

Old Historical Items of Harbour Grace

HARBOUR GRACE—We propose during this year of 1958 to put some sort of order historical notes concerning this town and neighbourhood. Many of them have been used in previous Harbour Grace columns, but as they were often not in proper order of happening, we think, that because of much interest being shown in the history of many of the province's oldest communities, it may be well to set down during the ensuing months what we have gathered from jottings of the late Mr. S. Munn.

In 1810, from the Royal Gazette on August 23rd, Rev. L. A. Anspach was appointed as surrogate, Mr. Gosse and Mr. Palmer to be Justices of the Peace, Sept. 9th, Charles Garland, deceased and Jas. Crawley and Oliver St. John to be administrators.

Richard Shortall insolvent at Harbour Grace.

Saunders, Sweetman premises at Placentia for sale. Grants date from Louis XIV.

Sept. 27th, Capt. Parsons of Harbour Grace, who some years ago was taken in the sloop Venta has escaped from France and is now at Teignmouth.

October 4th, rabbits planted at Little Bell Island.

November 8th, Butlers at Bell Island.

November 15th, Philip Coates resident of Trinity for over 80 years. Jersey names, Elias Rowe, John Perchar.

October, Cozens, Seymour at Brigus; partnership expires.

1811

Forming a Mutual Insurance Club, 25 members.

March 10th, Thomas Thistle, Harbour Grace dies, Peter McKel and George Lilly administrators.

March 20th, H. C. Watts, Harbour Grace re Conception Bay Mutual Insurance Club for Sealing coastal vessel. Plan tried for years past and premiums from 1 to 75% in the worst year with 50 vessels.

April 2nd, Wm. Firth insolvent (merchant Harbour Grace) Thos. Dalton and Wm. Haynes administrators.

June 11th, Smallpox in Harbour Grace and Conception Harbour.

Devil's Cove to be named Job's Cove, 18 names signed among whom English, Johnson, etc.

Darby Ready, Harbour Grace deceased.

1812

Sept. 10th, Rev. Mr. Ewer at Harbour Grace.

August 11th, 1814 — Alfred Mayne's debts for sale September 8th. George Garland administrator for John Davis Garland. Meeting of creditors of Alfred and John Mayne.

August 13th—William Knight Brigus, deceased; John Bonel, Wm. Mundem, Wm. Percy, administrators.

December 22nd — Firm of Sam, Thomas, Colin Stevenson, James Williams insolvent. Premises of above held under lease from Oliver St. John for 19 years. Subject to 70 pounds annual rental, excellent water site, also cooper's shop, cook's room, dwelling house 42 x 30 which is nearly complete, also shop and counting house. Thomas and Stevenson also interested in various other places and St. John's.

1815

April 27th—William Parsons, Hr. Grace deceased, George Lilly, Lionel Chancey, administrators.

June 15th—George Trapnell at Carbonear.

July 27th—News of Battle of Waterloo (June 15th) received.

August 24th — John Charles Nuttall at Hr. Grace.

September 28th — Died at Harbour Grace, William Lilly, chief magistrate and collector and controller of Customs, aged 86 years, October 12th. Died at Hr. Grace Richard Palmer, J.P., aged 44 years, November 2nd. Died at Brigus, William Norman, administrator, Elizabeth Norman.

November 8th—Debts of Benjamin Lester, Newfoundland and Labrador for sale.

November 30th—Munn Stuart & Co., Ferryland, dissolved. John Hill Co. debts for sale Conception Bay 664 pounds, Labrador, 3053 pounds 1829.

1829

Brigantine Experiment, Capt. Taylor, left Carbonear for Lisbon Dec. 24th, having previously taken provisions and a crew of 20 men hand picked with all gear to prosecute sealfishery on her return without having to enter a Newfoundland port. A license for this voyage had been granted by His Excellency and Governor as a protection boarded by other vessels on her voyage as going to her formidable equipment she might become an object of suspicion. The undertaking forms a very peculiar novelty to the trade as proceeding to our sealing voyage from a foreign port had not been heard of before.

The Experiment lading consisted of 1660 quintals of codfish and 15½ tons of cod oil.

April 6th — The Experiment returned to Carbonear April 1st, 1830, having 4382 seals. She left Lisbon Feb. 14th, fell in with ice March 4th.

HR. GRACE—Harbour Grace Chronicle states that 173 vessels averaging 68 tons and 21 men each sailed from Conception Bay for the sealfishery, a decrease of two from the previous year. Considerable increase of tonnage and men.

Up to April 6th, 41 arrived back with 83,000 seals, an average of 2,000 seals each. 11 were from Harbour Grace with 16, 783, 25 from Carbonear with 51,000, 3 from Brigus with 13,000, 1 from Cupids with 1887 and one from Bay Roberts with 1800 seals.

1830

H. T. Furneaux, Port de Grave, insolvent.

Robert Brown & Co. Hare Harbour, Labrador, dissolve partnership.

Rutley, Cross & Job dissolve partnership.

March 6th — Lordan Henderson deceased, aged 49 years, of J. A. B. Henderson.

March 19th — Brig. Norval, Coast-guard at St. John's.

March 30th—Numbers of vessels return from sealfishery, 1000 fished.

May 4th — John Stark appointed coroner Northern district in Bay de Verde school house land grant, Central Society, bounded by road to reef and waste land.

May 11th—Tenders asked for building new Court House at Harbour Grace. D. Buchan, High Sheriff.

June 1st — Rev. J. Smithers, Wreakey minister at Harbour Grace, J. Boys at Brigus, R. Keble at Western Bay.

June 15th—Rev. F. Carrington, Rector at St. John's, formerly at Hr. Grace from 1814.

July 6th — Governor Cochrane visits Hr. Grace, Brigus, etc. While at Brigus, Governor Cochrane visited Goulds of John Cochrane where in a short period of four years a wilderness has been converted into a thriving park. The approach through a large growth was park-like in appearance and particularly striking. The Governor was pleased to name the place Cochraneedale.

At Harbour Grace, the site of the new Court House was decided on as immediately west of the chapel. A better approach planned and approved.

Firing of Fog Alarm at Fort Amherst, a great benefit to vessels. Inaugurated by Gov. Cochrane.

JANUARY 30, 1958

July 20th, 1830: Debate in House of Commons, England on Newfoundland. Rev Mr. Burt at Harbour Grace, Charles Garland's daughter Hannah married to John Jacob, son of Jacob Morgan, Port De Grave.

August 30th: Foundation stone of the new Court House at Harbour Grace laid by Magistrate Thos. Danson, Chief of Northern District.

September 14th: Trial of James Connell for murder of James Rafter on June 8th on by-road between Harbour Grace and Carbonear. Evidence not conclusive. Rafter acquitted.

September 21st: Mr. Kingswell teaching N. & B.N.A. School Society, Thomas Marks of Harbour Grace deputed at a meeting favoring of local legislature.

October 5th: Mr. Norman of Brigus, pilot of the schooner Ann on Circuit, struck rock at Found Rock, Greenspond.

September 16th: Married at Brigus, Wm. Stamford to Lucy Norman.

October 12th: Meeting at Carbonear regarding new Judicial Act. T. Danson in the chair.

October 19th: C. Spurrier and Co. insolvent. Geo. Garland, John Fryer assignees. Wm. Sweetland to act as agent, Placentia Bay, premises at Burin, 17 buildings also a ford, and at Oderin 15 buildings, thus forming one of the most complete establishments for trading in the island. Married by Rev. David Daniel at Portugal Cove, Mr. Neil Munn of Greensock, Scotland, to Mary Hartery.

1831

Died at Harbour Grace, Oliver St. John, 70 years; for 30 years he was clerk of peace and chief magistrate at Harbour Grace surrigitate, etc., with great credit.

March 8th: Sealing schooner from Halifax several other vessels supplied. Sealers from Halifax passed north, 114 vessels expected to leave St. John's. Largest fleet in history. Average 68½ tons. Largest 120 tons, smallest 23 tons. The unprecedented failure of codfishery last year with the foreboding

of a distressing winter, but the extraordinary outfit to the seal fishery has in many ways, diffused means of relief, etc. (Conception Bay Mercury).

March 13th: A Liverpool paper tells of the shipwreck and the loss of crews and passengers of 28 vessels lost between Plymouth and Lands End during dreadful gale. Only two men and a boy saved.

March 21st: A boat from Conception Bay brings news that a schooner (Active) owned by Wm. Mundem, Brigus, Bunnell master, with 24 men has been wrecked on Baccalieu Island and only four men saved who landed at Cupids.

Cleared from St. John's, 116 vessels for seal fishery. 8046 tons, 2518 men, 23 more ships than 1830.

April 5th: Died at Harbour Grace, Mrs. Robert Pynn, aged 82 years.

April 19th: Report of N&NA School Society: Harbour Grace under Mr. and Mrs. Kingwell School established 1825. Day school has now on books 155 adults 56 Sunday school 160.

April 19th: Baine Johnston and Co. dissolve partnership. Thos. Lang, Walter Baine Jr., John Black, Greenwood, and Wm. Talbot, Liverpool, cease to be interested in the business to be carried on in Newfoundland under the name of Baine Johnston and Co. The debts due the said firm to be discharged by Wm. Johnston, the other sub partner residing in Newfoundland to whom all indebted to said company, are requested to make payment.

FEBRUARY 14, 1958

1831
Harbour Grace—May—Petitions for Land. William Danson, Holyrood, 45 acres; Thomas Danson, Harbour Grace 45 acres; John Leamon, Brigus, 100 acres.

May 10th.—Josiah Parkins insolvent.

May 17th—H. W. Danson insolvent. Danson's property Brig. Salvage, 81 tons, Caroline Sarah, 63 tons, Edmund John 63 tons and four other schooners.

Prices of coal at Sydney made by General Mining Association Sydney and Bridge port, 20 shillings per chaldron and Albion and Pictou, 15 shillings per chaldron.

June 7th—Sale at Harbour Grace Freehold property, Wat. erside premises, North side Harbour Grace, formerly belonging to Mrs. Ann Kearney and lately occupied by Josiah Parkins.

June 10th.—For Sale, Parcel of land on South side of public road in Harbour Grace formerly belonging to Henry Garland and occupied by James Bayley.

Other property of Danson's for sale, 200 tons seal oil, 18,000 seal skins, 1000 hgds salt, cod and caplin seines; 10 fishing boats; cow and horse; 1 handsome mahogany bookcase and quantity silver plate. Premises at Holyrood and Bay de Verde; Promise at Harbour Grace; 6 large stores extensive wharves; 2 large oil stores; excellent dwelling house; cook room; cooper's shop; ware rooms; counting house; and every other requisite necessary for an extensive mercantile concern, all being in good shape and the most eligible and compact establishment in Conception Bay, also powder magazine and dock yard.

Packet Boat Alert starts plying Brigus to Portugal Cove, C. Cozens, R. Cranford.

June 28th.—Alarming fire Country Road, Brigus, where people were clearing land. Soon spread to Cupids valley ridge to Burnt Head. Two houses and several fences burned on the outskirts of these places and much trouble experienced in saving a grove of woods containing buildings on the North side of Brigus and place the whole place in jeopardy.

June 28th.—Electric storm at Harbour Grace House occupied by Nicholas Stabb and Rev. John Boyd which is near Bears Cove destroyed.

1831
Bishop for land grants at Harbour Grace: 16th, 1831 — Alfred Gosse, 9 acres; James Coburn, 9 acres; William Innott, 2 acres; William Pitts, 30 acres; Samuel Mundem, Brigus, 13 acres; Robert W. Gosse, Spanning Bay, 27 acres.

1832
Bishop Inglis visited Conception Bay, a Carbonear Harbour Grace and on July 20th visited Upper Bay Cove. Bread and flour were a church in each place was consecrated. The church at Island Cove was completed, but promised to be done by the next year (St. Peter's Church). Rev. Thos. Cochrane then went back to Ship Cove de Grave, which is the residence of Rev. J. Blackman, passed through the mountains which, because of the weather being away at the time, the fishery looked like a deserted village.

Rev. Inglis also consecrated St. Matthew's Church at Cupids.

June 14th — Chamber of Commerce, St. John's, presents to the Rev. J. A. P. Purcell the greatest number of vessels brought into St. John's,

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1831. William Thomas, President.

February 8th, 1832 — Sealers' strike on Saddle Hill. Spars chopped out of one of Ridley's vessels.

March 20th — 163 vessels leave St. John's for seal fishery. 35 more than 1831.

May 15th — Peter Brown's packet "Dispatch," George Volsey, master, three days a week to Portugal Cove.

May 26th—Scotch Hotel, St. John's, Andrew Stewart. Mrs. Stewart was housekeeper to Sir Thos. Cochrane.

August 18th—Harbour Grace burned (Saturday). Fire east to Crawleys, west to Peter Brown's. Not one house left on Water Street except Mr. Lee Whitting's at the Beach. 97 dwellings, churches and stores burnt out.

August 21st—Church of England consecrated to Selly Cove (New Perilvan, Heart's Content had a church previous to this.

September 11th — Harbour Grace district to be from Broad Cove (near Portugal Cove to Bay de Verde.

Carbonear a Daily Star prospectus.

J. C. Withers in partnership with John Ryan in Royal Gazette brought into St. John's,