

Jacobs of Little Heart's Ease

written by Lester Green and published in Newfoundland Ancestry

Nestled along the shores of Southwest Arm, Random, lies a small enclosed, rounded harbour. This harbour, located next to Little Heart's Ease, is protected from all major storms and lies close to fishing grounds. The harbour contained land that was easily cleared and was fertile enough to grow basic food supplements. This harbour became the home for the newly arrived Jacobs of Bay de Verde and their future generations. Upon their arrival from Europe, the first generation of Jacobs, Henry and Martha, lived at Bay de Verde. One of the last living decedents of Henry and Martha, Alfred Jacobs, can still be found at Bay de Verde. Recent discussions with Alfred indicated that upon his death the Jacobs name will be lost from this community.

Henry and Martha had several children and among them a son named Henry. It this son, Henry who married Jane??? This second generation of Jacobs had several children and among them were sons Thomas, John, and Stephen. Thomas married Mary Adey, daughter of William and Hannah Adey. John married Mary Lewis. Their younger brother, Stephen, married Catherine Emberley, daughter of William and Hannah Emberley (nee Adey). It was this group of Jacobs that had the greatest impact on the generation of Jacobs to follow in the Southwest Arm, Trinity Bay area. Very little is known about the early departure of these Jacobs from Bay de Verde. It is not known for sure when and why they left Bay de Verde. Records do not indicate if they all left at the same time or if they all remained at Little Harbour with their families after their arrival.

Early oral tradition of this group of Jacobs is difficult to find because all of the Jacobs were common fishermen. The earliest recorded history of the Jacobs at Little Harbour comes from the Bay de Verde Anglican church records where the burial of John and Mary Jacobs son, William Henry Jacobs, baptised 9 Jul 1854, is listed has:

Buried December 27, 1860, William Henry Jacobs, Clay Pitts. 8 years. Buried May 5, 1861. Note: body was disinterred and brought hither by his father.

This important evidence gives proof that the Jacobs families were established at Little Harbour. The note about Clay Pitts, which lies close to Little Harbour, may have been listed as the home because at that time Clay Pitts was more established community.

This evidence is followed by two more baptisms recorded in the Bay de Verde Church of England records. George, son of Stephen and Catherine Jacobs, was born and baptised on May 25, 1861. His parent's residence was listed as Little Harbour. The second baptism occurred on December 8, 1861, when William was baptised and his parents, Thomas and Mary Jacobs were listed as living at Little Harbour.

A third baptism listed in the Anglican New Harbour parish indicates that Thomas and Mary had another son, James, born October 8, and baptised on Sept 30, 1866. His birthplace is listed as

Little Harbour.

These records indicate the presence of three families by mid 1860's. However, records also indicate that Stephen and Catherine returned to Bay de Verde because upon the birth of their twin Matthais and Maria, their home was listed as Bay de Verde. This can also be supported using both McAlpines Directory 1870-71 and Lovell's 1871 Provincial Directory which indicate that John Jacobs and James Jacobs lived in the Southwest Arm area or Random Sound area. It should be noted that John, Thomas and Stephen, also had an older brother, James. I believe that this James is the one referred to in both McAlpines and Lovell's Directory in 1871. However, the author does not believe that James stayed at Little Harbour but returned to Bay de Verde. It is also possible that Thomas may have returned to Bay de Verde upon the death of his wife Mary in 1868 at Bay de Verde.

It appears that only John and Mary Jacobs remained at Little Harbour. This is supported by both of their deaths listed in the Anglican Church burial records for Random South Parish. John died December 13, 1887 and his wife, Mary, on June 10, 1891. Both were listed as being residence of Little Harbour.

The descendants of John and Mary Lewis occupied three of locations at Little Heart's Ease. Stephen, the youngest son, married Catherine Cooper and settled at Little Harbour with his father. It is possible that he eventually occupied the land that his father had cleared. Stephen being the youngest son very likely inherited his father's land. However, no grant or will have been found to prove this suggestion but is based solely on Newfoundland tradition of passing inheritance to the youngest son. Stephen and Catherine had the following children:

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| 1. George Jacobs | Sept 1879 |
| 2. Jemima Jacobs | Jun 1880 |
| 3. Mary Elizabeth Jacobs | Sept 10, 1885 |
| 4. Cecila Jacobs | May 3, 1890 |
| 5. Rebecca Jane Jacobs | Oct 9, 1892 |
| 6. Lydia Sarah Jacobs | Jul 1893 |
| 7. John Wilson Jacobs | Dec 18, 1896 |
| 8. Anora Jacobs | May 20, 1902 |
| 9. Susannah Jacobs | May 20, 1902 |

Moses, the oldest son of John and Mary, married Elizabeth Spurrell on October 8, 1869 at Fox Harbour and settled in area locally called House Cove. The community of House Cove was resettled in the early 1960's and this family became scattered around the Southwest Arm area. Moses and Elizabeth had the following children:

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| 1. William Henry Jacobs | July 18, 1871 |
| 2. Moses Jacobs | June 9, 1873 |

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| 3. Jonah John Jacobs | July 5, 1875 |
| 4. Joseph Jacobs | Oct 31, 1880 |
| 5. Louisa Bertha Jacobs | June 17, 1884 |
| 6. Edmund Jacobs | Oct 5, 1886 |

Susanna, daughter of John and Mary, married Matthias Dodge on September 17, 1870 and settled at Little Harbour. They raised a family of four sons and four daughters. Today the Dodge family name can still be found at Little Heart's Ease. Susanna and Matthias had the following children:

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| 1. Robert Dodge | June 22, 1871 |
| 2. Emma Jane Dodge | April 9, 1874 |
| 3. Malaha Dodge | Oct 1874 |
| 4. John Dodge | Feb 1879 |
| 5. Stephen Dodge | Aug 20, 1882 |
| 6. William Dodge | |
| 7. Pricilla Dodge | May 23, 1887 |

The only descendant of Thomas and Mary Adey to settle at Little Heart's Ease was William Jacobs who married Hannah Spurrell of Butter Cove. William settled on land locally known as the Lowerside. Family oral tradition suggests that William and his brother, Thomas, built a house together. Upon completion, Thomas may have moved on to Bonavista or Placenta Bay. The author, however, believes that there is evidence to suggest that he may have married a Teresa Smith of Gooseberry Cove and died at Little Heart's Ease. His wife Teresa is listed in a second marriage to William Butt, as Teresa Jacobs, Gooseberry Cove. William also had a another brother, James, who married Mary Ann Cramm of Queen's Cove. Upon his marriage, James settled at Queen's Cove. William's sister, Rosanna married Martin Hillyard of St. Jones Within and raised a family in this community. Records indicate that William was granted land on the Lowerside on September 13, 1905 as outlined in the registered grant number 10725. William and Hannah had the following children:

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| 1. Obediah Jacobs | Abt 1887 |
| 2. William James Jacobs | April 4, 1892 |
| 3. David Jacobs | July 4, 1895 |
| 4. Levi Jacobs | March 29, 1896 |
| 5. Annie May Jacobs | Sept 21, 1899 |
| 6. Samuel James Jacobs | Sept 13, 1901 |
| 7. Eliza Jacobs | Sept 05, 1903 |
| 8. Elsie Jacobs | Sept 18 1905 |
| 9. John Jacobs | |

William and Hannah were my ggrandparents.

Today the Jacobs name still remains at Little Heart's Ease.

Early Jacobs of Little Heart's Ease

Name	Date Born/Baptised	Place Born
Thomas Jacobs Mary Adey	Feb 11, 1818 Dec 17, 1827	Bay de Verde Bay de Verde
William Jacobs (son of Thomas) Hannah Spurrell	Dec 8, 1861 Abt 1865	Bay de Verde Butter Cove
John Jacobs Mary Lewis	Aug 22, 1822 *Sept 15, 1846	Bay de Verde ???
Moses Jacobs (son of John) Elizabeth Spurrell	Sept 12, 1848 Oct 8, 1869	Bay de Verde Butter Cove
Stephen Jacobs (son of John) Catherine Cooper	Mar 1865 May 1856	Bay de Verde Grates Cove
Matthias Dodge Susanna Jacobs (daughter of John)	Abt 1850 Apr 13, 1850	Heart's Ease Beach Bay de Verde