



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

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Maritime History Group

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Aug. 16, 1982

Mrs. Margaret Murphy Johns,
6804-63 Ave.
Red Deer, Alberta,
T4P 1K6

Dear Mrs. Johns,

Thank you for your letter and the interesting document regarding James Murphy, your paternal great, great, great, grandfather.

There were Murphys in Newfoundland for most of the 18th century, particularly in St. John's and the nearby Ferryland and Conception Bay areas. The additional information you have sent us is most helpful. You say it is believed he was born in 1756 in Co. Wicklow, Ireland; that he was press-ganged onto a British Man-o-War. If you have fairly firm evidence for this, we have no reason to question it. We have found in our records, however, a James Murphy, son of William and Bridget Murphy of St. John's, baptised in the Anglican Church, St. John's, in Nov. 1759. He was probably born a year or so earlier - children were not usually baptised immediately after birth then. This may be simply a coincidence, but it would be more in character with the general description of the 'employees' who made up the Newfoundland Militia (see enclosed photocopies). The impression given is that the men were local, many former Public Works employees, and while possibly coerced into service, they still had enough local clout to grumble and put up resistance. It is doubtful any were press-ganged into this militia. Private Snooks, for instance, "buried without military honours" (P. 20) was a local St. John's man.

We have found the baptismal date for your great, great, great grandmother. Margaret Pottle, the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Pottle, St. John's, was baptised (Anglican) in May 1764. She was born in St. John's and of Dorset descent - through her father's family at least - we do not know Elizabeth's maiden name, but its undoubtedly Westcountry with that Christian name.

We have no record of either of Margaret's St. John's marriages. She would have been 33 or 34, and a widow of Carroll (not Carl), at the time of her marriage to James Murphy.

With regard to Murphy's petition, there is little reason to doubt it is not factual, even though he gave these details to Price nearly forty yrs after they happened. The petition,

written in a 19th century narrative style, is pruned of all information not relevant to Murphy obtaining his pension. If you re-read the petition and study the photocopies, you will see that the two items fit together like a transparent overlay map, each supporting the skeletal outlines of the other. Murphy was a member of the Newfoundland Regiment of Foot (1780-83) - a militia, not British regulars. While primarily a defense force, he could say with all honesty that he was a veteran of the American Revolution. He probably remained in Newfoundland for some years - he was in a good position to obtain government (ordinance) work. In his petition, he reticently states, " I did actually reside in this Province (New Brunswick) at the time of the passing of (the) act," (2 Vic) in 1839.

New Brunswick Blue books - small ledger-type vols. sent annually to the Colonial Office giving information regarding costs of government, revenues, land sales, etc., carried an item regarding pensions paid to veterans of the American Revolution and their widows. No names were given, only aggregate figures (400-500) at so many pounds, total. The pensions amounted to eight to ten pounds per annum. This was probably paid by the British government rather than the colony of New Brunswick.

The photocopies are from the book:

(Col.) G.W.L. Nicholson: The Fighting Newfoundlander: A History of the Royal Newfoundland Regt., Published by the Government of Newfoundland. Copyright 1964, Thomas Nelson (Printers) Ltd. London and Edinburgh.

I enclose an invoice for the amount of \$46.10 to cover the cost of 3 hours research and 11 pages of photocopying at the rate of 10¢ each. I hope that we have been of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Matthews,
Chairman,
MARITIME HISTORY

KK/vk

1954
8-0-5
murphy
18321 jul st svkour jn died age 76

Murphy
1832 25 sep gaz JN sppt rowe in election

MURPHY
1832 sep ledger JN sppt row in election

MURPHY
1832 sep ledger JN sppt kough for election

MURPHY
1832 sep ledger jn sppt row in election

murphy
1832 st jns meth jn of wtfd married bridgett hann of burgeo

murphy
1833 nov north writ jn sued for L299 by thos foley

murphy
1833 nov north writ jn sued for 13/6/2 by ~~jaxduggan~~ *31P-24-1355* *702-8-310* *Wm Bennett*

10
MURPHY
1833 novnorth writ JN/mathew suedfor 6/15/- by mich power

MURPHY
1833 archiv jn petty juror

1834
MURPHY
1834 octnorth writ JN sued for L5 by cozens trustees

murphy

1834 nov north writ JN sued for 16/19/6 by thorne/hooper/co

MURPHY

1834 novnorth writ jn sued for 12 by pete rogerson

Murphy

1834 b-r burin rc jn married briget hearn

murphy

1836 29 mar ledger jn relief 106/29 hg sealer

murphy

1847 25 marnflder J wm 112/33 HG sealer for harrison

Murphy

1851 st jns ang jn died age 47

MURPHY

1860 20 nov gaz Mr jn died freshwater rd age 65 native of lismore co wtfd

murphy

1860 30 nov gaz mr jn of lismore co wtfd died freshwater rd age 65

murphy

1865 4 jan hg standard mr jn died hg age 66- lived here 50 years

murphy

1886 7 dec gazmr jn diee age 34 native of co wexfd

MURPHY

1886 11 dec nfld times mr jn died 7th age 36 native of co wexfd

murphy

1887 9 feb gazmr jn died age 92 native of co wexfd

MURPHY

1887 12 feb nfld times mr jn died 9th age 92 native of wexfd here 60 years

MURPHY

1820 23 dec st jns sup ct JN witness power v goss of torbay
Mill Cove Breakwater Ltd. v Goss of Torbay
been temporarily need
MA-2323-AM
MA-2323-AM

MURPHY

1820 23 dec sup ct JN prosecution witness power v goss of torba - loss of boat

murphy

1821 24 feb st jns rc JN of st jns married joanna meehan of thurles

murphy

1821 26 apr st jns surr ct JN sued for 9/10/- rent by rachel parsons to pay

MURPHY

1821 28 may st jn surr ct JN sued for L5 by eleanor power to pay

MURPHY

1821 30 may sup ct JN sued jn ryan for 2/3/3 debt won

MURPHY

1821 30 may st jns surr ct JN sued jn ryan for 2/3/3 won

murphy

1821 3 jun st jns surr ct JN sued for 2/12/- by has houlihan to pay

murphy

1821 30 jun sup ct JN sued for 2/12/- by denis houlhaan to pay

MURPHY

1821 26 spt dup ct jn sued for 9/10/- rent by rachel parson to pay

MURPHY

1821 30 oct cb writs JN writ agst wm coughlan bryants cove- stoppage of wages

MURPHY

1821 3 nov cb writs jn writ agst pat meehan bay robts L6

murphy
1821 12 nov cb writs jn writ agst geo sheppard hg to pay his passage

Murphy
1821 nov st jns rc JN of davids town co wexfd married mary harvey of port cove

murphy
1822 18 jan cb writs jn writ agst jn wilcox brigus 5/15/7

MURPHY
1822 29 mar hg surr ct JN sued for 92/7/- disputed a/c by jas sullivan
arbitrators say to pay 38/6/10 in cash or bill

MURPHY
1822 22 jun hg surr ct JN/jas brine and jas sullivan in 1817 had been partners
sold schr maria to wm mullowney for L652. now they owe mullowney
L195/19/10d.

MURPHY
1823 10 may hg surr ct writ agst jn of carb L20 by thos vincent

WFL
murphy
1823 sep bt 162/6 jn maria 60 ton nfld fishing

MURPHY
1823 14 oct hg surr ct JN writ agst pat Makone of hg 3/5/-

Murphy
1823 bt 107/483 JN/jn hudson catalina planters reg
providence 26 ton Murphy
blt by him
1825 dec reg dn.

murphy
1824 sepbt 162/7 jn maria 60 ton nfld fishing

murphy
1824 sep bt 162/7 jn providence 25/3 nfld fishing reg 1823

MURPHY

1824 16 oct hg surr ct JN sued pat mckone for 3/5/- 1821 note. won

murphy

1825 bt 107/489 JN built kate 63 ton at HANTS HR for brown/hoyles/co.

MURPHY

1827 14 may north circ jn/mathew sued rich penny for L12 settled

Murphy

1827 oct co 194/74 JN hg inhabs customs duties

MURPHY

1827 5 nov north circ at hg jn/mar sued for 10/2/6d freight ~~xxxx~~ by mich doyle
doyle had schr MARY going fm labrador-carbonear - agreed to take
freight for murphys who then did not supply the goods.

MURPHY

1828 7 jan north circ JN jury anderson v milton debt

MURPHY

1828 4 jun north circ JN sued jas glavine for L8 for wires labour in latters service last
year awarded L3

MURPHY

1828 3 sep lab surr ct JN/dan crowley planters at henley hr.

kurmphy murphy

1828 21 nov north circ JN(hill) jury maghee v forrestal trespass

MURPHY

1828 co 194/78 JN estate in nfld £600

murphy

1829 7 nov north circ jn sued for 2/10/- by wm donnelly of hg to pay

murphy

1829 11 nov north circ JN sued for 2/7/- by dan mcearty lost by default

MURPHY

8 1830 8 sep col recs JN granted 25 acresland