

BEMISTER William Wills

Born Corfe Mullen, Dorset England in 1789.  
 Emigrated to Carbonear Newfoundland as a clerk with messrs Kemp's of Poole in 1802.  
 1810 married ann daughter of Peter Howell of Carbonear and as a result obtained land in the town and on Carbonear Island. By 1815 He had started his own business in partnership with the Howell family- they were not at this stage substantial fish merchants - they owned no foreign going vessels for instance, but did engage in the coasting trade and a general supply of fishermen in the Conception Bay area - .~~the~~ They obviously obtained supplies from larger merchants and disposed of such fish as they obtained by selling to other traders in Newfoundland/.

1818 in partnership with William and James Howell, registered the FOX a 75 ton schooner; William Howell commander. (they were his brothers in law).

1819 signed a petition protesting the state of law and order in Conception Bay.

1822. with the Howell's registered the schooner SUCCESS of 60 tons, John Howell master.

1823. with William Howell, registered the schooner LARK of 93 tons William B Pynn master

1825 with James and William Howell "Planters" of Carbonear, registered the schooner FOX of 24 tons

from 1825 onwards Bemister sat annually on the Conception Bay Grand Jury, and was often called upon to act as arbitrator in debt and property cases between litigants. This was a sure sign of his growing social and commercial status in the region.

1827 with the Howell family registered the schooner CORFE MULLEN of 90 tons, John Howell master.

1826 with William and James Howell registered the BRITANNIA of 94 tons, James Howell master.

1827. signed a petition complaining of lawlessness in conception bay.

1832x sat on the election committee of William Pack, the most important merchant in Carbonear when the latter attempted to become the first Member of the House of Assembly for Conception Bay (they lost).

1833. By now Bemister and the Howell's were firmly established as merchants and had entered the overseas trade of the colony although on no grand scale. One of their vessels the LARK) above traded constantly between Poole in England, and Newfoundland.

1838 by Now Bemister had had five sons, and the eldest were beginning to join him in the business. William Junior, and Henry were both admitted to partnership. In that year ~~his father~~ ~~one of the~~ ~~Howell~~ ~~partners~~ (William) died age 63.

1839 the Company were becoming heavily involved in the annual seal hunt and in this year sent five of their schooners to the Ice.

1840. Entered into partnership with George Forward of Carbonear (Latter of Sturminster Newton, Dorset) and purchased the extensive premises of the insolvent Poole firm of Slade Biddle and Company on Water Street, Carbonear.

1843 Partners in the Company William Wills Bemister, his son John Bemister, and Benjamin Thomas Gould of Carbonear, and William Howell. - the latter retired in this year.

1847 sent four vessels to the seal hunt.

1863 30 December died in Carbonear aged 74.

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM WILLS BEMISTER

Wills ~~conn~~ sea captain and 5th son of the above. sea captain  
. Died at New York on 5 July 1869 whilst master of the Two  
Brothers.

Samuel Wills- commanded vessels for his father.

OTHER BEMISTERS INVOLVED IN NEWFOUNDLAND

JOHN F OF Poole Dorset- died Poole in 1743.

JOHN Of Dorset Planter at Bonavista circa 1762-1807. (wife Mary  
died in 1807).

JOHN of Wimborne Dorset. mate and commander of Teignmouth  
Devonshire vessels in the Newfoundland trade 1807-1814.

CHARLES commander of Poole-Newfoundland vessels owned by  
Christopher Spurrier and Co Ltd 1800-1802.

THOMAS Planter AT Bonavista in 1762.

THOMAS(2) inhabitant of Bonavista 1815-1820 had children  
Amelia Mary, John and William.

GEORGE Agent for James Bayley and Co in St Johns 1793-1798.

JOSEPH Planter at Englee (Northern Peninsula) in 1763.

EDWARD of Corfe Mullen (almost certainly a close relative of  
William Wills Bemister) married Susan Grant of Freshwater  
Conception Bay in December 1822.

References are in sequence as given in the above report.

1. Harbor Grace Standard 14 January 1864. *name file Bemisters*
2. Local Tradition
3. Carbonear United Church Parish Registers
4. Conception Bay Surrogate Court Records. Writs taken out by William Bemister and Co November 1815.
5. B.T. 107/472 Regoistry book for the port of St Johns 1818
6. Record Book of the Colonial Secretary, June 1819
7. B.T. 107/481 St Johns port registry Book 1822
8. B.T. 107/483 Ditto for 1823
9. B.T. 107/489 Ditto for 1825.
10. Conception Bay Magistrate and District Circuit court records various volumes.
11. B.T. 108/204 Registry book for port of St Johns 1827.
12. B.T. 107/491 " for 1826
13. C.O. 194/volume 74 Incoming Correspondence, Colonial Office London, Newfoundland. June 1827.
14. Newfoundland Public Ledger November 1832.
15. Lloyds Register of Shipping 1833.
16. The Newfoundlander March 1838. The Newfoundland Royal Gazette October/November 1838.
17. Newfoundland Times list of vessels intended for the seal hunt March 1839.
18. Information provided by Ms Lois Kernegghan, Pprovincial Archives of Nova Scotia.
19. Newfoundland Royal Gazette June 1843
20. the Newfoundlander March 1847.
21. Harbour Grace Standard 14 January 1864

OTHER BEMISTERS INVOLVED IN NEWFOUNDLAND.

1. Public Record office Wills and Administrations. Boyeat 303
2. Records of the Colonial secretary 1762-3. Benjamin Lesters account book 1779. Ditto December 1781.xl
3. Bonavista Anglican Parish Regiester February 1807.
4. B.T. 167 vols 37-39. Register of Seamens Sixpences for the port of Exeter, Devonshire 1807-1811. Customs Port of Exeter Register of shipping for 1811. Lloyds Register 1816, Lloyds List various dates 1814-15, Newfoundland Royal Gazette 1811 October and November. Admiralty 7/130. Register of Projections 1815.
5. Lloyds Register of Shipping 1804. Lloyds list, various dates 1800-1802.
6. Colonial Secretary's letter book 1762-3.
7. ~~Benjamin Lesters~~ Greenspond Anglican parish Registers 1815-1820.
8. Journals of Robert Newman and Company november 1793 and June 1796.
9. Colonial Secretary's letter book 17 63.
10. Harbour Grace Anglican Parish Register December 1822.