

BUFFETT'S

BENJAMIN BUFFETT Sr. (1778-1865). "Ceremony performed by Johnathan Hickman". He was the grandfather of the late George A. Buffett, and probably the son of Benjamin Buffett, who settled at Mosquito near McCallum. If this be correct, the Senior Benjamin was a sailor. He was apparently the progenitor of all the Buffetts in Newfoundland.

GEORGE BUFFETT. Uncle of the late Geo A. Buffett. He lived on the "Western Shore" most of his life. He was the grandfather of Mr. Robert F. Forsey. His sons went to Anticosti and belonged to the company who experienced hard times (Fox Bay settlers) and were taken by the Canadian government to Renfrew on the Ottawa River.

SARAH HOLLETT BUFFETT (1815-1895) and WILLIAM BUFFETT (1808-1894), son of Benjamin Buffett, the first Grand Bank Buffett and grandfather of the late G.A. Buffett.

ELEANOR (BUFFETT) RIGGS (1827-1894). Sister of William Buffett.

The first marriage recorded is that of William Bennett, Fortune, and MARY ANN BUFFETT, Grand Bank, on Feb. 13, 1817. Rev. Richard Knight performed the ceremony, and the witnesses were George Lake and William Gallop. William Bennett may interest some of the Fortune people. MARY ANN BUFFETT was probably a sister of Benjamin Buffett (1779-1865). Her other brothers were probably Rueben and Snook. Some of the Snook's descendants were the Buffetts of Stones Cove, also the Buffetts of Bay d'Espoir. Presumably these all came from Mosquito and were the children of the first Benjamin.

RUEBEN BUFFETT was probably a brother of Benj. Buffett (the first Grand Bank Buffett), and also a brother of Mary Ann Buffett who was the first woman whose marriage was recorded in the Methodist church register. She was married to William Bennett of Fortune. Rueben possibly never lived at Grand Bank. We find that in the year of 1825 two of his children Charlotte and Ambrose, were baptized. They were born respectively on Dec. 19, 1819 and Nov. 21, 1823 and the family was then living at Jacks Fontaine, Fortune Bay. Probably Rueben had a brother who lived at Fortune who was the ancestor of all the Fortune Bay Buffetts. All these Buffetts were probably the children of Benjamin Buffett whose birth-place is not known. He was presumably an Englishman and was known to be a sailor presumably in the British Navy. It would seem that Mosquito a few miles west of McCallum was the place where he first settled.

Samuel James (1817) married MARY BUFFETT.

Dinah Patten (1833) married BENJAMIN BUFFETT.

John Forsey (1838) married CHRISTIANA BUFFETT.

George Emmanuel Forsey (1842) married CHRISTIANA BUFFETT.



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

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Maritime History Group

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February 16, 1983

Mr. Frank F. Burfitt Jr.,
5700 N.E. Sandy Boulevard,
Portland, Oregon,
U.S.A. 97213,

Dear Mr. Burfitt,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Burfitt family with your enclosed geneological chart and cheque for \$82.00 (U.S.)

We have searched our records again and located a Benjamin Burfitt (Buffett), 1778-1865, a resident of Grand Bank. In 1829, Benjamin Burfitt of Burin married Frances Waggs of Burin in a Methodist Ceremony at St. John's. He then moved to Grand Bank - a predominantly Methodist community.

1835: William and Susanna Burfitt had a 29 yr. old daughter, Elizabeth (wife of William Caine), a son Snook Burfitt, age 18. They were from Mosquito, South Coast.

1835: William and Catherine Burfitt of Pushtrough (NW of Harbour Breton) had daughter Mary 4 yrs., son John 2 yrs., and infant daughter Jane.

The difficulty is in linking Burfitts (Buffetts) with specific localities in England. While there was some phonetic confusion regarding the names Buffett and Burfitt we cannot assume these names were simply interchangeable. There were indeed Buffetts in Newfoundland and they generally came from the Dartmouth area of Devon.

Our records suggest the Burfitts came from the Poole areas of Dorset. It is difficult for us to establish these links, however, and the phonetic confusion only adds to the difficulty. Since you state in your letter you are interested in verifiable links, you might best be served by contacting a Dorset researcher. We know of one, Miss. Daphne Hills, although she has no connection with the Maritime History Group. We do not know her fees but we have seen some of her work and it is good. Her address is:

Miss. Daphne Hills,
47 Chichester Walk,
Wimborne, Dorset, U.K.
BH21 1SL

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If you can establish where Benjamin Burfitt (1778-1865) was born and who his parents were, you would have a solid Burfitt connection between England and Newfoundland. Brothers or close relatives, particularly those named William would be important. If Benjamin's father (or mother) left a will, it might mention heirs living abroad. Research in the period, 1740--1830, would be most rewarding for your purposes. In addition, the Dorset Chronicle might be sketchy but has important biographical data relating to some Burfitts in its obituaries.

I am enclosing an invoice for \$30.00 to cover the time involved in researching this material. At the same time, I am returning your cheque for \$82.00 (Canadian) as it is very complicated for us to try and get a cheque issued by our accounting office, to refund the balance of \$52.00 that we would then owe you. I hope it is not too inconvenient for you to forward us another cheque for the amount shown on the invoice.

Thank you very much for the genealogical chart. We will keep it with the Burfitt file.

Good luck with your research.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Matthews,
Chairman,
MARITIME HISTORY

KK/vk

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