

Some Early Parsons Records

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Harbour Grace History

Chapter Eleven: Harbour Grace Described in 1800 by W. A. Munn.

Let us follow the path along the waterfront. We start from the Grove, where Surrogate Charles Garland has his residence, which Rev. Lewis Anspach in his History calls "The Castle," where some cannon were mounted. He had two stages and three flakes. Henry Warford came next with one stage and three flakes. Now we get to Bear's Cove. Charles Parsons has 175 yards by the Seaside, and 186 yards from highwater mark to the Woods. William Taylor Parsons has a frontage of 149 yards. Jonathan Parsons, 138 yards. Patience Parsons, 4 yards by the seaside, sufficient for one stage, but a lot of land in the rear. The Parsons families claimed this land back to 1765 and 1770. Tradition says they obtained this land by marriage with the Shepards, who were still earlier settlers, and more than likely of Jersey descent. Admiral Parsons of the Blue and his brother, who fished at first from Harbour Grace Island, are said to be the start of the Parsons family well and favourably known all over Newfoundland today.

William Kennedy, 130 yards waterfront. Widow Kennedy, 130 yards, bounded on the East by Francis Marshall and on the West by Garland Bradbury. Tradition say the Kennedys got this land originally from the Shepards.

Abraham Parsons has 146 yards seaside, just East from the Battery. He purchased this land from Ann Stretch.

Francis Shepard has an extensive sea front of 153 yards, but only 11 yards from high water mark to the road.....

Admiral of the Blue is a Fishing Admiral apparently.

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The Parsons family is frequently mentioned. Admiral Parsons, with his fishing fleet were among the earliest settlers; he with his brothers settled at Bear's Cove as early as 1725, and daughters of this Admiral were Mrs. Streeton, Mrs. Thistle, Mrs. Magee, Mrs. Church and the Misses Polly and Rachel Parsons.

Pioneer Names - Shortis
Daily News Jan 15, 1958

1675 Census

Clown's Cove: Joseph Parson's, wife and 5 children

October 1709, 1-12

756. (a) Account of Stores left in the Fort of St. Johns, Newfoundland, by Capt. Taylor, H.M.S. Litchfield, also at Carbonear, Harbour Grace, and Little Bell Islands, and the Isle of Boys. Signed, Jos. Taylor. 2½ pp.

(b) List of the Officers in Newfoundland, commissioned Oct. 1709.

St. Johns:—John Collin, Governor; Edward Sheppard, Lt. Governor; John Jenkins, Major; William Roberts, Gilbert Jeane, John Marshall, John Cock, John Eleat, Wm. Bowles, Rd. Tapley, Captains; Tho. Squarry, Jono. Martin, Henry Parker, James Prosser, Tho. Roberts, Samuel Nicks, Giles Goss, John Julian, Rt. Bowles, Step. Dann, Lieutenants; Daniel Ranes, Rt. Willicot, Char. Coaker, Jos. Newham, Tho. Hawkins, John Martin, Rowland Martin, Rd. Boden, John Richardson, Abr. Barrott, Ensigns; Isaac Legoss, Surgeon; Wm. Squarry, Master Gunner.

Ferryland and Isle of Boys:—Oliver Lang, Governor; John Tucker, Lt. Governor; Rd. Roberts, Hen. Rex, Lieuts.; Tho. Deble, Arthur White, Ensigns.

Carbonear:—Wm. Pynn, Governor; Tho. Williams, Tho. Peck, Capts.; Wm. Pynn, jr., Peter Merkin, Wm. Reeves, Lieuts.

Harbour Grace Island:—Hen. Edwards, Governor; Rt. Pynn, Jona. Webber, Capts.; Wm. Parsons, Wm. Burt, Edwd. Stephens, Lieuts.

Little Bell Isle:—James Butler, Governor; Geo. Garland, Jno. Snow, Capts.; John Butler, jr., John Fancy, Wm. Thacker, Lieuts. Signed, Jos. Taylor. 2 pp. [C.O. 194, 22. No. 73.]

From: 'America and West Indies: October 1709, 1-12', Calendar of State Papers Colonial, America and West Indies, Volume 24: 1708-1709 (1922), pp. 476-482. URL:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=73808>

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On September 7th, 1810, news was received that Capt. Parsons of Harbour Grace, who had been taken to France as a prisoner in the sloop Venter, some time previously, had escaped from France and was at Teignmouth, England.