

# Historical Records Of Hr. Grace

HR. GRACE. — Mr. John Aubrey in May 1832 stated intention of issuing a newspaper which would be called "The Times" of St. John's, and intended to give the largest and to press diligently the advantages and welfare of Newfoundland.

"The Times" had a long and honorable career, but had its ups and downs. Mr. Shortis had edited this paper for many years in the interest of the great Liberal, Sir William Prowse, that would be in the eighties or early nineties.

June 1832—He writes: "We are now arrived at the month of June, and instead of Midsummer Bay, we are still looking for the Spring. During the three weeks, the whole coast has been beset by Arctic ice and consequently there have been no arrivals. In 1813, the coast was similarly blocked all winter and the information of several

old pioneers be correct, our coast was blocked in a similar way for a very lengthy period in 1774, which looks as if calamities come in cycles of about 19 years.

"The last two months have been characterized by much frost and rain and with the wind mostly from the East has been more like the rudest winter rather than Spring and is one to be long remembered.

June 8th, 1832.—The schooner "Henry", Capt. master, of Bay Roberts, was lost on the weather edge of the ice on Monday last. Captain and crew were rescued by Puntin & Munn's brig, "Lord MacDonald" and arrived at Carbonar by way of the north shore. The brig, "Eleanor" for St. John's with passengers got into Conception Bay this week. Two passengers, Mr. John Kent and Mr. Simon Kent, merchants of St. John's, landed at Gull Island and walked to Hr. Grace.

# Early History Notes of Harbour Grace

June 22nd, 1832

Our notes record that on the above date that the ice embargo is still on. The brig "Chance" Capt. Lowery for Harbour Grace from Liverpool is jammed between Clown Cove and Salmon Cove, Bay de Verde. The John and Charles, Capt. Mead belonging to Brigus from her first sealing trip is jammed near the same place. The Brig, Providence, Capt. Delaney from the sealing trip, has been some days off Bay Roberts Point.

June 29th: Nine sail of square riggers, also some schooners were in the ice off Broad Cove this late.

July: On Friday last after an unprecedented continuation of N.E. winds, it shifted to the south west carrying away the ice floes and happily relieving

the inhabitants of this island from the perilous situation in which the affairs of so many were placed by the long obstruction of navigation. In many parts of the North Shore, Bay de Verde and other remote places of the bay, men and women were in a state bordering on starvation and in the northern bays, famine existed to such a degree that some were reduced to eating either loathsome substances or perishing with hunger.

Notwithstanding this distress and privation, and the gloomy outlook for so many in one short week, a crisis which had been so pregnant with deplorable and melancholy evil was succeeded by the arrival of an abundance of provisions and supplies and preparations for the cod fishery were in sight everywhere.

Twenty five vessels were entered at the Harbour Grace Customs House from foreign parts in one week and about one hundred cleared for the Labrador fishery

# Notes of Early Harbour Grace

HR. GRACE — In the notes we mentioned William Sterling as the first doctor of the early years. He was one of the first doctors of the early years. He resided where the Education Convention now stands. He also owned a plantation of five acres on Vey Street and he was a thorough businessman, he shares in some of the vessels sailing out of the bay. He was for many years a member of the Board of Commissioners of which he was Principal, having come to this country from Liverpool 1844 on the Brig "Mer" which Capt. Anshiff was owner at that time. Roddick taught the first School until 1876 when he retired and went to St. John's.

At the time of his writing, the Grammar School was at its best having 60 registered. Two were instructed in Greek, two Latin, six in Spanish, navigation, and many other subjects were being taught. Another educational establishment of that time was of Mr. and Mrs. Gaudin it is recorded that it was progressing rapidly on a course of daily lessons exceptionally high.

In an obituary notice this time we note the death of Miss Rogers at the age of 87. It states that she had attended school here for a number of years and was highly educated.

At this time the Board of Education School grants were all in one but there was a determination working to get them into denominational camps before the next year and was through the editor of the paper in which these notes were published that it would be set up again.

The Board of Education Harbour Grace at this time with Rev. S. W. Sprague, William Sterling, Richard Munro, John Munro, John Ridley and John Hayward.

Also noted at this time that the Administration had pleased to appoint John of Hant's Harbour as one of Pickled Fish. In the part of that century the title establishments had sworn in as public servants to serve merchants and fish.

Sept 7, 1962

# Many Fires Hampered Progress of the Town

Harbour Grace, once known as the "second city", is rich in history. Although struck by adversity many times, the last being the devastating fire of 1944 when most of the waterfront business premises were destroyed.

Business-wise, Harbour Grace is only a shadow of its former commercial greatness, but it is the home of one of the largest fish processing plants in Newfoundland, that of North Eastern Fish Industries. Its founder, the late Silas W. Moores, who died last month, was a great booster for Harbour Grace and the Stadium, another big drawing card for the town, will be renamed in his honor tonight.

Since the Stadium has provided so much for Harbour Grace and made it the focal point for all Conception Bay sporting events, especially hockey and now, for the fourth year the home of the Trinity

Conception Agricultural and Homecrafts Exhibition.

Harbour Grace's origin dates back to the early 1600's. It was settled between 1600 and 1610. In 1677, it had a population of fifty-seven with seven dwellings, nine storehouses and eleven boats.

Harbour Grace was raided by Capt. Mantering and his pirates in 1614 and later became the rendezvous of Peter Easton, another noted pirate, in 1621. Easton's Fort stood at the junction of Carbonar Road and Water Street. His lair was supposed to have been located in Ship Cove Head and some treasures may still be lying there waiting discovery.

A fort was built by the British government near the site of the old Methodist Church to command the passage of the Bar c. 1630. Pere Bando's Journal written in 1670, gave the population as 100 men. In

1696 a French attack resulted in the destruction by fire of fourteen houses.

The fishing admiral of the port sent Governor Darrell a complaint in 1755, signed by Webber, Parsons, Snow, Martin, Sheppard and others, stating that their sheep and cattle were being destroyed by people living in huts at the upper end (the River Road) of the harbour "loose and bad characters harboring numbers of idle persons."

Harbour Grace gave fifty men to Lord Colville in 1762 to help capture St. John's from the French.

In 1766 Harbour Grace was the scene of Irish faction fights.

Rev. L. Coughlan laboured there 1765-1773 and his name has been perpetuated by halls and a school being named after him.

George Garland mentioned in

list dated September 20, 1790, as Justice of the Peace; was still on the bench in 1769.

John Stratten, Methodist local preacher, settled in the town in 1771 and built a chapel at his own expense.

Rev. J. Balfour in charge of C. of E. Mission in Harbour Grace in 1774 established a school which was taught by W. Lampen. In 1776 Balfour recorded the population of the town as 5,788.

In 1790 Harbour Grace repulsed American privateers attacking the town.

Rev. L. Anspach, the historian and Justice of the Peace there in 1802, as well as a Church of England minister.

Rev. L. Anspach appointed Surrogate; William Lilly confirmed in commission as J.P. and also made Custos Notarum, and Messrs. Gosse and Palmer made J.P.'s by Governor Sir John Duckworth, August

7, 1810. Church of England built in 1764, destroyed by fire, believed to have been of incendiary origin, August 29, 1815.

Foundation stone of courthouse and jail laid August 2, 1830, by T. Danson, chief magistrate for the northern district. Construction materials brought from Kelly's Island. Court house and jail still in use.

Harbour Grace devastated by fire August 18, 1832; ninety-six buildings, including the Episcopal Church destroyed.

Scene of disorders and several murders in 1832. Cornerstone of St. Paul's Church laid by Governor Pres-

cott, August 28, 1835. Consecrated by Bishop Spencer, July 4, 1840. This church still in use and in good state of preservation.

Conception Bay Mercury published in Harbour Grace 1834; this paper was preceded by The Herald and the Conception Bay Man.

Scene of election riots in 1838.

Methodist Church built in 1817 was destroyed by fire in 1850. Its first minister was Rev. G. Cabitt.

First issue of Harbour Grace Standard November 21, 1850.

Streets first illuminated with gas August 11, 1852.

First elections for Harbour Grace district May 7, 1855;

first members elected under Responsible Government J. Hayward and J. Pendergast.

Gas works opened August 30, 1852; destroyed by fire January 12, 1860.

Fire company organized September 5, 1860.

Harbour Grace Roman Catholic Diocese including the northern part of Newfoundland, constituted 1856, with Rt. Rev. Dr. John Dalton as first Bishop. His name perpetuated by Dalton Council K. of C.

Roman Catholic Cathedral dedicated December 8, 1858; burnt September 2, 1859; new Cathedral dedicated November 8, 1869.

Cornerstone of Masonic Hall laid by A. W. McKay July 1,

1858. British Hall opened September 16, 1852. Cornerstone of T. I. laid by Rev. F. Fitzgibbon, 6, 1873.

Boot and shoe factory by F. H. Anshiff in 1873. Railway commenced B. 1881; first rail to John's to Harbour Grace September 27, 1882.

St. Joseph Church, opened by Bishop in November 13, 1885. Cornerstone of B. Hall laid by Bishop in 18, 1896, opened May 1, 1896. Harbour Grace via sealing part one of the Capt. N. Barakka line (Continued on page 12)



Kathleen, E. D. Freeman

ONE OF THE MOST prominent citizens of Harbour Grace is E. D. Freeman, proprietor of S. Pharmacy, Water Street. Although 76 years old, he is at his desk every day and always has time to spare with friends and visitors. He started work with Dr. Strapp in 1900 and shortly after when the doctor took over the business and has been with it for sixty-two years. Mr. Freeman is also treasurer of the Knights of Columbus, a member of the Harbour Grace Regatta Committee, past president of the Club and also served terms on the Town Council. In photograph with Mr. Freeman is his daughter, Kathleen, graduate pharmacist, who has been associated with her father for the past eight years. Dr. E. O'B. Freeman is assistant superintendent of the Hospital for Mental and Nervous Diseases.

of Bowring Bree, and formally opened August 27, 1903.

The biggest event to mar Harbour Grace's modern history was the fire in 1944 but the town recovered even though much of the commercial life has died, having been waning before the fire.

The fish plant started by the late S. W. Moores had just been open a few months when the fire struck. The plant was rebuilt and enlarged since and is now providing a lot of money to fishermen in various parts of Conception and Trinity Bays and many workers find lucrative employment at the plant.