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MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

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February 18, 1983

Mr. Robert Matthew-Morey Sr.,
51 Allen Street,
Gloucester, Mass.,
01930, U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Matthew-Morey

Thank you for your letter regarding the Morey and Rogers families of Newfoundland.

Our name file records primarily deal with the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries. We are not at this time in a position to undertake detailed geneological research that includes the entire 19th century. As you mentioned in your letter, while church fires may have cause difficulties for researchers you have contacted, there are also more fundamental demographic considerations regarding the 19th century. Newfoundland population doubled during 1850-1900. More and more families began to move about the Island during that period. At the same time more people began to appear in the Church and government records, people whose parents or grand parents had eluded former record takers. In addition, the tendency of subsequent generations to use the same christian names as their forebearers cause additional problems for the researcher.

Having stated this, we can still forward some helpful information regarding the origins of these families. The Moreys (sometimes spelt Morry) were in Newfoundland throughout the 18th century. They were in all levels of the fishery trade; merchant-suppliers, captains, planters, mariners and fishermen. They most certainly came from Devon; KingsKerswell, Dittisham, Paignton, Townstall, Bovey-Tracey, Teignmouth and Dartmouth. There were a few exceptions. In 1797, a William Morey of Co. Waterford, Ire., lived in St. John's. A Patrick Morey lived in Carbonear (1784), probably related to a Morey family (usually spelt Morea) who lived there. Our records suggest they were Anglo-Irish. On the whole, however, the Moreys were from Devon and arrived on the Island as Anglicans,

By the late 18th century they, along with the Carters, Sweetlands, were one of the prominent families in the Ferryland district. Matthews Morey was an important merchant-supplier there with Dartmouth, and for a time, Teignmouth connections. His son, Thomas G. Morey was later a Newman's Agent (1827-1865). The Moreys remained prominent in Ferryland throughout the 19th century.

Page 2....
February 18, 1983

While they did not enter active politics, various members of the family subsequently held civil service positions for three generations in Ferryland. Some became successful bank fishery captains. Members of subsequent generations married into both Anglican and Roman Catholic families in Ferryland and St. John's. We have no record of a Morey in Pouch Cove during this early period. This suggests that Moreys settled there sometime after the 1830's, probably from Ferryland or St. John's.

The Rogers, like the Moreys, were in the Newfoundland fishery throughout the 18th century. They were, again, from all classes; suppliers from Bristol, captains from Dartmouth and Poole, Dorset, planters, mariners and fishermen. They came primarily from Devon (Teignmouth, Churston, Mudbury, and the Exeter and Dartmouth areas), but there were also captains and mariners from Poole, Dorset. They settled in the Conception Bay, Trinity, Bonavista, Fogo and Burin. Our records indicate two early Rogers families who were probably ancestors of yours.

1817: March, at St. John's, James and Mary Rogers of Torbay had daughter Ann baptised

1814: Sept., St. John's, James and Elizabeth Rogers of Pouch Cove, had daughter Elizabeth baptised. Both were Anglican.

Both were planter families and James of Pouch Cove worked for the Munn firm of Harbour Grace at that time. This establishes the Rogers in Pouch Cove in the early 19th century. Susan J. Rogers is a most probably descendant. We hope this information has been helpful.

I am enclosing an invoice for \$45.00 to cover the time involved in researching this material (3 hours). Please do not hesitate to contact us again if you feel we can be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Matthews,
Chairman,
MARITIME HISTORY

KK/vk