



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

Department of History
Maritime History Group

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B295

June 30, 1983

Ms. Joyce Hounsell,
649 77th Street,
Brooklyn, New York,
11209, U.S.A.

Dear Ms. Hounsell,

Thank you for your interesting and informative response to our report and the valuable historical material included. It is greatly appreciated here.

In answer to your questions, I will take them in order.

1) On what basis did I conclude Jane Blackmore and Eleanor Blackmore were sisters? On reviewing my notes I find that our records have them 'paired.' They were both baptised on the same day (June 9, 1830) and listed as; Jane Blackmore, 3 yrs.; Eleanor Blackmore, 4 yrs. No parents' names were listed and no other Blackmores were baptised that day on Pinchard's Is. I assumed they were sisters. Since Thomas Parsons had married Eleanor Blackmore, and John Blackmore had married Mary Parsons on the same date (Oct. 27, 1817) at Greenspond, there was a strong probability these couples were cross-related, that there were at least two Eleanors, two Janes (based on other marriage records) and possibly more. Eleanor Blackmore married Levi Norris (Oct. 24, 1845) and Jane Blackmore married Thomas Gill (Oct. 23, 1847). I take it that they were the same Eleanor and Jane Blackmore mentioned in the June 9, 1830 baptismal records. In both cases friends rather than family members witnessed their respective weddings, so from our perspective here, we still had no indication as to who their parents were. You are quite right, however, in suggesting Eleanor could not have been the daughter of Philip and Ruth (Norris) Blackmore. I probably meant Patrick Blackmore and Elizabeth (Gill), married 1822, and assumed the two girls (Eleanor and Jane), baptised 1830, were sisters. The subsequent information which you forwarded suggests they may not have been.

2) Aubrey George Spencer was Bishop of Newfoundland and Bermuda, 1839-44. He was a relative of the Earl of Spencer and ultimately, related to the Duke of Marlborough. Princess Diana is linked to this family; Spencer and John Churchill (1st Duke), 1650-1722. Why your grandmother's brother, b. Feb. 1894, was named Aubrey Spencer Green rests on several levels of possibilities. Firstly, there were Newfoundland Spencer and Churchill families in the trade. They were much like the families you have already researched. The Spencers came from Poole, Dorchester, Sturminster, West Parley in

Dorset; Dawlish, Bideford, Kenton, Dartmouth, Devon; and some Anglo-Irish, Co. KilKenny, Ire. They tended to settle in Conception Bay, Bonavista Bay, Trinity, and some settled in Placentia through Slade connections in the North. The Newfoundland Churchills, interestingly came almost exclusively from Devon as did the 1st Duke of Marlborough, John Churchill, 1650-1722. Winston Churchill was a descendant. There are those here who claim - probably since World War II - that Churchill had Newfoundland relatives. This may or may not be the case, it is one of those things that will never be hotly disputed. One of your Green relatives may have married a Newfoundland Spencer or Churchill. If this is the case, there might be an actual connection, though I would not have the slightest idea by which tortuous route one might set out to track down such a link. It would be like trying to climb Mt. Everest without Serpahs. It is much more likely a coming together various images and impressions Newfoundland was becoming quite conscious of its past. The historical society had been formed in 1885. The Newfoundland quarterly would be published in a few years (1900). D.W. Prowse was working on his history. Newfoundland's Diamond Jubilee Stamps were devoted almost entirely to portraits of its historical figures rather than the exotic animals and steel railway trestles of other colonies. His parents probably named him after the first Anglican bishop of Newfoundland, a simple response to the times.

We found another Hounsell marriage: James M'Bride, of the firm M'Bride, Kerr and Co., of St. John's and Greenock, married Ann Hounsell, 3rd daughter of Thomas Collins Hounsell, (April 3) at Wykes Court, Bridport. (Nfld Times, May 9, 1838). She subsequently came to St. John's.

The Newfoundland Coffins came from some of the familiar towns in Devon: Dawlish, Coffinwell, Marychurch, Bishopsteign, Topsham; also Stourton Caundle and Poole, Dorset; and Guildford, Surrey. Some, like Richard and Edmund were Exeter shippers (Devon cloth) in the 1760's - 1780's. During the 1780's-1830's Coffins carried on a steady trade locally between St. John's and P.E.I. dealing in provisions; sheep, potatoes, for Nfld timber. From the 1730's - 1780's there were John, Thomas, Joshua, and Jeremiah Coffin, all captains operating out of South Carolina, Boston, Belfast and Europe in the Newfoundland trade.

I have enclosed an invoice paid for \$24.25, to cover the following charges:

Payment received	= \$75.00 (American) - \$91.25 (Can)
Balance owing on last invoice	= 71.00 (Canadian)
Balance	= 24.25
Amount owing on this invoice	= 24.25
Balance	= 00.00

I wish to thank you again for the research you have included. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Matthews,
Chairman,
MARITIME HISTORY



B 295
Blackmore

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May 12, 1983

Ms. Joyce Hounsell,
649 77th Street,
Brooklyn, New York,
11209, U.S.A.

Dear Ms. Hounsell,

The individuals listed in your letter of 11th Feb. 1983 lived on Pinchard's Island, B.B. It is located NE of Wesleyville and south of Cape Freels, at 49°12'; 53°30'. The population was relocated sometime after Newfoundland joined Canada, but during the early 19th century it was home for a considerable number of families actively engaged in the seal and Labrador fisheries. The Islanders had social and economic connections with Greenspond, B.B. as well as with Fogo, Trinity and Conception Bays. While some of the men and women (including the Hounsell) were dissenters (Congregationists and Unitarians) in Dorset, they became part of the Anglican Bonavista circuit. The length of the Labrador season and the visiting missionary system explains why so many on Pinchard's Island were married in late October or November.

(A) HOUNSELL: Richard: On April 18, 1830 Grace Hounsell was baptised (C. of Eng.), age 25 yrs. At the same time Richard, age 8 yrs., and Eliza, age 6 were baptised. As far as we know they were the only Hounsell family on Pinchard's Is. at that time. Richard Sr. does not appear in our records. He was wither absent from the Island (Apr. 1830) or had been previously baptised. Rev. Coster left us very little anecdotal material. Grace was probably born in the Bonavista North area. Either she nor Eliza Hounsell appear in our records again.

1852: Oct. 23: Richard Hounsell (Jr.) married Mary Curtis, both of Pinchard's Is., B.B. Witnessed by Benjamin Perry and Thomas Perry. The Perrys came from Haselburry, Somerset. Thomas Perry later married Alice Parsons, of Greenspond).

1859: Oct. 15: George Hounsell, of Bridport, Dorset, a relative, married Mary Button, Fair Is., B.B. Witnessed by Japhet Sainsbury and Robert Wells.

1840: Oct. 22: James Hounsell,, Gooseberry Is., B.B. married Catherine Faltham, Deer Is., B.B. Witnessed by Nathaniel Smith.

1859: Nov. 16: Thomas Hounsell, Pinchard's Is., (probable younger brother of Richard Jr.) married Hannah Burry, Newell's Is., B.B. Witnessed by Thomas Hancock and Abraham Green.

There were few Hounsell's living in Newfoundland in the early

19th century and almost all of them were concentrated in the Bonavista North area.

(B) GREEN, George. If George Green was born in 1827, as your letter suggests, our records indicate he was a son (or possible grandson) of Thomas and Mary Green of Greenspond, B.B. Thomas Green was born in Wimborne, Dorset; he resided for a time in Trinity Bay, and by 1805, he owned plantation no. 18, Ship Is., B.B. He continued, however, to reside in Greenspond. They had at least three sons; Daniel (1823), John (1824), and George (1827). It is doubtful, however, that this George (1827) lived on Pinchard's Is., for in Oct. 1841, when Benjamin Barber married Rebecca Green at Pinchard's Is., the wedding was witnessed by a George Green and John Blackmore. It is unlikely George (1827) would have witnessed an Anglican wedding at the age of fourteen or fifteen -- there is no precedent for this. There was obviously another (older) George Green on Pinchard's Is. He was probably the George Green (or subsequent son) of Bonavista who married Elizabeth Steads (1807) of Catalina, T.B. He was also a likely relative of Thomas Green (above) The same christian names are used at Pinchard's Is. and Greenspond.

1849, 24th Oct: George Green married Elizabeth Parsons, both of Pinchard's Is. Witnessed by John Collins and John Gill. In summary, George Green was born in Bonavista Bay, (Pinchard's Is.), date of birth unknown. He was most likely the son of George and Mary (Steads) Green and of Dorset descent. He probably had many relatives in the Bonavista area. There is a probability that his wife, Elizabeth Parsons, was the daughter of Thomas Parsons, of Pinchard's Is., though our records are not altogether clear on this point.

(C) NORRIS: Levi; In 1830, Rev. Coster, an energetic young minister from Greenspond, made a general ecclesiastical sweep of the off-shore islands in Bonavista Bay. On June 9th he arrived on Pinchard's Is. His baptismal records suggest he was more interested in individuals-- their christian and surnames and their particular ages--rather than sorting individuals into proper family aggregates. This had something to do with census taking (one of his many duties). As a result, he left to posterity the following; Pinchard's Is., John Norris, 4 yrs., Elizabeth 6 yrs., Levi 17 yrs., John (Jr) 32 yrs; William 22 yrs; Samuel 15 yrs; Mary 24 yrs; James 20 yrs.; Henry 25 yrs. All baptised 9th June 1830, adding a note that John Sr., had been baptised. This would make Levi, 17 yrs., then son of John Sr., the oldest of the three Johns mentioned and the only one not baptised that day. We do not know the name of Levi's mother -- she may have been deceased by 1830.

1833: Henry Br. of Levi, M. Barbara Gill, both Pinchard's Is. She probably younger sister of Ruth Gill.

1845, 24th Oct: Levi Norris married Eleanor Blackmore, both of Pinchard's Is. Witnessed by John Winter and Thomas Collins. Eleanor was the sister of Jane Blackmore, but due to the nature of the 1830 records, it is not clear who her father was. She was nineteen.

On Nov. 23, 1854, Henry Bowden (formerly of Ringwood, Hampshire, Eng.) married Susanna Blackmore, both Pinchard's Is. Witnessed by Levi Norris and George Blackmore.

(D) BLACKMORE: Patrick: We have nothing in our records regarding Patrick Blackmore Sr., (b. 1746 or 56; d. 1824). We have very little information regarding Patrick Blackmore Jr., other than in 1822 he married Elizabeth Gill at Greenspond. In the 1820's Bonavista Bay couples had to travel to Greenspond to marry. Actual places of residence were seldom recorded before

the 1830's. It is most probable, however, that both Patrick and Elizabeth (Gill) Blackmore were from Pinchard's Is. She was possibly the daughter of George Gill Sr., of Pinchard's Is. Blackmore is a Westcountry name, primarily Devon in our records. The name Patrick suggests an Irish connection. It was not unusual in the 18th century for Anglo-Irish and Irish Roman Catholics alike to use the christian name Patrick. This would suggest that this particular family had some background in Ireland or possibly Patrick Sr.'s mother was Irish descent (either Protestant or Roman Catholic) born either in Ireland or Newfoundland. This is of course speculation. What is more important for your purposes is that three marriages took place in Greenspond, 1817-1822.

(1817) John Blackmore married Mary Parsons

(1821) William Blackmore married Sarah Norris

(1822) Patrick Blackmore Jr. married Elizabeth Gill

Here are three relatives (brothers or cousins) marrying daughters of established, relatively large families of Pinchard's Is. in a relatively short time span. This also suggests a strong probability of family connections between the three Blackmores and Philip Blackmore (below).

(E) DAVIS, George: In the 1830 records we have; Henry Davis, age 12; Ann, 1 yr.; Abraham 13 yrs.; James 5 yrs.; George, 10 yrs.; Job age 3 yrs., all of Pinchard's Is., and obviously brothers and sisters. Again, Rev. Coster made no reference regarding their parents who were most likely previously baptised. In 1839 (Jun. 16) Abraham (George's brother) married Elizabeth Light, of Deer Is., B.B. It was witnessed by William Davis, probably the father of Abraham (and George, above).

(1850) Nov. 12: Thomas Davis (?) married Clementine Gill, both Pinchard's Is., witnessed by George Davis and John Hefferton

(1852) Nov. 29: George Tuff married Ann Davis (sister of George), both Pinchard's Is., witnessed by George Davis and James Parsons

(1859) Oct. 26: George Davis, widower, married Jane Blackmore, both Pinchard's Is. Witnessed by James Davis (brother) and Peter Norris. The records list George as a widower. We have no information regarding his first marriage however.

(F) CURTIS, John: There were two or three Curtis families in the then small community of Bonavista located on the northeast corner of Bonavista Bay. Our records indicate there were Curtises at Fogo and Conception Bay at this time (1820). Our records indicate that John Curtis married Elizabeth Parsons of Pinchard Is. on Oct. 21, 1824 at Greenspond: that on June 9, 1830 two of their children were baptised, Elizabeth, age 2 yrs., and Thomas, age one month. We do not have baptismal records covering the period of Mary Curtis' birth (1832).

(G) BLACKMORE, Philip: In June 1833 Philip Blackmore married Ruth Gill, a widow of Pinchard's Is., Philip was most certainly related to John, William and Patrick Blackmore mentioned above. As early as 1813, he resided on Pinchard's Is. and owned a 37 ton Newfoundland coastal boat, the "Brothers". In addition, he owned with George Gill Jr., Pinchard's Is., a 42 ton schooner, "Spring" which had been built in Greenspond in 1816 and was refurbished in 1825. They sold seal oil and fish to Slade (Cox and Co., at Greenspond, where George Gill Jr. looked after a plantation for the Slades and

probably had use of it for fish curing purposes. In addition, George and John Gill owned plantations of their own in Greenspond and were joint-owners of the schooner, "Smuggler", built in P.E.I.

Our records indicate that Philip Blackmore still occasionally wintered in Poole, Dorset, in the early 1820's. This was a common practice of planters in the 18th century -- less so by the early 19th. He usually travelled from Greenspond to Fogo where he obtained passage on a Slade Ship for Poole.

Regarding Ruth (Norris) Gill, the wife of Philip Blackmore, we have only Ruth Norris in our records. She married a George Gale, Oct. 27th, 1821. This would not be the same Ruth Norris unless she were widowed twice. It is much more likely another Ruth Norris was present on Pinchard's Is., of whom we have no record. There were Gales on Pinchard's Is.; it is unlikely this was simply a misspelling of 'Gill'.

(A) HOUNSELL: In our records Hounsells were either from Bridport or Poole, Dorset. They were signing petitions in Bridport as early as 1680's. In 1698 Robert Hounsell, who had been living in Bath (Somerset) returned to Bridport to marry (?) .

(1701) John Hounsell, an Exon (Exeter, Devon) importer

(1755) Lloyds lists a Captain Hounsell of the "Adventure" in Poole-Portugal-Nfld. trade.

(1766) Poole, William Hounsell married Jane Buffett

(1773) 3rd May, William (another) of Great Canford (Poole) deceased. Widow, Elizabeth states John Brinton, Poole cordwainer, owed them £2/10/-d.note.

(1774) Lester diary: Young Hounsell of Bridport called on Lester - was paid. (Benjamin Lester had one of the largest Poole-Newfoundland firms. He was involved in Poole politics, had many interests in Newfoundland, and encouraged substantial tradesmen and businessmen of South Dorset to invest in the Newfoundland trade.)

(1770) 23rd Dec., Lester diary: Ned (Edward) Hounsell, mate of Lester's bg. "John", was gotten out of Poole in the night through Lester's efforts for fear he would be pressed. Ned, a resident of Poole, had married Mary Budden there in 1761. They were Unitarians.

(1787) Nathaniel Hounsell and Elizabeth Martin were married at Teignmouth, Devon, he a sojourner, she of Bishopsteign. In 1788 they had a son, Nathaniel.

In the period 1766-1797, a John Hounsell, "a Bridport cutler and Iron monger" was a considerable investor in the export-import trade. Under John Hounsell and Co. he owned a 130 ton brig "Bridport" engaged in the Poole, Boston-London trade. He also owned the 70 ton "Fanny" operating out of Poole, Exeter and Halifax, N.S. In addition, he supplied Iron mongery work for Lester and others. John Sr. died 10th Dec. 1791. The firm subsequently went into bankruptcy in April 1797.

Joseph Hounsell, Poole, was in the Newfoundland trade in the late 1700's, later carried on by his son, Joseph, after the former's death in Jan. 1800.

1833, Dorset Chronicle, 3rd Mar.: William, Esq., of William Hounsell and Co., Bridport Merchants Corporation many years, died from a severe accident after 48 hours illness."

The most well known Hounsell's in Newfoundland in commercial circles in the 19th century were William and Thomas Collins Hounsell, Bridport Net and twine manufacturers. Under the name Hounsell, Schenk and Hounsell, they were one of the two largest rope making firms in the West-Country. They also reportedly owned a net and twine factory in Manchester. In St. John's their affairs were handled through Hounsell and Co., which supplied the local seal trade and dealt primarily in furs and seal oil. They generally bought their fishery supplies from New York. The Hounsell's built the Rope Walk in St. John's, a net and twine manufacturing facility, one of the more successful local enterprises in the 19th century. In 1856 (Mar. 6 Gazette) they dissolved their partnership with William Schenk (the latter formerly of Hamburg). John Bond, a St. John's supplier and their agent, became a partner. Thomas Collins Hounsell died on 5th May 1877 at Wyckes Court, Bridport, age 94 yrs.

The Hounsell's were largely from Bridport, Dorset. They were established in the Newfoundland trade as merchant, captains, mates and mariners from the 1750's on. Aside from a few merchants in St. John's, our records indicate the Hounsell's--few in number in the early 19th century, settled almost exclusively in the Bonavista Bay area. There are no other Richard Hounsell's mentioned in our records other than Richard, born 1822: this includes Dorset and Newfoundland.

(B) BLACKMORE: Devon name from such communities as Littleham (near Exeter), Teignmouth, Brixham, Topsham, Churston, Dartmouth and Bideford. Blackmores had Newfoundland connections since the late 1600's. There were Blackmores in Ferryland in the 1690's.

(1670) Humphrey Blackmore of Barnstable, No. Devon, was in the Waterford, Ire. -- Newfoundland trade. A very early indication of Irish trade connections.

(1701) A Captain Blackmore of the "Pearle" (owned by Thomas Smith of Rappahannock, Va.) was in the Bideford/Ireland/Virginia trade to the south Patomac with goods and Irish servants in return for tobacco to Bideford. There were numerous Blackmore captains in the 18th century. Lloyds Lists do not give their christian names, however. Christopher Blackmore, (1771) Captain of the "Elizabeth", was 30 yrs. a Captain of Dartmouth.

(1792) Another Christopher was then an Exeter importer

(1718) Robert Blackmore with 4 others owned the "Seaflower", out of Bideford, in the South Carolina trade. There were at least two William Blackmores, possibly more, in the 1700's, Captains living in Teignmouth and Brixham, Devon,

(1708) Gregory Blackmore was a ship captain of Topsham.

There were many Blackmores who were Captains, Mates, and Mariners. We are unable to document their places of origin, however John Blackmore was a large Exeter importer during the 1790-1800 period, primarily engaged in the Hamburg trade.

(1829) Rev. Charles Blackmore (Anglican) was at Port-de-Grave, Conception Bay. Little is known of him.

(C) NORRIS: The families were Westcountry. They were from Stoke Fleming, Townstall, and Dartmouth, Devon, as well as from Dorset. Our records indicate they had settled in Newfoundland in the second half of the 18th century.

(1762) Thomas and Ann Norris of Newfoundland had their 6 sons and daughters baptised in Dorset. (there was a Thomas Norris, Pinchard's Is., baptised in 1830, age 35 yrs.).

(1775) Andrew Norris bankrupt, owed Robert Miller £ 6/5/10d.

(1801) Norris and Pain, Trinity Bay planters, owned jointly house and stage. Household: 2 men, 2 wives, 1 daughter, 1 boat, no servants

(1805) John Norris and Edward Hicks owned Hick's Room (plantation) Pinchard's Is., built by Hicks in 1802. The Norris' were one of the early families on Pinchard's Is.

(1745) A Richard Norris of East Lulworth, Dorset. We know little of him

(1770's) George Norris, Captain of Dartmouth, was in the Newfoundland trade

(1800-30) Thomas Norris, planter in Ferryland

(1820) Also a Thomas Norris, planter, in St. John's. In June 1821, he sued two Justices of the Peace for trespassing on his property, absconding with his two boats and selling them for £ 49-, this, because Norris (or his daughter Mary) had been convicted of selling spiritous liquor contrary to law. He had been fined £10- and had refused to pay. Norris argued their procedure was invalid. The Superior Court Judge sided with Norris.

The Norris' were one of the early settled families at Pinchard's Is. John Sr. probably settled there sometime in the 1780's. He probably was born in Newfoundland, and if so, was of Dorset or Devon descent.

(D) PARSONS: had the same Westcountry cultural background as the Norris'. They came from Devon (Woolboro, Cockington, Teignmouth, Topsham, and Dartmouth and Dorset (Poole, Wareham, Sturminster Newton). A few, like Hugh Parsons, were displaced Devon weavers. They exhibited the same occupational patterns of mariners and captains during the 18th century. During the second half of the 18th century, they tended to settle in Conception Bay-in and around Harbour Grace, Bay Roberts and Brigus.

(1701) Captain Benjamin Parsons of Topsham, engaged in the Newfoundland trade, moved to Boston, Mass., and carried on his trade from there.

(1765) Patience Parsons, farmer, had plantation given to her by her father on the northside of Harbour Grace. She also owned one in Bay Roberts. She was sued in the Hr. Grace Court by Alex Campbell for chopping down the boundry fence between their properties.

(1767) John Parsons appointed Marshall of the Court at Harbour

May 12, 1983

Grace (31st Oct). Parsons tended to be fisherman, planters, some skilled trades during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Common christian names in Westcountry and Newfoundland were; George, Benjamin, JOHN, James, Thomas, William, Henry and Moses.

(1811) Charles Parsons, 30 years in Newfoundland (a native of Sturminster), settled in Harbour Grace. He was a literate mariner-fisherman and married a daughter of Hippley, a Hr. Grace merchant.

(1818) Parsons and Kough supplied sundries for the new courthouse at Hr. Grace £ 65/2/4d. and carpenter's work worth £ 287/-/-.

There were Parsons in Bonavista North by 1800. George Parsons had son Matthew baptised at Greenspond (1816), daughter Mary (1819), son James 1820.

(1821) George had writ against Thomas N. Davis, Hr. Grace, for £ 4/14/-.

George was a boat-owner, 'went to the ice' in the spring (sealer) and engaged in the Labrador trade. He dealt with the Dawson firm of Hr. Grace. The Parsons probably came to Bonavista from the Hr. Grace (Conception Bay area).

(1817) Thomas Parsons married Eleanor Blackmore at Greenspond. He was subsequently baptised at Pinchard's Is. (1830) at age 35. Also listed at that time were Richard Parsons, age 11; Philip, age 14; Rose anna (Rosanna) and Elizabeth, 3 yr. old twins. There was no mention of Eleanor - she probably had been previously baptised.

Meanwhile, George Parsons (above), now a widower, moved to Indian Bay (NE cor. of Bonavista North). In 1831, he married Elizabeth Crocker - she from the Hr. Grace area.

(1837) William Parsons, Indian Bay, B.B., married Sarah Blackmore, a widow of Pinchard's Is. Sarah was probably the Sarah Norris who had married William Blackmore, Oct. 27, 1821.

(E) GILL: Devon and Dorset surname. Gills were established in Newfoundland throughout the 18th century at St. John's, Bonavista, Trinity and Conception Bay. There were Gills from such places as Woolboro, Townstall, Churston, Ashprington, and Dartmouth, Devon, as well as Wareham and Poole, Dorset.

Several Gills from Ashprington, Devon, moved to Massachusetts in the late 1600's. Michael Gill (Mass.) had 3 sons, Michael Jr., Nicholas, and John. The three of them became involved in the Newfoundland trade and subsequently moved to St. John's. Michael Jr. became an agent for Devon and New England merchants. For a time he was a partner of William Keen, a Boston merchant who operated out of Greenspond and St. John's. Michael held a series of prestigious civil positions (chief Justice of the Peace, unofficial Collector of Customs, and Vice-Admiralty Court Judge) none of which were as lucrative as he had anticipated. His brother Nicholas later held the Vice-admiralty Judgeship during the revolutionary war period.

(1799) William Gill was a plantation owner in Cupids, C.B.

(1807) Joseph and Nicholas Gill, St. John's, had dealings with the Slade Co., in Trinity. Joseph and Nicholas came from Ashprington. The Devon side of the Gill family were also in Newfoundland in the second half of the

18th century and tended to use the same christian names as the Massachusetts-born Gills.

(1794-95) A James Gill, auctioneer, owned 7 houses in St. John's. In the 1830's, his son, James D., made many business trips, to Boston on occasion, but usually to New York.

The majority of the Gills who came to Newfoundland were young migratory fishermen. Common christian names were George, Henry, John, Thomas and William. Occasionally we find Francis, Nathaniel and Richard. Some of these christian names were common among Westcountry Gills. We are unable to link with certainty specific Pinchard Is. Gills with particular Westcountry Gill families. This is obviously due to documentation problems, but also in part to the length of residency of Gills in Newfoundland. The Gills probably came to Bonavista from Trinity Bay or Fogo Is. How long they had been established there is not known.

(F) DAVIS: A name common to the Westcountry. Davis' came from such communities as Poxwell, Charnmouth, Stickland, Stalbridge and Whitechurch, Dorset; Dartmouth, Brixham and Topsham, Devon; and Somerset. A Davey Davis was operating a plantation at Renew's as early as 1675. John Davis had a plantation in Trinity (1708) with 10 summer servants and 2 winter servants. Many Davis' were mariners, mates, and captains in the trade during the 2nd half of the 18th century.

(1780-90) James Davis was an employee for Slade at Fogo and Twillingate Is.

(1787) William Davis of Youghall, Devon died at Trinity

(1778) George Davis, a merchant of Hr. Grace wrote officials in London that since he had been a supporter of the American Exclusion Bill, he had suffered from the resentment of many of his former business colleagues in Poole and St. John's.

(1813) Nathaniel Davis appointed Jailor at Hr. Grace

(1822) Robert Davis, planter, at Broad Cove, C.B.

(1818) Charles Davis, planter, at Carbonear, C.B. He and wife, Mary, had son George, baptised 1810.

(1779) An Abraham Davis, mariner, of St. Saviour Parish, Dartmouth, Devon. A possible family connection with Abraham Davis, of Pinchard's Is., who married Elizabeth Light (1839)

(1819) John Davis, a planter at St. Mary's Bay had son, John Jr.

(1838) Henry Davis married Emma Parsons, of Hr. Grace. It is not likely that this is the same Henry Davis of Pinchard's Is., brother of Abraham and George, baptised 1830. There is a strong probability, however, that the Davis' (and Parsons') came to Pinchard Is. from Conception Bay rather than the Trinity or Fogo area. Again, George, John, William and Henry were common christian names among Davis families on both sides of the Atlantic during the 18th century.

(G) CURTIS: A common Westcountry surname found in Devon, Dorset, Hampshire and Cornwall.

We have records of a John Curtis and wife, Bonavista Planters as early as 1677.

(1770's) There were Curtis' in Newfoundland from Ringwood, Hampshire

(1820) George Curtis, Newton, Dorset, married Honour Bailey, Bonaventure, T.B.

(1823) James and Elizabeth Curtis, both of Bonavista Bay, had a son William. This was a Methodist ceremony and he was probably from Wareham, Dorset.

(1809) John and Mary Curtis, Hr. Grace planter, had daughter, Susannah.

(1814) John and Mary (above) had daughter, Ann

(1823) Robert Curtis, Childockford, Dorset, married Jane Waters, Trinity

(1839) Garret Curtis, native of Newfoundland, was "a perfectly self-taught Shipbuilder". Built 180 ton "Gratia" for Allan Goodridge at his St. John's yard. He had previously built the "Ann" for Thomas Peyton, Exploits, N.D. Bay.

(1762) George Curtis, planter at Western Bay, C.B. He was from Wimborne, Dorset.

(1736) Francis Curtis, a St. John's merchant in partnership with Abraham Bellnap of New England. Shipped out of Boston on the "Bedford", owned by them.

(1819) James and Elizabeth Curtis, Bonavista Bay, had children George, James and Elizabeth baptised

A number of Curtis' served as Captains and mates throughout the 18th century. They sailed out of Bideford, Dartmouth and Poole. Their contribution to the development of the Newfoundland trade and the subsequent social and economic changes which eventually took place is obvious. They usually lived on their ships when in Newfoundland ports and wintered in the Westcountry (Dartmouth, Teignmouth, Poole, etc.). It is difficult however to piece together documented histories of their lives.

This is also true of the migratory fishermen. They were usually young men who needed employment. A James Curtis of Woolboro is a good example. He had been apprenticed to John Baily, farmer in the Exeter area in the 1750's at the age of seven. He worked for Bailey for 14 years. When his apprenticeship expired, Curtis had difficulty finding steady employment. The Anglo-Saxon word, 'Job', in the 18th century meant for the majority of people its old literal meaning; a piece of work, or a task of short duration. He worked 17 weeks for John Howard, later to Abbotskers to Thomas Baily for 17 weeks, and then to Teignmouth for 20 weeks with Mrs. Gasking. He subsequently moved to Woolboro and married there. During Highweek (1769) he and a friend signed in the Newfoundland fishery for the following spring. He remained in the fishery for the next six years, continued to live in Woolboro, and always considered himself a 'husbandman' (agricultural worker). James Curtis represents, as far as we know (1775), a migratory fisherman who stayed in England.

Others like him with very much similar backgrounds settled in Newfoundland. This is an unusual incidence in which the early career of one of these young men is clearly documented.

(H) GREEN: The Green families were Dorset (Poole, Canford, Sturminster, Bridport), Devon (Berry Pomroy, Teignmouth, Topsham, Marlton), and Hampshire origin.

(1807) George Green, Bonavista, married Elizabeth Steads, Catalina, T.B.

(1753) William Green, formerly of Wimborne, Dorset, a planter in Trinity

(1778) Thomas Green, Memorial to Massachusetts Council. He was born in Poole, father born in Mass., tried to join him there, taken prisoner. Wants his release so he and father can return to Poole.

(1780's) John Green, Poole-Canford supplier in Nfld. trade. Close connections with Lester firm. Member of Poole Corporation and property holder.

(1825) Benjamin and William Green, of Poole, merchants and shipowners at Brigus, C.B.

((1829) Robert Green, Trinity Bay, married Mary Gale, Pinchard's Is.

(1830) Greenspond, (another) Robert Green, Vere Is., baptised, age 22; also Thomas, age 15, William 16, John 18 years

(1828) Greenspond, James and Elizabeth Green had son Benjamin baptised

(1741) Young Green, committee of Poole Unitarian Church, died 1756

(1788) Young Green, Jr., at Poole, Rope maker (like the Hounsells) " and many years partner in house of large concern in Nfld. fishery" (Lester's). Died 4th Feb. 1788 "of asthma" at Poole, age 50. The use of Young, a surname used as a first name was also used by a Hounsell. Lester's diary refers to Young Hounsell of Bridport coming to see him at Poole (1774) regarding money Lester owed him. There is a good probability that a particular Hounsell family was linked to a Green family through a connection with the Youngs. It is interesting that the Hounsells followed the Greens as Dorset ropemakers

(1827) Greenspond, Thomas and Mary Green had son George baptised; son Daniel baptised earlier (1823) as well as son John (1824). Thomas was probably from Wimborne, Dorset.

(1842) Greenspond, (another) Thomas Green, Ringwood, Hampshire, married Susanna Lush of Greenspond.

(1800) Trinity, Daniel Green occupied house owned by Benjamin Lester, Poole merchant

(1805) Bonavista, Edward Green and Richard Hancock jointly own plantation, King's Cove. (Hancock was from Sturminster, Dorset)

(1804) Bonavista, Edward Green also owned another plantation, King's Cove, B.B.

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In conclusion, the Hounsells came to Newfoundland directly from Dorset. The Blackmores were Devon descent and had probably operated out of Bonavista for considerable time during the 18th century. Their trade connections were Devon, Newfoundland, New England and South. The Norris' probably came to Bonavista from Trinity area as did the Gills. Parsons and Davis were most likely from Conception Bay. Curtis could have been from Fogo or Trinity, though there were early Curtis' in Bonavista. The Greens were probably from Bonavista (Greenspond area) and of Dorset descent.

It has taken considerable time to research, compile, and prepare your request - 21 hours. We have tried to follow as closely as possible the instructions laid out in your format. You probably have information regarding some of these families which we do not have.

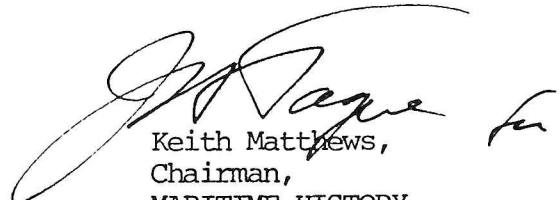
I am enclosing an invoice to cover the following charges:

21 hours of research at \$15.00 per hour	= \$315.00
Payments received (\$200.00 American)	= 244.00 (Canadian)
Balance owing	= 71.00 (Canadian)

If you have any questions relating to particular aspects of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us again.

Good luck with your research.

Yours sincerely,


Keith Matthews,
Chairman,
MARITIME HISTORY

KM/vk