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MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

Department of History  
Maritime History Group

Telex: 016-4101  
Tel. (709) 737-8428

February 23, 1983

Mr. Edward L. Sheppard,  
Stephenville Crossing,  
Newfoundland

Dear Mr. Sheppard,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Sheppard and Ramsey families. Our name files most adequately cover the 17th, 18th, and early 19th centuries.

The Sheppards (sometimes spelt Shepherd or Shephard in the 17th and part of the 18th centuries) were engaged in the fishery throughout the 18th century. The first known was Richard, a Bonavista planter (1681). He had no family here, however. In 1729, there was a Joseph Sheppard in Bonavista, an agent for Thomas Hancock of Boston. Christopher Sheppard was also a planter there (1709). There are no Bonavista references after that time, however.

Generally, the Sheppards settled in Conception Bay. A few appear in early St. John's records. They came from Devon; such communities as Topsham, Teignmouth, Dartmouth, Kenton and Lymptone.

1814: John Sheppard received a plantation at Mint Cove, Spaniard's Bay when he became of age (1811).

1797: John Sheppard, fisherman, married Mary French at Harbour Grace. He worked for C. Watts.

1805: William Sheppard Hr. Grace fisherman, married Ann Nosworthy. Anglican

1785: Quincy Sheppard, Hr. Grace Captain (Quebec, West Indies, London sailings).

1882: Martin Sheppard died at Pleasure Point, Labrador, age 62. He was probable decendant of Martin Sheppard, Carbonear planter (1782).

1829: James Sheppard, Brigus, applied for 7 acres of land there.

1800-01: James Sheppard of Trinity (possibly the same Jas.) was planter, boat owner.

1822: Another James Sheppard lived in Broad Cove, C.B.

1818: Francis Sheppard, Hr. Grace planter and boat owner

1783: Adam Sheppard married Mary Penny, both of Hr. Grace

1814: Henry Sheppard Jr., planter of Spaniard's Bay. Sheppards were also at Cupids.

1794: St. John's, John Sheppard, Sawyer, married, 2 sons, Protestant

1787: St. John's, David Sheppard leased land near St. John's church. He was a baker

1797: St. John's, George Sheppard married Elizabeth Brophy, R.C. wedding. Our records indicate the Ramsay (sometimes Ramsey) families were well established in Newfoundland by the 1750's. Aside from active late 18th century sailing captains (John and William of Dartmouth, Hugh of Greenock) a Francis Ramsay owned a large Plantation at Broad Cove, C.B., (1806), first recorded as having been cleared by his family in 1752.

1827: Charles Ramsay, Broad Cove, Planter was most probably the son of Charles and Elizabeth Ramsay of Poole, Dorset.

1794: Thomas Ramsay, planter near Hr. Grace was possible son of John and Martha Ramsay of Dartmouth.

1786: Jacob and Sarah Ramsay were Poole Quakers. Jacob was in the Newfoundland trade as a supplier. His son Joseph spent time in Newfoundland.

1864: Andrew Ramsay, Hr. Grace, died, 9th Nov., a native of Edinbough, Scotland.

The Ramsays, like the Sheppards, settled on Conception Bay. They came from Dorset, Devon, and Scotland. Some moved out of Conception Bay during the 2nd half of the 19th century - usually north and west. In constructing a genealogical tree, you would have to work backward remembering that your family origins were most probably Conception Bay during the early 19th century.

We have a community study of Sandy Point, researched by B. Ledwell. price \$3.90. Also:

St. George's Bay, by H.C. Brown Price \$3.20

Port-au-Port, Bay St. George, by G. Smith Price \$7.40

Please notify us at your earliest convenience if you require either of these papers.

I am enclosing an invoice to cover the following charges:

3 hours of research time at \$15.00 per hour = \$45.00

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Payment received	= \$20.00
Balance owing	= \$25.00

We hope this information is helpful to you in your re-  
search.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Matthews,  
Chairman,  
MARITIME HISTORY

KM/vk