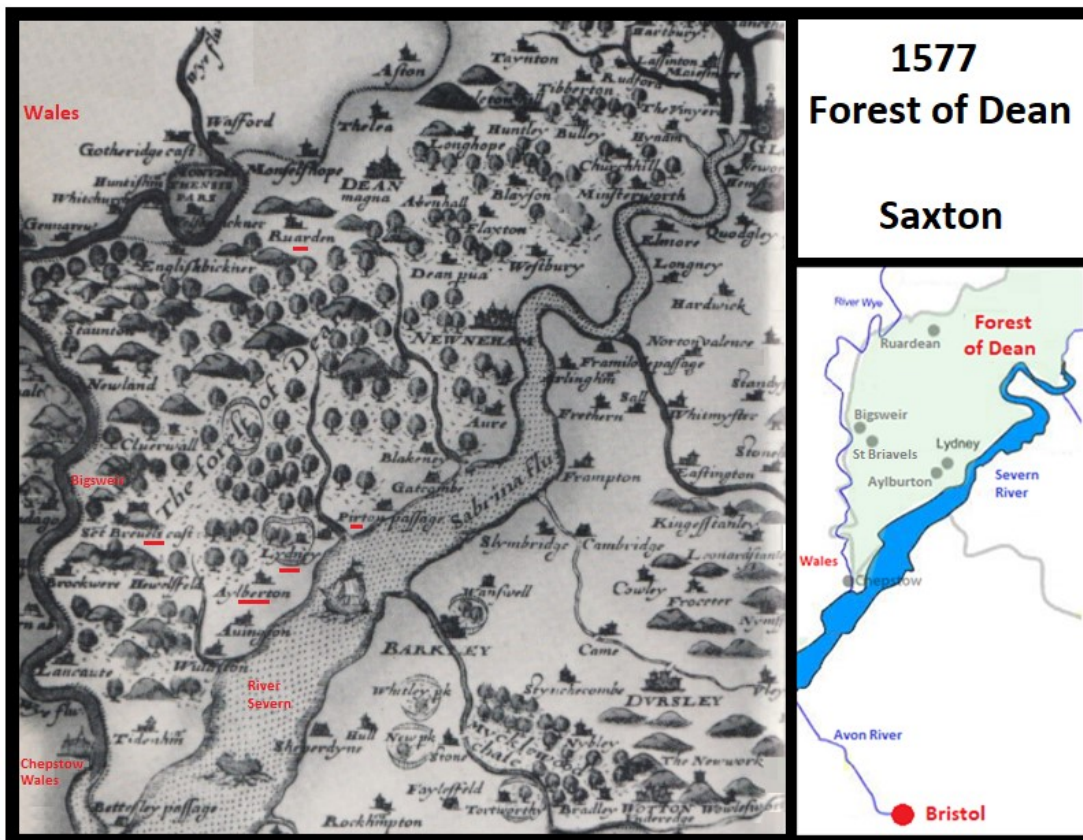
By Pete Noel

With the most interesting discovery an old coin at Cupids, it seems timely to revisit Bristol with some additional historical notes. The article can be found here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/oldest-coin-cupids-historical-site-1.6243996>

#### 1. The Forest Of Dean

The Royal Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, bordering Wales, is a fascinating area and these brief notes will not do it justice. I previously mentioned that John Gunning Jr and John Taylor, the Bristol's Hope investors, had made an investment in the iron industry here. Iron is known to have been mined in the area from Roman times (50 AD) if not before. I also previously mentioned that steel from Spain was the primary product of interest for Bristol merchants in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The local supply from the Forest of Dean was obviously not meeting demand. The area also supplied leather, coal and fine oak timber for shipbuilding. The large amount of fuel demanded by the local metal forges was sourced locally. Oak bark was shipped for its tannin content used in tanning leather.



With more castles than anywhere else in the UK, there is a strong history of conflict and defence here. The area has been repeatedly referenced yet I failed to grasp its importance. The Romans in England may have used the Forest of Dean as their principal source of iron and had their foundries up the Avon River at Bath.<sup>2</sup> During the time of William the conqueror, the Forest of Dean was the center of forging iron (producing shaped metal objects) in England.

By 1252 there were 72 forges. Blast furnaces provided a significant technological improvement and were introduced in the Forest of Dean ca 1612. Although for a time the output of the area was surpassed by the Weald in SE England, by 1705 it was dominant again providing 24% of English furnace output and 14% of forge output.<sup>3</sup> In general, the problem with the English bar iron, was that it contained substantial amounts of phosphorus. This would render the steel brittle. This was probably not the case with the purity of the Forest of Dean ore.<sup>4</sup>

The forge in the Forest of Dean can possibly be represented by one in Glamorgan, Wales. These accounts show a 9 man operation producing 2 cwt. per day in 1531. Iron forges probably only functioned 40 weeks a year indicating an annual production of 200 tons. Most of the Forest of Dean production operations were likely smaller. The Gunns Mills furnace was established ca 1625 by Sir John Winter about 20 km north of his residence in Lydney.



I previously mentioned the port of Chepstow, Wales - popular with the Bristol merchant smugglers. The nearby historic town of Lydney upstream provides sea access for the Forest of Dean. The harbour's proximity to the Forest's great oaks was always strategically important and provided a location for wooden ship construction as well as a timber transfer node. The River Severn at 354 km long, is the longest river in Great Britain. It is also the river with the most voluminous flow of water by far. The Severn's major tributaries are the Vyrnwy, the Tern, the Teme, the Warwickshire Avon, and the Worcestershire Stour.

Ian Wright notes: "A complex set of rights, customs and practices determined by custom and usage regulated industry and trade between the Foresters and others. Iron, cordwood, timber and calf skins were transported to Ireland and France via the River Severn and Wye and boatmen on the Wye had a close relationship with the miners and other Foresters. The river community in Brockweir was a close-knit community and was one of the centres of this trade. It is reasonable to assume that miners, woodmen, traders and boatmen from the Forest of Dean believed they had the unrestricted customary right to trade with whom and where they liked since time immemorial."

and: "The Society of Merchants Venturers was established by a 1552 Royal Charter from Edward VI granting the society a monopoly on Bristol's sea trade. The society interpreted this as a granting of a monopoly on all trade within the Bristol Channel. However, the granting of this Charter ran counter to customary rights....The 1552 Royal Charter represented a breach of customary norms by the emerging mercantile class, represented by the Merchant Venturers, in claiming ownership of resources that had traditionally been held in common."<sup>5</sup>

During the conflicts with Spain in the 1580's, commerce with Iberia was restricted. This did not eliminate trade entirely and led to highly attractive margins for those who continued to trade. English merchants sometimes traded as Irishmen or Scots to gain access. This was risky though as seven Bristol ships were seized by the Spanish after being discovered.<sup>6</sup> Other Bristol merchants circumvented the embargo sending nine shiploads of culverins (long, slim cannons) from foundries in the Forest of Dean together with powder, muskets and shot. They shipped via Naples to gain high premiums from the Spanish. The Spanish would pay cash whereas Queen Elizabeth was often forgetful in commercial transactions.<sup>7</sup>

### The Wye Valley



## 2. Bristol Connections to the Forest of Dean

There were a number of important Bristol merchants who had ties to the Forest of Dean. The Winter family had been established there for hundreds of years. The Smythe family of Long Ashton also had roots in Aylburton. John Smythe was mayor of Bristol in 1547 and again in 1554 and its leading merchant at that time. His accounting records have survived and are a boon for historians.

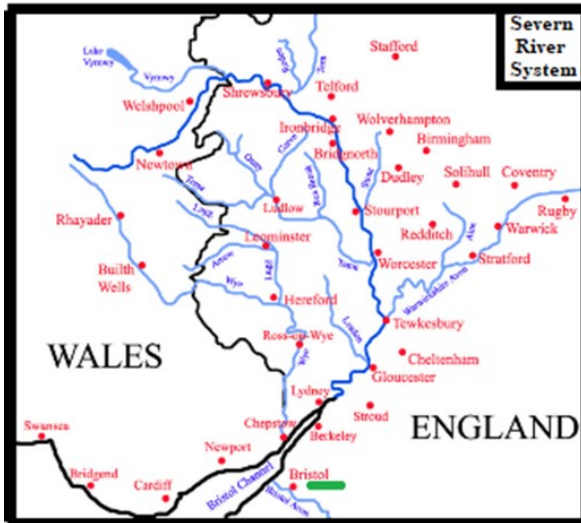
William Shipman was Mayor of Bristol in 1533. Brother John Shipman, a salter who had been Mayor in 1521 and 1529, left £10 to “my kynnesfolkes dwelling in the Forest of Deane” and mentioned his kinsman John Winter had Thomas White as overseers. A Thomas Shipman was a mercer and Sherriff in 1555. John and Richard of Lydney left wills. Mathew Shipman was the son-in law of a James Buck of Aylburton.

Thomas James, born at Woolaston, Mayor in 1605 and MP, was also a member of the local Forest of Dean gentry. The executors of his will were John Guy and John Langton. Some other Lydney names mentioned with possible Bristol connections are William Roberowe, Nicholas Langley and William Barker.

I was amazed while doing a search of apprentices from Lydney in Bristol. A very high proportion chose to enter the metal trades as hoopers, ironmongers or wire drawers. They probably had familiarity with the metal processes from a young age. Generations of established tradesmen from the area probably facilitated entry for new participants. George Davis was a hooper apprentice who died at Cuper's Cove in 1613. He was from Lydney. His master, Thomas Davis, was possibly the cooper from Aylburton who had apprenticed in Bristol in 1570. Sometimes hoopers seemed to function as coopers as well.

In 1598 John Gonning, the Bristol's Hope participant, took on a relative (?), George Whittington son of Matthew (deceased), as apprentice. He was from of St Briavels. He is probably the one who made the venture to Trinity Bay in the

*Endeavor* with John Guy in 1612.<sup>5</sup> Documents from the Gloucestershire Estate of the Gough Family mention the “mansion house of Thomas Whittington in St. Briavels”.



In 1599 John Guy and wife Ann took on their first apprentice, John Stirry (Sterrey) of Ruardean. His 10 year apprenticeship would have finished before the launch of the Cuper’s Cove Colony.<sup>5</sup>

### 3. The Winters/Wynters/Wintours

Originally from Wales, they had been Bristol merchants for several generations. Although Captain John Winter bought the manor of Lydney in Gloucestershire from the Earl of Pembroke in 1561<sup>8</sup>, the family was established in the area much earlier. Both Robert and John were reported in a survey of able-bodied men in Lydney in 1522. In 1559 the Crown had sold Aylburton manor<sup>9</sup>, 2 km from Lydney, to William Winter as well. There seems to have been a resident branch of the family apart from the famous naval branch. John Winter, husbandman of Lydney, sent his son William to apprentice as a hooper with John Eroth (Yeroth?) in Bristol in 1547. There was a Yerath family in Lydney and Edward Yerath was sent as apprentice to John Yerath (a son?), hooper in 1569.

<p><b>Father:</b> Robert (of LYDNEY) WYNTER.</p> <p>♂ <b>John WYNTER (CAPT) (Treasurer of Marine Causes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Married in 1520, Cork, Ireland, to Alice (Tirry) TYRRELL, born about 1500 - Cork, Ireland.</li> <li>♂ William (the Elder) (RM) (SIR) WYNTER ca 1522-1589 <b>Vice Admiral NF??</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♂ Nicholas (Merchant Adventurer) WYNTER ca 1560-1585 <b>d Categena?</b></li> <li>♂ Edward (SIR) (HEIR) WYNTER 1581-1619 <b>Lydney Iron production</b></li> <li>♂ William (of Portsmouth) WYNTER 1573-1654 <b>NF 1583 ???</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>♂ George (SIR) WYNTER ca 1527-1581</li> <li>♂ John (SIR - Vice Admiral to DRAKE) WYNTER 1555-1638 <b>Circle globe</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>The Winters</b></p>  <p><b>Sir William Winter</b></p>
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John Winter was a Bristol ship captain, part owner of the *George*, in the Spanish trade and was treasurer of the Royal Navy at the time of his death. He and his sons made their names in a period of cold and open wars with the Spanish, persecution of Protestants in France and the Netherlands, and French troops established in Scotland.

John Winter’s sons, George and William were on the navy board and were participants in the Guinea trade. William Winter was a backer of John Hawkins first slave venture (and 2 more?) to Guinea in 1562.<sup>10</sup> This territory had been staked out by the Portuguese. For years, though, the English privateers had been a torment in spite of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance. It is not clear whether the brothers’ ships were directly in the slave trade. At that time, the three main commodities that made Guinea attractive for English traders were gold, elephant’s teeth, and Malagueta pepper. The English were interlopers in the slave trade ignoring Iberian restrictions on both ends of their trans-Atlantic voyages. The demand from the Iberian colonies was strong and the rewards great if the controls could be circumvented.

The few English ships active here were elbowing into Portuguese territory and exchanged goods with local African traders but on occasion would rob French ships as well. By 1565 the Portuguese were actively defending their African colony and English trade virtually ceased. The Winter brothers, sent the *Mary Fortune* on a solo voyage that year, testing the waters in Liberia<sup>11</sup>, further north than their usual territory. The ship was attacked and sunk by two Portuguese warships. Most of its crew were imprisoned in the Portuguese castle of Sao Jorge de la Mina, Ghana (and still held there in 1569). This was the Winters' ticket into the world of privateering. By 1569 George and William Winter were licensed as "queen's servants" by Letter of Marque to take goods valued at £7,600 out of Portuguese ships.<sup>12</sup>

William Winter (possibly Jr) organized fleets for the trans-Atlantic voyage via Guinea in 1570 and 1571. He was taken prisoner by the Spanish in the Canaries and nearly brought before the Inquisition but escaped in time. These may have been purely plundering expeditions as they stopped at Venezuela and attacked St Augustine, Florida. Winter was knighted in 1573, and was made the vice-admiral of Somerset (with Bristol), which his descendants held until 1628. In 1577 he was one of the backers of Drake's circumnavigation of the globe. His nephew John accompanied Drake in the ship *Elizabeth* but cut short the voyage, returning through the straits of Magellan.

Historians indicate in 1583 Captain (and part owner) William Winter (Jr or Sr.?) sailed the *Delight* with Humphrey Gilbert on his trip to Newfoundland. Winter, apparently disgruntled, departed with a shipload of sick seamen. He left his ship which was lost later on a voyage to Sable Island.

After losing the lucrative position of Navy treasurer to John Hawkins, William Winter and Hawkins had a continuing conflict. One of Hawkins accusations was that Winter used the Queen's timber at Lydney to build his ships (*Mary Fortune* and *Edward*) and wharves.<sup>13</sup>

William Winter Sr sent his ship *Sea Dragon* (formerly *Tiger*) on Drake's Caribbean raid early in 1588.<sup>14</sup> Edward Winter was captain of the Queen's ship *Aid*<sup>15</sup> and a younger brother Nicholas died on this venture. The *Sea Dragon* brought some of the Roanoke colony settlers back to England on its return.

Later in 1588 in response to Drake's Caribbean raid, England's worst nightmare seemed to be coming true. The Spanish Armada intended to protect an invasion convoy of barges carrying troops across the channel from the Spanish Netherlands. Sir William Winter was on channel patrol prior to the engagement. He had experience moving troops to oust the French from Leith near Edinburg in 1544. Based on this, he informed his superior that it would be impossible for the Spanish to organize the 300 support ships required to ferry their army. At the approach of the Spanish Armada, Vice-Admiral Sir William Winter, was initially positioned apart from the main fleet, guarding the intended crossing point. Edward was probably with his father, possibly in the pinnace (*Delight?*) the family supplied. William Jr was in the ship *Minion*(?). Later, it was Sir William's proposal to send the fireships into the Spanish fleet anchored in Calais which damaged the Armada and led to its dispersal. In the ensuing confrontation off Gravelines in the Spanish Netherlands, historians laude Winter's performance in his first experience at heavy fighting, so late in his career.<sup>16</sup> He claimed his ship, the *Vanguard*, discharged five hundred cannon shot while within range of the Spanish firearms. The Duke of Parma, Governor of the Spanish Netherlands, evacuated his 30,000 invasion troops inland. The ill-conceived invasion seems to have been a non-starter and the significant losses experienced by the Spanish were mostly due to weather on the return to Spain via a northern circular route.

Sir William Winter was hurt by the recoil of a gun during the battle and died in February 1589. Later that year his son, Captain William Winter Jr., sailed the *Foresight* to Portugal in the disastrous failure of the equally ill-conceived English Armada. With an empty treasury from the defense, Queen Elizabeth had launched a private

venture with both military and economic goals and accomplished neither. Spain with deeper pockets remained the superior naval power.

Some later references:<sup>17</sup>

- 1589 In the Channel Squadron under Martin Frobisher: "*Antelope*" - John Winter, captain and vice-admiral 1st January to 13th July at 8 shillings a day.
- 1590 Sir John Hawkins & Sir Martin Frobisher's voyage to the coast of Spain and the Islands: "*Foresight*", 300 tons - William Winter
- 1591 William Wynter, junior; Azores 1591
- 1595 "A fleet to the Indies, Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins, Generals, wherein they ventured deeply and died in the voyage 1595: "*Foresight*", 300 tons - William Winter

Edward Winter graduated from Oxford. He actively sought combat. With Drake in Cartagena, he temporarily exchanged command of his ship for that of a company of soldiers. That same expedition later plundered the coast of Florida and returned home with booty worth £60,000. When the privateering opportunities ceased he sought further action. In 1587 he wrote from the Netherlands that he was seeking an opportunity on the protestant side in the European conflicts.<sup>18</sup> He eventually was successful but on a later venture after serving against the Armada he was caught in France in 1588. He was transferred to Spain and held for years. He made it back to his estate the White Cross, at Lydney in 1593. His family probably already had interests in an iron-works leased from the king. He would take charge and eventually introduce the new furnace technology to their operations. He seemed to have continual disputes with the commoners of the Forest, who were concerned that they would have no wood left for their own use. He is recorded purchasing additional wood from the Crown in 1611. He was knighted in 1595 and was High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1598. On 19 January 1601, he became Constable of St. Briavel's Castle and Keeper of the Forest of Dean on the death of the 2nd Earl of Pembroke. He was elected MP for Gloucestershire again in 1601. At one point, probably after 1625, one Dame Winter was operating one furnace and three forges in Lydney.

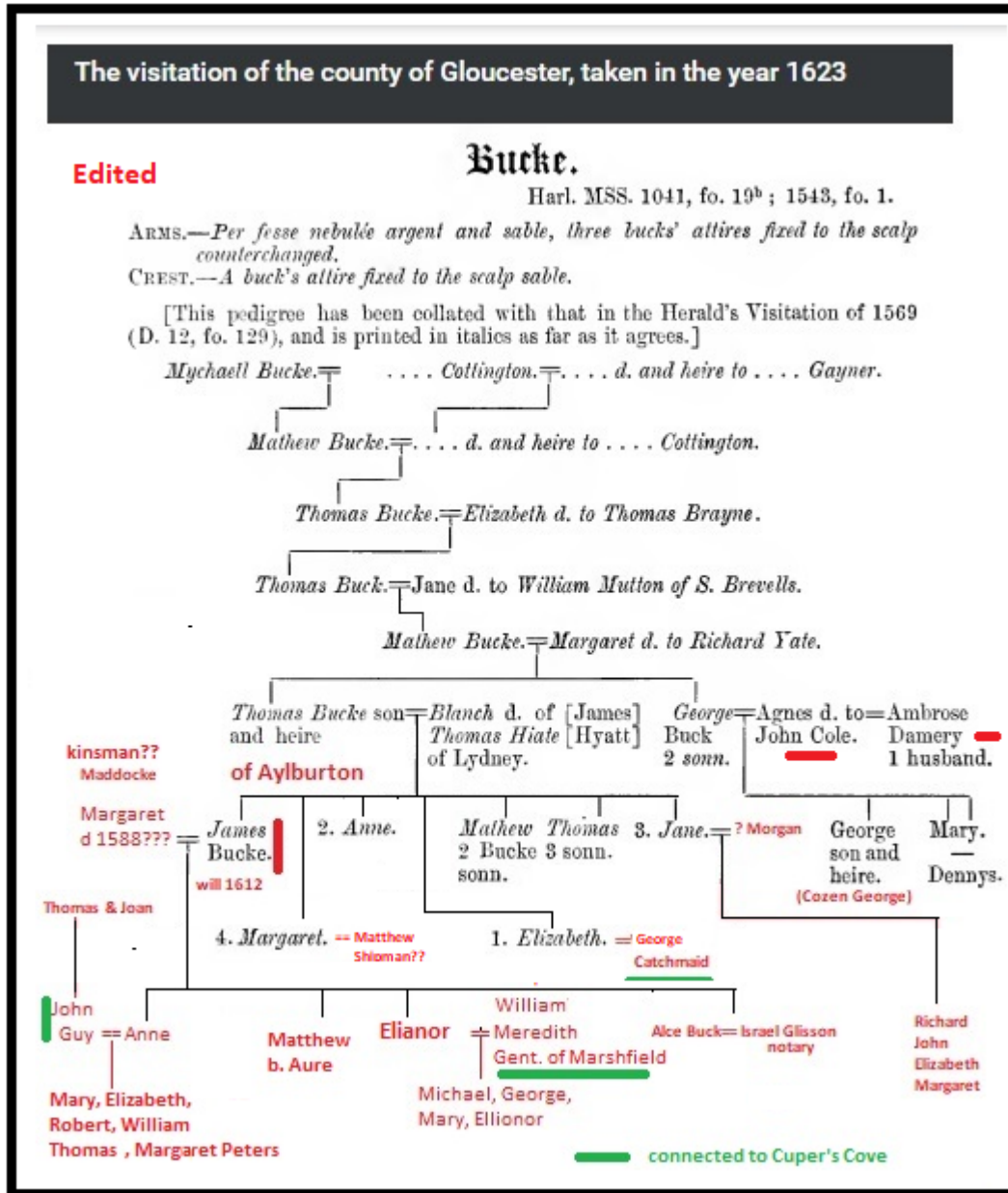
#### 4. The Bucks/Buckes/Burkes

The Bucks held land in Aylburton. In 1367 Thomas Gainer was dealing with an estate comprising a plough-land and other lands, and his estate was presumably one of the two freeholds for which Thomas Buck and Edward Cottington did homage to the prior of Llanthony in 1515. Thomas's estate passed to Matthew Buck (d. 1540), whose son and heir Thomas was presumably the Thomas Buck who bought the other estate from John Cottington of Leigh upon Mendip (Som.) in 1573.<sup>19</sup> In the 1522 military survey Anthony Bucke was listed as the largest landholder in Aylburton.

In his will Thomas Bucke provides £20 for his son Phillip who had just started an apprenticeship as a merchant with Richard Salterne in Bristol. The apprentice record describes father Thomas Bucke as a yeoman. The description may be a reference to a verder position in the Royal Forest. A yeoman may refer to a servant or attendant of middle rank in a royal or noble household. His will refers to him as of Lydney and the apprenticeship record indicates neighbouring Aylburton.

In 1593 James Buck was Verder of the Royal Forest of Dean.<sup>20</sup> His job was to protect the forest and deer. This put him in conflict with Edward Winter. Edward was increasing iron production with his forge. His production was constrained by his own available supply of wood. He therefore aggressively started fencing in common land and threatened to bury his opponents in the ditches. At that time it was not uncommon for landholders to

be making land grabs. Author Keith Plumyers argues that wood scarcity was sometimes not just a fundamental issue of supply and demand but also may result from social frictions and control issues.<sup>21</sup>



This may not have been a new conflict between the two families. There seems to have been a case from an earlier generation in the Star Chamber in 1563: Winter vs. Buck, Joye, Brown and Sled. The conflict in 1597

may have been broader as there is a suit of Catchmay vs. Winter as well. Some Catchmays were related to the Bucks.

John Guy was a servant of Edward Winter. Around 1595 he married Anne Buck daughter of James. John was running the iron production for Edward Winter. This put Guy squarely in the midst of the conflict. In 1596 James Buck was severely beaten. Two of Winter's servants were arrested against Edward's protests and he soon bailed them out. Guy accused Winter of trying to kill his father-in-law. In this difficult situation John Guy left for Ireland without notice. He left the iron operation unsupervised for the summer. He had departed with 2 of his employees from the forge.

In November 1596 he returned to present his accounts to Edward. After Guy was finished, in front of twenty witnesses, Edward ordered his porter to whip John Guy. George Swarthy did as instructed and then Edward beat him on the head with a cudgel as well. He then dismissed Guy from his service. Swarthy was a black man who had probably returned with Winter from his adventures with Drake.

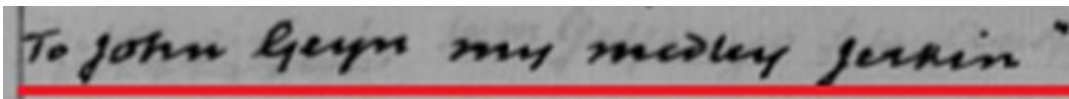
The following year James Buck had recovered and sued Edward Winter in court. The outcome of his case is unknown but Buck sold his properties to Winter in 1599. He left the Forest of Dean and bought an estate in Winterbourne. John Guy departed as well and was made a burgess of Bristol in February 1597.

There is a burial record for Margaret wife of James Bucke gentleman in 1588. The record is from Awre near Blakeney. A Mathew Shipman in Lydney has a will in 1576 that mentions his sister Margaret Booker. Possibly he married Ann Bucke sister of Margaret. He also mentions John, Philip and Anthony Booke. The 1575 will of Thomas Bucke mentions he has a debt to Matthew Shipman. There is a 1574 document concerning the marriage of Elizabeth Bucke of Aylburton and George Catchmaid. I think a William Catchmaid mentioned in the Newfoundland Company document is likely a son of this couple.

The will of Anne Guy resident of Hereford makes some sense when you consider that she outlived her husband John by 30 years and that her extended family, the Bucks, were closer to there than Bristol.

## 5. Some Early Records of John Guy<sup>23</sup>

Once the connection with the Buckes was identified, a few records of interest appear. The earliest seems to be a reference in 1575. A transcription of the will of Thomas Bucke, the elder has:



*To John Guy my medley jerkin*

Medley cloth was made by mixing different colours of Spanish wool before spinning. Thomas would have been the grandfather of John's future wife. At this time the John Guy of Bristol would have been about 16 years old. He was probably doing an apprenticeship with the Winters on the bordering property or possibly part of his apprenticeship was with the Buck family as well.

Author Miranda Kaufmann has gleaned some interesting facts from the court case of James Bucke vs. Edward Winter.<sup>24</sup> Winter had designated John Guy's function as "the chief rule and ordering of the estate" in Lydney. He was earning £60 per annum at a time when basic servants might earn £4 per annum. From Winter's account Guy was a man of "honest account, credit and estimation". Apparently, Guy had married Anne Bucke in secret though due to the conflict between her father and his employer. When Edward became aware of the union he told Guy to forget her.



Kaufman makes a very interesting speculation on Guy's trip to Ireland. It seems Percival Willoughby was at this time operating ironworks established by his deceased father-in-law in Staffordshire and Derbyshire. His father-in-law had also acquired woodlands in Munster, Ireland in hopes of developing an iron production in Kinalmeaky, West Cork. This prospective venture inherited by Willoughby had been touted in 1589 much as Willoughby himself would later pitch the Newfoundland adventure.

Kaufman notes that John Guy would have been an excellent candidate for a role studying the feasibility and start-up of an iron producing facility. This would be consistent with Guy bringing his two workers on the trip. One of the workers fell ill, though, and returned to the Winter estate. Undoubtedly, if there was a scheme, Sir Edward would have been able to pressure the worker to divulge the details. This would mean, possibly, he was aware of the trip's purpose. If true, Guy's having worked with a competitor and decimated Winter's work force to do it might have drawn a more severe reaction than a mere absence without leave.

There is an interesting will of Vicar of Lydney, Thomas Turner, in 1595. He makes William Meredith his executor. John Guye and William Winter are mentioned here:

*my good frendes m<sup>r</sup> wilham winter and John Guye  
and Item I give to John Guye halfe my booke the other halfe to my executor.*

It was not the best of times for John Guy to start up a trading business. William Jessop writes: "In July 1599 there was a general arrest of English ships and goods in Spain and Portugal to the value of £300,000. This apparently led to the 'utter ruin of many merchants of Bristol, London &c'" <sup>25</sup>

By 1601 Guy is recorded in the Bristol Port Books bringing in products from Europe. There were only two relevant entries. One was a ship from Toulon with a handful of merchants taking product. John Guy was the only one receiving soap and without partners. Abel Kitchin and Matthew Haviland were part of a group that took the bulk of the other products. The other shipment was a bit of a surprise. The cargo from Livorno and Toulon seemed to have been split among a multitude of the merchants of Bristol. Guy brought in 7 dicker (70) hides with a partner William Dawer. Looking at the apprentice records I think this is a bad transcription. It is probably a whittawer, William Dawes son of Robert. A whittawer converts skins into white leather. A curious record shows a ship from Croisic, France called *Le Guye* unloaded goods.

Purton is a hamlet on the west bank of the River Severn, in the civil parish of Lydney. In the 1599 will of Rycharde Flower of Purton, the weaver mentions his debt to John Guy. This is years after Guy had established himself in Bristol and it seems possible that Guy used his contacts in the Forest of Dean to develop his trading business. Thomas Guy, father of John, had an apprentice Anthony Flower, son of Richard from Purton in 1577.

Bristol S.M. Port. Receiptes upon Easter Daye 1599.	Receiptes upon Palmesundaye. 1599.
Item Thomas Guye, Jenkyns Dees his servaunte 6d.	Item Johan Wynter, Jenkyns Dees, his servaunte 6d.
• William Feelde, Jenkyn Dees his servaunte 2d.	• Anays Tayleur, Gybbes servaunte 2d.
• Philippe Gwynne, Jenkyn Dees servaunte 6d.	• Richard Tayleur, Gybbes servaunte 7d.
• Andrew Gwynne, Jenkyn Dees Servaunte 2d.	• John Fryer servaunte 2d.
• William Voale, Jenkyns Dees servaunte 2d.	• William Drake, Jenkyn Dees prentyee 1d.

In 1599 John Guy took on apprentice William Davis (!!!!!), son of Bristolian Richard, to be trained in navigation. This seems a tangible source of the early Newfoundland Davis records given that Thomas Davyes' son Richard did not seem to follow up actively on his inheritance in Bristol's Hope. In 1605 John Guy joined the Spanish Company amongst the major merchants of Bristol.

## 6. Some Early Records of John Guy's father, Thomas Gye of St Mary Le Port Parish

The earliest record of Thomas Guy (ca 1542 -1591) I had seen was his Burgess record in 1563. There seems to have been recognition of Thomas Gye's qualifications as a cordwainer (shoemaker). The Council accepted him based on the pledges of Stephen and John Dye Sr, cordwainers. The term cordwainer had its roots in the city of Cordoba, Spain which was renowned for its fine leather.

Looking through transcripts of the parish records I found further entries. As well as the BMD records, the financial accounts of the church are also available. Receipts from parishioners were sometimes grouped together for a master, his journeymen and apprentices. Journeymen were qualified tradesmen working for another master. In 1558 Thomas Gweye is recorded as a servant of Jenkin Dee (Dees/Dye). Thomas is recorded at a higher payment than some of the other servants so I imagine he was at a high skill level. Jenkin Dye was also a proctor of the church and from a court case it seems he apparently understood Welsh. In the Bristol apprentice books we find that Jenkin Dye had many apprentices but Thomas Guy is not included in that list. Possibly his apprentice record is missing. Otherwise Thomas may have developed his skills outside Bristol or his servitude was an alternative to formal apprenticeship. In 1563 the Dye family testified to his qualifications and he was recognized as a tradesman to be a burgess.

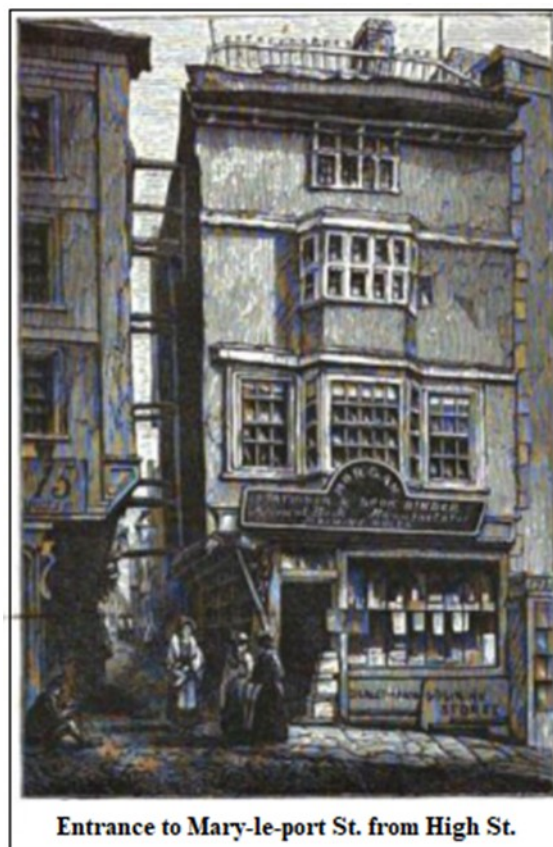
A Jehan Wynter and a William Drake were also working for Jenkin Dye. There is no way this is Admiral John Winter but it is possibly part of the extended family.

The Master Gybbes, who is elsewhere recorded as William Gybbes may be important as well. He was another cordwainer. In 1545 Dye and Gybbes were part of a small group of "Corvisours" who entered into a property agreement with a Thomas Butler.<sup>26</sup>

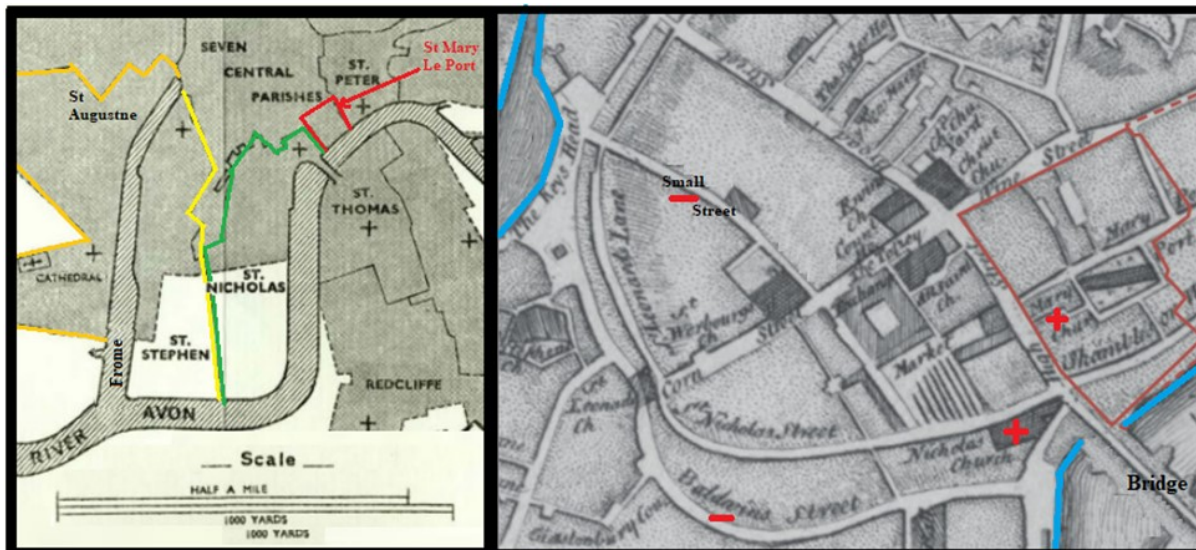
Unfortunately, the records I have seen offer only wisps of possible Guy family origins. In 1578 William Gibbes took on apprentice John Gweye Jr as an apprentice. John Gweye Sr is recorded as a shoemaker in Gloucester (the city). Given some of the connections this may be one possible tie to the roots of the Guy family. The death in the same parish of Elizabeth Gye, "prentis", in 1566 is a possible indicator of a broader family in St Mary Le Port. Thomas Gye names his daughter Elizabeth the next year.

There also seems to be two 'John Gye, son of Thomas' records a half generation apart. As well as the accepted line of John born 1569 to Thomas the shoemaker, there are 1583 death records for John and Nicholas Gye, sons of Thomas. This seems to indicate that there were two Thomas Gyes with families concurrently in St Mary Le Port. The records have many gaps which may have resulted from waves of plague that passed through Bristol in 1545, 1551, 1564 and 1575.

Looking at a map of where the Guys lived we see the bulk of the early records known for our line of interest come from St Mary Le Port. This would likely have been a busy commercial area with all the southern traffic funnelled across the Bristol Bridge. Most of John Guy's records refer to his presence in St Stephen's Parish. At



Entrance to Mary-le-port St. from High St.



the pinnacle of his career and affluence he was located on Small Street, one block from the church at the north end of this parish. John Guy's children seemed to have migrated west and a number of records are found in St Augustine's Parish. The Parish of St Nicholas bordering St Mary Le Port is of interest because it was where John Guy's brother Phillip was married and also because of an early record of the Gay surname found there. It might also be the source of Nicholas in the Guy family first names.

## 7. Nicholas Guy, Early Newfoundland Planter

In the book *John Guy* by Williams, Handcock and Sanger, an interesting point is made about Nicholas Guy. Beyond having the first child born in Newfoundland, he is likely the ancestor of all later Guys. John Guy's will seems to indicate that his brother Phillip has not survived. He only mentions Philip's wife and daughters, so it appears Philip had no sons. John Guy's son, Robert, in his will hands over the Sea Forest estate at Cupids to his nephew Walter Pykes. It is believed that Nicholas Guy was likely a cousin of John Guy.

I think that he would likely have had ties to St Mary Le Port Parish. He is most likely the son of John Guy born in 1583. This is possibly John Gwye who started his apprenticeship with William Gibbes in 1578. Being the son of a shoemaker he may have arrived half-trained and had a short apprenticeship.

Alternatively, the fact that his father is John raises the possibility that for some reason John Guy of Newfoundland may have returned to the parish of his birth to baptise his son. He would have been 24 years old that time and may have had an earlier marriage. In 1824 historian John Evans recorded this for the year 1609:

“Mr. John Guy and his son, a little before he was sheriff (in 1605), went to Newfoundland, to begin a plantation there, having left his son there to continue it. (see 1611)”<sup>27</sup>

Possibly this is an inaccurate statement but maybe it should not be entirely rejected too quickly.

The trail of the Gye family runs cold with Thomas Gye but there are some interesting early references to a Nicholas Gay. He was a merchant apprentice to William Kirke in 1540. An early merchant Nicholas Gay had a widow Agnes who was recorded in a property dispute on Baldwin St ca 1546 in St Nicholas Parish.<sup>28</sup>

Another Nicholas Guy drew the attention of the authors of the book *John Guy*. A Nicholas Guy married Ann Naylor in St Stephen's in 1588. In 1570 a Thomas Guyn son of Hugh was apprenticed to Edward Nailor, hoop-er. Hugh Guyn was from Tintern, Monmouthshire in Wales, just across the Wye River in the Forest of Dean. Edward Nayler is listed as an apprentice in 1541 and 1546. He is son of a deceased butcher, William of Lyd

ney. I do not think this can be our John Guy who was working for the Winters at this time. I think this trail is a false one although the connection to the Forest of Dean is interesting. Tintern had an iron operation connected to the Catchmaye family.

Nicholas Guy developed a relationship with Sir Percival Willoughby and settled on his estate in Carbonear. This fulfilled a condition that enabled Willoughby to maintain possession of his grant.

### 8. Some Records of the John Guy's Sons

I found the following apprenticeship records in London:

#### Records of London's Livery Companies Online Apprentices and Freeman 1400-1900

Date: 19/7/1633 Bond Length: 8 years			Date: 28/06/1636 Bond Length: 7 years		
Start Date: Festo sci Michi Archi proxim					
Details	Role(s)	Status	Details	Role(s)	Status
Robert Guy (Male) <i>Bristol, Somerset</i>	New apprentice		Willus Guv (Male) <i>Bristol</i>	New apprentice	
Edward Rundle (Male)	Master	Co Goldsmith	Antonio Jones (Male)	Master	Co Clothworker
John Guy (Male) <i>Merchants - Bristol, Somerset</i>	Father of apprentice		Johis Guy (Male) <i>Mercator - Civitate Bristol, Bristol</i>	Father of apprentice	Is dead

I thought it was interesting, that after a major fallout (?) with the London merchants, John Guy's sons were sent there to apprentice. Being an MP he would have had a lot of interaction with Londoners but I had assumed his sons would remain in Bristol.

I was unable to pursue these leads further. I am wondering if their later records may have been lost in the great fire of London in 1666. It was primarily inside the walled centre of the city which was crowded with many tradesmen. Many church records seem to have been lost in this fire. The last plague in London, which killed 15% of the population in the summer of 1665, could also be a factor. Later the sons seem to have gravitated back to Bristol.



There is a St Augustine the Less marriage record of Robert Guy and Widow Joan Atkines in 1644. This is interesting because Robert Guy of Doynnton (wife Joane) in 1652 seems to be the last Guy recorded holding the Sea Forest Estate at Cupids. In 1675 Stephen Atkins is reported minding the cattle of James Butler on the property.

## 9. Phillip Guy and the White Family

“To the modest, and vertuous *Widdow*,  
*Mistris Elizabeth Gye of Bristoll*,  
 whose dead *Husband Mlaster Philip Gye*,  
 was sometimes *Governour of the Plantation in Newfoundland*,  
 where he, and she lived many peeres happily and contentedly.”

Quodlibets  
 Booke 3 #98  
 Robert Hayman  
 Harbour Grace  
 (1628)

Not much is written about Philip Guy who was a patentee of the Newfoundland Company and seems to have continued an involvement in Newfoundland after John Guy departed. In John Guy's will he mentions his sister-in-law Elizabeth Guy with daughters Anne and Phillipp. This is likely his brother's family. On November 31st 1607 Phillip Guy married Elizabeth White in St Nicholas church in Bristol. In the burgess records of Bristol there is a record of a merchant Philip Gwye becoming a burgess in 1608. He is admitted based on his marriage to Elizabeth the daughter of merchant Thomas White Jr.

In the parish of St Nicholas at the same time there were two Thomas Whites, probably cousins, and both having daughters Elizabeth. The merchant's daughter was a minor in 1601. The draper's daughter was born in 1592 and is probably too young for marriage in 1607. The merchant Thomas Whytt married Ann Smythe in 1579. In 1580 he was named a burgess based on his wife, the widow of Thomas Smythe and daughter of John Suche and wife Agnes. John Suche was a merchant trading with Portugal in 1570 who owned a few houses including one on St Nicholas St.

Merchant Thomas White left seven orphaned minors at the time of his will in 1601. He is possibly the Thomas Whyte Jr apprenticed as a mercer in 1569. In his will, Thomas White, merchant, gives his son Thomas (III?) a ring which he received from Sir Francis Drake. Possibly he was involved in Drake's Caribbean adventures. He also held houses on Baldwin St and St Nicholas St.

John Guy's will mentions a Mrs. Charity White occupied part of his house on Small St.

The Whites were related to the merchant Cole family of Bristol. Richard Cole was mayor in 1585 and had a payment to Thomas White in his 1599 will. Alice Cole, widow of Richard Cole, remembers the children of the late Thomas White, merchant, in her 1605 will. In Thomas White's will, he mentions his godson Thomas Cole son of William. This may be the Thomas Cole who held ownership in 3 ships (*The Hope, The Fortune and the Bristol Merchant*) during the privateering boom in 1628 (war with France). William Cole had been a subscriber in the North Virginia ventures in the period 1602-1608.

In the 1580's a Grant of Letters Patent for the export of skins was given to a group of merchants including John Barker Sr. This resulted in the following conflict with a Forest of Dean merchant:

"This year in July 1587, near about St James fair, Mr. Thomas James and many other merchants of Bristoll, having obtained letters patents from our Queene for the sole transportation of calf-skins, and having intelligence that a woodbush of Brockwere was loaden with calfskins by Edward Whitson of Newland in the county of Glowcester, tanner, to be shipped aboard a French ship called the Esperanso in Kingrode (near Bristol), without compounding with the merchants for the same transporting or of paying any other custom : whereupon Mr. James, Thomas White, John Brimsdone, merchants, and others to the number of 13 went from hence in the searcher's pinnace, having one musket, half pikes, and some other offensive weapons, to meet the said woodboush and to make seizure and forfeit of the said

goods prohibited. The forest men were bold, and suspecting blows might happen, ye said Edward Whitson, with Walter Ely and others to the number of 11, had well fitted themselves with bows and arrows, pikes, targets and privy coats, stronger than our men for offence and defence. They met in Kingrode, resisted and shot arrows at the pinnacle, whereof Mr. Thomas White and others were hurt: but our men being hurt and so moved in their own defence, a musket was shot off (supposed) from Mr. James, which killed John Gethen, master and owner of the boat, for which the 2 sheriffs troubled him and seized upon his goods and others' that were with Mr. James. But Mr. James himself was indicted and arraigned at the Marshalsie in Sowthworke, and when no man gave evidence against him he was released as not guilty; but it cost him much besides his trouble.”<sup>29</sup>

### **Thomas James (1555-1619)**

Thomas James was a member of the local Forest of Dean gentry. His father, Edward, migrated from Brecon to Woolaston (near Lydney) on his marriage to Margaret Warren. Margaret’s father was William Warren from Hewelsfield Court near Brockweir. Her mother was the daughter of Mariana Catchmay who was the daughter Sir Thomas Catchmay (b1445), owner of the Bigsweir Estate just up the Wye from Brockweir. There seem to have been a number of Thomas James around Bristol concurrently so hopefully the following notes all apply to the same character.<sup>30</sup> I previously mentioned a Captain Thomas James and his quest for the Northwest Passage in 1631. This appears to be an unrelated Welsh individual.

As a young man, Thomas James migrated to Bristol and served an apprenticeship as a merchant with Henry Gough in 1571. There was a wealthy Gough family in the area of Lydney. Thomas James engaged in trade with the Spanish. By about 1577 he was part of a group of merchants petitioning the English government for compensation for losses in that trade. He personally claimed losses of £513. Later he sought his own payback by converting his ships to privateers. In 1596 English merchants were claiming £12,000 in losses “by sea” (due to the Spanish) in the three prior years. The raid on Cadiz was formulated in pursuit of compensation. Thomas James and Thomas Gennings outfitted the ship *Pleasure* for that venture and privateering. Later the City of Bristol claimed a total expense of £2,500 for its share of the Cadiz venture. The attack contributed to Spain's declaration of bankruptcy the following year.<sup>31</sup>



The privateering paid off handsomely and gave James a taste of the Newfoundland trade. In 1590 they took a ship from Brazil valued at £720 and in 1591 a French one.<sup>32</sup> This French ship, captured while returning from the discovery of the walrus fishery at the Magdalone Islands, was described as a (Catholic) “Leaguer prize Laden with trayne oyell, feshydes and teeth; her forty tons of oil, with walrus hides and tusks being officially worth £793 10s. (not more than half their real value).”<sup>33</sup>

Thomas James married Anne Gough in 1578 and had nine? children. He became a very successful businessman and a leading member of the Merchant Venturers. Thomas James acquired over 400 acres of land and property in the Forest of Dean in Woolaston and the Tidenham area close to Brockweir. Over the years he brought in apprentices from the Forest of Dean, including two family members and George Morgan from Lydney.

Thomas James served as mayor twice and as an MP. He had a very early interest in colonization and had been active in English plans to exploit the St Lawrence from 1591-7. He and John Guy were the largest subscribers from the Bristol Common Council in the North Virginia ventures in the period 1602-1608.<sup>34</sup> In his will he remembered various civic officers including those ‘which were my sheriffs’, two of whom, John Guy and John Langton, he named ‘executors in trust’. A Thomas James Jr. from Bristol was the apprentice of John Guy in 1604.

### 11. The Catchmaids/Catchmays

A William Chatchmayde was named in the formation of the colony at Cuper’s Cove in 1611. Bigsweir, on the river Wye, was the ancient seat of the Catchmaid family. There were also branches across the border in Wales. The Newfoundland Company document ascertaining the commission of John Guy as governor includes contingencies in the event of his death:<sup>35</sup>

“...then wee ordayne Phillipp Guy to succeed him in the government who shall undertake and continue his charge following the instructions here unto annexed until such tyme as we shall otherwise dispose thereof in case the said Phillipp Guy so succeeding shall likewise dye then do wee then ordayne William Chatchmayde to succeed in the government...”



John Guy’s connection to the Catchmays was through his wife Anne Bucke. There is a marriage settlement of George Catchmay and Elizabeth Bucke of Aylburton involving numerous properties in 1574.<sup>36</sup> There seems to have been a branch of the Catchmays in Aylburton. In the military survey of 1522 Matthew and John Catchmay are named as able men there.

In the Bristol port books a George Ketchemaye of Bigg Weare was exporting millstones to Cork and Dublin in 1601. Apparently they could be mined on his estate. The church registers were destroyed but George is believed to be the son of Sir Richard Ketchmaye Sr. In 1605 George was one of the partners in both the Tynterne and Lydbrooke iron works.<sup>37</sup> In 1568 the Company of Mineral and Battery Works, leveraging a processing monopoly, had built a wireworks at Tinterne about 6 km downstream from Bigsweir on the Wye River.

Sir Richard Catchmay had an interest in New World adventures. He was a patentee of the New England Charter, participating in their second colony.<sup>38</sup> This was in 1620. His daughter Mary married a Francis Cutts. John Guy’s daughter would later marry into the Cutts family in Bristol.

In 1602 merchant Thomas James took on the apprentice William Catchmay. He was the son of Christopher Catchmay of Mitchel Troy, Wales.

In 1619 William Catchmaye of Tynterne assigned a lease of land with fishing rights to Benedict Hall. Matthew Buck was one of the witnesses.

## 12. The Merediths

William Meredith was an investor in the Newfoundland Company. Not much is known about his participation although he was slow in making full payment. He would have been known to John Guy in Lydney. James Buck mentions William Meredith as a son-in law. He mentions Michael and George Meredith as well.

In 1607 Nicholas Meredith was "admytted into the liberties of the Cytie for that he was the prentise of Mr. Alderman Whitson".<sup>39</sup> Six years later he was appointed Chamberlain of Bristol and he continued to hold the office for thirty-three years. A Merchant Venturer, it seems he was comparatively wealthy, and may have continued his activities as a merchant while holding the office of chamberlain. His will mentions a Michael Meredith and unspecified brothers. It is probably the same family. Nicholas married Mary, daughter of Alderman Abel Kitchin. This seems to provide a weak family connection between John Guy and Abel Kitchin as is sometimes speculated.

## 13. The Colonies in Newfoundland

The fact that the Newfoundland Company made John Guy governor probably indicates that mining exploration was more important than previously indicated. The venture was meant to include a geological specialist who unfortunately abandoned the project just prior to sailing. I thought that Percival Willoughby was the driving force behind the quest for minerals. After understanding more about John Guy's background, I have to wonder if John Guy was similarly on a metallic quest. The possibility of the two gents having worked together prior to the formation of the Newfoundland Company is intriguing. The companies that were financed through share offerings needed to pitch a quick route to high profits which would not be fulfilled by a fishing/agricultural enterprise.

John Guy had first-hand knowledge of iron processing and management, the limitations of English iron and the conflicts caused by a national shortage of wood resources to support operations. Such were the constraints on wood that in 1610 he even wrote that the economics might justify bringing ore from England to produce iron in Newfoundland.<sup>40</sup> Extraordinarily, his analysis seems to be based on the "rate of the flemminge fraighte this voyage". It seems Guy was open to the advantages of Dutch efficiency as beneficial to Newfoundland, although this same efficiency would be the cause of Dutch exclusion thirty years later. According to Willoughby's man Crout he and John Guy had found iron ten miles from Renews. In 1620, long after Guy's departure, the Newfoundland Company applied for and received the permission to ship iron ore to Newfoundland.<sup>41</sup>

Patents in the metals industry were being given on processes and Guy may have had access to these via Catchmay relatives. Much has been made of a fallout between the Bristolians and Londoners in the Newfoundland Company. I am wondering if this dispute was primarily between John Slaney and John Guy. During their dispute, John Slaney states that Guy had oversold the possibilities of mineral resource development.<sup>42</sup> One has to wonder if the name Cuper's Cove was derived from the pursuit of iron. Perhaps one of the reasons for John Guy's departure was the failure to find commercial mineral deposits.

I have already mentioned how tightly held the Bristol's Hope colony was. In fact it was even more extreme than I originally thought. We have now seen that Thomas Davies who appeared to be an outlier was probably an apprentice of John Barker Sr. There is a record in the Port Books of Bristol that has John Barker and Thomas Davis bringing in product together from Toulon on the *Guifte of God* in 1601.



To summarize - John Barker Jr, Mayor at the time of the founding, seeming to have been the father figure of the colony. John Barker Jr., two of his brothers-in-law Richard Long and Andrew Charlton, a co-father-in-law John Goninge and his father's apprentices Thomas Davis and John Doughty (whose brother Francis had married Barker's cousin) probably account for 6 of 12 original patentees. Peter Miller appears to have been very close to fellow mercer John Doughty. Miller was Sherrif in 1620 when Doughty was Mayor. I assume that this connection, and Robert Hayman's specifically naming him, makes him as a high probability patentee. Francis Downtie had been recorded bringing in fish from Newfoundland as early as 1601 on the ship *Desier*. John Barker had used the *Speedwell* to ship fish out to Bayonne in 1600. Bristol's Hope was not likely to experience a loss of control as may have happened at Cuper's Cove. But John Barker may have taken a page out of John Guy's book.

In the case of the Cuper's Cove colony, John Guy seems to have ensured that the governorship could not leave the family as a result of his demise in office. His brother Phillip and his wife's cousin (?) were the backup candidates. James Buck's will identified Anne Guy as his daughter, William Catchmaid as his kinsman (BIL?) and William Meredith as a son-in-law. William Meredith was an also an investor. Keeping the governorship in the family was probably not unreasonable as Guy seemed to be fronting the cost of infrastructure for the nascent colony. A William Meredith (Jr?) married Elizabeth, the daughter of John Langton. John Langton was another patentee. So it seems like John Guy had a block of loyal interested parties as well.

It does not appear to me that there was a broad schism between the established Bristol and London merchants of the Newfoundland Company. I believe an opportunistic core of primarily new Bristol entrants launched the satellite venture called Bristol's Hope. Some Bristol merchants seemed to maintain their connection in Cupids and likewise the Guy family interest in their Cupids property was continued. Apart from John Guy's sons apprenticing in London, the latest indication of the ties between the two cities may be found in the merchant's Exchange of Bristol. One of the tables there is engraved "Nicholas Crisp of London gave me, to this honourable city, in remembrance of God's mercy, in Anno Domini 1625. N.G."<sup>43</sup> Nicholas was the eldest son of Ellis Crispe, a patentee in the Newfoundland Company. He had made a substantial loan to Matthew Haviland of Bristol (another patentee) and his daughter Hester Crispe had married Thomas Fownes (of the Plymouth branch). These Fownes were the in-laws of the Bristol patentee Richard Holworthy.



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## DEATH IN ICEBERG ALLEY

By Milton Anstey

Twillingate (first named by the French as "Toulinquet") is comprised mainly of two islands in Notre Dame Bay, in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. If you depart from the town of Lewisporte, and travel the Road to the Isles, you will pass scenic, island-dotted bays, and rural coastal communities. Farther along the route causeways link an archipelago of islands jutting out from the mainland. After passing over the final causeway from New World Island, the journey terminates at Twillingate, the twin islands that guard the entrance to the eastern side of Notre Dame Bay. The road crosses the Twillingate South Island, comes to a bridge that connects to the North Island, meanders across that island, and comes to an end on elevated land at the Long Point lighthouse. The coastlines of Twillingate, ever since the formation of the islands, have been washed by the rolling and thrashing waves of the North Atlantic Ocean.



Twillingate has been assigned the moniker "Iceberg Capital of the World". The spectacular frozen freshwater icebergs that float past Newfoundland and Labrador every spring and summer originate from Greenland's glaciers, where monolithic chunks of ice calve off and cascade into the bone-chilling waters of Davis Strait. The new-born bergs drift to the Labrador Sea, where powerful currents carry them south along the ocean route known as Iceberg Alley. Twillingate is ideally located for viewing and admiring these giants of nature. Tourists flock to visit Twillingate in the spring and summer seasons when the frozen goliaths are present along the coastal areas. Although, I suppose, no one actually counts icebergs, there are thousands of them migrating down from the north annually.

Although breathtaking to view and a benefit to the present-day tourism industry, in times past icebergs were considered to be a scourge to the fishery. Fishermen were averse to the presence of the invading giants because they had a habit of drifting into their nets and cod traps causing considerable damage and loss of income. It is commonplace for a drifting iceberg to become grounded near the coastline, or wedged within the more sheltered harbours and coves. As the monstrous ice chunks melt in the warmer climates and their equilibrium adjusts, they have a habit of rolling over or breaking apart, sometimes without warning, throwing lumps of ice and razor-sharp splinters plopping into the sea around them. These goliaths can effectuate tragedy upon the unsuspecting or careless boater. Such was the case when devastation was wrecked upon a Moors family of Twillingate in 1873.



The progenitor of the Moors family at Twillingate was John Moors, who was born in 1732, in the New Forest region, of the County of Hampshire, England. He was one of the earliest English settlers at Twillingate, selecting as his abode a parcel of waterfront property in the sheltered inlet of Back Harbour on the Twillingate North Island. John Moors married Lydia Smith, a daughter of another pioneer settler at Twillingate. They raised a large family, with some of their children born in England, and others in Twillingate. One of their sons was James Moors, who was born in 1778. James Moors married Elizabeth White, a daughter of John White, a native of Hazelbury Bryan, Dorset, England, who was one of the early, small-scale merchants at Twillingate.

James Moors and Elizabeth White, in keeping with the Moors tradition, had the usual large complement of children. One of their sons was John Moors, who was born in 1825, and who is the principal subject of the story being related in this article. John Moors took as his bride in 1851 at Twillingate, Susanna Roberts, a young woman from another well-established family from the Bluff Head Cove region of Twillingate. They also made their abode on Moors land at Back Harbour, where they begat nine children, born between the early 1850s and the early 1870s. One can only imagine the continuous and exhaustive work required in the early settlement years in the remote location of Twillingate to provide food, clothing and housing for a large family. The severity of life's challenges must have been sometimes overwhelming. But John Moors, as the head of a household in those early times, was up to the task. He was a member of an industrious family. Laziness was not a word found in his vocabulary, nor did it exist in his daily routine. He laboured at the fishery, hunted seals, farmed vegetables, and cut firewood to provide the necessaries of life for his large family. As a middle-aged man, John Moors must have had a desire to prepare a last will and testament. He did so in 1867, at the age of 42 years, naming his wife Susanna, and his aged mother Elizabeth. He made reference in the will to his children without actually naming them. He also made mention of his schooner "Susan". In constituting a will while in the prime of his life, did John Moors foresee a premature end to his time on this earth?

A few years passed by, and John Moors continued to provide for his family, all while fathering additional children. On the morning of August 7, 1873, he rose from his bed ready to undertake his daily chores. His first job was to check his herring nets to see if he had a successful overnight catch. His objective was to secure a seasonal catch of herring as food for his family. As he prepared his rowboat for a paddle out to his nets, only a short distance from his home, he could readily see that an iceberg had drifted into the vicinity, and his mind was disturbed over the likelihood of his fishing gear having been damaged. He determinedly left his wharf, not realizing he was undertaking his final jaunt in his rowboat. Upon arrival, he could see that the iceberg had

lodged against his nets and it was going to entail some effort to untangle and haul his gear into the boat. As he was diligently working, unexpectedly and suddenly, the berg fractured and rolled over, struck and crushed his boat, and threw him into the icy water. He may have been knocked unconscious by being hit with a chunk of ice, or he may have succumbed to hypothermia caused by the cold ocean water, the result was that he drowned. He was 48 years of age.

This is the last Will and Testament of  
John Moors of Back Harbour Twillingate in  
the Northern District of Newfoundland, I do hereby  
First Give devise and bequeath to my  
lawful Wife my Dwelling House in which I now  
reside together with all my other houses and  
buildings wherever situated, also all my

There is in existence an old handwritten diary authored by a man named Pearce of Twillingate. An entry in this diary, for August 7, 1873, reads, "John Moors killed or drowned by the foundering of an island of ice, part of his punt being up near Offer Rock, also his herring net, no sign of his body." Another entry logged for August 7, 1873, mentions, "Several punts out in search of John Moors' body, no sign." A third entry in the chronicle, dated August 8, 1873, reads, "The body of John Moors found by James Tizzard, jiggged from the bottom near where the ice foundered on him." A final entry in the diary, dated August 10, 1873, confirms that, "John Moors was buried at the chapel."

Capt. James Tizzard and John Tizzard, I do hereby give the body  
of John Moors found by James Tizzard jiggged from the bottom  
near where the ice foundered on him, to my friend Tizzard and his

The following notation is entered in the Twillingate Methodist burial record of John Moors, on August 10, 1873: "Son of the first person who entertained Reverend William Marshall - supposed to have lost his life by the foundering pan ice being not far from his home."

The 'Telegraph and Political Review' newspaper, published at St. John's, August 27, 1873 edition, published an account of the death of John Moors. The newspaper noted the "deceased was from Back Harbour, Twillingate North Island. He died while trying to free his nets from an iceberg, left a wife and nine children."

As stated, the recovered body of John Moors was laid to rest at Twillingate. His middle-aged widow and nine fatherless children were left to face the hardships and uncertainties of life in that difficult 1800s period. It must have been a daunting and lonely experience. It is likely the children were separated, and fostered in the households of generous relatives and friends. The sorrowing widow did not remarry.

The lesson in this true-story being, while icebergs are picturesque to view, it is prudent to grant them respect by avoiding entry into close proximity to them. Being up close can result in a calamity, causing great suffering and sadness, as witnessed in this case from the early history of Twillingate.

## A COURT CASE SOLVES A FAMILY MYSTERY

By Robert Halfyard

My maternal grandmother Amelia Louisa Anguin Bishop (1850-1913) wife of Samuel Halfyard III (1847-1930) was daughter of John Bishop (1812-1886) and Clarimond Jacobs (1819-1908). John Bishop was son of John Bishop (d 1812) and Patience Youngs (c 1790-c 1862). According to family lore, John Bishop Sr. was drowned in Sep 1812 and Patience remarried Jacob Whalen of Bradley's Cove, Conception Bay in 1816. John Bishop Jr. went to live with his mother and step father in Bradley's Cove and lived out his life there, raising a large family by two wives. Our branch of the family knew very little about any other Bishop relatives.

Much of the above information was verified by records.

A number of years ago, I examined the Marriages of Harbour Grace Anglican Church in the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador and found the following marriages:

*Married at Harbour Grace 26 Nov 1811, John Bishop, bachelor, to Patience Youngs, spinster, both of Upper Island Cove; Witnesses William Youngs and Francis Bishop by L A Ausbach.<sup>1</sup>*

*Married at Harbour Grace 6 Feb 1816, Jacob Whealan, Bachelor, of Bradley's Cove to Patience Bishop, widow, of Island Cove; Witnesses: Elizabeth Lampen and John Corven by F H Carrington.<sup>2</sup>*

In 1989 the late Jessie Shaw, an indefatigable researcher, and a cousin, wrote to me of some discoveries that she had made at the Maritime History Archive. She found the following item at the Conception Bay Surrogate Court:

25 May 1815: "John Bishop, deceased of Island Cove, his father, Henry [was] sued for obstructing justice. He had padlocked the door of his house to stop his widow Patience letting the house. Fined 40/-d.<sup>3</sup> (He had prevented the constable from taking possession. Patience wished to rent to a schoolmaster), This may explain the rift in the Bishop family.

Once again referring to Marriages of Harbour Grace Anglican Church:

*Married at Harbour Grace 24 Sep 1784 Henry Bishop and Frances Jones both of Port de Grave by J Balfour.<sup>4</sup> (No marital status or witnesses were recorded).*

Last year I had my DNA done by Ancestry. The results show that Henry Bishop and Frances Jones were my 3x great grandparents. However, when identifying Henry Bishop's parents we run into difficulties. We find a Henry Case Bishop baptized in 1770, son of John Bishop and Mary Hutchinson. That Henry would be fourteen at the time Henry Bishop married Frances Jones, which is not likely unless he was baptized when he was mature! There definitely appear to be two Henry Bishops in this time period!

Jessie Shaw discovered that in Apr 1827 Henry Bishop left an Estate of 780 pounds sterling.<sup>5</sup> (Co 184/78). There was also a will filed for Henry Bishop of Island Cove in 1841! Some of the contacts I found through Ancestry DNA chose one Henry as their ancestor, and some the other. Until I find proof which one is my ancestor, I am claiming Henry (c1758-1827) as my ancestor, and I wait for better proof to name his parents.

On 18 May 1860 Patience Whealon, wife of the late Jacob Whealon of Bradley's Cove in Conception Bay in the Island of Newfoundland drew up her will. She names her sons John Bishop, William Whealon,

Nathaniel Whealan and Jessias Whealon, and daughters Elizabeth and Tamar. She appointed James Penny King as executor. She signed with an “x”. Witnesses were James P King, John Crocker and Nathaniel Whealan. (the first two signed but Nathaniel used an “x”). Administration of the will was granted on 28 Nov 1862 to William King of Bradley’s Cove. James Penny King was the husband of her daughter Elizabeth and William King was the husband of her daughter Tamar. James and Elizabeth moved to Deer Harbour, Random Island and may have gone between the time the will was drawn and it was probated. <sup>6</sup>

I have never been able to find a record of Patience’s death, which had to have occurred between 18 May 1860 and 28 Nov 1862. I have concluded that the clergyman neglected to enter her death in the burial register. I have also never been able to find the death record of my 2x great grandfather Samuel Halfyard I, and since his name appeared on the Voters’ List in 1855<sup>7</sup> I think it is likely that he died in the same period.

1. PANL. The Rooms, St. John's, NL. Harbour Grace Anglican (Harbour Grace, Newfoundland), *Marriages 46A & PS/A13, Box 2*. "marriage 1811," Bishop-Youngs.
2. Ibid "marriage 1816," Whealan-Bishop (Youngs)
3. Maritime History Archive, Conception Bay Surrogate Court
4. Op. Cit. "marriage 1784," Bishop-Jones
5. Maritime History Archive, Conception Bay Surrogate Court, Co194/78
6. Supreme Court of Newfoundland and Labrador, *Probate files*. (). Rec. Date: 30 Jul 2008, Vol # 2 folio 488, 1862, Will of Patience Whealon.
7. PANL. The Rooms, St. John's, NL *Voter's Lists, District of Conception Bay*. Voter's list, North Shore of Conception Bay, 1855; Samuel Halfyard Sr.



## GOLDSTONE STREET NEAR THE FAMILY HISTORY OFFICE

By Pat Walsh

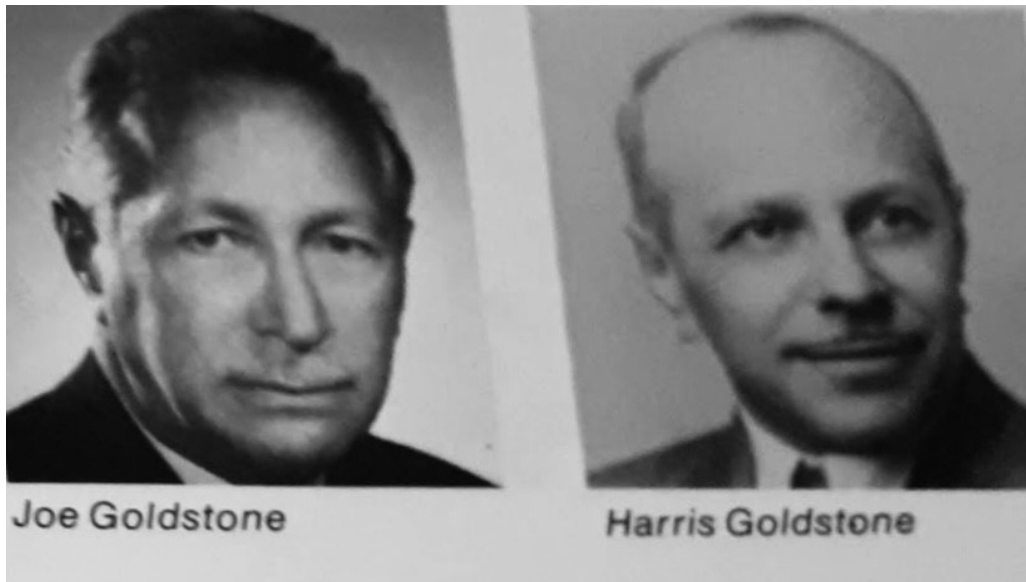
All roads may not lead to The Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador office on Pippy Place in St. John's, but Goldstone Street does. It is named for Joe Goldstone, owner and operator of the London, New York and Paris. "The London", a well known department store which was on Water Street. Goldstone Street was named by St. John's City Council on October 7, 1981. Harris and Joe Goldstone, sons of Israel Goldstone, operated the store together. Their first storefront was in the Grace Building which is an example of a turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century mercantile/office building in St. John's, built after the fire of 1892. In 1917 the Goldstones had two stores on Bell Island. The London, New York & Paris retail clothing store was established in 1917 by Harris and Joseph was the manager. The business was sold in 1973 to Maxwell Janes. (See Volume 3, **The Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador**)

In 1952 the brothers moved to the Baird Building on Water Street. In the rear of the building, overlooking the harbour, was the James Baird fishery supply & general import business, operating from 1894 until the 1950s. The Family History Society rented office space there for a short while following the Harvey Road fire in December, 1992.

I remember as a young boy going to shop on Water Street with my mother. We shopped at The London, Ayres, Bowring's and the Royal Stores. Other stores we frequented were Bon Marche, The Musical Clock, Sally's, Trapnell's, The Sports Shop, Parker & Monroe, Tooton's, Woolworth's and for a treat, The Sweet Shop.

Israel Goldstone, 1866 – 1931, was born in Poland. The 1921 Census for St. John's West shows the family living on Leslie Street. Attie, wife of Israel, was also born in Poland in 1872. Children listed were Mollie, born in 1897 in New York, Bertha, born in St. John's in 1902, Rosie, St. John's in 1905, Charles, St. John's, 1909 & Louis, St. John's in 1916. Joseph Goldstone was listed in the 1921 Census for Burin. He was a Boarder in a residence owned by a Charles Bishop. The Census indicated that he was born in 1899 in Utica, New York. In May 1918, Harris Goldstone, aged 21, signed up to join the Royal Newfoundland Regiment in St. John's. His Attestation papers listed him as a salesman from Bell Island. Harris was medically discharged in June 1918. *The Daily News* of March 1920, in the wedding announcements, stated that Harris married Annie Marcus, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia.

Joseph Goldstone was an accomplished athlete at Bishop Field College in St. John's. (See Volume 2 **The Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador**). He operated a dry goods store in Burin, with assistance from his father. The store was lost in a fire in 1918 or 1919. Joe then



joined his brother to operate The London. Harris was the buyer & Joseph was the store manager. (*The Daily News*, August 26, 1977). Joseph was married to Mary Ida Spurell, 1908 -1986, daughter of William & Sarah. Mary died in BC. Their son William, born in 1936, also died in BC in 1974.

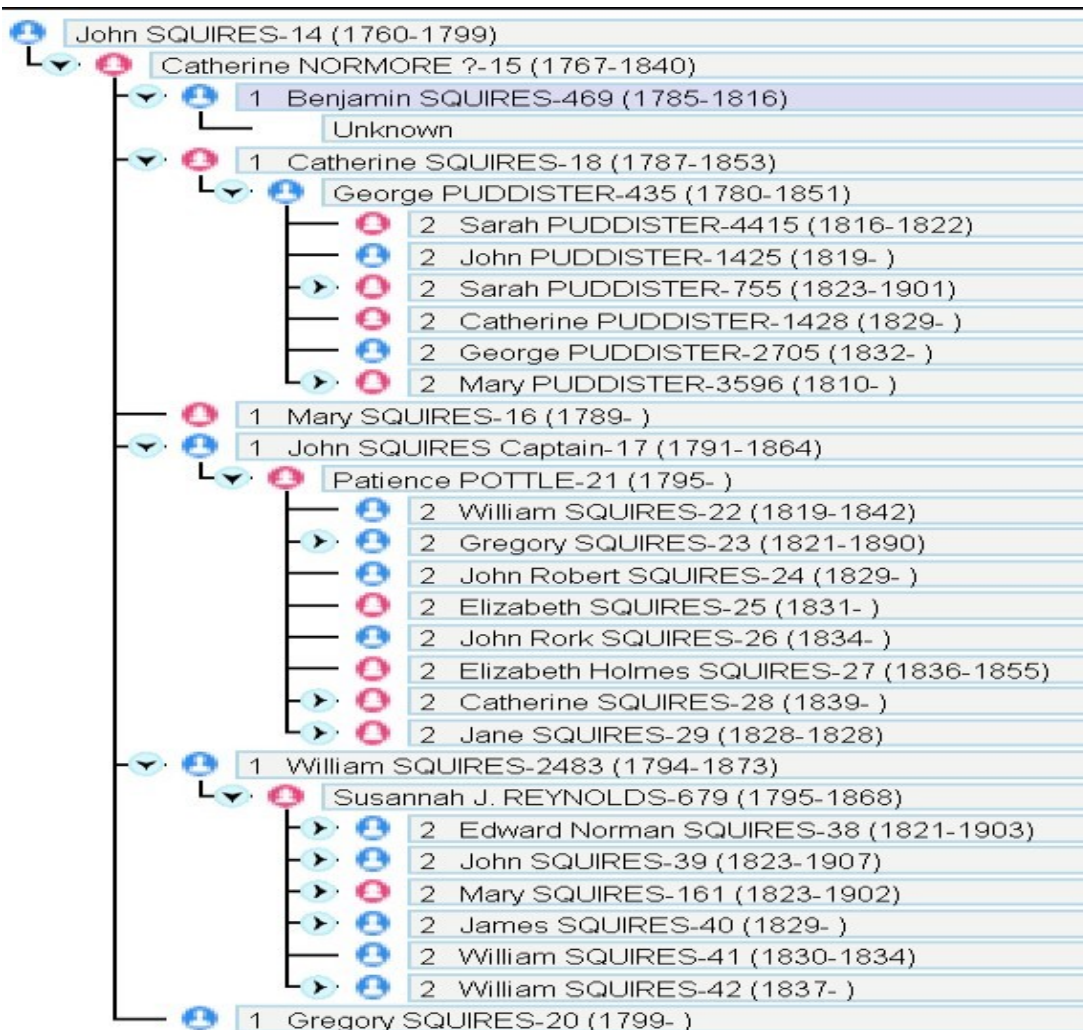
Harris died in Montreal, Quebec in 1974. Joseph died in 1979 in Florida. Other prominent names from the Jewish community in St. John's following World War I were Wilansky, Levitz, Rosenberg & Saxon. Prior to the 1900s, Israel & Frank Perlin opened a wholesale & retail store on Water Street. (See Volume 2 **The Encyclopedia of Newfoundland & Labrador**, page 901-902.)

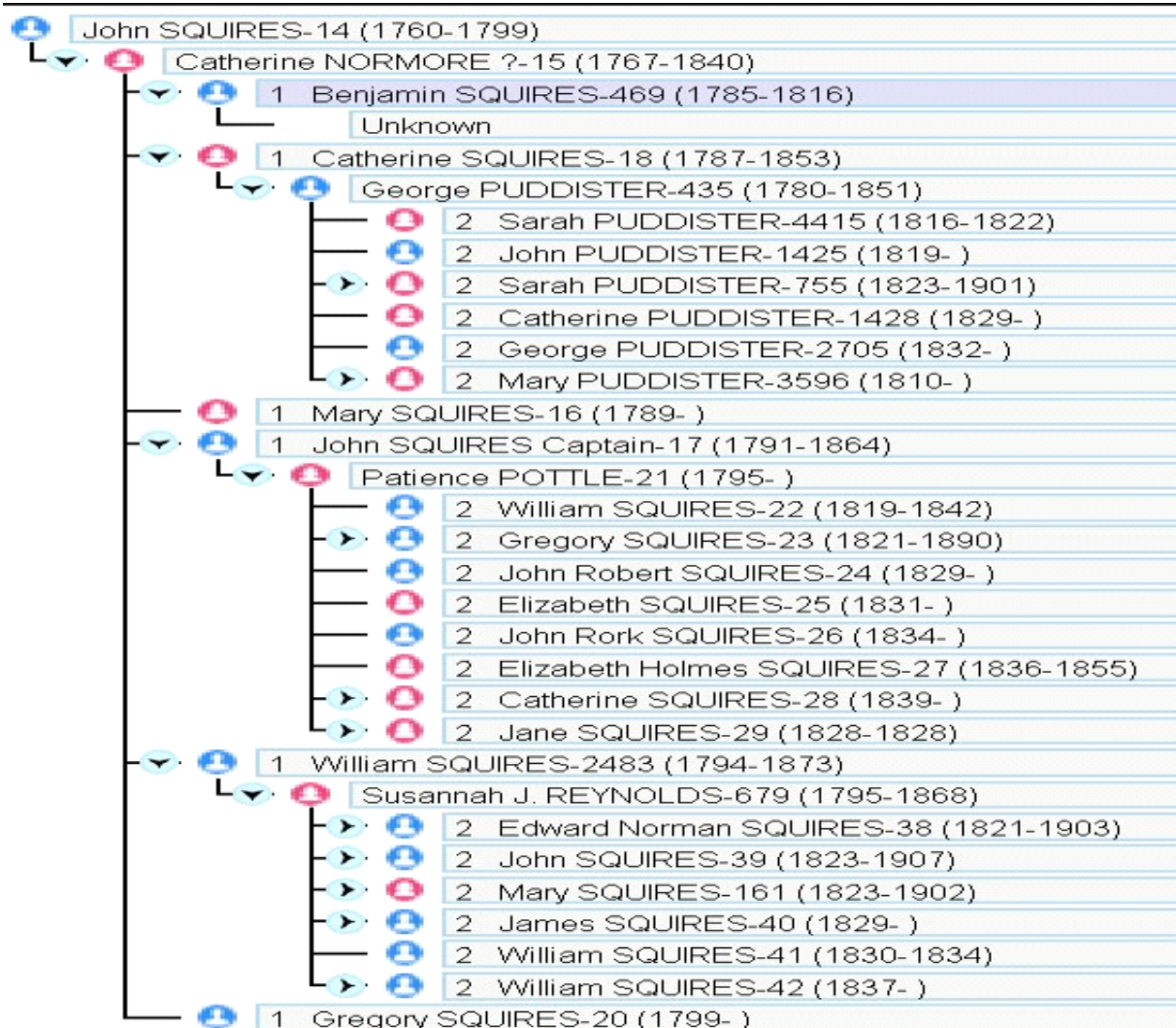
Pippy Place, the street location of our office, was named on May 24, 1972, for Chesley A. Pippy, an industrial entrepreneur. Perhaps another article may be warranted.

## LINKING PITTS FAMILY OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND DEVON, ENGLAND

Susan Squires

In 2009, the Newfoundland Ancestor kindly published my short article on how YDNA, which is passed from father to son, confirmed the surprising paternity of John Squires of Belle Island. The article was also published in the ISOGG newsletter . (<https://isogg.org/newsletters/Oct-Nov2009.pdf>). To summarize the surprise, I reported that the Squires YDNA only matched men by the name of Pitts. Additional testing of Squires YDNA from a distant cousin, confirmed that the Pitts YDNA had been part of the paternity of the Squires family since at least 1820. This finding suggested that the father of John Squires, my great x 5 grandfather was a Pitts, the father of John Squires of Belle Island. John Squires was born about 1760, married Catherine whose last name Normore was suggested by the late Rev John Hammond. John Squires drowned in 1799 when his ship went down in Conception Bay leaving 6 small children. Below are the descendants of John Squires. Edward Norman Squires, the grandson of John Squires, has confirmed Pitts YDNA. He is marked below with a red arrow.





Catherine Squires remarried Sylvester Topp/Tapp in 1807 and her sons Benjamin and Gregory joined Sylvester in the fishery on Belle Island. The other children, Catherine, John and William Squires, moved to Broad Cove Conception Bay North where they married and had their children. There has always been speculation about who the father of John Squires was. Before the YDNA results, Benjamin Squires Jr. of Belle Island was often put forward as his father. John would be the right age to fit within the family as you can see from the family grouping below of Benjamin Squires and his children. His oldest son Francis is marked in red. This will be important later in the article.

Benjamin SQUIRES-392 (1730-1779)	
✓	Frances WILLIAMS ? SMITH?-393 (1740- )
▶	1 Francis SQUIRES-414 (1760- )
▶	1 Jane SQUIRES-2701 (1765- )
▶	1 Ann SQUIRES-2697 (1765- )
—	1 Nicholas SQUIRES-437 (1770- )
▶	1 Benjamin SQUIRES-436 (1770- )
▶	1 Richard SQUIRES-394 (1771- )
▶	1 Sarah SQUIRES-2800 (1776-1877)
▶	1 Elizabeth SQUIRES-2694 (1780- )

Since the first discovery, improved genetic testing using autosomal DNA (atDNA), which can be passed along to males and females, has confirm my Pitts heritage. To date, I have one “cousin” on 23&me who is descended from James Pitts Jr. and six relatives on Ancestry.com who are all the descendants of James Sr. None of these individuals share any other relatives with me. Further, the algorithms used by the testing companies to identify a common ancestor confirm, with high confidence, that our shared or common ancestor is James Pitts Sr. Since my article on the paternity of John Squires was published, I have also confirmed an autosomal DNA match with a descendent of Francis Squires of Belle Island marked with a red arrow above. John’s mother was indeed a Squires perhaps the sister of Benjamin Squires Jr. and aunt of Francis Squires.

### **Who was James Pitts and how did he find himself in Newfoundland in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century?**



Lance Cove, Belle Island Circa 1880 from Original Settlers Project on Word Press

According to his tombstone James Pitts was born in Kennford, Devon. In *An Outport Revisited*, the author, Lloyd C. Rees, wrote that James Pitts arrived on Belle Island about 1780. On the 1794-95 census for Belle Island, James Pitts reported he had been in Newfoundland for about 43 years arriving about 1751 at age 16. At that time James was renting land from Francis Squires the eldest son of Benjamin Squires Jr. which does suggest a connection to this family. The same Francis marked in red on the Squires family grouping above. Rees speculated on the arrival of James Pitts based on the date of his marriage. In 1780 James married Ann Eastcock. He was about 45 years old. This gives James Pitts more than enough time to have a first marriage which may have ended with the death of his wife and adoption of baby John by the Squires family. James Pitts died in April of 1805 on Belle Island.

According to the family of James Pitts, he was born in Kennford, Devon about 1735 the son of John. This information about his birth was duly recorded on his tombstone sometime after his death. Kennford is a small hamlet on the Kenn river within the parish of Kenn. When James was born, Kennford must have had just a hand full of families living there. For comparison, in the 1831 census the entire 7000 acres in the Kenn parish was inhabited by less than 1000 individuals.



Old Post Card of Kennford 19<sup>th</sup> Century

The family may have lived on Lamacraft Farm, Kennford, where James' brother, John Pitts, was indenturing servants in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (West Coun).



Lamacraft Farm

About three miles from Kennford is the village of Exminster just south of Exeter on the River Exe. In the Church records at St. Martin's Church are the family of John and Mary Pitts who baptized their children there. Information on the children is as follows:

- John: August 1731: He married Mary Chown and had a son John. He appears to have inherited the family property. He died about 1799 in Kennford.
- George: June 1733 died just a short time later in Kennford
- James: April 1736 believed to be James of Belle Island who died 1805
- Mary: March 1738

### Due Diligence: Ruling Out Other Pitts Candidates

There is another James Pitts baptized at Exeter in 1736 but his father's name was James not John. Pitts family genealogist maintain that John and Mary Pitts of Kennford are the best matches to the family lore passed down in the family. Identifying the parents of John Pitts of Kennford has been elusive. While there are many families named Pitts in Devon, there are surprisingly few in the Parish of Kenn. John and Mary may not have been from Kennford originally. There is no marriage record for John and Mary Pitts in the Exminster records and no birth record for John either. Twenty-two miles from Kennford is the village of Churston Ferrers. In *The Ancestors of James Pitts*, the author, C. F. Belem, considers the Pitts of Powderham, about 4.5 miles from Kennford. A John Pitts married Sarah Barret there in 1686 and had a number of children: John in 1687, Mary 1691, George 1694, James 1697, Mary 1701-1705 and Elizabeth 1702-1705. Belem claims John Pitts born in 1686 is the John of Kennford who, at age 46, married Mary Harris at Churston Ferrers in 1732. However, John and Mary (Harris) Pitts lived out their lives in Churston Ferrer and had all their children baptized at the local church between 1733 and 1750. This mistake calls into question the entire document suggesting that the author constructed a genealogy based on name similarity and geographic proximity alone rather than doing the research properly.

One clue is in *Notes on the Churches of the Deanery of Kenn, Devon* written by Beatrix F. Cresswell in 1906. On page 167 she notes Elias Pitts who died in 1765 was "for many years a respected merchant of this (Kenn) parish." Mary, his wife, died in 1792. In the will of his wife, are a list of the property owned by her late husband, Elias, in West Teignmouth, South Bovey, Chudleigh, Exminster and *on the Island of Newfoundland*. Mary also mentions her husband's sailing ships (England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Piece 1220: Fountain, Quire Numbers 330-376 1792). The village of Kenn is .5 miles from Kennford. Is Elias Pitts of West Teignmouth, Kenn and Newfoundland the father of John Pitts of Kennford and the link to James Pitts of Belle Island?

### Pitts of Teignmouth Connection












Teignmouth was an important port beginning in the middle ages. From the 17th to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the cod fishery in Newfoundland was a significant part of the Teignmouth economy (Trump 1986).



Old Print of Teignmouth 1817

Elias Pitts was born in 1700 in Plymouth Devon but made his primary home in Teignmouth. He was a merchant who made his fortune in the Newfoundland trade. He owned premises on the harbour at Fermeuse purchased when on 6th January 1749 an indenture was made between one Thomas Kingman of Lypstone, mariner and Philip Noyle of Exeter, merchant on the one part and Elias Pitt of Teignmouth, mariner, on the other, in consideration of £10-10s- (for) "...three storehouses with the room there unto belonging and situated and lying within the harbour of Fermeuse in Newfoundland late in the possession of William Potter of Topsham, mariner, and which were purchased by him (William Potter) of one William Parker, planter, together with all and singular the rights members and appurtences belonging...." (NL Ancestry 33:144). On 22 Sept 1755 Gov. Dorrill at St. John's ordered Elias Pitts of Fermeuse to pay the debt owed to Thomas Thomas (Deeds of Clients Properties, Newfoundland, 1749) of 3 Storehouses & room in Harbor of Fermeuse purchased by Potter of Topsham, Parker, a planter, Kingman of Lypston, a mariner, and Pitts of Teignmouth, mariner.

Elias Pitts became a very prominent citizen of Devon where he was a justice of the peace for the county. When he died suddenly on the steps of the Exeter castle, where he was to be on the grand jury (Squarry pg. 74), he was a wealthy man with a primary residence in West Teignmouth and a country estate in the Parish of Kenn known locally as the Pitts Estate. He had also set up a 400-pound annuity with the Bank of England in 1745 for his wife which she accessed in 1775 (Bank Of England Wills Extracts 1717-1845). Elias Pitts married Mary Bickford on 6 January 1724 at West Teignmouth. Their children were all baptized in West Teignmouth. Elias Pitts and family are listed as follows:

	Elias PITTS Mariner-11 (1700-1785)
	Mary BICKFORD-15 (1702-1792)
	1 Evan PITTS-22 (1725-1781)
	1 Ann PITTS-18 (1729- )
	1 Mary PITTS-25 (1731-1745)
	1 Bickford PITTS-20 (1734- )
	1 Joanna PITTS-23 (1737- )
	1 Agnes PITTS-16 (1739-1739)
	1 Elias PITTS-21 (1741-1741)
	1 Agnes PITTS-17 (1742- )
	1 Maria PITTS-26 (1745- )

Evan never married and died Jun 1781. Ann married Moses Tozer 1762. Mary married Rev. Charles Locke. Bickford never married, drowned in Newfoundland. Elias died 1741. Agnes married Robert Squarry 1772. Maria married Michael Whitborne 1773. Joanna married Richard Brewer 1768. Agnes died young. But, there is no record that Elias and Mary Pitts ever had a son John.

Another possible father of John Pitts of Kennford comes from online Devon National Archives (reference 46 F 156). In 1720 an apprenticeship agreement between John Pitts, son of Samuel, a Mariner, and Thomas Abell, Shipwright of Topsham, was initiated. John would have been 15 or 16 at the time. In 1732 a John Pitts was now a tidesman, or customhouse officer, at Topsham in Clyst St George parish (QS/21/1732/11 Devon National Archives). Topsham is just a couple of miles by boat from Kennford.



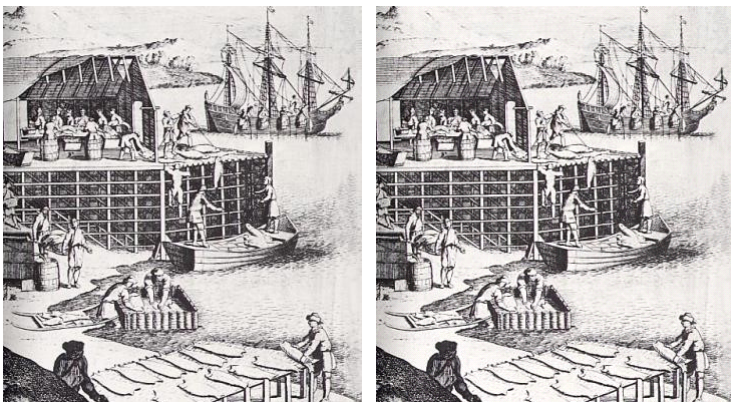
The mariner, Samuel Pitts, was also from Teignmouth and had property in Exminster. Between 1717 and 1720 Samuel Pitts purchased several properties from George Randall including premises at Kittlehayes in Exminster, the site of a former dwelling house in East Teignmouth, Three Corner Park, Woodaway and Paradise in East Teignmouth. (Devon Archives and Local Studies Service Reference:1926 B/RB/T/2/9). Samuel Pitts had married Mary Bickford at East Teignmouth in January of 1685. Administrative records (106/699/ folio 122) list Samuel as a boatswain or bosun, the senior crewman of the deck, on the Barfleur. While it is most likely this is Samuel Sr. it could be his son Samuel Jr. (See the children of Samuel and Mary below.) Samuel and Mary (Bickford) Pitts had a daughter and three sons.

The youngest son of Samuel Pitts, John, is the boy apprenticed as a shipwright at Topsham. In 1740 a John Pitts was the captain of the True Intent transporting goods for Elias Pitts. This John Pitts is most certainly the son of Samuel and younger brother of Elias Pitts the wealthy merchant with property in Newfoundland.

Samual PITTS-8 (1660-1746)	
▼	Mary BICKFORD-12 (1665-1742)
▶	1 Samual PITTS-9 (1686-1757)
▶	1 Ann PITTS-10 (1692-)
▶	1 Elias PITTS Mariner-11 (1700-1765)
▶	1 John PITTS-2 (1705-1747)
▶	1 Mary? PITTS-313 (1710-)

## The Newfoundland Connection

We now have a plausible story about how young James came to Newfoundland. James Pitts was possibly from a family with deep ties to the Newfoundland fishery. He may be the same John, father of James, who had settled in Kennford. A John Pitts was buried in the Exminster church in 1747. This is about the same time that Samuel Pitts Sr., his possible father, died. If John, son of Samuel, is the father of James of Belle Island, then the Newfoundland Merchant Elias Pitts, the man that lived just a couple of miles from young James Pitts, was his uncle. Newfoundland trade. Maybe James went to work at his uncles property at Fermeuse, which Uncle Elias had purchased in 1749.



Newfoundland Fishery Circa 1720 from Wallace 1949

James Pitts had reported he arrived in Newfoundland about 1752 or 1753 not long after his uncle purchased the property. Becoming the apprentice of Elias Pitts is not the only way young James may have come to Newfoundland. His family provided many opportunities to sail to Newfoundland. Elias's son Evan was the captain of the Bickford which regularly sailed to Newfoundland. James' cousin, John, son of his uncle Samuel, was the captain of the Tryon, a coaster out of Teignmouth, which sailed to Newfoundland in 1755. William, another son of James' uncle, Samuel, was a captain of the Susannah out of Topsham. James could have joined anyone of these voyages. And there is more. Elias Pitts daughter, Agnes, had married Robert Squarry of Teignmouth in 1772. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Squarrys were an important merchant family trading with Newfoundland and holding property on the island. Robert Squarry of Teignmouth was the captain of Ann, which regularly sailed between Teignmouth and St. John's (See Matthews Files). In the genealogy compiled by Lavinia Squarry (1909) is a letter written in 1893, "The Squarry family lived several generations at Teignmouth and Saldon, Devon and were Mariners or Merchants trading to Newfoundland" (pg. 43) beginning with Robert Squarry who married Mary Bickford (yes another one) at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Squarry pg. 44). The marriage between Agnes and Robert highlights the relationship between the Pitts and Squarry families of Teignmouth.

Then there are the Bickfords of Teignmouth. This family was also in the Newfoundland trade. As I note above, Samuel Pitts married Mary Bickford in January of 1685. Mary Bickford Pitts would be James' grandmother. In addition, his uncle, Elias, married another Mary Bickford at Exeter in 1724. The Bickford family of Teignmouth had been sailing to and from Newfoundland for decades. In 1675 John Bickford of Teignmouth was a Bye Boat Keeper at St. John's (CO 4/1) Five years later in 1680 John Sr. of Teignmouth was again recorded as Bye Boat Keeper at St. John's (CO 1/46) now with John Jr. and Thomas. Evan Bickford of Teignmouth was the captain of the True Intent out of Exon (CO 194/2 1701). Previously he had even lived in in Hants Harbour about 1694 (Matthews Files). If we have the right families, Evan Bickford was the father of James' grandmother making him James' great grandfather. In additional several documents connect the Bickfords and Squarrys. In a court case dated 1711 the plaintiffs were John Bickford infant waterman, of St Nicholas, Devon, represented by Mary Bickford widow, "his next friend". The case focused on the plaintiff's inheritance of property and mentions John Bickford, of Newfoundland, America, John Tute mariner, of Dawlish, Devon and Dorothy Bickford (alias Dorothy Tute): property in West Teignmouth, Devon. Dorothy was the wife of George Bickford. George's sister was Mary (Bickford) Pitts Sr. the wife of Samuel Pitts.

Another court case in 1731 gives further confirmation of links between the Bickford, Pitts and Squarry families. The Plaintiffs were Philip Tremlett, cooper of West Teignmouth, Devon and Ann Tremlett his wife who claimed to be the only daughter and coheir at law of George Bickford, deceased. The defendants were Robert Squarry who was bringing the suit for his daughter, Agnes Squarry infant. Witnesses were Samuel Pitts, the father and Samuel Pitts, the son.

### **But why settle in Belle Island?**

There may have been Pitts on Belle Island already. In a news account in 1851 Mrs. Coyell and Mrs. Cowan told a tale of the first Pitts on the island that was part of their family lore. They had heard that Joseph Pitts, born circa 1735, in Exeter, Devon, was the first Pitts to settled at Lance Cove, Bell Island. He had a son John. They thought that Joseph Pitts' son John was the father of James. In 1958 E J Pratt, the poet, reported that he could trace back to a generation of Newfoundlanders from James to his father John and to his grandfather, also named John. Pratt claimed that John Sr. was the son of Joseph Pitts, who sailed to Newfoundland in 1678. The story of Joseph Pitts (circa 1663 to 1739) is indeed a compelling one. As a 15-year-old, Joseph shipped

out to Newfoundland on the Speedwell under master George Taylor of Lympton. They never arrived. Their ship was captured by pirates, and Joseph spent the next 15 years a slave in North Africa. In 1704 he published his story, *A True and Faithful Account of the Religion and Manners of the Mohammetans*. There are two problems with a genealogy from James to the famous Joseph Pitts. First the dates do not line up. Secondly are the wills of Joseph in 1739 and his wife Hannah. Joseph mentions his wife Hannah and a daughter, Elizabeth (Bowman 2013). In Hannah Pitts will, written ten years later, she gives money to her grandchildren, Elizabeth, Joseph and Susannah Allen, Anne Reed, and Elizabeth Scott and names her son, Reverend Joseph Pitts of London as executor. Joseph Pitts never had a son John.

However, given the timeframe, if John was the son of Joseph born about 1735 as originally reported, he could not be the father of James who was born in 1736. But, elements of this story have support. In 1915 the Historic Landmarks Association of Canada published their Annual Report in which they noted under the section on Conception Bay, Newfoundland, Lance Cove – “About 1758 , a New Englander named Greeley built a privateer at this place. About 1772 Greeley left the Country and sold his property to John Pitts, a native of Exeter, England” (1915:39). This entry provides an earlier date for Pitts on Belle Island than the 1780 timeframe reported by Rees. John Pitts purchased land on Belle Island in about 1772 but was not recorded there in the 1794/5 Census for Belle Island. Who was John Pitts? If the family story about the ancestry of this John is correct, he may have been the son of James’ cousin Joseph Pitts who was born in 1731 to James’ uncle Samuel Jr. and Mary Pitts of Teignmouth. (See suggested family tree of the Pitts and Bickfords below.) Did James Pitts acquire his property on Belle Island from John Pitts? Or was the name James incorrectly recorded as John and it was James Pitts who purchased the land from Greeley about 1772?

Other circumstantial evidence for the connection of Pitts of Belle Island to Teignmouth are the presence of the “Bickfords who occupied the north-west extremity of Lance Cove where they cleared land and established the community known as Bickfordville” (Rees <http://www.geocities.ws/lancecovesettlement/page10.html>). Records in Newfoundland document that Henry Bickford died at age 95 at Lance Cove May 1879. He would have been born about 1784. He married Amy Cooper, daughter of Edward and Judith Cooper on Feb 2, 1827. An entry in the baptismal register of St. Thomas’s church, St. John’s, states that the Rev. H. J. Fitzgerald baptized James, the son of Henry and Amy “Beckwith” of Lance Cove on August 19th, 1827. Was Henry a grandson of John Bickford of Newfoundland mentioned in the court documents in 1711? In the tree below James Pitts of Belle Island is marked in yellow. James’ cousin Joseph Pitts is in blue. George Bickford, the relative of John Bickford of Newfoundland is in green. John and George Bickford may have been brothers.

Suggested Family Tree for James Pitts

Generation 1	Elias Pitts d 1712 and Ann Pitts West Teignmouth		Evan Bickford d 1704 and Joana Captain of True Intent West Teignmouth & St. John's, NL before 1694 to 1704	
Generation 2	Ann 1668	Samuel Pitts married 1685 Boatswain, d 1746	Mary Bickford d 1742	George Bickford d 1691 & Dorothy Tuit
Generation 3	Samuel Jr. 1686 – 1757 Captain Mary Souden	Ann 1692	Elias 1700-1765 Teignmouth, Kenn & Newfoundland Merchant & Mary Bickford Jr. d 1792	John 1705 – 1747 & Mary, Kennford
Generation 4	Samuel 1719 William 1723-1753 John 1725 Elias 1729-1734 Joseph 1731		Evan 1725-1781 Ann 1729 Mary 1731-1745 Bickford 1734 Joanna 1737	John 1731-1799 George 1733 James 1736-1805 Belle Island Mary 1738
			Agnes 1739 Elias 1741 Agnes 1742 Maria 1745	

**Conclusion**

This brings us back to the primary reason I began to investigate the Pitts of Belle Island. The male descendants of John Squires carry a YDNA that matches Pitts including a Pitts from Devon with no known ties to Newfoundland in his family tree going all the way back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. I began my search for John Squires' father with the most obvious candidate, James Pitts who had come to Newfoundland about 1751 and was on Belle Island in 1794 renting/occupying property owned by Francis Squires.

([https://sites.rootsweb.com/~cannf/cbs\\_94census.htm](https://sites.rootsweb.com/~cannf/cbs_94census.htm)). During my research I discovered a rich history between the Pitts of Teignmouth and Newfoundland. While the information remains circumstantial, there is a strong possibility that James Pitts was a member of this important maritime family from Teignmouth.

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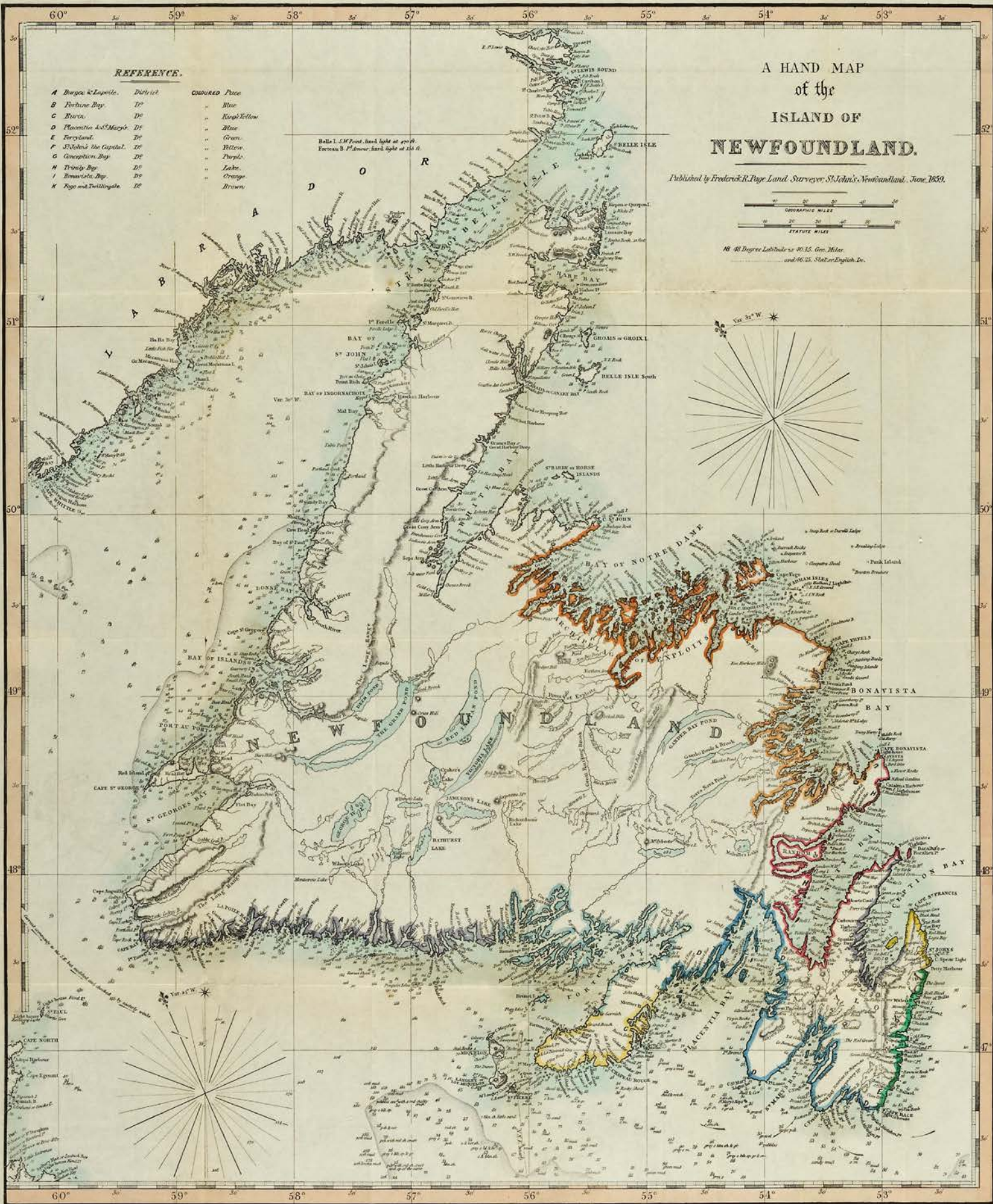
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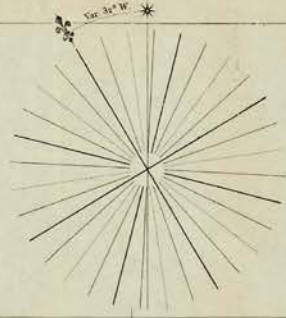
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