

SHIPPING REGISTERS: REEL B--3656.

1828 Registers, St. John's:

45/1828. Simon Levi, merchant, Carbonear, and Philip Tocque, merchant, Carbonear. Alpha, 105 10/94 tons, William Penny master. Built at New Perlican, Trinity Bay, 1828, James Thomas [?] and George Pitman, builders. 1 deck, 2 masts, 60 ft., 3 in. long, 21 ft., 1 in. wide, 10 ft. 2½ in. deep; schooner rigged, square sterned, no galleries, no figurehead, carvel built. Registered 18 June 1828. Certificate cancelled 1843, vessel lost. Simon Levi and Philip Tocque, co-partners, 64 shares.

7 Jan. 1835. Simon Levi and Ann Tocque, executrix to the estate of the late Philip Tocque, transferred by deed of mortgage, dated 3 Jan. 1835, 64/64 to George Richard Robinson, Thomas Holdsmith Brooking, John Bingley Garland and William Jeffery Harvey of St. John's, Nfld., merchants and co-partners in trade, as a security for payment of a debt or debts.

The above mortgage cancelled 27 Dec. 1835.

Nfld., 29 Dec. 1835. [Another mortgage, dated 24 Dec. 1835, the above mentioned parties, except for the exclusion of W.J. Harvey] as a security for debt or debts.

SHIPPING REGISTERS: REEL B--3657

1829 registers, St. John's:

26/1829. Philip Tocque, Carbonear, merchant, and Simon Levi, Carbonear, merchant. Elizabeth, Richard Ash master. 107 75/94 tons. Built at Barrington, N.S., 1817; previously registered at St. John's 29 Sept. 1825; bill of sale dated 7 May 1829. 1 deck, 2 masts, 64 ft., 3 in. long, 20 ft., 1 in. wide, 10 ft. deep,

brigantine rigged, square sterned, carvel built, no galleries, no figurehead.

Registered at St. John's, 18 [?] May 1829. Philip Tocque and Simon Levi, co-partners in trade, 64 shares.

Cancelled and registered de novo 13 May 1831.

SHIPPING REGISTERS: REEL B--3658.

1831 registers, St. John's:

37/1831. Simon Levi, Carbonear, merchant, and Ann Tocque, Carbonear, widow, administratrix to the estate of Philip Tocque, deceased. Elizabeth, 108 8/94 tons, Richard Ash master. Built at Barrington, N.S., 1817; registered previously 15 May 1829; vessel altered in dimensions. 1 deck, 2 masts, 64 ft., 3 in. long, 20 ft., 5 in. wide, 10 ft., 1 in. deep; brigantine rigged, square sterned, carvel built, no galleries, no figurehead. Registered 13 May 1831, St. John's. Cancelled and registered de novo, 4 Nov. 1839.

Simon Levi and Ann Tocque, co-partners in trade, 64 shares.

14 Dec. 1837. Trustees of the insolvent estate of Simon Levi have transferred, by bill of sale dated 8 December 1837, all his right and title to John Rorke of Adams Cove, merchant. [Cannot find any trace of the Elizabeth in registers for 1837.]

SHIPPING REGISTERS: REEL B-3659.

1833 Registers, St. John's:

99/1833. Simon Levi, Carbonear, merchant. Jane, 150 66/94 tons, William Penny master. Built at New Perlican, Trinity Bay, 1833, George Pitman [?], builder. 1 deck, 2 masts, 69 ft. 5 in. long, 22 ft. 8 in. wide, 12 ft. deep. Brigantine rigged, standing bowsprit, square sterned, carvel built, no galleries, woman's bust for a

figurehead.

Registered at St. John's, [obliterated] Oct. 1833. Simon Levi,
64 shares.

Cancelled and registered de novo, 15 July 1834.

SHIPPING REGISTERS: REEL B-3686.

1839 Registers, St. John's:

84/1839. John Rorke, Adams Cove, merchant, Ann Toccue, Carbonear, widow.
Elizabeth, 108 8/94 tons, John Rorke master. Built in Nova Scotia,
1817; dimensions altered in 1831, previously registered 13
May 1831. Bill of sale dated 8 Dec. 1837 [?]. 1 deck, 2 masts,
64 ft. 3 in. long, 20 ft. 5 in. wide, 10 ft. 1 in. deep; brigantine
rigged, standing bowsprit, square sterned, carvel built; no
galleries, no figurehead.
Registered 4 Nov. 1839. Cancelled and registered de novo 18 Nov.
1839. John Rorke and Ann Toccue, co-partners in trade, 64 shares.

91/1839. Robert Quick Harris, St. John's, ship owner. Elizabeth, Joseph
Usher master. Bill of sale dated 8 Nov. 1839. Registered 18
Nov. 1839. Robert Quick Harris, 64 shares.
Cancelled and registered de novo, London, 23 March 1840.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES:

1. Newfoundland Almanac, 1847.

p. 35. Inspector of Pickled Fish, Carbonear: Simon Levi.

p. 45. Clerk of the Peace, District of Fortune Bay: P. Toccue.

2. Newfoundland Almanac, 1848, 1850.

Compiled by Philip Toccue.

3. Newfoundland Almanac, 1850

p. 53. Carbonear Wesleyan Total Abstinence Society: Secretary, Simon Levi.

4. Weekly Herald, May 1950.

Grand Jury Northern Circuit, Harbour Grace: Included Simon Levi.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS:

The firm of Levi and Tocque does not appear in the Newfoundland shipping registers prior to 1828. Curiously, they appear to have owned only two vessels in a shared venture, while Simon Levi later registered the Jane after Philip Tocque's death. Nevertheless, the size of each vessel indicates that the firm must have been a prominent and prosperous one. It would appear that both Tocque and Levi entered the shipping business late in life, and that they must have secured their financial strength through other, land-vested interests, enabling them to invest in vessel ownership.

The Alpha, their first recorded ship, was a brand-new vessel registered in 1828. It must have represented a large outlay of money. In 1829, they added the Elizabeth, which was at least a second-hand ship, but nevertheless, another sizeable investment.

By 1831, Philip Tocque must have died, for when the Elizabeth was re-registered, his widow, Ann Tocque, was a co-partner with Simon Levi. In 1833, Levi registered the Jane, another brand-new and very large vessel, indicating that he must have been continuing the firm under his own name and energy.

Evidently Levi was running into difficult times, however. He may have been a victim of the attrition and of the changing fortunes which seemed to be affecting Carbonear business firms during the 1830's (e.g., the decline of Slade, Elson and Co. following the death of John Elson). Or maybe the general economic situation in the colony was unstable at the time. In any case, by 1835, the Alpha had been mortgaged to Robinson, Brooking, Garland and Harvey in St. John's. By 1837, Simon Levi had died^{*}, leaving an insolvent estate. His share of the Elizabeth was transferred to John Rorke, who held the vessel in co²-partnership with Ann Tocque. In late 1839, Rorke finally got around to re-registering the Elizabeth, no doubt in preparation for its sale to Robert Quick Harris, accomplished on 8 November 1839. The Jane appears to have been sold in 1834, perhaps at the beginning of Levi's economic misfortunes. After the mid-1830's, there is no further trace of the firm in Carbonear.

* or possibly had declared bankruptcy and was still alive.

** died Nov 26, 1877 at Boston

The Tocques traditionally are a Jersey family, although I have found nothing concerning their origins in Newfoundland. They must have been exceedingly socially prominent. The connection with John Rorke came about through his marriage to a Miss Tocque in the Anglican church at Carbonear, in 1830, I believe. Her father must have been Philip Tocque. It is interesting that John Rorke's initial shipping venture was in company with his mother-in-law. He must have had the business expertise and financial ~~where-withal~~ ^(or insolvency) to assume part ownership of the Elizabeth after Simon Levi's death. Although he was listed as the master of the Elizabeth in the 1839 shipping register entry, I don't believe he ever did anything more than direct it from land; from what I have heard, he would have had no ability as a seaman. However, this 1839 entry is the first record of John Rorke being involved in vessel ownership. The next one was in 1842, when Rorke had moved to Carbonear; he owned 42 shares of the Hibernia then, along with John Lynch, the master, who held 21.

Miss Tocque's brother was the Reverend Philip Tocque, who served for a time, I believe, in Carbonear. He appears to have later been the minister at St. Stephen's Anglican church in Tusket, Yarmouth County, N.S. We have a copy of a sermon here in our library which he delivered in Tusket in 1858; he was noted as having his A.M. Still later, he was the minister of a prominent and sizeable Boston church. He also, of course, was an author, and his best-known work is the 1846 publication, Wandering Thoughts.

There is also in Nova Scotia during the 1870's, an L.P. Tocque, a medical doctor, probably a son of the Reverend Philip. In the 1871 census, he is listed as a physician in Chester, Lunenburg County, with a wife and young family; it is noted that he was born in Newfoundland. Later, I believe he worked in Cumberland County.

As for the Levi family, they are traditionally supposed to have been prominent in Carbonear business circles. I also firmly believe that they are Jewish in origin. Although little is known about the early Jews in the Atlantic area, I have been reading that the oral tradition of Jewish presence in colonial

Newfoundland is quite strong. Here in Nova Scotia, they have been active since at least the founding of Halifax, and in the early days, they tended to conform to the "official" church--the Anglican. The Levi family in Carbonear, in its later generations anyway, appears to have been involved with the Methodist church, which was, of course, the strongest religious group in the community. The Levis are said to have had prestige residences, probably in the Burnt Head region of Carbonear. They later seem to have disappeared from the community, with at least one group emigrating to the United States, in 1853.

The ties between the Levis and the Rorkes ^{were} ~~was~~ strong, even into the twentieth century, when the latter would always visit the former when trips were made to Massachusetts. At that point, intermarriage and attrition had resulted in the loss of the surname, since only the female line appears to have survived. Interestingly enough, they had reverted to the Jewish faith, and were very prosperous middle class members by the 1930's.

Another interesting point is their retention of the Jewish form of the name. In Nova Scotia, when the foreign Protestants were brought in in 1752, one of them was a Jew named Nathan Levi who became a Lutheran the same year, conforming to the prevalent religion of his immigrant group. His descendants, who settled in Lunenburg County, became known by the Anglicanization of Levy, today pronounced with the "y" as a short "e". The Carbonear Levi family, however, were always Levi, pronounced with a long "i".