

Sooley S-492



MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND

St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada

Department of History
Maritime History Group

Telex: 016-4101
Telephone: (709) 753-1200

June 25, 1981

Ms. Sharon Nisbet
R.R. #1
Gormley, Ontario
LOH 1G0

Dear Ms. Nisbet,

Thank you for your letter of June 5, 1981 regarding the 'Sooley' family of Trinity Bay. Our Census records for these years are not nominal. Most of our information is related to trade activities of various families and individuals. Our name file data indicates Sooleys in the Trinity Bay district as early as the 1740s. This does not mean they were not there earlier. A Joseph Sooley was listed as coming from Dartmouth, Devon. Male given names include; Thomas, Richard, Edward, John, William and Jasper. Richard Sooley married a Mary Barrett in Trinity (1763). Most of these individuals were located in and around Heart's Content, T.B., in the second half of the 18th century, which is not far from Heart's Delight.


I realize this does not help you much if relatives did indeed come to Newfoundland much later (1860s). It should give you a better perspective, however, to know that there were Sooleys already in Trinity and that your ancestors probably came from the West Country, (possibly Devon). We would have no way of determining on which ship George, Ned, et al, arrived.

The Chisletts are a well established Trinity name, though we have little on them in our Name File records. There was a George Chislett, of Trinity, trading at Bonne Bay on the West Coast of Newfoundland as early as 1840.

We would be unable to construct a late 19th century family tree of the type your letter suggests. You might contact the Newfoundland Provincial Archives, St. John's, as they may be able to help you.

We are enclosing an invoice for \$20.00 to cover the cost of two hours of research. We hope you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely,


J.A. Tague Head
HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Acting Chairman
MARITIME HISTORY GROUP

KK/lr
Encl.



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May 27, 1983

5492
Mr. Ernest C. Reid,
1425 Ghent Ave.,
Burlington, Ontario,
L7S 1X5

Dear Mr. Reid,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Reid family of Heart's Delight.

I think we have had some success with the object of your search as stated in your letter. We have searched all of our Reid (Read, Reed) name files and found only one family who used the christian name 'Stephen.' This was John and Mary Reed of Dawlish, Devon, who in 1788, had their young son Stephen baptised. Her family name was Philips (or Phillips as it was sometimes spelt then). She and John Reed had previously had been married in Dawlish in 1778.

Stephen's baptismal date would suggest he was old enough to have married your great great grandmother Elizabeth. Our records indicate he was a mariner-fisherman.

(1816) 14th May - 14 June (1817) Stephen of Dawlish on the "Mayflower," owned by James Cook, a Newfoundland Ship

(1817) 25th Feb. - 31st Dec., Stephen of Dawlish again on the "Mayflower."

(1818) 5th May - 20th Oct., Stephen of Dawlish on "Reward," owned by William Turner.

Stephen Reid seems to have settled into the Trinity Bay fishery after that time, as your records indicate, a resident of Heart's Delight.

Our Sooley records indicate a high degree of probability that Elizabeth (your great great grandmother) was a Sooley, the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Sooley of Trinity, T.B. Thomas and Sarah were married about 1770 and had at least three sons, John born 1772, William born 1780, and Jasper, born 1782, All were baptised in 1793. Jasper was an unusual christian name here. Stephen and Elizabeth Reid probably named their son after her brother. We have no birth record for Elizabeth. Elizabeth's mother, Sarah, was probably a Pinhorn. Both families were present at Trinity in

the late 18th, early 19th centuries. Benjamin Pinhorn was head of a family at Trinity as early as 1753. He had three wives, all of them died. The third, Elizabeth, was buried 7th Nov., 1782. He had three known sons; John, Joseph, and Benjamin, Jr. Joseph owned two houses in Trinity and also leased a fishing room from a Thomas Street. Joseph was appointed constable of Trinity for a year (1786). The Pinhorns were relatives of Sarah Sooley through her mother's side.

There were Reads from a number of Devon communities; Dartmouth, Topsham, Marychurch, Brixham, Teignmouth, Ashcombe, Staverton and Coffinswell. Others came from Dorset; Lytchet Minster, Wimborne, Poole, and Sturminster Newton, as well as Hampshire. The Sooleys were fewer in number, but they were nonetheless firmly established in Trinity Bay. There were some Sooleys from Devon (Dartmouth area) and a suggestion of an Anglo-Irish connection. Our records indicate the Pinhorns came primarily from Dorset.

The origins of the other Reads you have provided from the 1800-01 census are as follows:

James Read (Hant's Hr.): He was most likely from Dorset, or possibly Ringwood, Hampshire.

Moses Read (Green Hr.): Most probably from Devon but we are unable to determine a particular community. He had relatives in Bareneed, Conception Bay. Not likely a family connection with Stephen Reid.

Thomas Read (Trinity): from Poole, Dorset. By the 1790's he was Trinity agent for Benjamin Lester, a prominent Poole- Newfoundland merchant.

William Read (Old Perlican): Our records indicate a William and Joan Reed in Old Perlican with a son John (1813). There was also (another) William Read in New Perlican, married with one daughter, no boats. He was the owner/occupier of a house there.

I am enclosing an invoice to cover the following charges-

4 hours of research at \$15.00 per hour	= 60.00
Amount received	= 50.00
Balance owing	= \$10.00

We hope this information will be helpful to you in your research.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Matthews,
Chairman,
MARITIME HISTORY