

New Perlican
June 5th/78

Professor, Patrick O'Flaherty, Esq.
Memorial University
St. John's Nfld.

Dear sir

I think I would be remiss, if I did not, make a remark, about some of the debatable, facts, in the book published; entitled Family names, of Newfoundland.

I am enclosing, some authentic, facts, concerning New Perlican, and some corrections, concerning the name Pittman, of this settlement.

I am 81 years old, and was raised here (N.P) where I attended school until 1912, My certificate for passing Preliminary grade in the year 1912, is almost antique.

Enclosed please find, 14cts postage, hoping you will be kind enough to return this manuscript.

Yours truly

P.O. Box 47
New Perlican, N.F.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada A1C 5S7

Department of English Language & Literature

Telex: 016-4101
Telephone: (709) 753-1200

O.K.
8280

Keith -

This contains some interesting
information - If you want to
take a copy, do so, and return
the original to me.

Pat O'Leary

(1)

History of New Perlican, and the Pittman Family.

I had the good fortune to have the book entitled "The family names of the Island of Newfoundland" loaned to me by a neighbor. Naturally the name I was interested in was Pittman, the references to New Perlican, is not right, in some respects, and certainly, don't go far enough into the past.

The Garland Firm was well established, at Trinity, Trinity Bay, when the French captured, the town in the year 1761, and burned their premises and sawed in two, a large vessel that was being built, in their dockyard, "I mention this to make a point, The first Pittman came to New Perlican around the year 1800, to take over operation, of the ^{Garland} Singley business, which was well established, at that time, They had two very large stores; the one was a two story; place with the bottom half, used for storage of Provisions, in one part, and coarse Salt for curing cod fish, in another, and another ^{store}, about two hundred feet, farther North, along the shore, used for the storage of dry cod fish, This store also had two ~~stores~~ and the bottom was the place for fish and the top for storage of gear. Twines, Cordage, etc. This building was called the lower store. It was burned, I should say, entirely destroyed by fire, in 1921, with all its contents, at that time it was in tip, top condition, after being in use well over two hundred years, and at the time was being used for storing, cooperage and soft wood Barrels, that were being used, for the packing of herring.

The store that had the provisions, on the lower floor, was used up stairs for office space, and retailing, of merchantise.

The frame of these stores, were exceptionally big, and put together very, very substantially, which explains, why these stores, stayed in operation so long, the store with the retail store upstairs, was taken down, about 1953. or later. To describe the timber used, it was hand hewn, and cut not too far from the water side, To give one example the floor joist were about twenty five feet long, with a flat surface about five inches wide, on the smallest end, the largest end was twelve inches or more in diameter, before being hewn.

The oldest, authentic, record, re-inhabitant, of New Perlican, is several, baptism records, entered in the Church register, at Trinity, in 1772, also an inscription, on a head stone, buried 1813, age 50 years.

William Pittman came to New Perlican to operate the branch firm of the firm of Garland, He was the first Pittman to settle in New Perlican, was in the year of our Lord 1800, he was 22 years old, at the time.

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 Having been born in Abbotsbury, in 1778. He came to Trinity, him and his two
 brothers, Charles, & Corbet with their parents, Capt. William and Anne (White)
 Pittman, in the year of our Lord, 1788, she being some relative of Joseph White
 who died at Poole England, 1771, his estate was valued in money alone, not
 counting Property, £ 130,000, sterling. All of which he made by fishing
 and trading at Trinity.

Capt. William Pittman who settled in Trinity, 1788, was an astrologer.
 and made a record of the date and hour of the birth of each of his
 children. Charles White Pittman, son of William & Anne Pittman was born 18th
 of January at 6 O'Clock in the morning, in the year of our Lord, 1783.

Next, Corbet Pittman son of William & Ann Pittman, was born 11th
 November at 7 O'Clock in the morning, in the year of our Lord, 1784.

When Captain William Pittman & his wife Ann (nee White) Pittman
 came to Trinity, T.B. they had three sons with them, who's ages were William,
 ten, Charles Five Corbett less than four.

As I said before William Pittman Jr. came to New Perlican, to man-
 age the business of the Garland House, at New Perlican, He was an astrologer,
 and a mathematical expert, some of his trigonometry text books, are at pres-
 ent in my son's keeping. Captain Pittman must have educated his sons,
 as Charles W. worked book keeper for Slades, firm. and Corbet was captain
 of one of their foreign going Ships. He was captured by the French,
 during the Napoleonic wars, trown into prison, and was'nt released until
 after the battle of Waterloo, about six months after the peace was signed,
 communications were, not what they are to day, after he returned to Poole
 England, he taught navigation, until he died. I have before me as I wri-
 te, a letter he wrote to his niece, Amy Pitts, on October, 26th 1846.

In this letter Quote " We expect a vessel from Carbonear daily,
 on her return, I will write some other branch of the family; he also wrote
 a (P.S) A few hours after writing the above, Capt. Medus arrivwed, & brou-
 ght me three letters, one from your Mother, one from Charles, and one from
 Albert, his two Nephews, (Albert was my grandfather)" these I intend to ans-
 wer by Capt. Medus on his return."

Charles White Pittman, who worked, as bookkeeper, for Slade's firm
 must have gone back to Poole, England. in early life as he died there, in late
 1836 or early -37. I have in my possession a letter fro his attorney
 to notify, his niece & her husband, a legacy of £52.15.8d. had been left by
 W. Charles Pittman

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This will is dated at poole 16th Sept. 1837. This neice was my Grandfather's sister who had married John Pitts, lived all her life at New Perlican, died and is burried there.

In all my history of the family, I cannot find any reference to a Pittman, in Scilly Cove, which is only four miles away, from New Perlican, but there is an entry, in the Church register, at Trinity, as follows; - "Charles son of William and Sara Pittman, born 1802, baptized August 8th 1808, at Scilly Cove, and another entry dated November 3rd 1808, there was two other entries, of children being baptized at New Perlican, I guess a mixup of the Priest.

Capt & Anⁿ (white) Pittman, had eight children altogether, their oldest, Ann, born, in abbotsbury "December 24th, at half past six O'Clock in the morning 1776" She must have died Abbotsbury, three of their children William, Charles, & Corbett came, to Trinity Nfld. with them, so, I gather Ann, must have died, before they left England. At Trinity four other children were born to them, A girl, who was also Baptized, Ann. in 1789, George White, 1790, Mary 1795. & Elizabeth 1796.

Capt William Pittman died Sept. 22nd 1808, at the age of 62, years Ann his widow, died August 10th 1821.

In 1830 Archdeacon Wix visited Hearts Content Parish, and had Devine service at New Perlican, being assisted by William Pittman, catechist, this William Pittman died in 1836, at the age of 58 years. His wife Sara, died in the year of our Lord 1864, age 92 years; which means, she was born in 1772, five years, before the signing of the U.S.A. Independence. Her maiden name was Sarah Dean of Old Perlican. their head stones, tell thier age at the time of death.

William Pittman, of new Perlican, taught his sons, after they became men, the art of designing, and building ships. Of these they built scores, for different firms. He was associated with ship building, before coming to Perlican, and no doubt worked for Garland house, before coming; ; and as I said earlier, Garland's vessel that was being built, in thier dockyard, was sawn in two halves, in 1761 when the French captured Trinity. of course he was'nt there at that time, as he did'nt come to Trinity until, 1778, as a boy, ten years old, with his Father & Mother.

To mention a few names, comp led by my maiden Aunt, (born 1841), they are as follows Eliza Janet, Jim Crow, Corsair, Nancy, Favorite, Ruby, Anne, Kingfisher, falcon, Rapid, Raviil, Crusader, Artic, Kate, Westwind, Flash,

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 Pelican, Puritan. These were built by the Pittmans at New Perlican.

at Hants harbour they, or one of the sons (George) built the following Vessels, named:- Atlanta, Gladiator, Scotia, Rappah, Hope, Gipsy, & Miana.

An account book dated 1820-1821, has some very informative entries viz. Thomas Mitchem, 1821 for watch repairs, 6/ six shillings, William Pittman's son Albert, was married to Ester Mitchem, one of Samuel Mitchem's daughters born 1818. Another sister of Ester, was married to Corbett born 1805, she was born, 1823, Corbett was also William's son, Albert's brother, two brothers married two sisters.

The surnames or family names, in this book; just to mention a few, Jas. Carberry, Robert Tibbs, George Smitherin, Robt. Pearcey, Edward Seward, Thomas Baker, Geo. Lockyer, Jas. Hefford, Phil. Hefford, Wm. Rockwood, & many others. I forgot to include, the family name Snook.

These vessels, I have already mentioned, were built for different business firms, viz. to name a few;- Punter & Munn, Donally, Rourke, and others, some of these vessels, were built at Carbonear, perhaps explaining, the presence of the Pittman in Carbonear, There was captain ^{Pittman's} son George White Pittman born at Trinity 1790, sailing as an apprentice, before the mast, left Trinity ~~October~~ 20th, on the brig 'Hannah. This was his first cruise, "This note was taken from, Samuel Augustus Gent's Diary," and he is buried in Carbonear,

The brigantine Corsair was built for Mr. Richard Howely, Merchant of St. John's, who carried on a large business, there. The Corsair was a vessel of 160 tons, and was the first vessel to go on the old floating dock in St. John's. Quoting from Mr. Shortis's article, she sat on the water like a duck; and was a source of admiration, both in Newfoundland and in Naples, Italy. (again quote) unless I am greatly mistaken, a picture of this vessel painted in Naples, Italy, will be found with some of the Farvey family.

I will write a copy of some of the letter that Corbet Pittman, the ex-prisoner, released from the French Prison, and settled in Poole wrote to his niece, Amy Pitts, daughter of his Brother William, and sister of the shipbuilders. This part deals with the seal fishery, of the spring of 1846, This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 1st, it gives me great pleasure to hear you are all in health, & that the seal fishery had turned out well, so far as the Pittmans were concerned, but I understand

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that the catch in general, was very short of an average; I should always be glad to hear how our family gets on in business, but should not have known anything about it, but for Wm. Lockyer, who kindly let me know how Charles had got 2600 in the Crusader, & 1200 in the Curlew; also that James and George had 2300 which was certainly doing very well, James and George was to the seal fishery in the (Kingfisher 80 tons) The Crusader was 110 tons, the Curlew, 90 tons, As you might have notice, all these vessels were built here in New Perlican, by the Pittmans, Another schooner built by them and not among the first listing, was the Foam, built for the mail service, by packet, between, New Perlican and Trinity, this was ^{in the} 1860's, the Foam was 40 tons, with better accommodations then her predecessor,

As this is a history of New Perlican, I must give some account of the part it played in the early mail carriage, and traveling Public, N.P. was the distributing place for the mails, from Carbonear, that went down the South side of Trinity bay, to Old Perlican and points between, This mail was carried by a man with a bag containing the mail strapped to his back; also the mail for Trinity, and along the route North from there, carried by the packet, This packet used to carry passengers, and if these people missed the boat, they would stay at the Pittman's house, to wait for the PACKET, thus the family was known to a lot of different people, consequently, ^{**}in the family album, I have, there is an awful lot of photos I don't reconize, as, they were taken some of them, so far back as the 1830's, I imagine this accommodation, was furnished free of charge, as boarding houses, and hotels, was'nt much in vogue, at that time,, I must tell an amusing incident, concerning my Uncle, who was a big man physically,

There was a pedler, who came to New Perlican, to make connection with the packet, on his way to Trinity "but he had missed her, His nationality was French, and beside his pack, he had a satchel, locked with a combination lock, He was very careful of it because it contained watches and jewelry, The packet had gone before he arrived and as the Lancet, A large, Labrador fishing schooner, belonging to the Pittman Bros, was going to Trinity, they consented to take the French man along, He put his paraphernalia, in the cabin, and spent some time on the deck, during the trip,

" as I said my uncle Fred was on board, and being a practical Joker, decided to play a joke on the pedler by opening the satchel if he could

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He started to try the combination, using different letters, when he thought of the word Paris; this did the trick, so he decided to carry the thrick, or what he considered a joke, ^{farther} but things went differently, !He tipped the contents of the satchel out in the berth, Shortly after the pedler came into the cabin, opened his satchel, and found it empty, Now! the joke was over, The French man, naturally, flew into a rage, and drew a weapon. and Uncle Fred was there to watch the fun, but had to use physical force to restrain him, while he showed him where his valueables where.

William Pittman, the first Pittman in New Perlican, was an astrologer, and made a point of foretelling things to happen, or in other words Clairvoyant, He told his boys if they got educated, they would leave Nfld. so !he did'nt give them education, although, he and his brothers, wane, the best education possible, it speaks for its self, as they held jobs that required the best. education to perform. his sons although they lacked education, made gigantic strides, in the economy of Nfld. Being Clairvoyant, ! people, who had; had, things stolen; would come to him; to, tell them, where it could be found; after getting their Zodiac sign, he could direct them to find their lost articles, He also predicted, that when he was buried there would be more people in the church, then ever before, so he told the wardens of the church, to put props underneath the gallery. so, by this we gather that the church here in New Perlican, was fairly large, in 1834 when he was buried, The church that replaced it was 60 feet by 35 feet, so I imagine it was 50 feet long, this being my conclusion, after measuring the ruins of the old foundation.

The Pittmans settled in New Perlican, in the year 1800, but contrary to the fact recorded, they were not landowners, until, the year of our Lord 1856; when they, bought, " what I mean by they; " is that, Sarah and three of her sons, viz. Corbett, James & Albert, bought a parcel of land and water-side (described as a fishing room Plantation) from John Thorne Oakley, sr. Robert Melland Sr, and Nathan Granter, all of Greenspond.

There was also a Charlie Oakley, lived here at one time, as the fishing plantation, so called, ajourned, the land purchased by the Pittmans along the waterfront, to the South, The oakleys were very earlie settlers, and I question if they ever resided in Scilly Cove, regardless, of the entry in the records, this also applies to the Pittmans, Some of these entries, I regard as unintentional, care less work.

Now Charlie Oakly must have resided, in New Perlican, for some

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time, as a marsh, on the way to Perlican Pond about three miles back, in the country, is called Charlie Oakley's Marsh, to this day.

I have heard my father say that, his uncle, George was a very particular, man, in regards to his work, and could'nt tolerate, sloppy work! in way of defination "Two men John Pitts Jr. and James Matthews, were caulking the deck (teak wood) and the old man saw marks in the wood, I should have said dents, this was where these men were sitting on the box, containing their caulking irons, and when they would have to shift along, they would use the caulking mallett, with the iron ring on the ends, to propell themselves forward. Uncle George walked back and forward, following each seem, until he caught up to the culprits, and called their attention, to what they were doing. They ^{might} have been, in compitition, as they were expert in that field. viz. caulking. slips.

George Pittman was the ^{best} designer and builder, of the brothers, he moved to Ants Harbour, from New Perlican. He did a lot of vessel building, there. He raised his family there, or some of them? if he died and was buried there I don't know. He was not buried here at New Perlican. Corbett & his brother Albert, are both buried here, and their graves marked by head stones. Thier only sister; amy Pitts, that stayed, has her grave marked with a Stone, another sister Amelia, is buried at Trinity, N.B. and another sister Elizabeth, who married captain Robert. N. Jones, of the Brig "Dolphin" They were married in 1818, she is also buried in New Perlican

As no doubt you have already gathered, she must have been the eldest. of William and Sara Pittman's family, Charles their oldest boy, who was born at New Perlican born 1802, which would make him 16 when his sister was married to Captain Jones. This Elizabeth had an aunt, named Elizabeth the youngest, and eighth child of Capt. William Pittman, and Ann (nee White) Pitman, born at Trinity, after they came there, who, lived all her life at Trinity. She married John Skelton. Her marriage is entered as follows,

" John Skelton of Kirby, Misperton, to Elizabeth Pittman; in St. Paul's Church, Trinity, Oct. 11th, 1824; by Rev. William Bullock. Witnesses; Samuel Augusts, ⁴²⁷ George Skelton, Thomas Drawbridge. She became the mother of, Doctor skelton, Mrs Kirby, of Kings Cove, Mrs Bayly of Bonavista, and hence, the Grand mother of Canon Bayly, Mrs (Bishop) White, and others.

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In 1862 Captain Orlebar, surveyed New Perlican, and recommended, that it ~~was~~ was the logical place, for the cable to have its landfall; when he surveyed Hearts Content in August 1864, he changed his mind, and the cable was landed at that place.