

# The Ancestor



Vol 38,2

2022



## Inside this Edition

- ◆ Newells of the Dock
- ◆ Picco Family History
- ◆ The Police Diary of Constable Wm Martin
- ◆ My Story of Ancient Mariners

The Family History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador, Inc.

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

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The Society was founded in October 1984 to foster interest in Newfoundland and Labrador ancestry, to help researchers locate information, and to give members opportunities to communicate with each other and share their research efforts. The office of the Society is located at 50 Pippy Place, unit 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/or 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 hold copyright and may NOT be reproduced without the consent of the respective authors and the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador Inc.

*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.*

**THE ANCESTOR**  
**Quarterly Journal of the**  
**Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador, Inc.**

**EDITORS:** Frederick R. Smith, Ethel Dempsey, Cindy Tedstone,  
Volume 38 Issue 2

**SUBSCRIPTION**

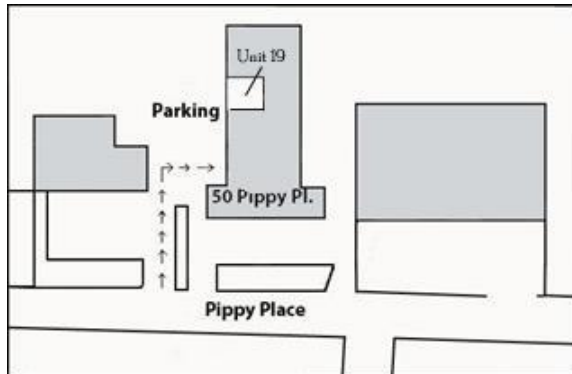
Subscription to *The Ancestor* is available to individuals or institutions for \$42 per year and includes membership in the Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. Life membership is also available for \$700. Membership is for a twelve month period beginning on the date fees are received.

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.



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Frederick R. Smith.....52

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR STRAYS AND DEATHS AFAR**

Pat Walsh.....57

**THE PICCO FAMILY**

Devon Griffin.....61

**IN MEMORIAM**

Pat Walsh .....70

**POLICE DIARY OF CONSTABLE WILLIAM MARTIN**

Gerald Barnable .....73

**TEACHERS WE MAY REMEMBER**

Pat Walsh.....85

**THE NEWELLS OF THE DOCK**

Kate Newell.....87

**MY STORY OF ANCIENT MARINERS**

Jennie Crisp.....90

Cover Photo: Port de Grave, Courtesy Atlantic Guardian



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Frederick R. Smith

As I write this it is lovely and sunny day outside. Hopefully the weather will soon start to warm up.

On 11 April we opened our office / resource centre to our members and the public. That first week we had a good number of visitors. The office hours are listed on our webpage.

On Friday 22 April we were informed that we have been awarded one Canada Summer Jobs position for this summer. The employment period is for 8 weeks (35 hours/week for 280 hour). We have advertised the position and hopefully we will receive lots of great applications again this year. We thank the Government of Canada for this program.

We have applied for the annual Cultural and Economic Development (CEDP) funding again this year. Hopefully we will hear back soon. We thank the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for CEDP funding over the years and look forward to their support again this year.

We have been using new software to produce the Ancestor. It been of a steep learning curve and with new systems, errors sometimes creep in. In the last issue unfortunately the cover credit was omitted from the printed version, and we apologize. The credit should have been, "Bell Island Women on the Beach (MUN DAI).

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 need any special formatting but "if possible", we would like to have it typed in MS Word in 12 point, Times New Roman.

On Tuesday 24 May 2022, we will have our last lecture until September. We are starting to book our speakers for the fall. If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics, please let us know and we will attempt to invite the speaker. I have no idea of when we will be able to meet in-person in Hampton Hall in the MUN Marine Institute. In any case we are planning to continue with Zoom because that way our members across Canada and the United States will be able to join with local in-person members and all enjoy the evening.

The FHSNL Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 7 June 2022. This is normally a short meeting required by the constitution and this year is not an election year so it will be short. If you can join us for the few minutes, that will be great.

Good luck with your family history research.

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## EDITORS' REPORT

Hello members! Summer is just around the corner and we are anticipating an exciting one for all. It is Come Home Year in Newfoundland and Labrador. What a wonderful opportunity to share stories and add to your family history story!

As you are aware the FHSNL office has reopened and we are looking forward to welcoming researchers into the office. We have long awaited the chance to assist you in person.

We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has submitted articles and pictures, and encourage you to continue to send in items for publishing. It was heartening to see that despite the pandemic our members persisted with their research and support of our publication. Publishing in *The Ancestor* is a great way to let others know about your research. Contributors often get feedback from readers who have been able to provide additional valuable information on their family lines. We hope this will give you extra incentive to submit your own research findings. Without your contributions we could not continue to publish *The Ancestor*.

Have a great summer and be safe!!!!



Editors Cindy Tedstone Fred Smith Ethel Dempsey

## NEWS OF THE SOCIETY



### ACQUISITIONS

Compiled by Rosalind Babb Stokes

#### TITLE

**The Following books were donated by Tom Hynes**

Memories of Life on the Labrador and in Newfoundland

The Log of Bob Bartlett

The Encyclopedia of Canada: Newfoundland Supplement

Profile of our people ( Connaigre Peninsula)

Voyage a Terre-Neuve; et La Chasse au Caribou

Rhodes Scholars of Newfoundland

Newfoundland: A Pictorial Record 1497-1887

Twenty Century Shore Station Whaling in

Newfoundland and Labrador

Before Beaumont Hamel:

The Royal Newfoundland Regiment 1775-1815

When Was That? Important Events

in Newfoundland Down to and including 1922

Fisherman, Logger, Merchant, Miner:

(Nippers Harbour, Tilt Cove, Baie Verte)

Newfoundland

#### AUTHOR/DONOR

Florence Grant Barbour

Robert A. Bartlett, Capt.

Robert H. Blackburn

Marie Bungay

Robert Cliché

Doug Cole

Charles P. De Volpi

Anthony Dickinson &

Chesley Sanger

Bernard D. Fardy

H. M. Mosdell

Tom Philbrook

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A Summary of the History & Development 1497 to 1939	R. H. Taitt
Studies in Newfoundland Folklore: Community and Process	Gerald Thomas
The French Shore Problem in Newfoundland: An Imperial Study	Frederic F. Thompson
On Sloping Ground:	
Reminiscences of Outport Life in Notre Dame Bay	Aubrey M. Tizzard
Memoirs of a Master Mariner	Alfred Warren
Cinders & Saltwater: The Story of Atlantic Canada's Railways	Shirley Woods

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

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

## WATERFORD'S MARITIME WORLD

### THE LEDGER OF WALTER BUTLER, 1750-1757

#### **John Mannion**

In October 1750 Walter Butler, a Waterford sea captain, purchased a ship in the port of Bordeaux and had it refitted there before loading it with wine, brandy and other French produce for his home port. Renamed the *Catherine* after his wife, the ship spent the winter in Waterford where Butler and his men prepared for a voyage to Newfoundland. She departed for the fishery in April 1751 with “passengers” (seasonal migrants) and salt provisions, returning home in the fall. Over the next six years The *Catherine* completed three more round trips to Newfoundland and voyages to London, Tenby, Dublin, Cork, Lisbon, Cadiz and Seville. The brig was captured off St. Lucar by a French privateer in spring, 1757.

Butler's account of the *Catherine* survives (Prize Papers, High Court of Admiralty). The ledger contains the most detailed description of a Waterford ship, shipmaster and crew for the eighteenth century. It is a record of everyday economic exchanges with merchants, traders, artisans and labourers in Waterford city and in the ports and fishing harbours visited by the *Catherine* overseas, in England, Wales, France, Iberia and in faraway Newfoundland.

**John Mannion** holds a BA and MA from University College Dublin, and a PhD from the University of Toronto. Now retired, he was a professor of Geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St John's from 1969 to 2005. Much of his research and publications focus on patterns of Irish participation in the international cod fishery from 1700, transatlantic shipping and migration, the Irish provisions trade and the role of merchants and shipowners in recruiting servants in south-east Ireland to prosecute the fishery.

<https://www.fourcourtspress.ie/books/2022/waterfords-maritime-world/>

#### **OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday 10:00–2:00**

**Wednesday 12:00-3:00**

**Thursday 10:00-2:00**

#### **By Appointment**

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



## NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR STRAYS DEATHS AFAR

Compiled by Pat Walsh

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

Strays from Bell Island appear on the Historic Wabana Nfld Facebook page. It is a website celebrating the history, culture and people of Bell Island, NL with particular emphasis on the Wabana iron-ore mining operation. Thank you to Gail Hussey-Weir. This public FB group 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.

**Belbin**, Gordon Edward on Feb. 25, 2022 in Victoria, BC. Born in St. John's on Sept. 5, 1944, son of Wesley & Hilda (nee Chubs) Belbin. Predeceased by his parents. Husband of 52 years of Elaine (nee Vey). Father of Michelle & Wendy. Brother of Marie Cull (Wallace) & Scott. Obit & photo March 1, 2022.

**Blundell**, Cindy (nee Avery) on Feb. 9, 2022 at Hospice Halifax, NS. Born in NL in 1969, she grew up in Weighbridge, on Random Island, daughter of Silas & Minnie Avery. Wife of David. Mother of Samantha, Sara, Daniel & Candace. Sister of eleven brothers & sisters. Obit & photo March 5, 2022.

**Bouziane**, Gary Alphonsus of Fredericton, NB, on Nov. 25, 2021. Born in Corner Brook, son of Harold & Shirley. Predeceased by his parents. Retired electrical engineer. Father of Cynthia. Brother of Patricia, Janice Fleming (John) &

Cathy Joyce (George) . Obit & photo Dec. 4, 2021.

**Brazil**, James on March 17, 2022, of Cambridge, ON. Predeceased by his parents Daniel & Sadie & his sister Alice Butler & his brother Bart. Husband of Mary (Bartlett). Father of Lori, Robert, Paul & Morgan. Brother of Howard, Betty, Dan, Marie & Raymond. Tri-City Cremation Services & also Historic Waban Nfld Facebook page.

**Brown**, Elizabeth Marie (nee Healey), aged 77, of Rose Hill, North Carolina, on Feb. 10, 2022. Born on June 18, 1944 in St. John's, daughter of Edward & Catherine (Walsh) Healey. Predeceased by her parents, her son Glenn Thibault, (Nov. 21, 2021), her sister Cindy Hillard & her brother Pat Healey. Wife of 17 years of W.A. "Billy" Brown. Mother of Norman Thibault, Shannon Giresun, step children, Debbie Williams (Kevin) & David Brown. Sister of June Hunt, Charlie Healey, Sharon O'Neill

(Owen), & Teri Evans (Jimmy). Obit & photo Quinn-McGovern Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Wallace, NC.

**Byrne**, William “Bill” James, on March 23, 2022 in Cambridge, ON. Born on April 14, 1942. Predeceased by his parents Richard & Violet. Husband of Vivian. Father of Charlotte Blackmore (Ian), Carmel Ryck (Roger) & Janet. Brother of Margaret Windsor (Sid), Peter & Carmel Deniz. Also predeceased by his sisters & brothers, Pearl Dean, Mary Fowler (Jack), Rick, Eileen Mercer & Jim. See Obit & photo Lounsbury Funeral Home, Cambridge, ON & also Historic Waban Nfld Facebook page.

**Downey**, Dr. James O.C. , on March 23, 2022 in Waterloo, ON. Born in Winterton in 1939, son of Ernest & Mimi Ann. Predeceased by his parents & his four sisters. Husband of 57 years of Laura. Father of Sarah & Geoffrey. Brother of Edwina Giles. He attended Memorial University & received his PhD. at the University of London (Birkbeck College) in 1966. He served as President of the University of New Brunswick, 1980 -1990 & as President of the University of Waterloo, 1993 -1999. Appointed to the Order of Canada in 1996. Obit & photo Good & Family Funeral Home & *The Waterloo Region Record*, March 25, 2022.

**Evans**, Robert H. (Bob) on April 7, 2022 in Abbotsford, BC. Formerly of St. John`s, he attended Holy Cross School on Patrick Street. He joined the Canadian Armed Forces & served in Germany. Husband of almost 57 years of Mary Ellen Sharpe. Predeceased by his parents Herb & Frances & his brothers, Patrick, Alan & Kevin. Father of Robert Jr., Stephen, Dean & John & adopted son Joe. Brother of Florence

Crane (Frank) & Mable Ryan (Gordon). He graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland & was ordained into the Ministry & founded the former Light House Ministries of Abbotsford, BC. Obit April 22, 2022.

**Faulkner**, Robert (Bob), on Jan. 30, 2022 in Hamilton, ON, in his 92<sup>nd</sup> year. Born in Bonavista, son of James & Emily (nee Street). Predeceased by his parents & his brothers & sisters, Heber, Blanche, Stephen, Dan, Noah & Bessie. Husband of 68 years of Mary (nee Hickey). Father of Bob, Jr., Pamela Westover (Dean) & Lindsay. Brother of Bert .He worked at Dofasco, Burlington Steel & as a longshoreman. Obit & photo March 5, 2022.

**Fitzpatrick**, Dr. Rian Dominic May 6, 1977 –March 18, 2022 , aged 44, in Bogota, Columbia. Son of Dominic & Carmel. Husband of Amy. Step-father of Fernanda & Nicolas. Brother of Dean & Shane, Grand-son of Rita Lawlor. He graduated from Memorial University of Newfoundland in 2000, BSC & from Palmer College in Iowa, Chiropractor. He practiced in Lima, Peru & in Bogota, Columbia. Obit & photo April 6, 2022.

**Feltham**, Donald Vernon, of Glover town, in Ottawa, ON. Oct. 16, 1940 – April 29, 2022. Predeceased by his parents Ephraim & Susie & his brother Winston. Husband of Helen (Butt). Father of Gina, Laurie & Charlene. Brother of Earl. Born on Deer Island, Bonavista Bay, he moved to Glover town`s North Shore in 1953. He began his teaching career in 1965 at Gander Collegiate. He taught for many years at Glovertown Elementary School. Inurnment at a later date in Glovertown. Obit & photo May 2, 2022.

**Furey**, John (William) on April 23, 2022 in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year in Chilliwick, BC. Born in Carbonear, son of William & Frances. Predeceased by his parents of Irish Town, Carbonear & his six brothers & sisters. Husband of Suzanne Snow. Father of Clarence, Charlene Furey–Blacquiére (Jeff) & Dawn. Step-father of Barry Snow, Chris Snow, Andrea Snow & Jennifer Snow. Brother of Peg Riddick. Obit & photo April 30, 2022.

**Hindy**, Cyril James “Cy”. Captain, Retired, RCAF, CF CD on March 26, 2022 in NS. Born in Winterton on June 28, 1936, son of Pierce Hindy & Alice (Hiscock). Husband of 65 years of Audrey (Graham) RN. Father of Mary Ann. Brother of Velma Downey, Doris Pryor, Glenys Tuck (Larry), Geraldine Harris (Don & Robert. Predeceased by his parents & his sister Elsie Stanford, his stepmother Lillian (Short) & his brother Stanley. He joined the RCAF in 1953 & retired in 1991. Obit & photo *The Chronicle Herald* April 2, 2022.

**House**, Martin Patrick of Yarmouth, NS, aged 85, on March 27, 2022. Formerly of Port Aux Choix & Hawke’s Bay. Born on March 22, 1937 in Hawke’s Bay, son of Edmund & Margaret. Predeceased by his parents, his son Scott & his brothers & sisters, Helen, Gloria, Thomas, Alma, George & Maxwell. Husband of May Spence. Father of Shirley Mood (Almond) & Kirk. Brother of Christine & Chesley. Martin was an entrepreneur, owning various businesses. Obit & photo April 1, 2022.

**Ingalls**, Wendell Austin, of Halifax, NS, aged 71 on April 3, 2022. Formerly of Hackett’s Cove. Predeceased by his parents

Austin & Florence & his brother Barry. Husband of Dolores (Dolly). They married on May 22, 1971. Father of Shonda Madder (Dave) & Heather Parrott (Andrew). He graduated from UNB in Engineering in 1974. Obit & photo T. J. Tracey Cremation & Burial Specialists, Halifax, NS.

**Kelsey**, Eugenie Rita, aged 91, on Feb. 15, 2022 in Calgary, AB. Born on Kenmount Farm, St. John’s, daughter of J. Sydney Kelsey & Edna (Lester) Kelsey. Predeceased by her parents, her daughter, Louise Evans (Jan. 2022) & her brothers Ron, Bud, Doug & Roger & her sisters Rae Martin, Ontario & Roma Janes, Quebec. Mother of Joe Waller, Calgary, AB. Sister of Gus. Obit & photo Feb. 17, 2022.

**Lancaster**, Dorothy (Dee) E. (nee Chaytor). Formerly from Mount Pearl, on March 2, 2022, in Waco, Texas. Born on Sept. 5, 1944, daughter of Roy & Margaret Chaytor. Wife of 58 years of Bob L. Lancaster. Mother of Renee Martin (Victor) & Stephen Study. Predeceased by her parents, her brothers Paul & Peter. Sister of Peggy, Ann & Tony. Obit & photo March 12, 2022.

**Marshall**, Catherine Margaret Louise 1980 –Feb. 11, 2022. Tragically, in the ocean off Montanite, Ecuador, while saving the lives of two children (with her partner Jay Janice). Daughter of Gloria & Harold Marshall of St. John’s. Sister of Ryan, Saskatoon, Sk. She had a career with Air Labrador & Provincial Airlines as a flight Attendant. Obit & photo April 2, 2022.

**Murphy**, Rita Mary (nee Kent) on April 24, 2022 in Cambridge, ON. Born on Bell Island, Jan. 18, 1930. She lived in Cambridge since 1954. Predeceased by her

husband Joseph Patrick & her brothers William & Francis & her sisters Annie Dwyer (Patrick), Loretta Button (Carl Eugene), Elizabeth Stub (Gordon), Lena Jackman (Douglas) Margaret Kent & Eileen Kent. Obit & photo Corbett Funeral Home, Cambridge, ON & also Historic Waban NFld Facebook page.

**Pike**, Bessie Mae (nee Sheppard) on Feb. 6, 2022, aged 77. Born in Champneys's East. Predeceased by her husband of 51 years, Angus, Sept. 29, 2019, & her sisters & brother, Katie, Dorothy, Wilhelmina, Irene & Gordon. Mother of David, Mount Pearl, Dennis, Newmarket, ON, Melissa Lynette Pike, Ottawa, ON & Melinda Owen (Geoffrey), Ajax, ON. Sister of Edwin Sheppard. Obit & photo McIntosh-

Anderson-Kellam Funeral Home, Oshawa, ON.

**Powell**, Elizabeth Alice Arleen (nee Connolly) in Delta, BC, Oct. 20, 1937 – March 10, 2022. She was from Corner Brook. Mother of Gordon & Brian. Predeceased by her sister Denver (Debbie) Wiseman & her brothers Gerald, Cortland, Karl & Richard "Sonny". Sister of Marquita "Kit" Zamir (Don), Bruce & Roy. Obit & photo March 26, 2022.

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

Ernest Hemingway



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## **PICCO FAMILY OF BAY D'ESPOIR, FORTUNE BAY AND BURIN**

Researched and compiled by Devon Griffin

**Picco** (pronounced “PEA-COE”), sometimes spelled Picot, Pico, Pecoe, or Piccott is a surname of Bay d’Espoir, Fortune Bay, Burin, St. Joseph’s, Placentia Bay and St. Joseph’s, St. Mary’s Bay areas of the South Coast of Newfoundland. This family is not to be confused with the Picco family out of Portugal Cove, Newfoundland. While the family is very old and vast in Newfoundland, there is very limited information on the earliest generations. Below is the documentation compiled on the family so far (2022).

### **The Picco Patriarch**

The Piccos begin with Philip Picco who is listed as a Bay d’Espoir “Dealer” with Newman and Co. out of Harbour Breton, Newfoundland. The Keith Matthews name files located at the Maritime History Archive has several references to this Philip Picco from 1790-1803.

These records originally come from the company records of the Newman and Co. firm that brought and employed many of Fortune Bay’s earliest inhabitants. They detail bills both to and from Philip Picco and Newman’s various agents such as John Thorn.

As this is the earliest record of any Picco living in the area, it is generally believed Philip is the patriarch of the family. His name has also been passed down significantly through the generations. It appears he lived in Bay d’Espoir where he began the family. While he does have descendants that are of Mi’kmaq Indian descent, a recent Y-DNA result through 23andme show that Philip’s direct male line (his father’s father’s father etc. line) is European in origin.

### **The Picco Matriarch**

Much like Philip Picco, we have very little information on his wife, the matriarch of the Picco family. The only tidbit of information comes in a form of story from prolific Newfoundland writer P. J. (Pius Joseph) Wakeham. Wakeham, who was born in 1910, grew up in Petite Forte, Placentia Bay surrounded by Picco descendants. He was the publisher of ‘New-Land Magazine’ which included many short stories he had heard over the years. In this particular story, published in Autumn 1965, Wakeham tells of a humorous anecdote about the 1844 death of ‘Grandmother Picco’ whom we believe to have been the wife of Philip Picco, the first. Specific details of the story, such as Grandmother Picco passing away at over 120 years old may be exaggerated however, we believe the very basic facts of the story to have some truth.

Transcription of the story as relayed by P. J. Wakeham:

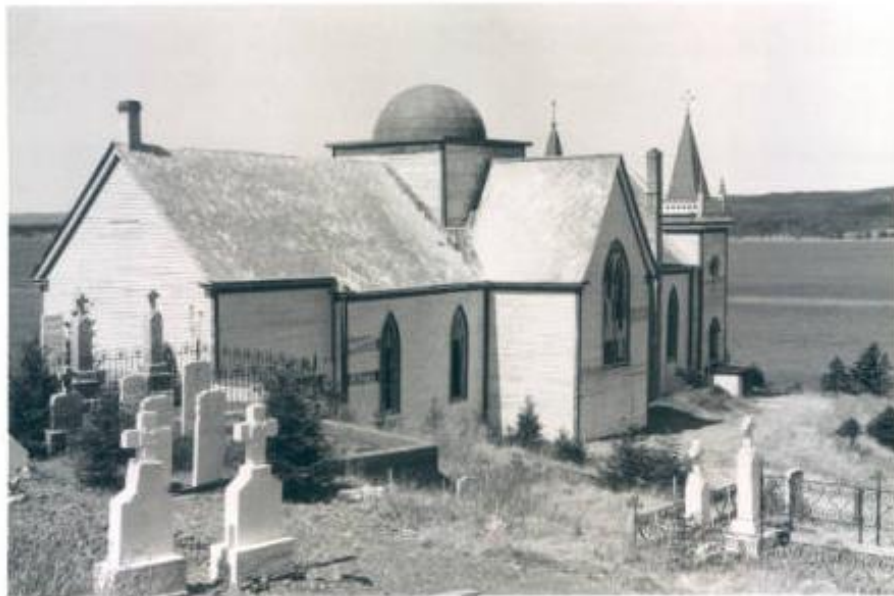
“HUMOROUS ANECDOTES”

From the dawn of civilization in Newfoundland humorous anecdotes have been told and retold. Perhaps it is significant that an insular people should be gifted to a large degree with a ready sense of wit and humour. Before the advent of newspapers, radio and television the story teller was a very important person in the community, especially in the smaller outports where entertainment of any type was practically unknown. It was in such an environment that the story teller really performed in good style. Their existence might be likened to the comedians of our time. Through the medium of radio and television modern jokes and stories are brought right into our living rooms and halls of entertainment. Whereas, in the olden days, the self-styled entertainer was content to squat on the floor in the corner of some kitchen or sit on a box behind the barrel oven of a wood-fired Waterloo stove and regale his audience with numerous anecdotes which he or she had acquainted during their travels. What is most amazing about these entertainers, the greater majority of them had never entered the portals of a seat of learning, yet their stories were interesting and full of adventure. Through our modern means of communication and our all-out battle against the evils of illiteracy, it is quite noticeable now, and particularly so in the outports, that an awful lot of our ready wit and humour has passed from the scene. The ability to laugh in the midst of adversity, seemed to be interwoven in the character of our people, who down through the years have always been able to crack a joke and laugh heartily when the whole world seemed to be caving in around them.



Burin Courtesy DAI

And here I am reminded of a story I heard some time ago from one of our outpost story tellers. It would seem that the winter of eighteen forty-four was an unusually frosty one, with strong northeast and easterly gales which brought the northern ice floes on the coast of Newfoundland early in February of that year. Placentia Bay which is an almost ice free bay, was blocked solidly with northern ice late in February of the same year and as a result, the sea, the highway at that time, was closed to them. Some adventurous people did manage to haul small boats over the ice and reach other communities in the bay when supplies of food and other necessities forced them to make this perilous adventure. But apart from those daring episodes travelling was almost impossible in any direction because of the rough ice floes. During troubled times like these old people are bound to die and it was at this unfortunate period in history that grandmother Picco's demise occurred. Everyone in the community of Gallows Harbour (now St. Joseph's, Placentia Bay) knew Grandmother Picco. She was everybody's Grandmother, from the age of nine to ninety. In addressing her as Grandmother they thought they were paying her a mark of respect, because of her great age. Legend tells us that she was well over one hundred and twenty years old when she died. She raised four generations of Piccos during her lifetime. However, it was when the bay was solidly blocked with the northern ice floes that the unexpected death of Mrs. Picco occurred. Her demise at this time posed a great problem for her two great-great-grandsons, with whom she had lived. There were no stores or shops of any type in Gallows Harbour at that time and any purchases of material suitable for the lining of a coffin had to be bought in the stores on Oderin Island, about four miles or more away.



Old St. Josephs Church St. Mary's Courtesy DAI

The Picco boys were really in a quandary over their great-great- grandmother's death. They wanted to give her the best coffin possible, but under the circumstances there wasn't much that they could do to rectify matters without endangering their own lives by trying to get to Oderin Island at this critical period. After much deliberation, the oldest of the two great-great-grandsons, said to his younger brother, "Go down the harbour, Jim and ask Maurice King if he has anything suitable that he could sell or lend us to line the old ladies coffin with. We've got to put a lining in her coffin, regardless." With the instructions fresh in his mind the young lad hurried off to see the person in question. Mr. King was very apologetic over the fact that he was unable to help them in any way, as he was practically in the same boat as themselves, but on second thought, he said: "I have a new foresail belonging to my bait-skiff down on the store loft, I brought it home from St. John's last fall, it was never used, and if that is any good to you, I'll gladly let you have it but you must replace it in the spring." The young lad thanked Mr. King for his kindness and hurried home to tell his brother about the suggestion that Mr. King had made. "It seems to be the only solution to the problem at this time," said his brother, "so go back to Mr. King, Jim, and get the foresail and take it up here. We'll see what we can do with it." In due time the lad arrived with the foresail on his back and together the two of them spread it out over the coffin and pushed the slack canvas down into the box as much as was required and then taking the old lady, who by now was frozen solidly. Gently they laid her into the coffin and began to throw the excessive canvas in on top of her. Then they took the cover and tried to fit it in place, but despite their best efforts they could not get the cover to fit. Taking off the cover they hauled out the loose canvas and the younger of the two boys said, "get a knife and cut off what is not required." "We'll do nothing of the kind," replied the older brother, "we're not cutting an inch of this foresail. Here spread it out, we'll tie a double reef in it, that should take care of the matter." Silently they proceeded to tie the double reef in the sail and when it was finished they threw in the canvas and when they tried the cover this time it fitted perfectly. Now that all was ready for the funeral they nailed down the cover and retired to await the following morning, when the burial would take place.



Placentia Courtesy DAI



The next morning the men folk of the community gathered for the funeral, and the two great-great-grandsons being the chief mourners, walked next to the coffin, which was being hauled to the burial grounds on a catamaran. But as they were wending their way to the churchyard, the younger of the two boys was greatly amused and despite his best efforts to be serious and respectful, he repeatedly broke into great fits of laughter, much to the embarrassment of his older brother who scolded him about his behaviour and exhorted him to be respectful of the dead but it was all to no avail. Finally in desperation, he asked, “What’s so funny about this funeral that you can’t help laughing?” Looking at his brother the young lad said, between fits of laughter. “I can’t help thinking about what great-great-grandfather is going to say when he sees the old lady coming in with a double reef foresail on her.” Here a humourous note struck the older brother and he laughed also and said: “All the old boy can say is that the old girl must have had a rough time making port.”

### **Picco References – St. Joseph’s, Placentia Bay**

The majority of the family and oral history on the Picco family comes to us from the descendants of James Picco and Catherine Saunders who primarily lived/live in the area of St. Joseph’s, Placentia Bay. This community, originally named Gallows Harbour, is the location mentioned in the above story about ‘Grandmother Picco’. Based on the possible generations between Philip Picco and ‘Grandmother Picco’, it is believed that James Picco may be their grandson.

James Picco married Catherine Saunders, daughter of John and Elizabeth Saunders of Bay d’Espoir and Terrenceville, Fortune Bay. Catherine was of Mi’kmaq descent. Oral history states that both James and Catherine were of Mi’kmaq descent. We originally thought this meant that the male Picco line was Mi’kmaq, however after recent Y-DNA testing that confirmed the first male Picco (Philip) was European, it is now believed the Mi’kmaq Indian ancestry for James Picco comes from his mother. Confirmed through Burin parish records and oral history, James and Catherine had at least: Philip, John, Mary Jane, Denis, Thomas, Stephen, James and Joseph. The eldest few being born in Fortune Bay and the rest on Burnt Island (Port Anne) or St. Joseph’s, Placentia Bay.

Dr. Leslie Harris (1929-2008), former President and Vice Chancellor of Memorial University of Newfoundland was born in the small community of St. Joseph’s, Placentia Bay just as the Great Depression struck Newfoundland. Growing up he heard many stories and anecdotes about the various families that inhabited the picturesque community. In 2002 he published ‘Growing up with verse: A Child’s life in Gallows Harbour’ detailing some of the early history and stories about St. Joseph’s. He explains in the book that the first Picco came from Fortune Bay to St. Joseph’s originally and that “Old John Picco” [son of James Picco and Catherine Saunders] was often surmised as having “Mi’kmaq blood.”

A subsequent interview with an unnamed source who also grew up around the same time as Dr. Harris in the 1930s, explains that after moving from Fortune Bay, the entire Picco family first lived at Burnt Island (now Port Anne), Placentia Bay. This is backed up by the 1871 Lovell’s

Business Directory which lists several Piccos, however, Gallows Harbour (St. Joseph's) lists none. This unnamed source continues that Dennis and Philip Picco, sons of James Picco and Catherine Saunders, went to Jigging Cove near St. Joseph's Harbour after leaving Burnt Island. James and John, other sons of James Picco and Catherine Saunders, went straight to St. Joseph's Harbour from Burnt Island. Lastly, another son, Stephen, stayed on Burnt Island and never moved to St. Joseph's at all.

### **Picco References – Burin Area**

In the Burin area, Joseph Picco (born abt. 1780; died January 26, 1869 in Burin) and his wife Mary Penney show up in the parish records with the baptism of their son John Picco on December 15, 1816. John was the 59th person to be baptized in the Methodist church in Burin at the time. Based on the ages and time frame, it is likely Joseph Picco was the son of the patriarch, Philip Picco.

According to the Keith Matthews Name Files held at the Maritime History Archive, Joseph Picco built the 28 tonne ship "Swallow" in Fortune Bay in 1809 and registered it in Burin in 1822. Also, in Burin in 1814, Joseph got into a bit of trouble when he got into a fight with Patrick Farrell and was taken to court.

Joseph Picco and Mary Penney additionally had their son Joseph Jr. baptized in 1838. Susan, Jane and George may also be children of Joseph and Mary.

It is generally believed that George Picco (1822-1887) of Mortier was another son of Joseph and Mary. Researcher Patrick Picco (1936-2008), a descendant of George, claimed in private correspondence that his mother Margaret (Kennedy) Picco (1901-1994) always said George's parents were John Picco and Ann Penney. It is unknown if there was a John Picco and wife Ann Penney, however there was a John Picco in Bay D'esperoir by 1803. Or it could be that she meant Joseph Picco and Mary Penney (the aforementioned documented couple) and had just mistaken the first names. We tend to lean to the latter but without a birth record it is difficult to say.

George Picco was born September 19, 1822 in Burin according to family lore compiled by Patrick Picco. He married Ann Millea/Melay on August 4, 1843 in the Roman Catholic Church at Burin. The witnesses were Jane Picco and John Milea/Melay. Likely to be the brother of the bride and sister of the groom. They had the following children with baptism dates:

Ann Picco – July 29, 1845. John Picco is listed as a godparent.

Joseph Picco – April 15, 1849.

Phillip Picco – May 25, 1851.

George Picco – September 28, 1853

Thomas Picco – September 16, 1855.

John/Jack Picco [Listed as child by researcher Patrick Picco]

Martin Picco [Listed as child by researcher Patrick Picco]

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George Picco (1822-1887) remarried to a Mary Power after his first wife Ann Millea/Melay presumably died. Mary was first married to a James Dollard in 1842. George Picco and Mary Power had the following children with baptism dates:

Francis Picco – June 28, 1859.

Mary Picco – October 3, 1863.

Patrick Picco – September 9, 1865.

Patrick Picco explains that in 1999, he viewed an “In Memoriam” to George Picco created by his daughter Mary shortly after his death in 1887. He explains “It is about 20 inches by 20 inches, done on heavy sort of woolen cloth and is a beautiful piece of needlework. In it she gives his year of birth as 1822”. “His date of death is July 11, 1887, Since she was very well educated, I assume she knew the facts.” “I knew her as an old lady who spoke both French and English, I remember her having visitors from St. Pierre, apparently cousins, children of her half-sister Ann who married there. In her younger years she lived there for a while and is also said to have attended school in Paris.”

The John Mannion Collection covers George Picco (1822-1887) extensively. He explains that Picco, of primarily Jersey-origin, was known as a master mariner and used to fish the ‘Western Shore’ which is near the Rose Blanche area. He moved to Mortier Bay as a result of inheriting land from his second wife Mary Power.

**Two recent additions to the records of the Burin family group are from St. Pierre Death Records:**

The first is of Anne (Picco) Beauvais, daughter of George Picco, collected and transcribed by researcher Edward Chafe and it details the following:

“In the year 1887, on the 15th of September at eleven thirty in the morning, before us, Paul Aristide Mazier, mayor and officer of the civil registry, appeared Pierre Bechacq, pastry chef, aged 48 years, and Saint Martin Erausquin, retailer, aged 43 years old, who informs us of the death of ANNE PICOT, aged 42 years, wife of Alexandre Beauvois. She was born at Burin, Newfoundland, on July 29th, 1845, daughter of GEORGE PICOT and ANNE MILLEA, his wife. Mrs. Beauvois died this morning at eight thirty.”

The second is of Henry Power (1802-1892) son of Andrew Power & Mary Picot. Researcher Edward Chafe transcribes it as follows:

“In the year 1892, on the 12th of February at eleven o’clock in the morning, before us, Paul Aristide Mazier, mayor, appeared Alexandre Lambert, sailor, aged 22 years, and Ernest Thorn, entry clerk, aged 50 years, who inform us of the death of HENRY POWER, former sailor, husband of the late MARY HOWLETT. He was born at Burin, Newfoundland in 1802, the son of ANDREW POWER and MARY PICOT. Mr. Power passed away this morning at two o’clock.”

### **Migration of the Picco Family (1780s-1900)**

The Picco family began in the Bay D'Espoir area and traded with Newman and Co. in Harbour Breton and nearby Little Bay.

As time passed on, they spent time in Fortune Bay and there is even an area behind English Harbour East, Fortune Bay named 'Piccos Woods' presumably after the family. James Picco (b. abt. 1811) married Catherine Saunders, whose Mi'kmaq family is said to have had traditional land on the 'Neck' of English Harbour East. In addition, her sister Elizabeth (Saunders) Hynes spent most of her adult life in the community.

In later years, the Piccos ended up in the Burin and Mortier areas, as well as the St. Joseph's and Port Anne (Burnt Island) areas.

### **Skeleton Family Tree of the Earliest Picco Family**

Based upon latest information available (April 1, 2022).

This tree is a "mock-up" and may change as time goes on. The information contains the most likely scenarios for the family tree, however there is little supporting documentation.

2. Phillip Picco b. abt. 1750 married "Grandmother Picco".

2.1 Unknown Daughter Picco b. abt. 1775 married ?? Smith of Oderin/Burin area.

2.1.1 Phillip Picco Smith b. abt. 1800; Lived Burin. Philip was involved in a court dispute in Burin in 1821. His name was listed as Philip Picco Smith, making it likely he was Phillip Picco's grandson through his mother.

2.2 Joseph Picco b. abt. 1780 d. Jan 26 1869 in Burin. Was living in Fortune Bay in 1809 and Burin by 1814. Married Mary Penney.

2.2.1 John Picco b. 1816 Burin.

2.2.2 George Picco b. 1822 Burin d. 1887 Burin.

2.2.3 Susan Picco b. 1826 Burin. d. 1881 Halifax, NS.

2.2.4 Joseph Picco b. 1838 Burin.

2.2.5 Jane Picco b. abt. 1820. Married Richard Ready. May not be daughter of Joseph (2.2), could be daughter of Unknown (2.3) or John (2.4) or William (2.5).

2.3 Unknown son Picco b. abt. 1780 married Mi'kmaq Woman. This line has noticeable and family history of Mi'kmaq Ancestry. The Piccos lived amongst the Mi'kmaq in Bay D'Espoir. This unknown son could be John (2.4) or William (2.5) below.

2.3.1 James Picco b. abt. 1810 married Catherine Saunders of Bay D'Espoir/Fortune Bay. Died in St. Joseph's, Placentia Bay.

2.4 John Picco b. abt. 1783 married ?? Mentioned in Keith Matthews Name Files for Fortune Bay, 1803. It is possible he could be #2.3.

2.5 William Picco b. abt. 1790 married ?? Mentioned in Keith Matthews Name Files for Fortune Bay, 1803. It is possible he could be #2.3.

2.6 Mary Picco b. abt. 1782 married Andrew Power of Burin.

2.6.1 Henry Power born 1802 in Burin. He was a sailor in St. Pierre et Miquelon, France. He married Mary Howlett and died on February 12, 1892 in St. Pierre.

### **Family Tree of 2.3.1 James Picco & Catherine Saunders**

This following is confirmed through parish records and family history.

2.3.1 James Picco [Born about 1816, Fortune Bay; Died St. Joseph's, Placentia Bay]. Married Catherine Saunders of John & Elizabeth Saunders of Bay d'Espoir/Fortune Bay.

2.3.1.1 Phillip Picco [born 1836 Fortune Bay; Died October 17, 1901 Burnt Island (Renamed Port Anne), Placentia Bay]. Married Hannah Young [1840-1903 of Burnt Island].

2.3.1.2 John Picco [born 1841 Fortune Bay; Died September 10, 1910 St. Joseph's, Placentia Bay. Married Anne Maria Hanrahan/Handrigan [1842-1920 of the Burin area].

2.3.1.3 Mary Jane Picco [born 1846 Great Paradise, Placentia Bay; Died February 27, 1928 St. Joseph's, Placentia Bay. Married John Hanrahan [1843-1921].

2.3.1.4 Denis Picco [born 1846 St. Joseph's, Placentia Bay. Died August 13, 1923 St. Joseph's, Placentia Bay. Married Elizabeth Brake.

2.3.1.5 Thomas Picco [born 1847 Burnt Island (Renamed Port Anne), Placentia Bay]; Died February 12, 1907 Petite Forte. Married Anastasia Power.

2.3.1.6 Stephen Picco [born 1848 Burnt Island (Renamed Port Anne), Placentia Bay]; Died April 30, 1905 St. Joseph's, Placentia Bay. Married Charlotte Pardy. According to family history Charlotte's Church of England family were very upset with her marrying Catholic Stephen. On the day they married, the Pardy family wore all black and put up black drapes around their home.

2.3.1.7 James Picco [Birth unknown; Died between 1876 and 1878 in St. Joseph's, Placentia Bay. Married Elizabeth Young [1845-1923. Elizabeth remarried to (1) William Lake, (2) William Cheeseman.

2.3.1.8 Joseph Picco [Unknown dates but lived on Burnt Island [Now named Port Anne], Placentia Bay. Married Martha Hayse [1846-1923].

## IN MEMORIAM

Submitted by Pat Walsh

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

**Callahan**, William “Bill” Roger , aged 90, in St. John’s on April 6, 2022 . Born In St. John’s on Nov. 7, 1931. He graduated from St. Bernard’s Academy in Corner Brook in 1948. Predeceased by his parents William Bernard Callahan & Alice Marie Rogers, his sisters Allison & Rose & infant brothers Edward, Fred & Kevin, Husband of 65 years of Daphine Marie Ryan. Brother of Jim. Father of Sean, Mark & Brian & Maureen, Sheilagh & Ann Marie. Former Managing Editor of *The Evening Telegram*. He worked with *The Western Star* in Corner Brook and with CJON Radio in St. John’s. Member of the NL Hockey Hall of Fame. He served as Member of the House of Assembly for Port Aux Port 1966-1971 & as Minister of Mines & Agriculture, 1968-71 with the Liberal Government of Joseph R. Smallwood. Former publisher of *The Daily News & The Telegram*. Obit & photo April 9, 2022.

**Cummings**, Justice Henry Hickman Loveless, QC, LLB in St. John’s, on April 3, 2022, aged 103. Born in St. John’s on Dec. 5, 1918, he graduated in 1934 from Prince of Wales College. Veteran, WWII, Royal Canadian Navy. Predeceased by his parents William & Emma (Loveless) of St. John’s & in 1983 by his first wife Lois (Brown) of

Augusta, Maine .They married in 1947. Also predeceased by his brother George & his sisters Noan Barfoot, Cora Lee, Myrtle, Rene Hayward, Ruby Brown, Melva Brown & Winnie (as an infant). Husband of 28 years of Eleanor. Father of Jeffrey & John, & step-father of Peter. He received his law degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS in 1948. He became a Justice of the Supreme Court of Newfoundland Trial Division & retired from the Judiciary in 1993. Obit & photo April 9, 2022.

**Hammond**, Eric Joseph, in St. John’s on March 16, 2022. Born on Nov. 22, 1923. Veteran , WWII, 166<sup>th</sup>. Newfoundland Field Regiment, Royal Artillery. Predeceased by his parents, John & Elizabeth, his wife Ruby (Kearley), his brothers Albert, Reg, Max, Dick & Harold & his sisters Rose, Lottie & Elizabeth Doris. Brother of Carrie & Jessie. Father of Linda Smith (Wayne) Chris & Susan Locke (Greg). Obit & photo March 17, 2022.

**Leonard**, Ellen Rose, formerly of St. Leonard’s, Placentia Bay, Aug. 28, 1921 – March 15, 2022. Predeceased by her parents Mary Margaret (Rodgers) & James Leonard, her husband James Leonard, her sons Charles, Gerard & Martin, her sisters Julia,

Mary Pittman, Anne Follett & her brother Edward. Mother of Mary, Jim, Tom, Louise, Harold, Alvena & Wayne. Interment at Mount Carmel Cemetery. Funeral services conducted by Coombs Funeral Home. Placentia. Obit & photo March 18, 2022.

**Leonard**, Ida Merry (nee Fraser) on April 12, 2022, aged 100. Born in Inverness, Scotland on July 31, 2022. Veteran, WWII, Royal Air Force. A proud Scottish war bride. Predeceased by her son Spencer & daughter Yvonne Bonnie Avery. Mother of Gloria, Alister, Reg, Ronnie, Marion, Denise & Lori. Active with the Royal Canadian Legion, Mount Pearl. Interment in the Field of Honour, Mount Pleasant Cemetery, St. John's. Obit & photo April 16, 2022

**Noel**, Susie , of Carbonear on April 19, 2022, aged 100. Predeceased by her parents John Edgar & Frances Hiscock & her husband Reuben F., her brother Joseph, sisters Louise, Elsie, Ethel & Sophie & also her biological family, her parents Ernest & Susannah Clarke & her sisters Pearl, Gladys, Eloise & Marjorie. Mother of Joan Peach (Milton) & Eloise Pike (Frank Parsons) & son Kenneth. Interment in the United Church Cemetery, Freshwater, Carbonear. Obit & photo April 20, 2022.

**Piercey**, Captain Albert, aged 100, on Feb. 10, 2022. Veteran, WWII, Scottish Forestry Services & the Royal Navy, Master Mariner & Captain, Canadian Coast Guard. Born on Feb. 5, 1922 in Sunnyside, Trinity Bay, son of Jacob & Lillian (Gregory). Predeceased by his wife of 68 years, Annie Viola (Handcock), his infant daughter Lola, son Albert, his brothers & sisters, James, John, Llewelyn, Sarah, Elizabeth, Ethel, Elsie &

Mary Frances. Father of Valerie, Elaine, Jean, Pamela, Catherine , Clark, Irene & Stephen. Brother of Eunice

**Pope**, Paul Leslie, Nov. 7, 1958 – April 14, 2022 in St. John's. Predeceased by his parents George & Fanny Pope & his brother David. Husband of Lisa Porter. Father of Simon , Alex & Ezra Dyer. Brother of Joan & Glenn. Active in the film industry of NL, producer, director & mentor. Recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from MUN, the Arts Achievement Award from Arts NL & the Legend Award from the City of St. John's. Obit & photo April 16, 2022. Antel, Robert & Walter. Obit & photo Feb. 14, 2022.

**Tucker**, Ida "Louise" (nee Clarke) on April 22, 2022 in St. John's, aged 101. Predeceased by her parents Frederick & Ethel Clarke, her husband Walter Tucker, her brothers George, Fred, Malcolm & James & her sister Elizabeth Brown. Mother of Audrey & Dale Cale (Garth) . Sister of Irene LaCour. Obit April 9, 2022.

**Wawrzkow**, Jan Michael, in St. John's on April 7, 2022, two days before his 105<sup>th</sup>. birthday. Born & raised in Lwow, Poland (present day Lviv, Ukraine). Veteran, WWII. He retired from the Library of Congress in 1981. He moved to St. John's in 2011. Predeceased by his wife Therese . Father of Anne Marie, Michael & Jeanne Freeman (Richard. Obit & photo April 16, 2022.

**Woodland**, Lucy Patten (nee Hickman) April 26, 1917 – Feb. 16, 2022 in St. John's. Born in Grand Bank, daughter of Charles (1881 -1917) & Mary Anne Hickman (1881 – 1955). Predeceased by her husband Gordon J. Woodland (1917-1977) & her

sisters & brother, Alice, Clarence, Bella & Edith May. Mother of Keith & Rhodie Anne. She began her 40 year teaching career in 1937 on Change Island & retired in St. John's in 1977. She taught at Hickman's Harbour, Random Island in 1938 & in St. John's in 1939. In 1941 she went to Grand bank to teach . It was there she met the new

Principal, Gordon Woodland. They married on June 24, 1943. Obit & photo Feb. 19, 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.



Okak Moravian Settlement pre 1919



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## THE POLICE DIARY OF CONSTABLE

### WILLIAM MARTIN, GRAND FALLS.<sup>1</sup>

By Gerald Barnable

William Martin, (1872-1953) was the first policeman in Grand Falls. He moved there in 1907 when the town was in its infancy, and remained for the next 20 years. In a closed company town where only permanent employees and their families lived, housed in company houses, his work ought to have been a piece of cake. Anyone who committed a crime was in danger of losing his job and his house. Only businesses approved by the company were permitted to operate. However, his policing duties extended beyond the town of Grand Falls to include Grand Falls Station (Winsor), Bishops Falls, Botwood, Millertown, Millertown Junction, Buchans, Badger and Norris Arm, as well as lumber camps scattered about the hinterland. In those places lived a more varied population; temporary workers, people who hoped to get jobs in the town, people who were poorer, and had less to lose.<sup>2</sup>

A native of Burin, Martin spent some time in Curling before being posted to Grand Falls and, considering he was 33 in 1907, he was likely already in the police force when he arrived. By the time the 1921 census was taken, he and his wife, Emma, (1884-1976) had four children; the oldest, Frank, being born in Curling and the other three in Grand Falls. There would be two more children born later. (see D. News Obit, Jan. 13, 1953) The family lived at 1 Station Road in a house built and owned by the AND Co. as were all the other houses within this closed company town. This official constable's residence also contained the town's first jail with two cells. It was leased to the government which apparently covered the rent for the constable as there is a copy of a letter from Hutchings directing him to seek out a suitable living accommodation for a second officer who might be coming to replace Constable Trickett, and to make sure the rent or board was no more than \$28.00-\$30.00 per month 'as a rate within his means' (May 3, 1924) After his service there he moved, likely to St. John's as that's where he died, and where he and Emma are buried.<sup>3</sup>

This pioneer is only faintly remembered in the community histories.<sup>4</sup> His footprint is much fainter than for example the early doctors of the area. Perhaps this was because he transferred out after 20 years and the family did not put down roots there. However it is more likely that his contribution to the community was associated with negative aspects best forgotten. Keeping peace and good order meant there was in fact mischief, crime, detection, punishment and shame Wilf House being quoted from the Advertiser files in *Grand Falls-Winsor, the Place and its People*, put it well.

“Grand Falls during its first half century was a quiet peaceful community with so little crime it was hardly necessary for people to lock their doors when leaving home. This is the opinion of

most long-time residents whose selective memory seems to have filtered out most negative aspects of life in the good old days.”<sup>5</sup>

Another old timer, less discerning, said of the police, they “...did not have sufficient work to keep them from getting stout. “ (See, George Hicks, quoted in *Grand Falls-Winsor, the Place and its People*)<sup>6</sup>.

We shall see.

This policeman’s diary names the unfortunates, the vicious, and the victims. ‘Girls in trouble’, as they used to say, and putative fathers can be found here. Behind his few lines relating to charges and investigations greater tragedies can be discerned—incidents caused by drunkenness, hunger, madness and despair.<sup>7</sup>

The 1921 nominal Census for Grand Falls and its surroundings presents a fuller picture.<sup>8</sup> A reader can examine the ages of the population and see that most had been born elsewhere. They all didn’t live in single family dwellings. There were a number of boarding houses that approximated small hotels. Lewis and Maud Burry had an establishment that housed five servants and 16 boarders. George and Jean McPherson had four servants and 12 boarders. Winifred Rideout had six servants catering to 23 boarders and one visitor. Francis and Theresa Ireland had seven servants and 29 boarders. William and Jessie Petrie had 8 servants and 23 boarders. In the diary there is mention of the Exploits Hotel (Sept. 20, 1919, and the Workman’s Hotel. Most boarders were young males, hardly a demographic to allow a policeman to get fat due to idleness.



Director Head Frame and Mill Buchans Mine ca 1950 Courtesy Dept Mines and Energy

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The preserved diary entries began in July, 1915 and continued until 1924. Some dozen pages appear to have been torn out at the end of the book and on the inside of the back cover, he made a final comment. It was likely a duty for police officers to keep a diary. Sergeant Thomas Wells kept one when he was in Little Bay but over the passage of more than 100 years most would have become lost. The Hon. Edward Roberts, writing the forward for the publication of the Wells diary, noted that even more remarkable than the fact of the diary was that it should have survived.<sup>9</sup> Martin's handwriting is clear and is easy to read. He presents in it as a scrupulous, brave, conscientious and merciful officer.

His diary ended the summer of 1924. He had been temporarily sent to Corner Brook to keep an eye on a strike. But it hadn't amounted to much and he was returned to his station. At that point about a dozen pages were torn out. From the number of pages used to fill in a year, this loss might have amounted to as much as two more years of entries. He used the inside of the back cover to make an earlier entry, dated March 16, 1923, one that has an air of weariness to it, "had 33 convictions for breaches of the Intoxicating Liquors Act and 27 for breaches of the Prohibition Act which makes 60 convictions since my arrival in Grand Falls on June the 15<sup>th</sup>, 1907". He added wryly, "and made about 500 enemies."

This last entry and Mr. Summers' prescription for de-alcoholizing liquor highlight his most common police duties after 1917 – the hunt for illegal homebrew, moonshine and St. Pierre liquor. After the first of January, 1917 it became illegal in Newfoundland to import or possess intoxicating liquors containing two per cent alcohol or more.<sup>10</sup>

The diary begins with his copying out some curious instructions he received October 2, 1915 from the Deputy Minister of Justice, whose name he copied as ' M. J. Summers', but whose actual name was 'Patrick J. Summers. It was William's habit to copy out the directions he received as well as recording his daily occurrences.

Mr. Summers' wrote,  
("Summer time) Samples of beer should be properly corked and sealed and then immersed as soon as possible in boiling water for about two hours. The fermenting germs will by that time be destroyed.

(Winter time) Instead of immersing the samples in boiling water, it might be more convenient to bury them in ice for five or six hours, when the cold will effectively destroy the fermenting germs."

Constable Martin followed this instruction at least once. In an entry dated 23 of July, 1919 he applied Mr. Summers' recipe for destroying the fermenting germ in homemade beer he had seized from Michael Walsh. He reported, "Returned to my station at 6 a.m. and immersed the samples of beer in boiling water and the bottles bursted and I lost the beer."

Otherwise, he simply sent the seized samples to H.Q. without attempting to de-alcoholize them.

Homemade beer could be dangerous. On November 13, 1921 he conducted an inquiry into the death of a man from Millertown Junction. He wrote, "Returned from Millertown Junction at 11 p.m. found that A.... had made some beer and put one and half plugs of Mayo's tobacco in it, and Dr. said it caused his death, could not get any of the beer as it was all destroyed."

The doctor wasn't named and it is impossible to identify him. In other entries the diary referred to a Doctor Walter Scott being there on July 23, 1918. There was a mention of a Dr. Smith at Bishop's Falls around this time. Doctors Harry B. Chamberlain and Munro were also among the early doctors of the area but they were likely earlier practitioners.<sup>11</sup>

At the beginning of his diary the writer was reporting to Inspector General John Sullivan. In 1917 Charles Hutchings replaced Sullivan, and he was assisted by Superintendent William Grimes. (Yearbook and Almanac of Newfoundland, 1918)

Inspector General Charles Hutchings served until 1934 so he was Martin's boss during most of the period covered by this diary. The officer enjoyed a good relationship with Hutchings. There was one letter of caution warning him not to get into the business of collecting civil judgements for creditors but simply to serve the documents. Martin, perhaps egged on by the Magistrate, had written requesting a portion of the monies he had been collecting for creditors following judgement. Hutchings distinguished for him the circumstance under which he could take a portion of the proceeds – when a chattel had been seized for debt and sold by him at auction. He was also a deputy sheriff. Hutchings impressed on him this limitation and asked him to remind the magistrate also.



At least three times Hutchings sent him letters called 'favorable record' letters, praising him for investigations well done and awarding him money payments for work well done. Martin copied all letters, good or bad, into his occurrence book. His entry for Feb. 12, 1918 recorded Hutchings' commendation for the job he had done in affecting the arrest of 'three notorious thieves' bearing a surname common in the Stephenville - Port aux Port area, who had broken into the A.N.D. Store at Aspen Brook and stolen three barrels of flour, 40 pounds of butter and a

caddy of tobacco. It would appear Hutchings would like to keep the A.N.D. Company happy. For his part, Martin never cast any aspirations on the people he investigated, arrested or locked up. Hutchings could be a killjoy. A carnival was coming – ‘the “Wonderland Show”’. It had been in St. John’s and now it was on its way to Central. Hutchings was desirous that the carneys not be allowed to set up a wheel of fortune, a lottery draw or a palmistry stand. Like he told Martin, “I didn’t allow those games in St. John’s and don’t you allow them either.

Of course even an Inspector General could be burned by tricksters. He wrote to Martin on Sept. 27, 1921 the following letter of concern:

“I understand that there are three men named Brown, Soper and Quirk soliciting subscriptions with the approval of the Women’s Patriot Association of this city. They have been displaying a list of subscribers on which is found the names of Job Bros. & Co., the Hon W.R. Warren and myself with the others typewritten, and the name of Sir Robert Bond written by Sir Robert himself.

I desire that you get possession of this document. On the strength of my name appearing on the same Sir Robert was induced to contribute to the fund. This list is evidently a fake. I was not a subscriber, did not sign my name or give anyone else permission to do so.”

Hutchings seemed susceptible to hoaxes. In 1923 the word went out that gold had been discovered at Stag Bay, Labrador. Hutchings wanted policemen on site even before the miners. On June the 18<sup>th</sup> he outfitted 12 officers in new-style uniforms and hurried them off to Black Duck River where they were to build their headquarters and jail. By August 29<sup>th</sup>, two months later they were back in St. John’s as no gold had been found.<sup>12</sup>

Extra duties.

Some of Hutchings’ instructions to Constable Martin were suggestions that the latter have a quiet look at a local situation. In 1920 he was furnished with a report by Head Constable G. O’Neill and correspondence from the Militia headquarters regarding a cheque made out by the Militia Department and cashed in Grand Falls at the Royal Store. He wasn’t expected to identify a crime or make an arrest. His direction was simple, “You make immediate inquiry by whom the cheque was presented at that store.”

Hutchings also had a file on his desk that summer alleging a wife in Bishop’s Falls was receiving ill-treatment at the hands of her husband. He sent Martin to make a visit, ask a few questions but to withhold the fact of the police report from the parties he was investigating. Martin did so but there was no record of an outcome. However, in December he had to go back to that community to do a death inquiry regarding a wife bearing the same name.

There was a delicate case where Hutchings personally ordered an arrest. An ex-constable, P.D., was ordered arrested and charged with larceny of an overcoat belonging to another officer, Constable William Case. The offender pleaded guilty, was released on a personal bond and

received a suspended sentence. If there was a remand in this case it was not mentioned. Likely it was believed scandal could cause more community harm than larceny.

Before the creation of the Ranger Force, constabulary officers did extra duties beyond policing. For example Hutchings wrote,

“When requested by the magistrate you will, from time to come, carry out Public Health Inspections. For this work you will receive the same compensation as is paid the same position at other large towns, namely \$25. 00 per annum.” Hutchings’ letter, June 16, 1923. Martin’s entry for April 17, 1918 read, “Quarantined eight houses at Badger’s Brook for smallpox.”

In Sept 26, 1921 he got a letter from Hutchins directing him to list all the car owners in and around his district as there was a suspicion that car owners outside St. John’s were not registering their vehicles and paying registration fees.

In a letter dated October 9, 1917 Hutchings directed the officer to go to Millertown and look at the site where the A.N.D. Co. planned to store kerosene in a shed between the town and Red Indian Lake, and determine if it was suitable and send him a full report.

On the local level Constable Martin interacted with the doctors of the area, the local magistrate and a succession of subordinate police officers sent to assist him from time to time and, of course, the victims of crime. His work with the doctors involved inquiries into suspicious deaths - deaths by suicide, or misadventure. There seems to have been quite a lot of findings of insanity back then and it was the constable’s job to hold people until they could be examined by a doctor and then to transport certified lunatics off to the asylum in St. John’s.

In Christmas week, 1921 Magistrate Fitzgerald sent him to Bishop’s Falls to investigate a complaint the latter had received. A local resident was alarming family or neighbors and, as he was an individual who had been certified insane and spent time in the asylum three years earlier, it needed a response.

Without embellishment, Martin told what happened. At 3 a.m. the next day he was at the house of J.F. He wrote, “Arrested F. after a hard fight in which I had to take an ax twice from F.’s son, age 11. I threw the ax through the window.”

His report continued, “Later in the day the doctor examined F. and said that he was run down and starved, and if he was left in for a few days and fed he would be all right.”

This episode ended on the 29<sup>th</sup> with an entry, “J.F. was released and sent home.”

The cells were sometimes mercifully used to shelter people. The June 26, 1920 entry read, “Arrested John Guy of Bonavista for safekeeping.” The entry for the next day was, “Guy released to go home and left by Express the same night.”

Using the cells in Grand Falls as a sort of temporary shelter didn't always work out. On February 12, 1920 a 26-year old woman thought to be insane was brought to Grand Falls by a Glenwood resident.

The next entry in Constable Martin's diary relating to her was made 12 days later. "I.M. taken from the lockup by a Mrs. Janes a cousin of her by order of the Magistrate, M. being very sick." (Feb. 24).

The final entry was on Tuesday, March 2, 1920. "The insane girl, I.M., died at the home of her cousin."

William Martin had many more males to deal with than he did females. Very often when his cases involved women they were affiliation matters. Often too, the women were victims, not offenders. They were most likely to be victims of sexual assaults. The usual punishment for an indecent assault was a \$10.00 fine. When the victim was the sister of the offender it was raised to \$50.00, or in another case where a married man indecently assaulted his sister-in-law there was a similar fine of \$50.00 and in a case where a father indecently assaulted his 16-year old daughter, the man received six months in prison.



Hauling Logs in the Early Days Grand Falls Mill Courtesy DAI

A woman of his district who was convicted of concealment of childbirth was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment with hard labor.( see entry for October 5, 1917.)

The 8-day remand was amply used in Constable Martin's time for persons charged with offences and to give an occasional vagrant a shelter out of the cold for a while. Some of the cases brought to court were dismissed but Martin never used that word. Instead, his word was 'discharged'.

Sometimes, the 8-day remand was deemed enough. A 16-year old from Bay of Islands had his sentence suspended after stealing Meaney's clothes, worth \$104.00 but he was ordered "to leave the area and go home as he was the only support of his father." (May 3, 1920)

Magistrate Henry F. Fitzgerald (1867-1933), served Grand Falls area from 1911 until his death. In his earlier life he was a would-be politician and, according to Shortis who wrote an obituary for him, he was appointed as a reward for this effort. (The Evening Telegram, August 7, 1933). Fitzgerald was sometimes relieved by Magistrate William John Scott (d. 1927) from Twillingate who had expected to take Fitzgerald's place in 1918 but instead was sent to Bay of Islands, and even sometimes by Magistrate George Carty (1872-1926) who was stationed in St. Georges.

Martin travelled with the magistrate on circuits, produced defendants and witnesses for court, received remanded prisoners in his local cells and carried them to St John's either to the Mental or the Penitentiary. His diary was extremely factual. and objective. When the Supreme Court arrived on November 24, 1918 his entry was, "Supreme Court opened here. " The next day he wrote, "Court opened at 10 a.m. and the judge addressed the Grand Jury for an hour. Then court closed."

The policing for this station was still done by only one officer when the diary ended but Martin did sometimes have the assistance of a second man, the last being Const. Joseph (Graham) Trickett. Earlier, there were other officers mentioned as assisting, for short periods, or as they were just passing through. Trickett had replaced Constable Ambrose Conway. There had been a Constable P. Foran.

Martin wrote in his book May 13, 1921, "Sent Constable Foran to Botwood to shoot all the dogs there and gave him the gun belonging to the station and 50 cartridges."

Foran didn't last long after that. In his July 7, 1921 entry Martin noted that Hutchings had sent word directing him to send Foran to Badger's Brook 'until further orders.'" On July 19, 1921 Martin wrote, "Constable Foran returned from Badger's Brook and reported that he did not intend to return there again." Martin's note for August 1, 1921 was quite brief, "Foran ordered back to Headquarter in St. John's."

A constable Humber must have taken Foran's place because he was there for the Labor Day celebrations of July 31, in 1922. There was a parade, pony and horse races and a garden party in the evening. While the two constables, Martin and Humber were making their rounds the latter was assaulted and knocked to the ground reviving a nasty scrape to the side of his face from the



gravel when he struck. The assailant was fined \$50. At about the same time a man convicted of possessing moonshine was fined \$100.

Other officers mentioned in those pages were Constables Fred Churchill, King, Kelly and a Head Constable Robert Squibb.

Martin himself was hardy and in for the long haul. His entry for Jan. 24, 1922 reads, "Left 9 a.m. with a dog team for Badger Brook and arrived there at 3:30 p.m. with face badly frozen. It was then 16 below zero." In the fall he spent his holidays hunting caribou on Red Indian Lake.

The victims of crime were the NFLD Co. Railway, the A.N.D. Co., Mr. Hampton, the store owner in Bishops Falls, Mr. John Cashin who owned a store at Grand Falls Station, Mr. Hayward, the manager of Woods Candy Store and the Meat Store in Grand Falls, loggers in camps and workers in boarding houses who could only rely on easily rifled trunks and foot lockers to protect their few belongings, housewives with lines of clothes out, young and vulnerable females, John Bethune who was trying to make a go of fox farming near Bishops Falls. Even the Methodist minister, W.T.D. Dunn, fell victim of crime when his new house was broken into in 1924 and his carpenter tools and 10 pounds of putty carried off. The perpetrators were young boys and the Rev., once he got all back all but the putty, declined to prosecute. The Salvation Army was satisfied to prosecute the 11 young men who were engaging in disorderly conduct at their barracks on Nov. 8, 1920. They had only come there 10 years earlier and the younger adherents of older religions still felt licensed to torment them. Likely it was the only way the Salvationists felt they could halt such practices, which were common enough elsewhere also.

A typical year of activity for Constable Martin

The reader will get a good picture of Constable Martin's work from the following report: On Mon., Jan 2, 1922 he sent a list of cases he had dealt with the preceding year to the Inspector General, 'consisting of the following':

Bastardy, 6  
 Breach of prohibition Act, 12  
 Breach of the Game Laws, 3  
 Breach of the Lottery Act, 3  
 Cruelty to animals, 2  
 Drunk and disorderly, 1  
 Driving without lights, 1  
 Insane, 3  
 Larceny, 10  
 Loose and disorderly conduct, 13  
 Prostitute, 1  
 Sexual connection with a female under 16, 1

Oct. 3, 1921." Arrested A. L. under a bastardly warrant."

The next day

Oct. 4, 1921 "Prisoner L. before the court and decided to marry the girl and was released to get married."

In yet another case with this satisfactory outcome, the constable wrote, "Went to Bishop's Falls to arrest-non a bastardy case. Found that he had married the girl. (Feb. 28, 1923)

In the one case of prostitution mentioned in the above list, the unfortunate individual was convicted in court 'for being a common vagrant and prostitute' and sentenced to six months in the penitentiary. Three days later, Constable Martin escorted her to St. John's by train. The same individual had served several remands for vagrancy

Crimes of the times.

The train played an important role in Constable Martin's work. Martin spent a lot of time going back and forth to St. John's with prisoners and insane patients. Once, he was stuck on the train for six days while returning from St. John's in winter.

A crime of the time was trying to derail the train. Young boys of the time, as young as 8 or 10, were inclined to put rocks on the track to see what would happen. In 1927 somebody managed to derail the track motor on the Trepassey Line but the police had a very good lead. Evening Telegram, Sept. 28, 1927).

Nothing raised the ire of headquarters as much as this act of mischief. In August 1916 Superintendent Grimes wrote to Martin saying old ties had been lodged on the track, one under one above and if they had not been noticed in time and pulled out, they would have done the job. He wanted no stone unturned to bring the guilty parties to justice for this dastardly act and offered a special constable to assist. There was no indication the culprits were found but in the fall of that year two young men were arrested for putting a rock in the 'frog' of the train up at Millertown Junction. A 'frog' was the built-up pieces of track that allowed one rail to cross another with an opening for the wheel flange. It was designed so that the train did not derail as its wheels crossed from one rail to another.

The two appeared in court at Bishop's Falls October 24 and were sentenced to 12 months hard labor. There they were destined to be part of the prison population of 226 made up of 170 men, 17 women and 39 juveniles. (Note. The Evening Telegram, March 1, 1917 reporting on the 1916 statistics for the pen.)

Martin first took them back to the lock-up at Grand Falls until he could escort them to St. John's. Four days later, the local jailor, Eddy Whitemarsh shamefacedly reported they were missing. They had managed to get their hands out through the bars of the window in the door and remove the screws that held the bars in place. The hunt for them was a failure but the father of one returned them eventually. A few days later Martin was on his way with them on the train along with a patient he was to drop off at the lunatic asylum. Suspects from other places often fled to Constable Martin's area and when arrested had to be brought back to the scene of their crimes. One of Inspector General Sullivan's cautions in 1916 was that the local cells needed to be secure. It was unacceptable that prisoners could readily escape, and terrorize the citizenry and endanger the policeman's family. In 1920 there was yet another escape. The prisoner took the bolts off the

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door hangers and left. He next furnished himself with a stolen 22 caliber rifle and bullets and ended up at his brother's house, which brother turned him in. Martin entered and found him in bed covered up, but fully clothed with his gun loaded, the shells and a sheath knife beside him.

Thefts of goods from the trains and local stations were common. The 'caddy' of tobacco was a very attractive item to thieves. Theft of trolleys were also popular.

Fur prices ran high back then. In addition to stealing Bathune's fox furs, the illegal taking of beaver and sale of pelts also got the police on the move. On December 31 Constables Trickett and Martin got the word that W. G Faulkner had left Lewisport with three barrels of beaver skins on a dog team. They tried to intercept him at Bishop's Falls but were not successful.

The glass insulators on the telegraphs poles made a very inviting target in Martin's time, and for a long while after. In 1915 Sullivan suspected hunters of doing such damage and insisted Martin begin a crackdown. On September 27, 1915 the officer had the names of a dozen suspects from the Bishop Falls area. He must have wondered what to do, because their ages ranged from six to thirteen. His diary entry for October 2, 1915 read, "Orders from Inspector Gear received to prosecute the above boys."

There was no mention of the actual prosecution of the six and eight year olds. Likely, if Martin was left to his own discretion, he would have given them a break. On June 18, 1916 he had received the complaint of John Dawe that \$10.00 had been stolen from his house. Inquiries were made and he learned a 10-year girl was responsible. He wrote, "I received the money. The girl said she had picked the money up. I did not arrest her as she was so young."

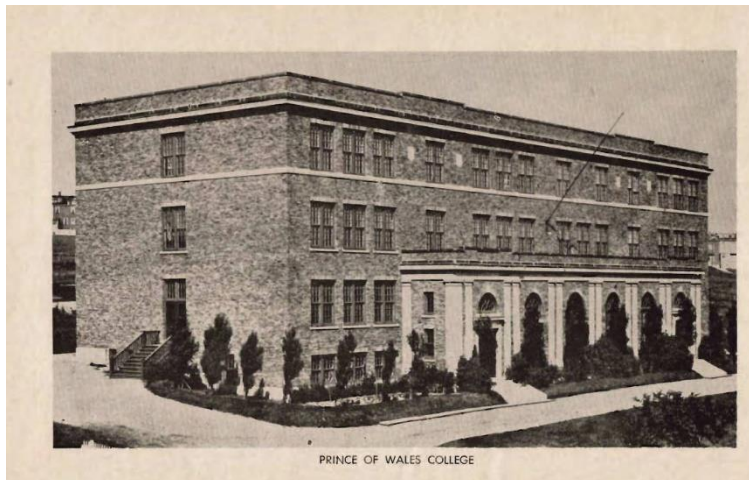
Magistrate Fitzgerald seemed of the same mind when it came to the very young. On July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1921 two boys, eight and ten, were before the court for placing rocks on the tracks. This was a very serious offence then, and in those times males weren't given very long childhoods. In St. John's they would likely have received more serious punishment and might have received a few strokes of the birch rod. In Grand Falls their parents were placed under \$25.00 bonds. This was a frequent outcome and the court must have felt such bonds were good security as the income was there to effect collection.

#### Conclusion.

There is no way of re-capturing the past. As one writer put it, 'the past is a foreign country.' There is the matter of perspective. The Grand Falls that Constable Martin witnessed would not be the Grand Falls that the priests or ministers saw, or the experiences of Mr. Cooper, who managed everything for the Company. Neither would it be the Grand Falls the old timers remember. It is a perspective, just that, and one that omits much more than it discloses.

## NOTES:

1. Hunter Library, Rare Book Division, 347.718, M36, N.R)
2. To keep a perspective on what a fine of \$10.00 meant, or a fine of \$100.00 for selling homemade liquor, or the theft of a \$250.00 fox fur for John Bethune's fox farm, the reader should appreciate that in 1906 the rate of pay for workers getting the enterprises underway was 13 ½ cents per hour, a \$1.35 for a 10-hour work day. (the Forest Beckons, ...p. 18.)
- 3 "Died at the General Hospital on January 12th., Ex-Head Constable William Martin, aged 81. Surviving are wife, four sons, two daughters, two sisters and one brother. Funeral will take place at 2:30 Wednesday from Oke's Funeral Home by motor hearse." Daily News Jan 13, 1953.
4. (Grand falls-Winsor, The Place and its People, Grand Falls-Winsor Heritage Society Inc., 2006, p.325; See also The Forest Beckoned, Reminiscences and Historical Data of the Town of Grand Falls, Newfoundland from 1905 to 1960, Committee for the Exploits Valley Senior Citizens Club of Grand Falls, Newfoundland, 1966, p.18.
5. P. 162.
- 6, p. 325
7. None of the people mentioned in this diary are likely to be still alive. However, some of their descendants or relations could be. This paper will refrain from giving the names of people charged, or indeed, anyone who was before court unwillingly, including unwed mothers or deserted wives who had to lay charges or get no public assistance. Hopefully, an interesting report can be made without shocking the family genealogist.
- 8, Newfoundland 1921 Census, Grand Falls, Part 1, ngb. Chebcto.org/c1921/21-g-g-falls i-t-w-shtm,/
9. All Quiet, The Diaries of Sergeant Thomas E. Wells Newfoundland Constabulary, Little Bay, Notre Dame Bay, NL., E. Doyle Wells, ed, DRC Publishing,2012, Forward, p.ix).
10. Of the Prohibition of Intoxicating Liquors, Cap. 68, Consolidated Statutes of Newfoundland , 1916, Vol 1, p.525
11. Grand Falls-Winsor, the Place and its People, p. 56.
12. Arthur Fox, The Newfoundland Constabulary, p.109).



## TEACHERS WE MAY REMEMBER, Part Four

(See *The Newfoundland Ancestor* Volume 36, 4 , for Part Three )

Submitted by Pat Walsh

Whenever I am asked for possible sources of genealogical information, I generally mention Association journals, Company newsletters or Trade magazines. Here in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association, formerly the NTA, has published for many years a journal and a bulletin/newsletter for the teachers of the province. Over the years a number of obituaries have been printed. As a retired teacher, I have met hundreds of teachers. As a former student at St. Patrick's Hall & Brother Rice High School in St. John's, I have fond memories of so many teachers. In this article I hope to remind you of some teachers who may have made an impact on you or a member of your family. I have also included obits from *The Telegram* .

**Aucoin**, Bernadette, Sister, PBVM. Born in Stephenville on Oct. 12, 1928, daughter of Joseph and Mary Ellen (Schumph). She worked for several years at Ernest Harmon Air Force Base in Stephenville. She entered the community of Sisters of Presentation on Sept. 8, 1950 & received the name of Sister Estelle. She held teaching positions in Bishop's Falls, Humbermouth, Port au Port West, Mount Pearl, Cape St. George, Deer Lake & Benoit's Cove. She retired in 1986 and served as pastoral administrator of the parish of Brent's Cove, La Scie & Harbour Round. She died as a result of an automobile accident in June 1992. Obit, *The NTA Bulletin*, December 1992.

**Bishop**, Eli Clifford Jan. 29, 1943 – Aug. 22, 2021. Originally from Cavendish, Trinity Bay. Predeceased by his parents Harold and Florence of Blaketown, Trinity Bay. Husband of Patricia. Father of Lisa Moore (Robert), William, Lana Whyte (Peter). Brother of William, Harold, Dora Jones (Junior) and Joan. He began his teaching career in Pollard's Point, White Bay at age 17. He retired as Principal of Sop's Arm Central High School following a thirty year career. Well known as a businessman and community activist in White Bay. In 2016 he was recognized as an inductee in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame. Obit & photo, *The NTA Bulletin*, November/December 2021 .

**Clarke**, Ronald Archibald John, formerly of Chance Cove, Trinity Bay. May 29, 1929 – Jan 1, 2022 in St. John's, aged 92. Husband of 58 years of Vera (Bishop). Father of Kerry (deceased), Bradley, Michael and Melanie. Ron began his teaching career in 1947 in Ireland's Eye and retired in 1984. He taught in Shearstown, Bell Island, Foxtrap, CBS, St. John's and Mount Pearl. He also taught at Memorial University of Newfoundland for 10 years, retiring in 1994. He was a frequent blood donor, and active with the Mount Pearl Lions Club and the Anglican Church. Internment in Chance Cove. Obit and photo Barrett's Funeral Home, St. John's.

**Cooper**, Lloyd Anthony April 2, 1948- Dec. 1, 2021 in St. John's. Predeceased by his parents George and Clara. Born in Grand Falls. Husband of 52 years of Yvonne. Father of Lesley White (Darren) and Andrew. Brother of Derek. He spent his teaching career at Prince of Wales

Collegiate in St. John's, retiring in 1998. He then went to work for the Salvation Army in Africa, Kuwait, Iraq and Ground Zero and for CONA in Qatar. Obit and photo *The Telegram* Dec. 3, 2021.

**Fagan**, William Edward (Bill) on Dec. 30, 2021, Predeceased by his parents William and Gladys (Chafe), his wife Truly, and his brothers & sisters, Gerry, Don, Jane, Maureen, Pat, Kevin and Elizabeth. Father of Regina, Marie, Joanne & Rob. Long time educator, teacher, Principal and employee of the RC School Board, St. John's. Obit and photo *The Telegram* Jan. 4, 2022.

**Gray**, Katherine Mary, in St. John's on Nov. 29, 2021, aged 79. Predeceased by her parents Wilson & Mary Gray (nee Brown) and her sister Bertha Marilyn. Sister of Dorothy Long (Jim). She taught at Park Avenue Elementary in Mount Pearl for over 30 years. Obit and photo Dec. 1, 2021.

**Jeffers**, Amelia (Millie) 1903 – Jan. 5, 1992. She was born in Freshwater, Carbonear. She began teaching at age 16 and taught in a number of United Church schools in Grand Falls, St. John's and Carbonear during her 43 year career. Photo and obit, *The NTA Bulletin* Sept./Oct. 1992.

**Rose**, Raymond (Ray) Ward in St. John's, on June 17, 2021, aged 82. Born on Fox Island. Predeceased by his parents George and Harriet Rose, his sister Mamie Marsden and his brother Roy. Husband of 58 years of Cora. Father of Kevin. Brother of Florence. Ray had a successful career in education, first as a teacher, then as a Principal and Regional Superintendent. He spent a number of years in Labrador West. He was a regent for Memorial University of Newfoundland for several years. He had a passion for the outdoors. Obit and photo *The Telegram* June 19, 2021.

**Stokes**, Gerald of Wesleyville, on Aug. 3, 2021. Born in Cape Freels, March 10, 1941, son of Ernest and Clara Stokes. He began his teaching career in Noggin Cove and taught in Cape Freels, Wesleyville, Channel Port Aux Basques, Little Bay East and Lumsden. He completed his 30 year career at Lester Pearson Memorial High School in Wesleyville in 1990. Gerald was an avid outdoorsman. Husband of 58 years of Ruby. Father of Cindy Hillier (Sid), Corner Brook and Brad, Wolfville, NS. Brother of Florence Jackson (Gordon) & Susan Burry (Sid). Obit and photo *The NTA Bulletin* November/December 2021.

**Wiseman**, Frances Carmel (nee Flynn) June 15, 1944 – Nov. 15, 2021 in St. John's. Predeceased by her parents Timothy and Catherine Flynn of Buchans, her husband William J. and her grandparents Matthew and Mary Lannon of Fortune Harbour and James and Elizabeth Flynn of Norris Arm. Mother of William. Sister of Joe, Jim, Tim, Mary, Carmel, Elizabeth, Eileen and Ellen. She was a teacher for 30 years with the RC School Board at St. Joseph's, Mary Queen of Peace and St. Paul's. Very active in Provincial hockey. Inducted into the NL Hockey Hall of Fame in 2006. Obit *The Telegram* Nov. 17, 2021.

**Williams**, Mary Beatrice (nee Croft) in St. John's on Jan. 14, 2022, aged 81. Thirty year teaching career. Predeceased by her parents Ida and Fred Croft, her sister Anna Meaney and her brother Joseph Croft. Wife of Fred. Mother of Keith and Tina Skanes (Rod). Sister of Vince, Gerry, John, Catherine O'Driscoll (Paddy) and Phyllis Dunne (Joe). Interment at the RC Cemetery, Aquaforte. Obit & photo *The Telegram* Jan. 18, 2022.

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## The Newells of The Dock: Harold Newell (1890-1974)

By Kate Newell

I recently requested the Harold Newell Fonds (MG 371) from the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador. I knew of these fonds, thanks to a remote Newell cousin. But Harold Newell, himself, is known to me on two counts: first, he was an early researcher of the Newells of The Dock; and second, he once lived next door to my grandparents. My uncle currently owns his property, which was purchased by my grandfather, when Harold left the Port de Grave Peninsula for St. John's.

Decks Awash, Vol 17 No. 1 (1988) pays tribute to Harold Newell as the first librarian of the public libraries of Newfoundland. However, Harold was not born a librarian; he was every bit a native son and found his way to his calling in the unassuming ways of the young men of his time. I decided to do a quick survey of the tracks he left. All can be retraced through resources readily available to any researcher.

Harold Newell was, of course, born in The Dock, the son of Nathaniel Newell and Margaret Jane nee Taylor. As he relates to my family, he was the half-brother of our beloved Uncle Nathan, and, in like manner, was a 1st Cousin to my grandfather.<sup>1</sup>

To begin piecing together his movements, I started with the censuses. He was found residing in The Dock in 1911<sup>2</sup>, aged 20, with his younger brother, Clement, and his parents, Nathaniel and Margaret Newell; in 1921<sup>3</sup>, in The Dock with only his mother, his father having passed away in 1912 and his brother Clement in 1918; in 1935<sup>4</sup>, a lodger, aged 44 in the household of Madeleine Bartlett of St. John's East; and in 1945<sup>5</sup>, aged 55, married to Marion (nee Bartlett, daughter of

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<sup>1</sup> The Newfoundland Ancestor, Vol 37, No 1.

<sup>2</sup>1911 CENSUS, PORT DE GRAVE, Dock, transcription Newfoundland Grand Banks, website.

<sup>3</sup> "Canada, Newfoundland Census, 1921," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV1W-TL6H> : 8 March 2021), Harold Newell, Dock, Port de Grave, Newfoundland, Canada; citing p. 134, household ID 141, line 17, Department of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador; FHL microfilm 2,166,636.

<sup>4</sup>"Canada, Newfoundland Census, 1935," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK9Z-Z9GT> : 8 March 2021), Harold Newell in household of Madeline Bartlett, St. John's East, St. John's East, Newfoundland, Canada; citing St. John's East District, p. 210, household ID 233, reference ID , Department of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador; FHL microfilm 2,166,829.

<sup>5</sup> "Canada, Newfoundland Census, 1945," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QK9Z-L549> : 9 March 2021), Harold Newell, St. John's, St. John's West,

Madeline, formerly of the Port de Grave peninsula). According to the additional data in the census, he had been a librarian, by 1945, for at least ten years, which suggests that he moved to St. John's to take up such a post. (I did not request copies of his academic accreditations or other documents related to his *métier*, but doing so would refine some of the details.)

It is tempting to assume that nothing more is to be known of Harold, other than his success as a librarian and other logical bookish extensions thereof (he tried his hand at fiction), but this would be inaccurate. Harold, like so many other young Newfoundland sons, emigrated to the United States. His immigration card<sup>6</sup>, dated June 1914, indicated that his mother, Margaret J, was still alive. However, his occupation was listed as "paper mill hand" and his U.S. contact was Moses Abbot of Millinocket, Maine. These are interesting details; there are no paper mills around Port de Grave and "Abbot" is not indigenous to Port de Grave. Harold also indicated that 1914 was not his first visit to the U.S.A.; instead, he had resided there in the years 1912-1913. Thus, a great deal had been happening in Harold's life between the apparently sedate passage of time offered by the snapshots of the censuses of 1911 and of 1921, in which he resided in The Dock.

I decided to see what Clement had been up to in the same period. Clement lost his life in the Great War, and 1914, the year of Harold's emigration to Maine, was a significant one. Clement Leslie arrived in Vanceboro, Maine, on the same day as Harold, likewise travelling from North Sydney on the Bruce, and destined for the home of Moses Abbot. Although they never appear together in these papers, one can assume they were travelling together. Clement, unlike Harold, gave his occupation as "fisherman." One might assume, then, that he had been at home in The Dock, whereas Harold had taken an opportunity and had been employed in a paper mill, prior to their departure for Maine.

I thought Moses Abbot might help me work out where Harold had been working in a paper mill, although the possibilities were slight. A google search told me that Grand Falls was the likely mill.<sup>7</sup> Lumber mills had been in operation for some time, but in 1909 one of the first pulp and paper mills was opened in Grand Falls. It is not hard to imagine that the appeal of a well-paid and steady job might have enticed young men from all over the Island.

Moses Abbot, according to his U.S. draft registration<sup>8</sup> was born on Poole Island. He had immigrated to Millinocket in 1912.<sup>9</sup> His occupation was given as "Finisher Paper Mill" at "Great

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Newfoundland, Canada; citing St. John's West District, p. 107, household ID 294, line 46, Department of Tourism, Culture, and Recreation, St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador; FHL microfilm 2,167,123.

<sup>6</sup> *U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1960* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.heritage.nf.ca/articles/economy/forestry.php>

<sup>8</sup> U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918

<sup>9</sup> [U.S., Index to Alien Case Files at the National Archives at Kansas City, 1944-2003](#). I cannot address the tight timeline between Sept 1911 census and Moses Abbot's immigration. *Were I to speculate, I would suppose that Harold had*



Northern Paper Company”. One supposes that Harold befriended Moses while working at the paper mill in Grand Falls, and he and his brother had emigrated to join Moses at the Great Northern Paper Company. But this is not what ultimately transpired.



Courtesy Atlantic Guardian

Instead, War transpired. Moses claimed exemption from the draft on the basis of being sole supporter of his wife and child.<sup>10</sup> He remained in Maine. Harold claimed exemption on the basis of being sole supporter of his mother, Margaret.<sup>11</sup> He moved home. Whether he was physically in residence with his mother, Margaret Jane, in 1921, or making a living elsewhere, is unknown. There is no U.S. draft record for Clement. Did he decide to fight and come home to join the Regiment? To my knowledge, there is nothing more readily available, but that he was lost in Belgium and that memorials exist upon which his name is inscribed.

In summary, my point in writing this simple, incomplete synopsis of Harold Newell’s movements is to paint him as he was, no different from any other Newfoundlander: driven by the winds of his time, and ultimately finding a place to make a contribution to his Newfoundland. It is with pleasure that I will offer what he left for us in his writings, as preserved in MG 371, and to add my comments where I can bring his work up to date.

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*been working at the pulp and paper company prior to 1911, but was listed for the census in The Dock. Duplications and omissions due to transient work situations were (and perhaps are) not uncommon in censuses.*

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

<sup>11</sup> U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918

This article, written by J. A. Crisp ,was submitted by Chris Morry with permission of the author.

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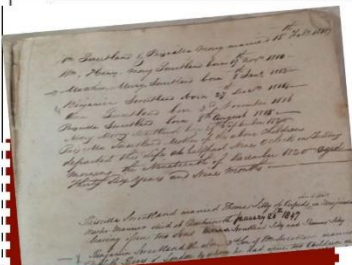
# NEWFOUNDLAND

AND

## MY STORY OF ANCIENT MARINERS

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THE STORY BEHIND THE MYSTERY OF THE OLD BIBLE IN THE CUPBOARD



### ✧ The Old Family Bible ✧

#### DARTMOUTH AND THE NEWFOUNDLAND FISHERIES

“I have often wondered, you know, about that old bible”

These were the words of my mother as she mused about the mystery of why the bible, which had no connection to our family had been lying in the cupboard for two generations


❖❖❖❖


Whilst always aware of the existence of an old family bible with rose petals pressed between its pages, no one ever seemed to know anything about the people recorded in it

It was only when tracing the family of my Great Grandfather during a visit to Manaton Church on Dartmoor, close to the place which had been his home, that by complete coincidence, the opportunity to solve this puzzle presented itself and led me to uncover the wonderful story which I am about to share.

A story of ancient mariners from both Dartmouth and Newfoundland who regularly crossed the Atlantic Ocean, in ships under sail, to fish off the coast of Newfoundland.

I have followed the names written in the bible, The families of Sweetland, Morry and Silly and from the old bible in the back of the cupboard, opened up an overwhelming view into the history of their lives.





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## *“Ye Olde Bible”*

### *An untold Tale of Ancient Mariners*

For as long as I can remember there has always been an old family bible lying in the cupboard at home. No one ever really knew of its origin, there was some writing inside, but it did not relate to our family members, and so little interest was ever taken in its existence. At one time my father decided to use the bible to record our own family and made a few entries, he also made an error and damaged the paper in trying to correct it, but never mind, the original entries are all there and I will tell you what I have discovered, without even having set out to do so.

Since deciding to write about what I knew about our family, and to try to uncover a few extra facts to put them into context I have never had to think about what to research, I have just been led from one subject to the next, all I have had to do is keep on track, and organise my thoughts and the extraordinary amount of material that comes my way.

I was occupied with tracing the family of my Great Grandfather in Manaton, the birthplace of many generations of his family I was particularly keen to visit the church there because I knew he had known a Reverend Sanders who had been the rector there. We had lots of postcards of the church and during his final years he had lodged with my Gran, until he passed away in 1930. We even have details of his funeral and burial arrangements which have never been thrown away. Back in the church I was hoping to find some reference to him, and of course, I did. On a large board at the back of the church, his name was listed with all the rectors of the church past and present.

Alongside each name was the landowner of the church at the time and the sponsor of the the named rector, in the case of the Reverend Sanders the name was Ann Sweetland. Seeing this, immediately rang a bell, because the names in the old bible at home, I was sure were Sweetland, and could not wait to check it out. I was right, there were three entries, all by William Sweetland, the first entry being on his marriage to Pricilla Mary ..... then his children, their marriages and sadly their deaths in some cases, with a brief record of how and where those deaths came about.

At first I could not work out why every child was called “Mary” but then realised the name was Morry, their mother’s family name before marriage. I then discovered the name Morry on the spine of the volume, originally bound in leather, but now without its cover, M. Morry 1810, this I discovered was Matthew Morry, father of Pricilla, William’s wife. Perhaps the bible, which has many engravings inside, all dated around 1806, had been presented to them on their marriage in 1810? Job done? Oh no!

Out of curiosity, and having the library resources at my disposal, I decided to try and find out more about a mill near Lustleigh Cleave after all it was my Great Grandfather’s history I was researching, and this is where he had lived, I opened the Lustleigh box lying in the Local History room, there were many local publications on this tiny Devonshire village, I opened a single fold named Lustleigh Church, which we had visited recently, inside lo and behold a letter! The letter was from a gentleman in Newton Abbot, referring to the Reverend Sanders, and his position in Manaton.

The following are transcriptions of the entries in the bible and the letter, so aptly found at this moment in my research.

## *Transcription of the Sweetland Family Records*

*William Sweetland & Priscilla Morry married 15th Feb. 1810*

*William Henry Morry Sweetland born 19th Nov. 1810*

*Matthew Morry Sweetland born 8th Jan. 1813*

*Benjamin Sweetland born 27th Dec. 1814*

*Ann Sweetland born 3rd Nov. 1816*

*Priscilla Sweetland born 8th August 1818*

*Mary Morry Sweetland born 29th September 1820*

*Priscilla Sweetland mother of the above children departed this life at halfpast nine o'clock on Tuesday morning the nineteenth December 1820 aged thirtysix years and nine months.*

*William Sweetland*

*Priscilla Sweetland married Thomas Silly of Cupids, son of Thomas, in Newfoundland. Master Mariner died at Dartmouth January 26th 1847 leaving issue two sons Sweetland Silly and Thomas Silly.*

*Benjamin Sweetland the above 3rd son of William Sweetland married Elizabeth Reeves of London by whom he had issue two children one of whom his son Fred was lost with him together with his wife at the Sugar Loaf near Saint Johns Island in the hurricane which occurred and swept a huge portion of the coast of this island September 19th 1846 leaving one daughter Ann Maria Sweetland who is now in London at the Master (Merchant) orphan and asylum school and since sent to Dartmouth with her Aunt in 1863.*

*Matthew Morry Sweetland my second son died in his return journey from Sierra Leon to London on 29th July 1852 aged 39 years 7 months. He was never married that I am aware of.*

*William Sweetland*

*Mary Morry Sweetland my third daughter died at Dartmouth Devon on Thursday the 30th day of May 1854 of a rapid decline and not having been married left no issue aged 33 years 8 months.*

*William Henry Morry Sweetland my eldest son as above departed this life at Sylhet in the province of Bengal in India on 26th day of September 1857 aged 46 years and 9 months after a short illness never having married he did not leave any children.*

*William Sweetland*

*William Sweetland Father of the above children died at Bonavista in Newfoundland on Saturday 20th February 1864 in the 77th year of his age.*

*Ann Sweetland*

*Thomas Silly husband of Priscilla Sweetland was drowned at sea on the September 1869 in the 49th year of his age. Sweetland Silly eldest son of Thomas and Priscilla Silly was drowned on the passage from Akyab in India to England during the year 1869 in the 26th year of his age. Ship "Saint Andrew of Quebec" sailed on 1st June 1869 and not heard of since.*

*Ann Sweetland Dartmouth April 25th 1871*

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## Transcription of the letter

Lancehurst

Bovey Tracey

May 7/19

Dear Mr Ellis

Many thanks for book to hand am enclosing cheque for same. Now regards "Manaton Church" I have been making enquiries which are not yet complete, for many years a Rev Sanders had the living, I believe it was purchased & given to him by an Aunt, he was a little bit simple, got into financial difficulties ultimately, the first Viscount Hambledon purchased I believe the living & pensioned the Sanders off, I think he died at Paignton, I knew him very well he was supposed to have sold some of the church plates but, it was unintentional, I was able to explain to the Rural Dean how it happened, it might have been during his time that so many records were lost, for before his time there was a Vicar called Carwithian or Carwithen there for many years & I believe some of the descendants are still in Devon, I wonder if the Hambledon family have any of the records because when they cleared the Rev Sanders out Viscount H. rebuilt the Vicarage, re-roofed & seated the Church or paid for nearly all of it, I believe the first Vicar after the place had been put in order was the present Vicar of Coombe-Martin I think his name was the Rev Young, I met him there last September, I am trying to find some of the "Carwithians" if successful will write to you again. Please excuse the scribble am in a hurry I will write or phone when coming to see you & perhaps you will do the same when coming here en route for Manaton.

Yours faithfully

A. S. Wyatt

## *The Sweetland family*

It was quite an emotional experience when I began to read the entries which had been written in this bible two hundred years ago. At first the marriage of William and his bride Priscilla in 1810, their sons and daughters to follow. However it transpired that, just as I connected with them one by one, so they passed away, but it was so very sad, because either their deaths occurred while they were still very young, as with William's wife, aged thirty-six, or through tragic circumstances, mostly at sea. The family came from Dartmouth, and the children christened at Saint Saviour's church there, but this family was a seafaring family, the men were Merchant Mariners. There were connections with Newfoundland, India and Africa and each son and son-in-law alike lost their lives at sea. Thomas Silly, husband of William Sweetland's daughter Priscilla, and a Master Mariner, which meant he was both Captain and Navigator of a ship under sail, was drowned at sea in 1869, aged forty-nine. His daughters Ann and Mary remained in Dartmouth, neither married and Mary also died at a young age. It was Ann who continued to make entries in the family bible after the death of her father in 1864. I now know that prior to this William Sweetland had left England for a new life in Newfoundland, he became a magistrate in Bonavista, where he married for a second time, he bore no children by this marriage and made no further visits to Dartmouth.

Son Benjamin along with his wife and son Fred lost their lives during a hurricane, I believe this could have caused a kind of tsunami which swept the coast of Newfoundland near Saint Johns, they could have been at sea at the time. One little daughter survived, her name was Annie Maria, born in 1841 and baptised in Dartmouth after the tragedy in 1847, she could have been no more than five years old. Little orphan Annie was brought back to England where she was put into the Master Merchant orphan and asylum school in London. I have traced this school to 101 London Road in those days, Re-established in 1867 the school still exists today, although now moved to Berkshire. The orphanage was in the same area of London as her maternal grandmother, her brother Fred was born in 1842 at her home in Bermondsey but perhaps circumstances did not allow her to care for the little girl then. Eventually she was taken from the orphanage by her aunt, Ann Sweetland to Dartmouth, where her aunt was housekeeper in the household of a gentleman named Noah Clift, living in "Market Square, Dartmouth." He was a cousin to the Sweetland sisters, a wealthy shipowner and in other documents I have seen was also involved in the same merchant business in Newfoundland, and a magistrate and fund holder in Dartmouth. The 1841 census states his birth date as 1801, now aged forty, he is living with his son, also called Noah and three of William Sweetland's daughters, namely Ann, Priscilla (who was not yet married to Thomas Silly) and Mary. In a later census record Ann Sweetland lived in Clarence Hill.

It was only after I visited Manaton to trace my Great Grandfather's history that I made the connection between the Sweetland family and The Reverend Sanders. My question now is, what is the connection between this seafaring family and a tiny church on Dartmoor? It was on finding the letter in the library that I discovered it was Ann Sweetland, born in 1816, who purchased "the living" of Manaton Church and gave it to the Reverend Sanders, in the letter she is referred to as his aunt, so that was it, the bible belonged to him, I had found the owner of the bible and that is how it came to be in our house, I could have left the story there.

When searching your history there is always another question, always one more link to fasten to the chain of historical facts and I wanted to find that final link as to why his aunt had given the bible to the Reverend Sanders. How were these ancient mariners related to him?

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## Reverend John Charles Burch Sanders and Annie Maria

I tried to think this through believing that perhaps she was a sibling of either of his parents and place her in a generation that made sense, but to do so, more information was needed about his life and early family. Searching the records again, I eventually found what I was looking for and now believe I really have completed my story.

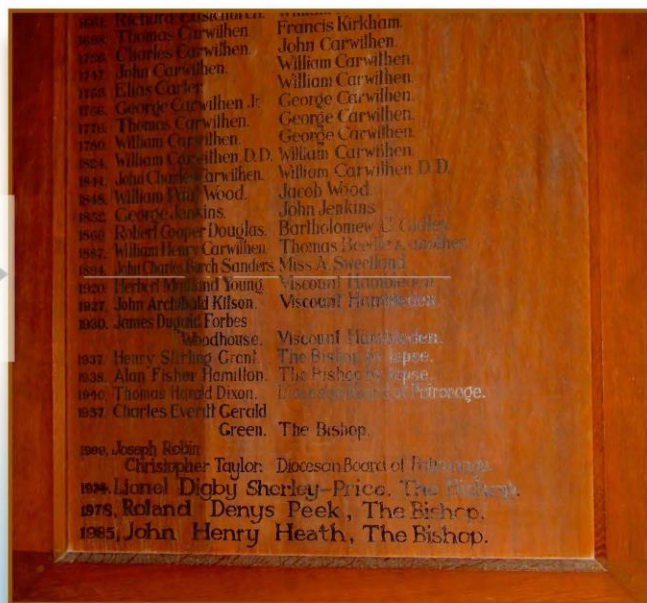
Spared by the relentless waves which had claimed the lives of her parents and brother Fred, off the most rugged coast of Newfoundland in 1846 and now living with her husband, the Rev Sanders, in the peace of a Dartmoor rectory, little orphan Annie, was his wife.

Annie Maria, Grand Daughter of William Sweetland, orphaned daughter of his son Benjamin and wife Elizabeth, after leaving the orphanage had moved to Dartmouth to live with her maiden aunt, it was there in 1885 that she met and married the Reverend John Charles Burch Sanders.

Aunt Ann then purchased the living of Manaton Church for the couple and it became their home.

On the death of her Aunt in 1900, the bible had come to her, holding within its fragile pages every detail of her family, she was now the only surviving member.

In the 1901 census it states that her birthplace was unknown, that may be so but I believe that because of the old bible and the records kept by her Grandfather, we know more now, about this most poignant of stories, which has never before been told, than anyone was aware of all those many years ago.



*The record of rectors in the church at Manaton showing the Rev Sanders and Ann Sweetland in 1894*

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## Manaton

The church and village green are in a central position in the village of Manaton and a scattering of thatched cottages nestle in the trees close by including the rectory where the Reverend Sanders lived with his wife, Annie Maria. There could have been no greater contrast with Annie Maria's early life. As we know the living in the parish of Manaton was provided for them by her maiden aunt, Ann



Sweetland, sister of her father Benjamin. This was by no means a frugal existence, their household was considerable, in keeping with rural parishes at that time. According to the census of 1901 the household consisted of a domestic nurse, a domestic cook, a housemaid and a groom. It is possible that the nurse had been employed to look after Ann Sweetland who was residing with the couple in Manaton when she died aged 75. She is buried at St Saviours Church in Dartmouth.

After retiring from Manaton this old couple came to lodge with my own Grandmother, they having been known to my Great Grandfather; they lived with her until they died. I believe the old lady died first, she was also the elder of the two. He died in June 1930. At home they were referred to as "the old couple" and there was often an additional sentiment, "they were a dear old couple, especially the old lady" this was said so many times as they were affectionately remembered over the years while I was growing up. There was never any connection made with any reference to the bible.





## Dartmouth Fisheries

Purely out of interest for the subject, I continued to find out more about the families connected to the bible in my possession. In tracing the individual family members and their ill found fate as described in the bible by William Sweetland and later continued by Ann Sweetland, I felt I wanted to know more. What was their business in this idyllic town at the mouth of the River Dart, by its very nature connecting the high tors of rural Dartmoor with the open sea and the whole world beyond. I very soon discovered that the Sweetlands, and the Morrys were major players in the life of Merchant Mariners who lived in Dartmouth, facing life challenging dramas on a daily basis, and in so doing embracing a lifestyle as romantic and unpredictable as the ocean itself. Their families, entwined by marriage living side by side throughout

These people were not poor, they were wealthy ship owners, their trade was fish, and fishing on a large scale off the coast of Newfoundland. St Johns, Ferryland, Bonavista, Caplin Bay and Labrador Bay have all been mentioned.

At the start of every year each ship owner would recruit crew members, who travelled from far and near, often on foot and sometimes on horseback, for the chance of being taken on as deck hands, loading and unloading timber for repairing the ship after its arduous voyage, salt for preparing the fish and containers for the oil. During the journey they would be working on the rigging and when they arrived in Newfoundland after a six week journey, to fish for cod, prepare and salt it and then process the remaining remnants for oil. They normally worked in teams of six, four to fish and two to do the salting and prepare other products. Calculating the amount of salt taken with them was crucial, because when they ran out, they were obliged to return home, and if the catch had been a good one, there would have been no other way of preserving it. The areas around the coast where they fished were referred to as fishing rooms, and the first Captain to arrive at the beginning of the fishing season established their right to set up working sheds and landing stages to continue for the whole season, normally March until October, when they would return to Dartmouth, sometimes via Europe to trade for other goods on the way home.

The journey home was a dangerous one, not least from the dangers of the sea itself, but also from pirates lying in wait in the English Channel, ready to take them unawares and plunder their hard earned haul.

The Bible of William Sweetland is our own true record of this one family and their connections with Newfoundland and Dartmouth, continuing a thriving fishing industry that had been operating since the 1600s. I have found records, in some cases for 100 years prior to the bible entries, the families involved and mentioned in the bible, the families of Morry, Sweetland, and Silly their individual family trees show how their lives were connected, not just by the fishing industry, but also in marriage, and how in those times, so many generations ago, their lives were influenced by both places. I have found the whole story fascinating and informative in terms of local history.

I have also come across a novel, "West to Avalon" by Stafford Clark, which I have found perfectly illustrates the lives of the Newfoundland and Dartmouth fishermen of those times.

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## Matthew Morry 1-11 and 111

I suppose one could say, once again, that having solved the puzzle of how the Bible came to be in our possession, I have done what I set out to do, I have researched many of the names and put their lives into a scenario which I hope will be interesting to those who want to know more about this fishing community on the doorstep of our coastline.

A whole way of life which existed in the ancient town of Dartmouth, which in its own right, held an important place in medieval history. However I also think it would be amiss of me not to mention some of the other important names and families.

I said earlier that I was amazed at the way their lives were entwined by marriage and livelihood and so now I am going to attempt to put some of those most important characters into context in my story of Ancient Mariners, with a final twist.

The name M. Morry 1810 is engraved in gold tooling on the spine of the bible, and along with the Sweetland family, central to my study. I have succeeded in tracing the Morry family back to William Morry born in 1624 who married Jennet Full from Stoke Gabriel in 1650, although amazingly, I have in turn traced her family back as far as 1557.



*Mouth of the River Dart*

There were actually three generations of Matthew Morry:

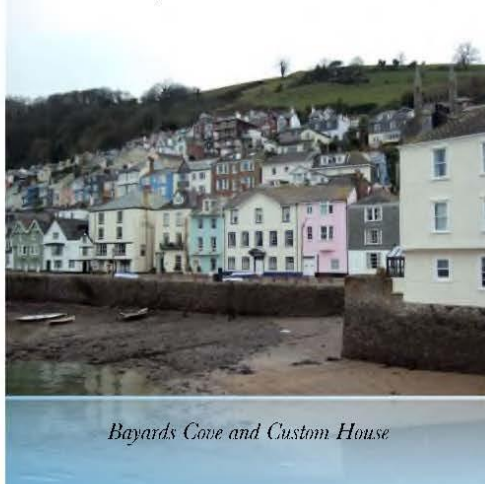
**Matthew Morry 1 born in 1750** A major name in the Dartmouth-Newfoundland Shipowners, Mariners and Merchants, he married Mary Graham at St. Saviours Church in Dartmouth in 1773, they had eight children. They were the parents of Priscilla Ann Morry who married William Sweetland in 1810. Ultimately this was the marriage which brought the two families of Sweetland and Morry together.

Her brother was **Matthew Morry 11 born in Dartmouth in 1790.**

Matthew Morry 11 continued in the Mariner tradition and with his wife Ann Sanders they had fourteen children, one of whom was of course **Matthew Morry 111 born in 1813**, many of the other children reflected the Sweetland connection in their names.

*And the final twist in the "tale"?*

In the Sweetland family, Henry Sweetland born in 1748 and Ann Carter, both of Ferryland were the parents of William Sweetland, Ann was a widow when they married and they went on to have three sons. Sadly in the year 1791 Henry passed away leaving Ann a widow for a second time. I did say entwined because this lady then went on to marry for a third time to none other than her son's father-in-law, the Master Mariner *Matthew Morry 1*, her third husband, but they did not produce any further offspring.



*Bayards Cove and Custom House*

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# Thomas Silly

As I explored the steep narrow streets of Dartmouth I became aware that many more of the cottages were the homes of ancient mariners in times gone by than I had realised. The Ford, near the Market Square was the home of Noah Clift and his son, along with the three Sweetland sisters, Priscilla, Ann and Mary. The steep incline of Vicarage Hill led to Clarence Hill and Clarence Street, where in later



*St Saviours Church seen from Clarence Hill*

years Ann Sweetland lived with her niece Anna Maria Sweetland. The census records reveal there were many others as well, almost every tiny cottage in the maze of narrow streets, which would have been just stoney lanes, leading towards the River Dart was the home of a Mariner or Shipowner.

Priscilla Morry Sweetland married Thomas Silly himself a Master Mariner, he lived in Townstal towards the top of the hill. This was the older area of Dartmouth where his family records are centred around the church of St. Clements rather than the newer church of St. Saviours in the town.

1844 Marriage solemnized by <i>decan</i> in the Parish of <i>Townstal</i> in the County of <i>Dart</i>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
66	<i>April 23</i>	<i>Thomas Silly</i> <i>Priscilla Sweetland</i>	<i>44</i> <i>40</i>	<i>Married</i> <i>Single</i>	<i>Master Mariner</i> <i>Spinster</i>	<i>Townstal</i> <i>Townstal</i>	<i>William Maddick Silly</i> <i>William Sweetland</i>	<i>Merchant</i> <i>Magistrate</i>
Married in the <i>Parish Church</i> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <i>Church of England</i> by me, <i>J. Thompson</i>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>Thomas Silly</i> <i>Priscilla Sweetland</i>			in the Presence of us, <i>Noah Clift</i> <i>Ann Sweetland</i> <i>Mary Moray Sweetland</i>					

*Marriage of Thomas Silley and Priscilla Sweetland at St. Saviours Church*

As with all of these families, it was the tradition to name the eldest son after his father, consequently we have many people with the same name, It has been quite a challenge to sort them out. Thomas Silly born in 1759, married Mary Maddick in 1784, their first son Thomas was born in 1787, it was their second, son William Maddick Silly born in 1789, who married Mary Ann Harvey in 1816, they were the parents of Thomas Silly, born in 1819. Thomas married Priscilla Sweetland in 1844. The record made by her father in the old bible states they were married in Newfoundland, I hate to contradict the venerable gentleman, but I have found the parish record of their marriage, and that quite clearly states they were married in Saint Saviours Church in Dartmouth, this was the church favoured by the Sweetland family.

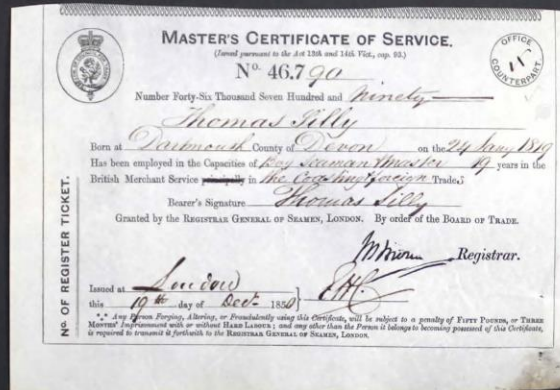


*Ford House Home of Noah Clift showing marker used in times of flood*

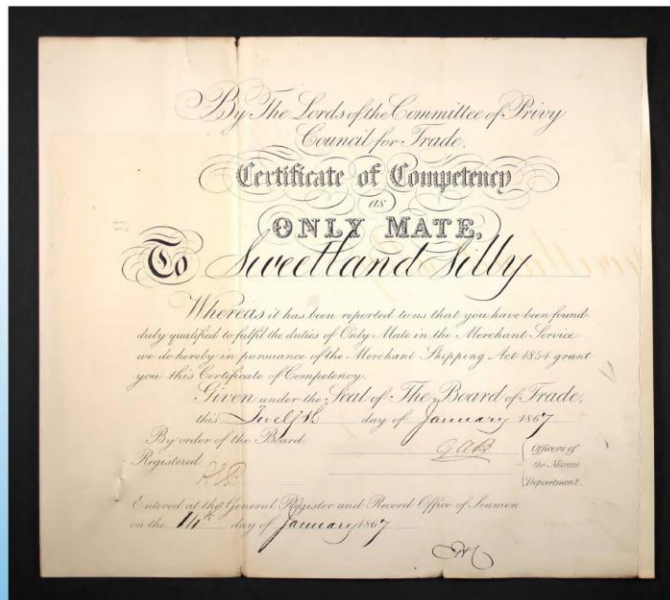
The couple had two children, aptly named Sweetland Silly born in 1845 and Thomas Silly born in 1847. Sadly, as with all of the many family members recorded by William Sweetland in the old bible, their life together was tragically short, lasting just three years. Priscilla died after the birth of her son Thomas in 1847 she was barely thirty years old, her baby son survived but died later that year. Thomas, senior, now a widower, continued his life as a Master Mariner, his Masters Certificate of Service dated 1850, three years after the death of his wife Priscilla, is shown here.

Thomas Silly died at sea in 1869 aged just forty-nine.

Thomas Silly's  
Masters Certificate  
of Service  
granted 1850



Sweetland Silly's  
Certificate of Competency  
dated 1867



In the same year as his father's death, in 1869 Sweetland Silly aged 26, drowned on the passage from Akyah in India to England The Ship Saint Andrew of Quebec sailed on 1st June 1869 and was not heard of since.

## The end of the story

I have finally come to the end of my account of the Master Mariners of Dartmouth centred around the Old Family Bible which just happened to be in my possession. Whilst this was my own particular challenge I have at the same time embraced the history of those Maritime Merchants and their families covering a period of more than two hundred years. Romantic, Poignant and Sad in equal measure I would say, reminding us of an earlier time in our local history.



*Inside St Saviours Church*



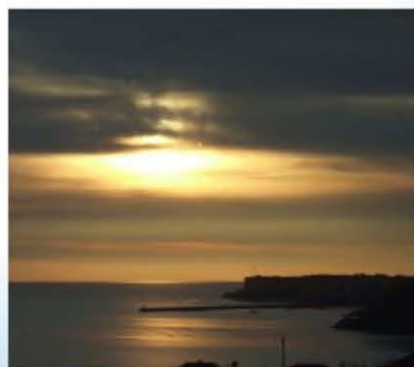
*Plaque to commemorate Sir Humphrey Gilbert*

Newfoundland Point is still a landmark along the River Dart, and famous names will always be remembered, but my story has followed the lives of people who were born and raised in Dartmouth.

The story of Anna Maria Sanders is an amazing one, that such a vulnerable little girl survived, against the reality of a cruel sea, and yet in the end she really was the very last surviving member of the whole Sweetland family recorded in the family bible. I am so very pleased to have had the opportunity to uncover the secrets held in *"That Old Bible in the cupboard"*



*One time residence of Ann Sweetland*



*Sunset over Torbay*

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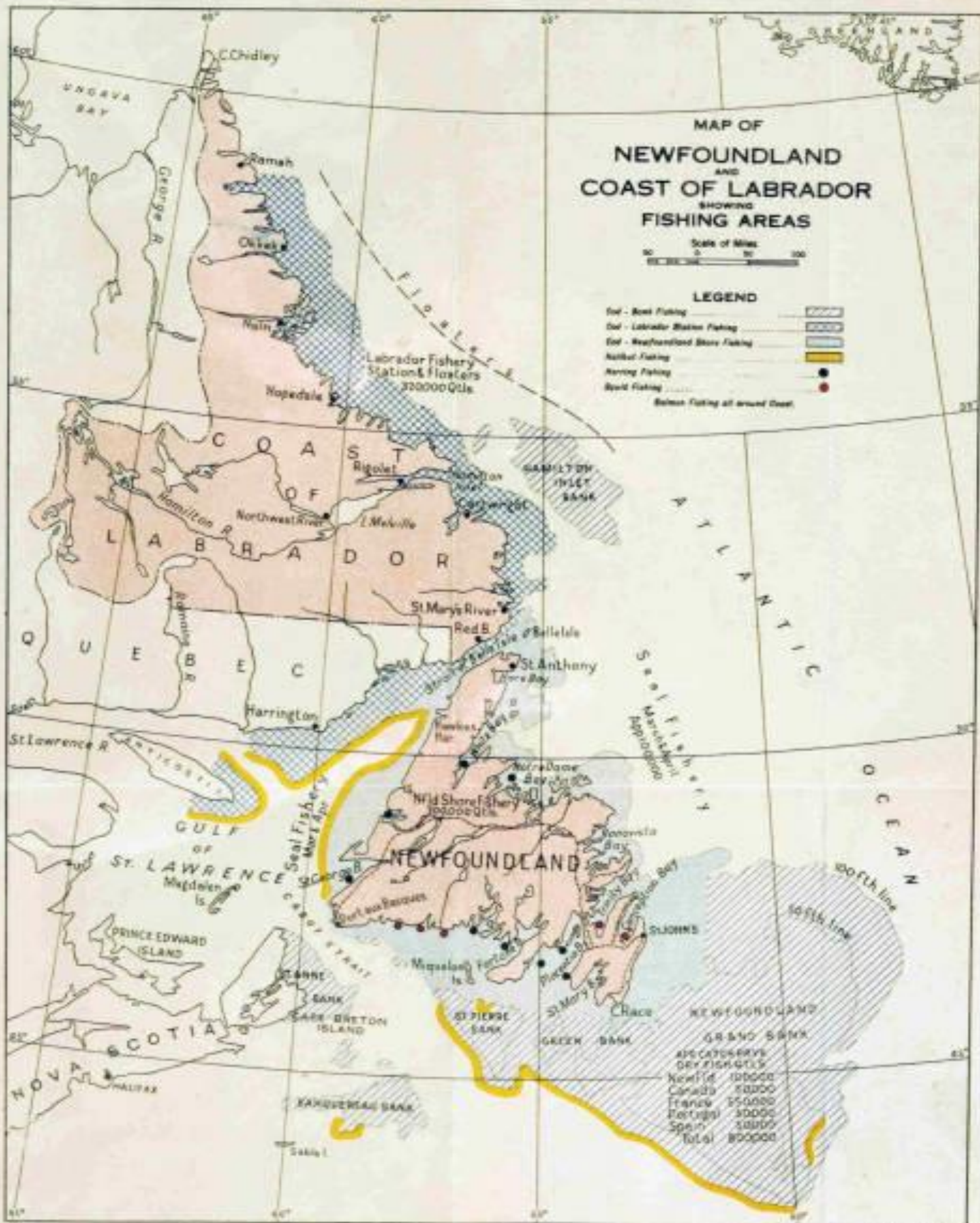
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