

Interim Report on the (Presumed) Family of
GEORGE DAVIS (DIED 1789), MERCHANT,
of Carbonear, Poole, and London

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On the basis of earlier research in Newfoundland (the results of which are deposited in the files of the Newfoundland Historical Society, St. John's, Nfld.) - partly based on the files of Dr. Keith Matthews of the Memorial University of Nfld. - augmented by research in England during 1979-80, I offer the following tentative genealogy for George Davis (died 1789), merchant, of Carbonear, Poole, and London (my research in England centered on the West Country Studies Library of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society, Exeter, Devon - making especial use of its collection of parish registers and its August 1978 edition of the ["Mormon"] Computer File Index; since Davis is such a common name, one must be cautious about jumping to conclusions - and the process of reaching correct conclusions is, to a large extent, a process of elimination of various individuals named [George] Davis).

- I. GEORGE DAVIS (DAVY) of Topsham, Devon, and Carbonear, Nfld., born perhaps in the 1650's, died (probably) 1716-17 (buried Topsham, 24 February 1716-17 - George Davies); in 1708 Nfld. census (Carbonear) with a wife and six children (etc.); prominent in 1702, 1708-09, and 1712 documents of Carbonear. Possibly a cousin of George Davys of Exeter (married in 1682 Jane Rise), St. Lawrence parish, whose children included Mary 1683, Margaret 1684, Ann (died 1688), Elizabeth 1690, George 1692-3, John (died 1697-8), Ann 1698, and George 1702. The Exeter George Davis may have been kin to a ("Mr.") John Davis of Exeter (St. Lawrence parish) whose children included (Sarah, 1682-3 - perhaps), Elizabeth (died 1686-7), John 1686-7, Mary 1690, William 1695, and Robert 1701. The John Davis who was born 1686-7 may just possibly be identical with II. below; the name John Davis was, unfortunately, quite common then, even in the small area of Exeter-Topsham. The Topsham-Carbonear George Davis may possibly have been a (younger) brother of William Davis of Topsham who, by his wife Margaret, was the father of Philip 1665, Margaret 1668, Mary 1671 (died 1676), Ann (died 1672-3), John 1673-4, Ann 1675-6, Mary and Martha (twins) 1679, and John 1683; this last named John Davis is also possibly identical with II. below; the name Philip (oldest son of Wm.) recalls the Philip Davis who was baptizing his children in Topsham ca. 1630-38; almost no Davis's appear in the Topsham registers from then until 1665 (Philip's baptism - son of Wm.). Another possible brother of George of Topsham (d. 1716-17) is Edward Davis (married Elizabeth May in 1682) who was the father of John 1683 (yet another outside possibility to be II. below), Hannah 1685, and Christopher 1688. The William Davis who appears in the 1675 Nfld. census at Bristol's Hope (near Carbonear) with 4 sons and a daughter might well be the above-named William Davis of Topsham. There was a Charles Davis who appears in the 1677 Nfld. census at Carbonear (brother of George of Topsham?) with a wife and no children; possibly he is the Charles Davis who had a vicar general's marriage license to marry Sus. Sanders in 1676 (Boyd's marriage index); there was a Charles Davis and wife Susanna (with children Robert, Elizabeth, and Hannah) in the Bristol (Eng.) parish of St. Augustine the Less in 1696 (Charles^{was} buried there December 1696); he seems to have been a glassblower. In this same parish, Mr. John Davis, mariner (died probably 1640) and his wife Elizabeth (died 1653?) had the following children baptized: Elizabeth 1627 (died 1631?), Martha 1629 (married 1650?), Mary 1631, John 1633 (could this John possibly be the father of George of Topsham d. 1716-17?), William 1635 (died 1635), George 1636, and Edward 1639 (died 1639). The similarity of (admittedly common) Christian names is suggestive of possible kinship with the later Topsham Davis family.

George Davis of Topsham (died 1716-17) seems to have married at least three times: (1) by 1680 to Joane _____ who was buried in Topsham 7 March 1684-5 ("Joane Davy, wife of George"); 2) 4 May 1685 to Jone Wots (probably a variant of Watts), parish of Holy Trinity, Exeter (the date and Christian name of the wife fit perfectly); she was buried in Topsham 9 February 1695-6 ("Joane Davy, wife of George"); 3) Mrs. Jane Neeles, Topsham, 18 November 1705; she appears to have been the widow of Samuel Neels (note the baptism of George Neels, son of Samuel and Jane, Topsham, 9 July 1700). Children of George Davi(e)s (Davy) of Topsham:

- 1) Elizabeth, baptized Topsham, 1 November 1680, dau. of Geo. & Joane Davis.
- 2) Alice, baptized Topsham, 11 March 1682-3, dau. of Geo. & Joane Davis. She married James Clampet, Topsham, 21 June 1713, whose sister Mary married Alice's brother John (see II. below). James Clampet was baptized Topsham, 14 February 1688-89. Their children on top p. 3.
- 3) Grace, baptized Topsham, 8 December 1684, dau. of George and Joane Davy; buried Topsham, 14 December 1684, dau. of ditto.
- 4) Miah, baptized Topsham, 17 July 1687, dau. of George and Joane Davy. Presumably the same person as Jemimah Davies, dau. of George; Jemimah was buried Topsham, 2 November 1704.
- 5) John, baptized Topsham, 10 February 1688-89. See II. below.
- 6) Mary, baptized Topsham, 21 September 1690, dau. of George and Joane Davy; buried Topsham, 1 January 1690-91, dau. of ditto.

Another possible child of George Davi(e)s of Topsham - or possibly a nephew of George - was William Davies, married Topsham, 14 March 1707-08, Mrs. Elizabeth Varder (evidently the widow of Thomas Varder, buried Topsham, 16 August 1699; note the baptism of Elizabeth Varder, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth, Topsham, 23 October 1698); their children: William, bapt. 16 December 1708; John, bapt. 10 December 1710; Anne, bapt. 13 June 1713; Thomas, bapt. 6 July 1718 - all in Topsham.

- II. JOHN DAVI(E)S of Topsham, Devon, and Carbonear, Nfld., baptized Topsham, 10 February 1688-89 (as son of George and Joane Davy) (see no. 5 just above), buried (probably?) Topsham, 26 September 1750; in 1708 Nfld. census as John Davis of Topsham, at Carbonear, bound to Porto (Portugal), with no family mentioned (in this same census there is a John Davis with wife and no children at Trinity Harbour - as well as John Davis and wife at Port de Grave); in 1739 John Davies of Topsham was a subscriber for John Warren's sermons (book). I have not examined Dr. Keith Matthews' files under this name (John Davis); perhaps a check there would yield further data on this particular John Davis. He appears to have married at an early age, 20 January 1709-10, in Topsham, Mary Clampett (in the register he is called John Davys); that this John Davis is identical with the one born twenty-one years earlier to George and Joane "Davy" is strongly suggested by the fact that the Christian names Jemimah, Alice, and George are common to the children of both George "Davy" and this particular John Davis. Mary Clampett was baptized in Topsham, 11 December 1684 (and was thus over four years older than her husband), the daughter of James and Alice Clampett(t), whose other children included Martha (baptized 12 September 1682), Alice (baptized 16 February 1686-87), James (baptized 14 February 1688-89 - just four days after his future double brother-in-law, John Davis; see child no. 2 of Geo. Davis above), and Tabitha (baptized 22 August 1691) - all baptized in Topsham. A marriage license was issued, dated 2 November 1681, for James Clappitt of Christow and Alice Farrant of Topsham, widow (Devon & Cornwall Marriage Licences, 1668-1704); she married, as Alice Rendell, Richard Farrant, Topsham, 2 August 1675 (he was baptized there, as son of John Farrant, 10 March 1649-50; Richard Farrant was buried Topsham 24 June 1681), by whom she had the following children: Elizabeth (baptized 17 June 1676), John (baptized 1 April 1680; buried 17 August 1680), and William (baptized 20 January 1679-80; buried 17 February 1679-80) - all in Topsham.

The children of Alice Davis (bapt. 1682-3 - see child no. 2 on top of p. 3; sister of John Davis) and her husband, James Clampet (bapt. 1688-9): Alice (baptized 28 November 1714), James (baptized 20 January 1716-17; buried 2 June 1717), James (baptized 6 July 1718), Robert (baptized 25 June 1721), and Mary (baptized 31 May 1724). All in Topsham.

Mary Clampett, wife of John Davis (died probably 1750), died probably(?) in 1750, a few months before her husband; a Mary, wife of John Davis, was buried in Topsham 22 May 1750. Children of John Davis and his wife, Mary Clampett:

- 1) Jemima, baptized Topsham, 21 January 1710-11, daughter of John and Mary Davies.
- 2) Alice, baptized Topsham, 27 April 1712, daughter of John and Mary Davies; buried Topsham, 7 May 1712, daughter of John & Mary Davies.
- 3) George, baptized 7 June 1713, son of John and Mary Davy [?], Topsham.
- 4) John, baptized Topsham, 4 December 1715, son of John and Mary Daviss. Perhaps buried Topsham 23 March 1761. (Probably) ^{But see address p. 8 - bottom} married Topsham, 3 June 1741, Mary Pelter (buried Topsham 1761??). Children:
 - a) Mary, baptized West Teignmouth, 28 August 1741, as daughter of John and Mary Davis - but this may not be the Topsham John and Mary Davis; uncertain.
 - b) Elizabeth, baptized Topsham, 19 May 1743.
 - c) John, baptized Topsham, 15 January 1745-46.
 - d) William, baptized Topsham, 5 August 1747.

Could John and Mary (Pelter) Davis also be the parents of John Davis, baptized Northam, Devon, 11 August 1754, son of "John and Mary Davis"? Or could either John or Mary (Pelter) Davis - or both of them - have died in Topsham in 1750, when both a John Davis was buried (26 September) and a Mary, wife of John Davis (22 May) - or were one or both of these John Davis (born 1688-89) and Mary (Clampett) Davis? (see above).
- 5) Mary, baptized Topsham, 29 June 1718, daughter of John & Mary Davis. Perhaps she is the Mary Davis who married John Tool in Topsham, 7 January 1752 (no issue baptized in Topsham). = the George Davie, buried 12 June 1720?
- 6) George, baptized Topsham, 10 April 1720, son of John & Mary Davis; A
- 7) Elizabeth, baptized Topsham, 5 July 1721, daughter of John & Mary Davis; = Elizabeth Davis buried 6 March 1722-23?
- 8) Alice, baptized Topsham, 14 July 1723, dau. of John & Mary Davis.
- 9) George, baptized Topsham, 11 March 1724-25, son of John & Mary Davis. See III below.
- 10) William, baptized Topsham, 2 April 1727. There was a William Bond Davis who married Ann Collier in Exeter, St. Stephen parish, 8 June 1750; their daughter, Mary, was baptized in Topsham, 4 June 1752. Was William Bond Davis the same person as William Davis, baptized 1727? or possibly a cousin?

III. GEORGE DAVIS of Topsham, Devon, Poole, Dorset, London, and Carbonear, Nfld., baptized Topsham, 11 March 1724-25 (as son of John and Mary Davis) (see no. 6 just above), died Newfoundland (presumably Carbonear) in 1789 (by June of that year; word reached Poole by 10 July 1789, the date of an entry in Benjamin Lester's diary there, that "George Davies of Carbonear is dead - no loss"; this information came in a letter from "Mr. Stone" in Nfld.). Further information on the activities (especially business activities) of George Davis is to be found in the files of Dr. Keith Matthews of the Memorial University of Nfld., e.g., that George Davis began his career as an agent for Pike and Green (merchants) in Conception Bay (1757); ^{became} a merchant in his own right (especially 1765-1779 is documented), with financial difficulties by the late 1770's (in partnership with a man named Scott; owed John Green a lot of money; "his whole crew in whaling on the Labrador had been murdered by Indians"; 9 April 1778 wrote Lord Sandwich that he had been a supporter of the American exclusion bill and had "suffered from the resentment of many of his former business colleagues" in Poole and St. John's, and now petitions for relief, implying

he needed it because of his support for the government); that George Davis wrote Capt. James Cook from Poole, giving information on the settlement of Fogo and Twillingate (the letter is published), 1764 (14 March); that he was disliked for his shrewd business dealings (c.g., Isaac Lester learns that the brig "Little Peter" was sold by Davis to the Lesters for £500[- "so that little rascal Davis has jockeyed out of us £100"). In general, George Davis, merchant, appears to have been (regarded as) a hard man, often involved in disputes (litigation). At the same time, he appears to have been a man of some ability and knowledge (note the Cook request for information), with a capacity for leadership. He tried to organize resistance at Carbonear to the French soldiers then in the neighborhood (summer 1762)(they occupied the town and island, it would seem)(from Keith Matthews' materials, as well as "The London Chronicle," 12-14 October 1762). The inhabitants of Harbour Grace (and Carbonear and Mosquito Cove) authorized George Davis ("merchant and trader" "of London"), in a document dated 22 November 1765 (in Nfld. archives) to procure a minister of the gospel to live among them; he succeeded in this, and the Rev. Lawrence Coughlan, a man of Wesleyan (Methodist) sympathies, went to serve the Church of England people on the North side of Conception Bay (with headquarters at Harbour Grace). In 1769, "Mrs. Davis" (certainly George Davis' wife, Elizabeth - see below) gave a Church of England Prayer Book and Metrical Psalter to "the new Church at Carbonear" (called a chapel by Coughlan). But her husband does not appear to have been as supportive of Coughlan's ministry as she was, for in 1771 we hear that George Davis and the Harbour Grace merchants oppose Coughlan (and in 1770 the governor of Nfld. had to order that Coughlan's parishioners pay him the salary on which they were in arrears)(some of the immediately preceding material is from Dr. Matthews' files, and the rest is from an extensive article on the Davis family by Nimshi Crewe in the 23 December 1963 St. John's Evening Telegram; the article contains further data on George Davis and other Newfoundland Davis persons). Davis' last wife (married 1782; see below) and his children by her became Methodists, while his daughters by the 1769 "Mrs. Davis" appear to have remained with the Church of England. The "London Directory" for 1765 (one edition, not the other), 1770, and 1772 (at the Society of Genealogists, London) lists George Davis, Prescott Street (Goodman's fields - by Whitechapel - in the East end of London), Newfoundland merchant. The 1774 directory (and later directories) does (do) not include George Davis, but there is a listing in the 1774 and 1776 directories for a "Scott & Willes, corn fact., 12 Prescott str., Goodman's fields"; the Scott here may well have been the Scott who was Davis' partner. George Davis' appearance and disappearance in the London directories may signal his financial rise and decline. He seems to have remained prominent in his New World home, however, in last years; he was ^{named} foreman of a jury in Harbour Grace 2 October 1787. George Davis, merchant, did not have an entirely uneventful marital life, either. He married at least twice. He may be the George Davis who married Mary Laskey in Topsham, 27 November 1747;* this marriage may have been childless; she appears to have been the Mary Laskey, daughter of George and Sarah Laskey, baptized Kingsteignton, Devon, 26 October 1726; George Laskey married there Sarah Widgear 7 February 1725; he may be the George Laskey who (re)married in Topsham in 1734 Mary Watkins. Was the Mary Davis who was buried in Topsham in 1752 the wife of George Davis? We know that George Davis of Carbonear had a wife named Elizabeth who died in 1779. Several persons named George Davis married brides named Elizabeth in Devon around 1760. One (of Wembury, married 1760) was a husbandman. Another (with unnamed wife), of Lympstone parish (near Exeter and Topsham) had children (Joan, William, George, Mary, ^{Richard} John) between 1746 and 1764, but these names do not fit the known children of George of Carbonear. Another George Davis married Elizabeth Whiddon in the parish of Brixham in 1763; George was a "mariner," too, but he seems to have been born in Brixham (1736-37), not Topsham, and the Carbonear George

* Bishop of Exeter marriage license of Geo. Davis of Topsham, mariner, & Mary Laskey of same, spinster, 25 November 1747.

Davis is more likely to have been connected with Topsham(?), at least one or two of the earlier Carbonear Davises seem to have been; also the Carbonear George Davis had a daughter who was supposed to be aged sixty-three in 1823, thus born ca. 1760 - and so she would be a little old to be the daughter of the Brixham couple (although ages given at death are notoriously "approximate"). This leaves us with a final marriage, and this looks more promising: Diocese of Exeter Marriage Licences, 1734-1762, p. 747: George Davies, mariner, of the Brilliant (dispatched at Plymouth) and Elizabeth Williams, spinster, of "Stoke Damarel(1)" (=Stoke Damerall - near Plymouth), 15 March 1759. The Stoke Damerall (Damerall) marriage registers: George Davies H. M. Ship Brilliant and Elizabeth Williams - with a license - in the presence of Richard Williams and John Davis, were married 16 March 1759. Richard Williams was presumably either the bride's father or brother; Williams is a common name; there are several Richard Williamses and Elizabeth Williamses in Topsham, Stoke Damerall, and vicinity - at least one or two of whom might be likely to be identical to the persons named in the marriage register. John Davis may well have been the ^{older} brother of George Davis; this John Davis, born 1715, married Mary Pelter in 1741, Topsham (see p. 3 above); ^{by so, adding p. 2 below} they may just possibly have been the John and Mary Davis who had the following children baptized in Stoke Damerall: William (10 November 1759), William Morrish (12 January 1762), Ann (August 1763), and James (July 1767). However this may be, the following children were born to George Davis and his wife Elizabeth Williams, baptized either in Stoke Damerall or Northam (with one possible exception):

- 1) Mary, baptized Stoke Damerall, 16 March 1760. Evidently died young.
- 2) Elizabeth Arscot, baptized Stoke Damerall, 31 September 1762; Arscot(t) was a fairly common family name in the area. If her father was indeed George Davis of Carbonear (died 1789), then she married ca. 1790 John Mayne, surgeon, of Harbour Grace (born ca. 1760, and died December 1814 or January 1815, for he was buried Harbour Grace Church of England 4 January 1815, aged 54) (for the Carbonear George Davis had a daughter Elizabeth who married John Mayne). She was buried 28 December 1823, aged 63, Harbour Grace Church of England. Their children:
 - a) Alfred, born ca. 1791 or 1792, & died 6 March 1851, aged 59 years (buried 11 March 1851 Harbour Grace Church of England); barrister at law; clerk of the peace; married and had children.
 - b) Eliza(beth?), born ca. 1795, and died 18 February 1892, aged 97; married 1823 at Harbour Grace Church of England Joseph Peters, schoolmaster of Carbonear, and had children.
 - c) Emma, married William Stirling, surgeon, of Harbour Grace, and had children.
- 3) Diana, baptized 3 February 1765, parish of Northam (near Bideford); perhaps this is the Diana Davis who was buried there ^{see addenda p. 5 below} 22 October 1766.
- 4) Sarah, born perhaps in the later 1760's, place unknown, daughter of George Davis of Carbonear. She married, perhaps by the early 1790's, John Bland, who became magistrate at Bonavista for some years and high sheriff of Newfoundland (from 1812-1816, at least); both were living in 1817 and dead by 1843; she resided for a time in Liverpool, England, and may have died there. They had at least one child:
 - a) John Bayl(e)y, "gentleman," of Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1843.
 Other possible children:
 - b) Arabella, of St. John's, married in 1817, Trinity, Nfld., James Pointer Garland, Esq., of Trinity, Nfld.
 - c) Edward, of St. John's, born ca. 1797 and died 1814 (buried in Church of England Cathedral, St. John's).
- 5) Ann, baptized Northam, 18 February 1769.
- 6) George, baptized Northam, 1 July 1771.
- 7) Arscot, baptized Northam, 19 July 1774; buried Northam 26 September 1774. His given name establishes the connection with the Stoke Damerall family (child no. 2 above).
- 8) Mary, baptized Northam, 2 November 1776.

If the identification of the Stoke Damerall and Northam George and Elizabeth Davis with the George and Elizabeth Davis of Carbonear is correct, then all of the foregoing children, except Elizabeth and Sarah, died young, because Elizabeth and Sarah were the only heirs living in the early nineteenth century as children of this marriage of George Davis of Carbonear. But the deaths of a number of young children were not the only family sorrows of George Davis, for in 1779 his wife Elizabeth was murdered. In the Harbour Grace Church of England parish register of burials for 1779, the entry for November 19th reads: "Mrs. Elizabeth Davis Spouse to Mr. George Davis in Carbonear. She was cruelly murdered, a load of shot being lodged in her Bowels, by Persons unknown" (ordinarily the cause of death is not given in these registers) In 1970, I received a letter from Mrs. Mary (Davis) Ellis of St. John's, then aged 75, daughter of James Archibald Davis (see Nimshi Crewe 1963 newspaper article on the Davis family mentioned earlier), an evidently able and well-informed great-grandson of George Davis (died 1789); Mrs. Ellis, in response to my request for information she had heard in her childhood (e.g., about the murder in the family), wrote the following: "All the information I can give you is what I heard in my childhood more by chance than anything else. Because children were not told anything, "Lord Davis" was a joke to us all. I presume according to a diagram the Davis' owned all that part of Carbonear, namely the South Side, so I guess being a land owner he was nicknamed a "Lord." I did hear his first wife was murdered. Lord Davis drove to Harbor Grace (3 miles away) on horseback, and when he got back he made the outcry, "The rogues killed Mrs. Davis." Of course the general opinion was he did it himself before he left for Hr. Grace. Mr. Buckingham the magistrate was a relative of his, so I guess they were a law unto themselves." (Two relatively minor inaccuracies which I know of, should be noted: Mr. Buckingham - see below - would have been too young to be a magistrate in 1779; also the title of "Lord" Davis was probably given for his business activities as a merchant more than for his land holdings; my grandmother, born 1872, always called him "Lord Davis"; see the Crewe article for further on this.) The interesting thing here is that the family preserved a tradition that their forefather himself was the murderer!

In any case, within three years George Davis married again, this time to a lady less than half his age, Mary ("Polly") Branscombe, 15 July 1782, St. John's Church of England (the later Anglican Cathedral), the daughter of Arthur and Elizabeth (Roberts?) Branscombe; an outline of the history of the Branscombe family of the parish of Littleham St. Margaret (Exmouth), Devon, has been deposited by me at the Newfoundland Historical Society, St. John's, Nfld. Mary Branscombe was baptized St. John's (Church of England), 7 December 1758. George Davis made a public, legal promise to pay her £500 to her (and her offspring by him) within a year of his death, for marrying him (dated 13 August 1782 - oddly dated nearly a month after the wedding, although the document seems to regard the wedding as future: ". . . provided she becomes my Wedded Wife . . ."). This inheritance would go to her issue at her death; if she had no children by George Davis, then it would revert to his other heirs (presumably his children by Elizabeth). I do not know if this "will" was ever implemented, since George Davis seems to have died leaving many debts and no formal will; it was not until 1843 that his various heirs reached a settlement; and there was even an attempt in more recent times by some of the heirs to recover a supposed fortune left by "Lord" Davis but tied up in "Chancery" in England (this effort was made by William H. Thompson who married a granddaughter of "Lord" Davis).

The known children of George Davis and Mary Branscombe are as follows:

- 1) Amelia, baptized Harbour Grace Church of England, 18 September 1784, as daughter of "Mr. George and Mary Davis." She may have been born up to a year or so earlier, since baptisms do not appear to have always been prompt in these early days in Nfld., and since she is said to have been aged 69 at her death in June 1852. She never married. She died in Carbonear, 11 a.m., 29 June 1852 (from newspaper); her gravestone (shared with her brother G. P. Davis) is in the Methodist cemetery.

- 2) George Packenham, born probably late 1788 or very early 1789, because on his gravestone (actually, his sister's - see just above) he is said to have been aged 53 years when he died on 5 November 1842 - and because his younger brother (see below) was baptized in February 1790. He was a blockmaker (also turner and mechanic) in Carbonear. He married about 1821 Susannah King (said to have been from Old Perlican), whose father was almost certainly named Richard King (possibly the one who was buried in the Methodist cemetery there in 1821 or 1822; note that Holding, son of Richard and Sophia King, was baptized 2 September 1789, Harbour Grace Church of England - and that Richard and Sophia were the middle names of Susannah's third and fourth children by G. P. Davis, who tended to name their children after family members; so that it is quite possible that Susannah King's mother was Sophia, whose maiden name may have been Holding). Susannah (King) Davis died at Carbonear, ^{of paralysis} 23 December 1893, as "Susan, widow of the late George Davis, aged 93 years & 8 months" (The Harbour Grace Standard, Friday, 29 December 1893). She was thus a widow for over 51 years. She was evidently born in the spring of 1800. George Packenham Davis and his wife Susannah King had the following children:
- a) William Henry, baptized Carbonear Methodist Church, 20 January 1823; married and had children; buried 20 June 1889 (Carb.Meth.).
 - b) Mary Elizabeth, born 1824, and died 1892; married William Henry Thompson and had children.
 - c) George Richard, born 1826 in Carbonear; died 1906 in Bay of Islands; married and had children (his daughter was the compiler's grandmother).
 - d) Leonora Sophia, born about 1828.
 - e) Jane, born about 1830; baptized perhaps 9 August 1830 (Carb.Meth.).
 - f) Edward Packenham, born 4 March 1835, baptized 8 May 1838, Carbonear Methodist Church; he was not the first child of G. P. and Susannah Davis to be baptized "late" (not the custom then among the Carbonear Methodists), for Mary Elizabeth was baptized at age 9 on 23 June 1833, on the same day as George Richard, aged 7, and Leonora Sophia, aged 5. Edward Packenham Davis was buried 8 May 1857, Carbonear Methodist Church; died 4 May.
 - g) Frederick Reuben Branscombe, born 18 August 1837, baptized 8 May 1838 (same day as Edward Packenham above), Carbonear Methodist Church; married and had children; buried 3 April 1877, Carbonear Methodist Church.
- 3) William Henry Frederick, registered 28 January 1790 and baptized 4 February 1790, Harbour Grace Church of England, son of "Mrs. Mary Davis Relict to Mr. George Davis." He evidently died young, without issue.

George Davis' widow, Mary (Branscombe) Davis, married again, 5 May 1795, Carbonear Methodist Church, this time to John Buckingham. She died 11 October 1836, aged 78 years, and was buried in the Carbonear Methodist Church 16 October 1836. John Buckingham died in Carbonear 21 April 1841 and was buried 25 April 1841 in the Carbonear Methodist Church, aged either 73 or 75; he had been a justice of the peace and "for upwards of 25 years a Police Magistrate of that Town" (The Star, St. John's, 8 May 1841). They evidently had but one child, a son named John A. Buckingham who died 3 April 1800, aged one year and six months (his gravestone is next to that of his mother in the Carbonear Methodist cemetery; also in the same area are the stones of Edward Packenham Davis and of Amelia Davis and George Packenham Davis).

(One of the oldest stones in the Carbonear Methodist cemetery is that of William Davis, died 16 September 1789, aged either 33 or 35; who was he? close kin of George Davis who died 1789?)

The early 19th century records suggest contention between the children of George Davis' wives Elizabeth and Mary; this needs further study.

ADDENDA

The families of Davis and Pike were often associated in Newfoundland. Two Davis-Pike marriages in England may thus be significant. In the parish of Plymouth St. Andrew, William Pike married Elizabeth Davis on 17 June 1641. In the Vicar General Marriage Licenses, 1700-1709 (in the Society of Genealogists, London), George Davis, mariner, bachelor, 24, of St. Margaret's, Westminster, and Hannah Pike, spinster, of Bromley, Kent, 28, married at St. Clement Danes, Middlesex, 25 September 1701. St. Margaret's, Westminster, baptisms: George Davis, 8 October 1676, son of Edward and Elizabeth (who were also the parents of Anne, baptized there 4 January 1679-80; of Isaac, baptized 15 December 1672; and of Elizabeth, baptized 30 November 1674). In the same parish William and Margaret Davis were the parents of William, baptized 23 October 1661, and John 8 December 1679. Note that the (admittedly common) names of Edward and William (and wife Margaret) appear as parents in Topsham about this time.

Garland was another name frequently linked to that of Davis in Newfoundland. Garland Davies was buried 25 September 1764, parish of St. Paul Covent Garden, Middlesex County - surgeon (his P.C.C. will in the P.R.O. dated 13 September 1764, proved 26 September 1764, names no family and may imply a Welsh origin).

In the Public Record Office in London are the wills, etc., of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. I checked a few of these (a time-consuming task), including the one in the preceding paragraph, as well as the following: John Davis, Topsham, co. Devon, bachelor, whose administrator was his brother and next of kin, Francis Davis; I did not record the date of this (perhaps mid-18th century (at least between 1718 and 1782)). William Davis, mariner, of Topsham, in a will dated 22 November 1737, leaves all to his wife Mary; this was probated 15 February 1747, when he is called "late of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen Bermonds in the county of Surrey" but belonging to the merchant ship "Priscilla" (he was survived by his wife Mary). William Davis, mariner, in a will proved in May 1754, leaves all to Sarah Stone, wife of Philip Stone of Plymouth. Thomas Davis of Bristol, in a will dated 1737 and proved August 1754, mentions his wife (who survived him), Mary, and his father (living 1692, Henry Davis), and his two nephews and a niece (Thomas, Henry, and Frances Davis; Thomas and Henry are brothers), as well as his brother John Davis's tomb, under which he wishes to be buried. I did not check beyond 1754. - thus a very limited but time-consuming search.

The children of Francis Davis and Elizabeth Francis (married July 1750) of Topsham (perhaps he was brother of the John Davis mentioned at the start of the preceding paragraph): Richard Francis (buried 1752), Elizabeth (baptized 1753), Mary (baptized 1754), Clara (baptized 1755), and Francis (baptized 1751 and buried 1767). There was also a Charles Davis of Topsham, buried 1753, whose (presumed) daughter was buried in 1743 (Elizabeth).

Who was the George Davy who was buried 1 May 1709 in Topsham? "ye old John Davy" buried there 20 May 1694? William Dave buried there 29 December 1699? William Davies buried there 5 May 1716? John Davies buried there 7 October 1739? (was he perhaps II. John Davis whom I thought probably died 1750?) The names Davy (Davie) and Davi(e)s were not clearly distinguished until some time after 1700; this does not make the task any easier.

It is perhaps more likely that the John Davis who married, Topsham, 1741, Mary Polter (p. 3 above) was the John, born 1710, son of William (mid p. 2 above) and Elizabeth (Varder) Davis, not the son of John and Mary (Clampett) Davis; the reason is that John and Mary (Pelter) Davis's children were named Elizabeth, John, and William - which fits better into the family names (parents) of the John born 1710. This means that George Davis's older brother John (baptized 1715), probably his witness at the 1759 marriage in Stoke D., may have been the John Davis, with wife Diana, whose son John was baptized in Northam 23 March 1748: see p. 5 above (and note that George Davis had a daughter Diana, baptized Northam 1765). The Northam registers need more study.

END

C.R. Fay, Life & Labour in Nfld., Univ. of Toronto Press, 1956,
pp. 74 f, letter from George Davis to ^{Capt.} James Cook, dated
March 14, 1764, Poole, England (Cook was presumably in
Nfld then — working on mapping the country); —
"Sir: When I last had the pleasure to see you, I
promised at my arrival here to make enquiry & inform you
when Twillingate & Fogo was settled by the English, I did
not get here till the 10th, having taken a tour in my
way home & made it my business to find Mr. Thomas
Tizzard who was the first person who ever drove a nail
at Twillingate, or settled here as an Englishman, which
was in the year 1732, he tells me that" etc.
(Davis is pro ~~the~~ "our" "my" country [= England? Nfld?]) & anti-French.

This strongly implies that Davis' "house" was Poole.

Note that on Nov. 8, 1813, George Davies aged 23, of the Parish of
Christ Church, Poole, was buried in the C. of E. Cathedral,
St. John's

George Davis, Merchant (ca. 1725? - ?1789)
by E.W. Kennedy - summer 1970

1720's(?) - he is born,

1750's(?) - he marries Elizabeth

1750 - or thereabouts - his ^(oldest?) daughter Elizabeth is born,

1762 - defends Caribbean Island vs. the French.

1764 - writes Capt. Cook from Paoli - March 14 (arrived there ^{"home"} March 16)

1765 - ^{document dated} Nov. 22 - Harbour Grace inhabitants authorize Davis ^(Merchant of Trade) ("at London") to get gospel minister to live among them.

1769 - his wife ^[mother??] gives C. of E. Prayer Book + Metrical Psalter to the "new church" (chapel) at Caribbean.

1775 - Aug. 3 - governor gives order allowing Davis to take possession of the premises in Chappel's Cove of one Terry, a debtor.

1777 - Oct. 14 - order by governor to check Davis' complaint of depredations made ^{dy} the preceding winter by Chas. Carroll, to whose care Davis had left his house ^{that winter}

1779 - his first wife, Elizabeth, is murdered, "by persons unknown"; burial Nov Harbour Grace, C. of E.

July 15 - he marries 2nd wife, "Molly" (Mary) Branscombe, C. of E. Cathedral St. Johns (her ^(+ heirs))
1782 - Aug. 13 - he ^{publicly} (^{"now residing in Nfld."}) promised Mary Branscombe £500 per year ^{if she marries him.!!} (4 weeks after the wedding)

1784 - his daughter (by 2nd wife) Amelia is baptized

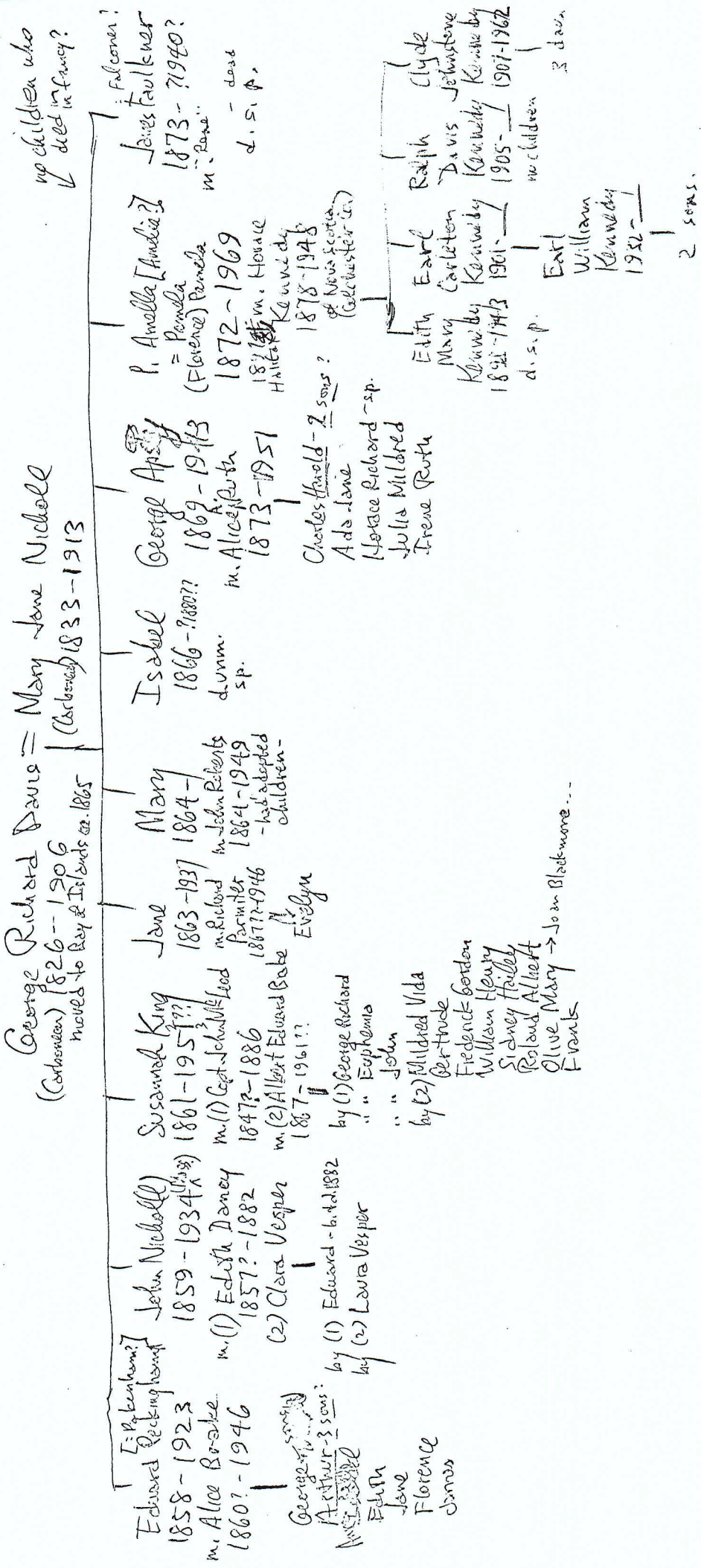
1787 - he is owed ^(awarded by the court) money (fish) by Francis Pike.

1787 - Oct. 2 - he was foreman of a (12-man) jury in Harbour Grace [Edward Pakenham ^{surrug}]

1789 - he dies about this year.

1790 - his son, Wm Henry Frederick, is baptized ^(Harb. Grace, C. of E.) after Geo. Davis' death; baptism in Per

DAVIS FAMILY
 (based on family Bible + Cemetery + recollections of Geo. R. Davis by E.W. Kennedy Summer 1970 -)



no children who died in infancy?

Falconer?

George (1882?)

A. Arthur - 3 sons

Edith
Jane
Florence
James

Sources for Davis Family Material
by E. W. Kennedy - summer 1970

Nimshi Crewe article ^{on Davis family} in Dec. 1963 St. John's Evening Telegram.
Nimshi Crewe additional notes on this subject (made subsequent to
the above article) on file at Nfld. Provincial Archives.

Church registers: Carbonear Methodist (United) Church -
- late 18th ^(ca. 1795 on) & early 19th century - in the United Church Archives
in St. John's (contact Mr. W. F. Butt).
- 2nd $\frac{1}{3}$ of 19th century and later - in the United Church
manse in Carbonear.

Harbour Grace Church of England (Anglican Church)
- ca. 1775 on - in the rectory of St. Paul's Church,
Harbour Grace.

St. John's Church of England (Anglican) Cathedral
- late 18th century on (with some gaps) - in the
basement of the Cathedral.

Cemeteries: Carbonear Methodist (United) Church - near the United Church
(some stones fallen)
Harbour Grace Church of England (Anglican Church) - ~~not~~ ^{not} much here
(many stones fallen)
(surrounding St. Paul's church) (Alfred Mayne plague in church)
(checked Harbour Grace Methodist, Carbonear Ch. of Eng., and
Carbonear ^{So. Side} Methodist - & found nothing important).

Miscellaneous Deeds & Wills - 22 vols. in Registry of Deeds
especially vol. 7, pp. 198-199; vol. 10, pp. 86-93 (vol. 13, p. 123); vol. 7, pp. 225, 267ff; etc.
in Confederation Building, St. John's.

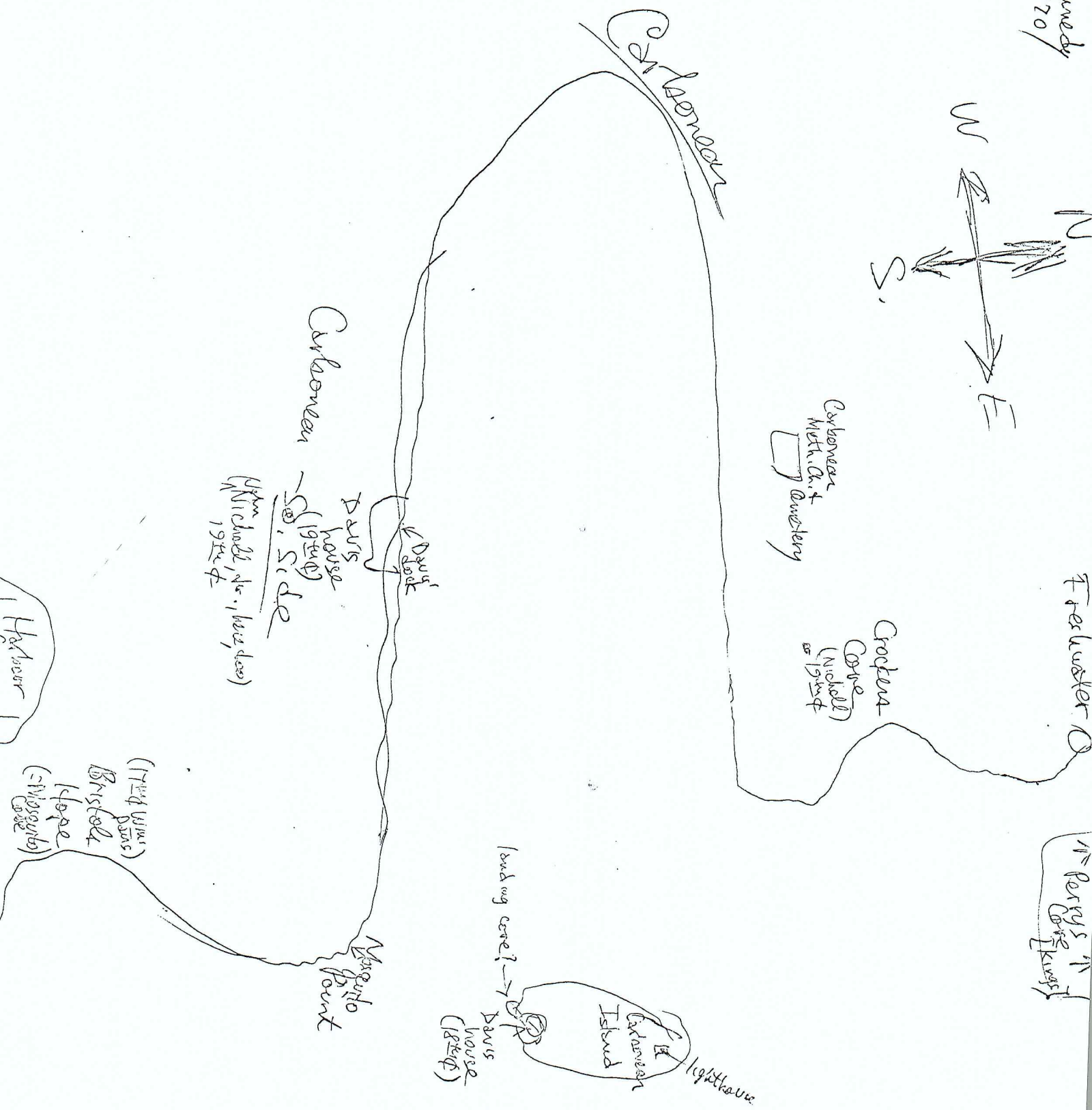
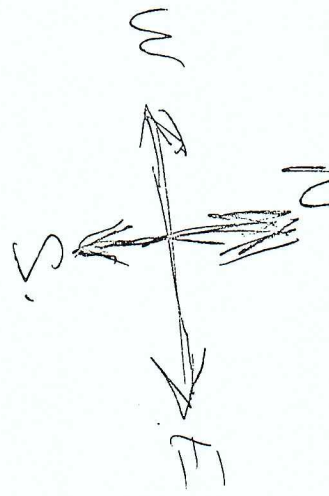
Wills ^{of Probates} in the Courthouse, St. John's (Wm Branscombe, ^{Alfred Mayne,} Amelia Davis, G. P. Davis)

Harbour Grace Court Records (late 18th century) in Nfld. Archives.

C. B. Fay, Life & Labour in Nfld., Univ. of Toronto Press, 1956, pp. 74-75.
(about Davis' "home" in England = Paull)

+ ...

map - by E.W. Kennedy
summer 1970





MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

*Department of History
Maritime History Group*

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

June 21, 1983

Mrs. Sharon Seeburger,
27 Wall Avenue,
Valhalla, N.Y.
10595, U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. Seeburger,

Thank you for your letter regarding your Newfoundland relatives.

There was a Major John (or William Bindon, Royal Newfoundland Companies, stationed here in the 1840's. We know little of him or his family. His daughter, Louisa Ann, married John Stuart, member of a prominent Scottish merchant family in St. John's, Feb. 22, 1844. Major Bindon retired on 1/2 pay, sold his commission, and subsequently moved to Nova Scotia (Feb. 1, 1848: Gazette).

Our records indicate a captain Patrick Martin sailed in the Newfoundland trade as early as the 1770's and 1780's out of Cork and Waterford, Ire., Bristol and London, Eng. He was a master of such ships as the Rebecca, Penguin, Britannia, Duke of York, Ann, Sutton, Polly and the Speedwell. He was probably Anglo-Irish, though we know very little about him.

(1782) Feb., Sarah, wife of Patrick Martin died at St. John's.

(1835) 7th Sept., a Patrick Martin lived and worked in the fishery in Ferryland.

While some Martins came from Ireland, many came from the West-country, Eng., particularly the Devon communities of Topsham, Teignmouth, Berry Pomroy, Woolboro and Dartmouth. Inter-denominational marriages took place in the late 18th century in Newfoundland communities where such opportunities existed. The Samuel Martin married Olive Martin in a Roman Catholic ceremony at St. John's. Both were from Torbay (near Flatrock).

The Houlihans came from the Cork and Waterford area

(1814) Philip Houlihan of Cork lived in St. John's

(1815) Dec. John Houlihan was a planter in Renew's

(1836) Mar. Patrick Houlihan, St. John's, a sealer on the "Brazilian Patriot" for Alsop and Co.

(1845) Patrick Houlihan was a sealer on the Caledonia" for William Thomas and Co.

(1875) 9th July Gazette; Captain Joseph Houlihan died, Bay of Islands, age 77 yrs. We have no information regarding Catherine Houlihan or her mother.

There was a John Davis, a planter, living in St. Mary's Bay as early as 1814. He was married and had a son, John Jr. Little else is known about him or his family. The Davis' were Westcountry origin. They came from the Dorset communities of Poxwell, Charmouth, Stickland, and White church. Brixham, Topsham, and Dartmouth were common places of Devon origin. We do not have any early name file records on the Hartsons.

It is difficult to suggest what direction your research should take. Brothers and Sisters tended to give their children the same christian names as those of their parents' families in the 19th century resulting in a proliferation of similiar names in given communities. It might be best to start with one name and date you can be sure of; say, Catherine Martin of Flatrock, born April 13, 1904. Do not assume she is the first born of Mary Jo and Patrick Martin. Write to the Provincial Archives :

Mrs. Margaret Chang, Archivist,
Provincial Archives,
Colonial Building,
St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

Have them verify who her parents were. Then you can start working backward through the Martin and Bindon records. You want the marriage record for Catherine's parents, in turn, their baptismal records and names of parents, and so on. You may have to try both the Anglican and Catholic records.

I have enclosed an invoice for \$45.00 to cover the cost of 3 hours of research time involved in collecting this material. Please do not hesitate to contact us again if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Matthews,
Chairman,
MARITIME HISTORY

KK/vk



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

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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 Falham, 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

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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 Hipplesley, 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, Charmouth, 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 re-presents, 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.

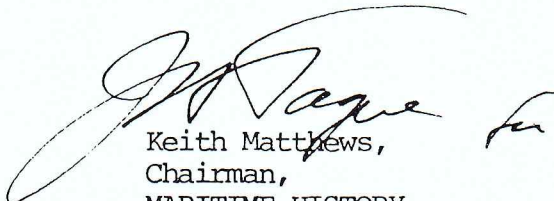
I am enclosing an invoice to cover the following charges:

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