

**A Brief History of the
Random Region of
Trinity Bay**

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HISTORY OF THE RANDOM REGION OF TRINITY BAY

INTRODUCTION

The region encompassed by the Northwest side of Trinity Bay bounded by Southwest Arm (of Random), Northwest Arm (of Random), Smith's Sound and Random Island has, over the years, been generally referred to as "Random". However, "Random" is now generally interpreted locally as that portion of the region encompassing Southwest Arm and Northwest Arm. Effective settlement of the region as a whole occurred largely during the 1857 - 1884 period. A number of settlements at the outer fringes of the region including Rider's Harbour at the eastern extremity of Random Island and "Harts Easse" at the entrance to Random Sound were settled much earlier. Indeed, these two settlements together with Ireland's Eye near the eastern end of Random Island, were locations of British migratory fishing activity in Trinity Bay throughout the 1600s and 1700s. "Harts Easse" was the old English name for Heart's Ease Beach.

One of the earliest references to the name "Random" is found on the 1689 Thornton's map of Newfoundland which shows Southwest Arm as River Random. It is possible that the region's name can be traced to the "random" course which early vessels took when entering the region from the outer reaches of Trinity Bay. In all likelihood, however, the name is derived from the word random, one meaning of which is "choppy" or "turbulence", which appropriately describes

sea state conditions usually encountered at the region's outer headlands of West Random Head and East Random Head.

Interestingly, the Random Region was included as part of the North Falkland grant acquired from the London and Bristol Company around 1622 by Lord Falkland and called Trinity Land. Sir Richard Whitbourne was engaged by Lord Falkland to promote the settlement of both the North Falkland and South Falkland plantations. In his 1622 "Discourse" on Newfoundland in which Whitbourne wrote to Lord Falkland, is found one of the earliest geographical references to the region now known as Random. In describing the area between Bonaventure and Heart's Ease, he referred to the Sound now known as Smith's Sound as the River (or Arm) of Bonaventer. He noted: "At the entrance of which River (Arm) some yeeres, diverse ships (English) have rid there at anchor, to make their voyages; and from thence West 4.leagues, lieth a harbour called Hartsease; where diverse good ships have made their voyages; And between the foresaid River of Bonaventer, and the said harbour of Hartsease; there is a very good harbour, stretching towards the North (sic), above 6. leagues, called Hayleford Haven (Random Sound) which ships do not use to fish, by reason there are no convenient places to dry their fish on, neere the entrance into the said harbour." Approximately 60 English ships fished in the area from Trinity - Catalina to Heart's Ease at this time and Whitbourne also noted "that those that fish on the south side of Trinity Bay do yearly

send their boats to the North side for bait because such bait is there in great abundance."

As noted above, Smith's Sound was, at one time, called the River of Bonaventer (Bonaventure). In all likelihood the sound was named after Sir Samuel Smith who, in 1622, was Treasurer of the Dublin Company headed by Lord Falkland. This company was established to promote the settlement and development of Lord Falkland's Newfoundland Plantation, the North Falkland part of which included the areas now encompassed by the entire Random Region.

In commenting on the potential for settlement of the North side of Trinity Bay (Trinity Land) Whitbourne noted "that the entire area lieth pleasantly against the South; there are fruit (berries) in great abundance, all kinds of fish so plentiful as in other parts to the South; that the fir, spruce, pine and birch trees are there much greater, longer and more abundant than to the South. He concluded that "if some people do once settle there, questionless, there is great hope in doing much good, not only in fishing, and manuring of land, but also in sawing boards and squaring timber." Hence, it was his recommendations to Lord Falkland that the whole Trinity Land plantation be sub-divided and leased or sold with prices ranging according to the size of the property. For example, he recommended that a fishing harbour together with four thousand acres of land be sold for 200 pounds.

Early Migratory Vessel Activity

It would take several more centuries or more after Whitbourne's "Discourse" before the Random portion of Trinity Land would be effectively settled for factors related to the effective settlement of Newfoundland itself, including the evolution of the resident inshore fishery with the decline of the British migratory fishery. However, the region had not escaped attention by the migratory vessel fishery. "Harts Easse", largely because of its location near inner bay fishing grounds and its excellent pebble beach critical to the early migratory dry-fish fishery was frequented from the late 1500s by the English and, in all likelihood, by the Basques even before this date. This site appears as "Harts Easse" on the 1621 Jacobsoz map of Newfoundland and, together with Ireland's Eye, appears on most 17th. and 18th. century maps of Newfoundland.

One of the first references to European (English) fishing activity in the Random Region is contained in the writings of Sir Richard Whitbourne who made a number of visits to Newfoundland between 1579 and 1620. Whitbourne, in reference to the Beothuck Indians, recalled how a fishing vessel from Tapson in the county of Devon, was raided at night by a party of Beothucks while his ship lay at anchor at "Harts Easse" near this vessel. Another early reference to migratory fishing vessel activity in the region indicates that "The Edward" a fishing vessel from London operated from this location in 1675. Pere Baudoin's journal, based on his travels in

Note: In 1615 Whitbourne's fishing vessel "the Seraphine" fished at Heart's Ease Beach with 40 fishermen

the French/d'Iberville raids on Trinity Bay in 1697 indicated that 12 fishermen, operating from two boats, landed 1000 quintals of fish at Arcisse (Heart's Ease Beach) in the preceding year. These fishermen were likely associated with the migratory fishery and were not permanent settlers. In 1675, a Michael Quint and his 15 servants fished at Ireland's Eye with the 1677 census of Newfoundland showing a Michael Quint residing at Trinity. Both Heart's Ease Beach and Ireland's Eye were located adjacent to the most productive fishing grounds on the Northwest side of Trinity Bay within the Random Region.

Early Settlement

A number of families had taken up residence in the Random Region by 1753 but effective settlement of the region developed slowly. For example, John Baker (Sr.) and his family were residing at Hearts Ease (Beach) in 1753 and his descendants continued to reside at this location well into the early part of this century. He is believed to have been the first permanent settler in the Western Random Region. Nevertheless, by this time the migratory fishery based in Dorset had also been attracted to the Random Region. A mariner by the name of Richard Wright had taken possession of property at Heart's Ease Beach in the first half of the 1700s but later sold this property to Johnathan Thaine of Christchurch. He, in turn, sold this fishing station to Benjamin Lester in 1765 and it was listed in Sir John Lester's will when it was probated in 1805. Interestingly, it was stated that this property was being

occupied by John Baker (Jr.) at the time and was referred to as "a small plantation without buildings". James Pinson died at Heart's Ease Beach in 1787. His family was likely the second family to have taken up residence at this location.

By 1837, the only settlements established in the Western part of the Random Region were Heart's Ease (Beach), Gooseberry Cove and Fox Harbour (Southport). The now vacated communities of Silldown, Rider's Harbour and Ireland's Eye located in the Eastern Random Region were also settled between 1753 and 1801. Rider's Harbour, Silldown, Heart's Ease Beach and Ireland's Eye essentially functioned initially as offshoot satellites of the Trinity mercantile operations, particularly the Lesters. In the main, fishermen and their families from the established communities of Trinity, Old Perlican, New Perlican and Heart's Content were among the first settlers to take up permanent residence in the Random Region.

Early church records for the Anglican parish of Trinity show that resident family surnames at Heart's Ease (Beach) and Gooseberry Cove prior to 1815 included Baker, ^{Pinson} Dodge, ^{Hiscock} Pitcher and Langer. Individuals residing for varying periods of time at the principal satellite fishing stations of Rider's Harbour and Silldown during this period included a significant number of Irish servants engaged by several planters, bye-boat keepers, and Trinity merchants. Surnames at these locations included Quinn, Malone, Dawley, Mealey, Britt, Sullivan, Connor, Hodder, Sevier, Strickland, Foster, Hiscock and Bugden. The presence of a large number of Irish

servants at Rider's Harbour and Silldown explains why these two settlements were the only largely Irish-Catholic communities to have been established in the Random Region even to the present day.

The census of 1837 shows that the combined population of the West Random community of Heart's Ease Beach, Gooseberry Cove and Fox Harbour (Southport) consisted of 12 families numbering 57 men, women and children, with 35 individuals residing at Heart's Ease Beach. Gooseberry Cove, believed to have been settled by James Langer around 1835, had 10 residents in 1837 and Fox Harbour (Southport) probably first settled around 1830 by Thomas Langer of Heart's Ease Beach had a population of 12 comprised of two families, the other being that of James Dean who settled there from Hant's Harbour circa 1832.

Interestingly, the first record of a worship service in the inner Random Region was that conducted by the Reverend John Smithies, Methodist Minister stationed at Hant's Harbour who conducted a morning service at Fox Harbour on June 12, 1829. He commented: "I proceeded to Fox Harbour, a place where I believe, none of our missionaries had been before" and that "the people gave heed to what was spoken; may it profit them!" Rev. Smithies also noted that he spoke to a larger number of inhabitants than he had expected to see in the afternoon at Heart's Ease Beach and in the evening also. Only 3 Irish Catholics were residing in these communities in 1837 at Heart's Ease Beach.

Note: Most of those attending this first Methodist service at Fox Harbour (Southport) were fishermen from other parts of Trinity Bay such as Hant's Harbour who fished early in the fishing season in West Random Head area of Random.

A total of three communities were also established in the Eastern Random Region by 1837. The community of Ireland's Eye supported a population of 32 Protestant Episcopalians whereas the settlements of Rider's Harbour and Silldown had a combined population of 71 in 1837, mainly Irish-Catholics. Like those headland communities in the Western Random Region, these communities were chosen primarily because of their strategic locations near productive inshore fishing grounds. The population of the entire Random region increased from 163 in 1837 to 638 in 1857 during which time a number of new settlements such as Clay Pitts, Little Heart's Ease, Britannia, Hickman's Harbour, Shoal Harbour, Lower Shoal Harbour (Clareville), and Deer Harbour were permanently settled. However, by 1857, two of the earliest settlements, Rider's harbour and Silldown, had become largely vacated with the decline of their role as satellite fishing stations of Trinity.

Settlement Expansion in the Random Region

Between 1857 and 1884 the population of the entire Random Region increased sharply from 638 to approximately 3,000 primarily because of in-migration from older communities in Trinity Bay and, to a lesser extent, from a number of communities in Conception Bay, particularly North Shore communities. Outer headland communities such as Trinity, Old Perlican, Grate's Cove, Hant's Harbour, Winterton, New Perlican and Bay de Verde were the principal source communities for this rapid increase in the Random Region. This was a remarkable increase in the regional population of the Random

Region when it is considered that the population of Newfoundland only increased by 59 percent during the same period. Over a period of years, frequent trips to Random for firewood, timber and building materials by residents of such older communities as Hant's Harbour, Old Perlican, Grate's Cove and Bay de Verde gave rise to expanded settlement.

In general, new communities within Smith's Sound and the Eastern Random Region were settled primarily by settlers from the Trinity area whereas the Southwest and Northwest Arms of Random were settled largely by former residents from communities at the south entrance to Trinity Bay, including Old Perlican, Hant's Harbour, Winterton, Grate's Cove, New Perlican and Bay de Verde. Virtually all of these immigrants into the Random Region were at least second or third generation Newfoundlanders. Indeed, by 1874, only 23 residents of Random, when the population totalled 1835, were born outside Newfoundland, of which 20 were born in England and only 3 in Ireland. The number of individual communities throughout the Random Region increased from 6 in the 1837 census to 49 in the 1884 census. During this period virtually every favourable location in Southwest Arm, Northwest Arm and Smith's Sound was settled together with several other locations on or adjacent to the eastern end of Random Island such as Deer Harbour, Traytown, Ivanhoe, Thoroughfare and Black Duck Cove.

The resident population of Trinity Bay by the 1850s approximated 13,000 and it is estimated that upwards of 75 percent of the resident population were of Wessex, England ancestry, with Dorset being the principal ancestry source area for Trinity Bay. However, Hampshire and Somerset also were important source areas as reflected in the research of Dr. Gordon Handcock. It is not surprising, therefore, given the linkages between the older communities within Trinity Bay and the Random Region that a large proportion of the older established families throughout Random are also of Wessex ancestry. Indeed, at least 50 or more of the older surnames within Random can be traced to the Wessex Country. These include: Adey, Bursey, Burt, Barrett, Baker, Brown, Cramm, Churchill, Cooper, Dean, Frost, Frampton, Gooby, Gardener, Hiscock, House, Ivany, Lambert, King, Loder, Meadus, Miller, Maidment, Norris, Pelley, Penney, Pittman, Price, Reid, Short, Seward, Toope, Tuck and Vardy. A biographical history of four Random "pioneers" who played an important role in the early social and economic history of the Random Region is appended, including James Dean, whose family came from Winkton, Hampshire; George Vardy from Burton Green, Hampshire; James Pittman of Crewkerne, Somerset; and Charles Pelley whose family can be traced to Poole, Dorset. These three counties in the Southwest of England are generally referred to as the Wessex Country.

Regional Growth Factors

The population of the older established communities located near the outer reaches of Trinity Bay increased considerably by 1850. This resulted in greater competition for agricultural (subsistence farming) land, the limited forest resource and also for the most favoured inshore fishing grounds. The selection of settlement sites by early settlers throughout Random was largely influenced by such factors as access to fish and forest resources, arable land, protected harbours and access to suitable brooks or rivers on which to construct water wheel saw-milling operations. Additionally, family interrelationships were also a major contributing factor.

Those founding permanent settlers of the Random Region were not entirely unfamiliar with the prospects which the region offered. Indeed, there are numerous records, including those in the Lester diaries, of excursions into Random to secure timber, firewood, flake rhinds, stage building material, to hunt deer (caribou) and to trap. Pere Baudoin noted in his 1697 journal that the French, in March, 1697, captured 40 men who were overwintering at "many" locations at Baye de la Sonde (Random Sound). Throughout the 1700s, this transhumance was widespread and by the late 1700s, before effective settlement of the Random Region had occurred, many locations had already taken on the geographical namesakes of these early visitors. For example, Dean's Cove at Hickman's Harbour on Random Island can be traced to the early visits to this location of James Dean of Old Perlican in the late 1700s. Likewise, Lambert's

Tilt Path, within one mile of Fox Harbour (Southport) attests to the wintering activities of early migrants to Random.

It can be said that the entire Random Region became wintering tilting grounds for many settlers of the older established communities and this practice was continued throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and into the present century. For example, my grandfather, Thomas Dean, practised a form of transhumance involving the movement from his permanent home at Southport to a number of overwintering locations where he was engaged in woodcutting and lumbering activities. These movement usually involved his whole family and he may have been the last resident of Random to die while tilting. He died on December 28, 1930 at Black Duck Cove, Northwest Arm of Random at the age of 53 years, with most of his family members present in their winter tilt across from Dean's Cove at Hickman's Harbour on Random Island which his great-great grandfather visited some 130 years earlier.

J.B. Jukes in his 1839 geological survey of Newfoundland visited Random and commented on overwintering activity. At this time Southport was the only settlement in the inner reaches of the Random Region. In commenting on a winter tilt which he observed at the present site of Hillview he noted:

"A "crew" of men, say 6 - 8, go off in the beginning of winter with a stack of provisions to the head of some of the largest

and least frequented arms of the sea they can find, where the wood has been least cut up, and, building one of these huts (tilts) measuring approximately 12 - 14 feet by 8 -10 feet, employ themselves in either cutting firewood or making oars or staves, building punts, fishing boats or even schooners. The house (tilt) which we had thus enlightened upon had been occupied by a party the preceding winter building a large boat".

Many of the earlier settlers in Random built tilts as their first home before constructing more substantial houses. For example, when the family of Scholar John Tilley of Hant's Harbour settled at Shoal Harbour in 1848 they built a log cottage prior to building a sawmill to construct a more standard residence. William Miller who settled at Foster's Point in the Northwest Arm of Random in 1857 is quoted by D. Mills as writing:

"I have just completed a fine tilt near a small brook and while it lacks the comforts of home it will serve until John and I can cut sufficient timber for a new house which should not take long if God and the weather continues with us".

Activity related to inshore fishing, the Labrador schooner fishery and lumbering became the mainstays of the Random economy. Slate quarrying and brick making also provided limited employment opportunities during the latter decades of the nineteenth century.

Expanded slate quarry ventures on and near Random Island generated employed for approximately 125 workers before the collapse of the industry around 1910. The Newfoundland Slate Company quarry in Smith's Sound accounted for 90 - 95 percent of total production in 1903 with many of the workers being experienced Welsh slate miners who were brought to Newfoundland to work the Company's quarries. When a new Congregational Church was opened at Lance Cove, Brittania in 1902, the old church became a "capel cymreig" or Welsh Chapel, for the Welsh miners, who made the rafters ring with their singing according to the Sir Rhodes Disher who was stationed in the Brittania area as a Congregational minister at the turn of this century.

The total production of fish for the entire Random area increased from approximately 4,000 quintals in 1857 to 26,000 quintals in 1884 largely because of the Region's participation in the Labrador fishery. Inner headland communities such as Gooseberry Cove, Southport, Deer Harbour and Ireland's Eye were primarily oriented around the inshore fishery but communities in the upper reaches of Southwest Arm, Northwest Arm and Smith's Sound had a major involvement in the Labrador schooner fishery with the region's participation in this fishery commencing during the 1857 - 1884 period. By 1884, 59 vessels and 363 fishermen from the Random Region were participating in the Labrador fishery and secured 16,000 quintals of fish. This compares with an 1884 inshore catch of 10,000 quintals within the region. The number of vessels from

the Randon Region participating in the Labrador fishery peaked around 1901 when 74 vessels, crewed by 405 fishermen, returned with 14,000 quintals of fish. In 1901, there were approximately 950 Newfoundland based vessels involved in the Labrador fishery which shows the significant role played by the Randon Region in this fishery.

Essentially, Randon became a centre of a migratory fishery based around the Labrador fishery in much the same manner, as the Wessex Country had become a centre of activity for the Newfoundland migratory fishery. However, the Region's involvement in the fishery had declined, like most areas of Newfoundland by 1921 when only 32 vessels were engaged. The oldest communities on the south side of Trinity Bay, largely because of the absence of sheltered harbours, did not provide the same opportunities for Labrador fishery participation as did the Randon Region. However, inshore fishery prospects near the outer headlands generally offered greater prospects for success than inner bay communities.

Lumbering related activity played a major role in the development of settlement in the Randon Region after 1857 and this activity was usually combined with the Labrador fishery in particular. By 1874, a total of 27 sawmills (water wheel operations) were established within the region and produced 2.3 million board feet of lumber for the local market within the region and other areas of Newfoundland, particularly St. John's. By 1884, approximately 300 residents were

involved in saw-milling and logging operations. By 1910, a total of 126 sawmills were in operation throughout Random and produced 6.1 million board feet of lumber and several cooperage operations had been established. By 1921, the number of sawmills, most of which were water wheel operations, had increased to 198, of which 38 were located in the Hickman's Harbour area and 28 in the Clarendville-Shoal Harbour area.

A Perspective on Settlement Expansion in Random

One of the most interesting commentaries on settlement expansion in Random was provided by the Honourable Ambrose Shea, who subsequently became Governor of the Bahamas, in a letter to Governor Musgrave in 1866. He advised the Governor that he had proceeded to Random Sound on the basis of reports of agricultural prospects within the area, as well as the success of Mr. John Tilley in the cultivation of land at Shoal Harbour. He noted that when Mr. Tilley settled there from Hant's Harbour in 1848 he was without means but a stout heart and determined purpose; and is now the owner of a fine farm of 500 acres of which 100 is cleared. He advised that Mr. Tilley's farm produces wheat which generally forms a portion of his crop and that Mr. Tilley's sons and their families reside on the estate and also have a sawmill and devote part of their time to the salmon fishery. Mr. Shea indicated that they are comfortable and prosperous and feel they have greatly benefited by moving from their former residence at Hant's Harbour.

Mr. John Tilley, known as "Scholar" John because he taught himself to read at the age of twenty-six years, was indeed a most talented and industrious pioneer of Random. After teaching himself to read he subsequently learned to read Latin and in addition to fishing and farming was a sawmill operator, a fox farmer, a cooper, blacksmith, Justice of the Peace, poet and postal waymaster. He is believed to have experimented with brick making and was the pioneer at salmon canning in Newfoundland. He operated a small cannery at Tilley's Point in Deer Cove on the south side of Random Island which was originally called Salmon Cove. "Scholar" John had his canned product displayed at the 1862 International Fisheries Exhibition in London, England and won a bronze medal. The product inscription read as follows: "Warranted to keep free from taint and to retain its purity and nutritious quality, in any climate, for many years."

Honourable A. Shea observed that Mr. Tilley's settlement has been well chosen and that a few other families have established themselves in other parts of Random Sound, all of whom appear to be thriving. He noted that he had heard of none who did not feel that they had not done well by coming here and, as in the case of other places visited in the Sound, there is employment for the grown-up family. "The fishery", he commented, "can be carried on in large boats and that the two pursuits of fishing and farming can thus be combined under conditions most favourable for the success of both."

The Honourable A. Shea's comments on the fishery in his letter are most revealing and instructive. He stated that the small boat fishery is every day becoming more precarious and all who can are possessing themselves of decked craft, to enable them to follow up the voyage away from their homes, and especially at Labrador. "It will be well". he continued, "in the interests of the people, how soon this small boat fishery, as their sole reliance is abandoned, and nothing could further this object more than a change of abode to the Agricultural Districts, whose remoteness from the sea makes the small boat fishery impractical, and where, moreover, timber is at hand in abundance, giving the greatest facilities for the construction of suitable vessels".

The Honourable Mr. Shea further continued that "when we consider all these circumstances and witness the wretched conditions of a large number of those who occupy the barren (headland) harbours fronting on the coasts, a remedy for much of the pauperism we have experienced for some years past seems to be suggested." Those who have betaken themselves to the agricultural districts are confident and hopeful of the future; and where they have settled for some time, as in the case of Mr. Tilley, are prosperous and independent". He noted that "to increase their number seems the obvious and necessary procedure. No doubt the removal of large numbers from their old places of residence, is a work of some difficulty, and can only be effected gradually." "I believe", he continued, "in some parts of our country, the reliance on

Government relief, in case of want, has become so fixed that many will take their chance and stay at home where they live, rather than make an effort to improve their conditions and in such cases the action of the Government should be as decisive as possible".

The Honourable Mr. Shea concluded his remarks by stating that "those who have emigrated already are the industrious and better off of the people and, doubtless, it is well that they should be the pioneers in such an enterprise. For the most part, they are men who, though able to live where they were, felt the difficulties of doing so increasing, and saw the wisdom of making a home where they and their families could be employed every day, and where the fishery was not the sole dependence. These are a class who carve out their own fortunes by energy and sagacity, and rarely become a cause of trouble to any Government".

Community Development

A major characteristic of settlement evolution in the Random Region was the emergence of a large number of dispersed communities. Some 50 communities were listed in the 1884 census and of this total only Gooseberry Cove (104), Little Heart's Ease (136), Hodge's Cove (105), Hillview (162), Hickman's Harbour (141), Brittania (177), White Rock, Smith's Sound (101) and Ireland's Eye (141) had greater than 100 residents. Most of these communities had some participation in the Labrador fishery and by this date the major lumber producing centres were Brittania, Hickman's Harbour and

Shoal Harbour. The fishery dominated the economy of the region with 1200 individuals of the region's population of 3,000 involved in the catching and curing of fish in 1884.

The region's major commercial links, like most rural coastal communities along the East Coast, were with established mercantile firms in St. John's, but a link was maintained with Trinity into the early part of this century. Many of the Random-based vessels which prosecuted the Labrador fishery were outfitted by St. John's firms but a number were outfitted by the Ryans of Trinity after 1906. By 1921, several relatively large mercantile operations had emerged in the Random Region, including the Vardys and Martins of Hickman's Harbour, the Curries of Brittania and the Mills of Shoal Harbour. By the turn of the century Nehemiah Frost of Northern Bight (Hillview) and Henry Alcock of Fox Harbour (Southport) had established mercantile trading operations. Goods were supplied directly from their schooners which visited individual communities usually in exchange for salt fish and other natural resource commodities. Hence, they were referred to as traders in the census of 1898.

By the mid-1880s, community development had progressed to the point where the larger communities supported schools, churches and in several locations, medical doctors. Virtually all communities were relatively isolated from one another and only accessible by sea or country trails. Nevertheless, this did not prevent inter-community

marriage within the Random Region, or with the older established communities. New kinships evolved concurrent with effective settlement throughout the Random Region and old kinships were maintained with those community source areas which contributed to the expansion of settlement within the region.

It will be recalled that Reverend Balfour, in reporting on his ministerial visits to the older communities of Trinity, Winterton, Old Perlican and New Perlican in the 1760s, expressed disappointment and displeasure over the conduct of his congregation and complained bitterly of drunkenness, idleness and adultery. He would have taken great comfort in the fact that many of their descendants who had migrated to the Southwest Arm of Random (Random South) petitioned the Newfoundland Legislature in 1885 in favour of the total prohibition of the importation and sale of spirits and malt liquors. In the intervening years, however, many of Reverend Balfour's flock had converted to Methodism.

The decline of the Labrador fishery together with the depletion of the most accessible forest resources placed certain constraints on population growth throughout the Random Region by the 1910 - 1921 period. Those factors, in addition to attractive wages being offered in the United States and Mainland Canada at the time contributed to increased migration from the region, especially after World War I. A significant number moved to the Grand Falls area around 1910 and, in later decades, to Corner Brook and Gander.

Communities located in Smith's Sound which played a major role in the Labrador fishery were adversely affected by its decline. The headland communities of the Eastern and Western Random Regions maintained their involvement in the inshore fishery but inner communities of Southwest Arm and Northwest Arm were also affected by the decline of the Labrador fishery. In 1923 the historic community of Heart's Ease Beach was abandoned when Joseph Dodge its last male resident passed away at the age of 84 years. His widow (nee Mary Short of Hant's Harbour) died at Island Cove, Southwest Arm, in 1924.

By 1910, the Region's population had increased to approximately 4600 but because of relative economic stagnation it remained relatively stable over the 1910 - 1921 period and only increased to 4750 by 1921. By this date, however, a well structured economy and society had been established within the Random Region. Migration into the Random Region, which had peaked in the 1857 - 1884 period, had practically ceased and out migration was contributing to the decline of many of the region's communities. This emigration from the region was driven by many of the same economic circumstances which had resulted in the initial migration of settlers into the Random Region from earlier settled areas of Trinity Bay and the North Shore of Conception Bay. Nevertheless, the Random Region had taken on a geographical and regional identity, concurrent with effective settlement of the region, an identity which remains strong even to the present day.

APPENDIX

FOUR EARLY SETTLERS OF THE RANDOM REGION:

JAMES PITTMAN, CHARLES PELLEY, JAMES DEAN AND GEORGE VARDY.

JAMES PITTMAN 1831 - 1906

James Pittman of Crewkerne, Somerset is believed to have left England in the mid 1850s as a crew member on a French fishing ship bound for Blanc Sablon. He subsequently left the Lower Labrador Coast and rowed to Flower's Cove, where he remained for three years. He later took passage on a Newfoundland-based Labrador fishing schooner for Trinity, where his uncle, Joseph Pittman, had a cooperage. He resided at Trinity for approximately five years. James had worked as a brickmaker in Crewkerne and several years after his arrival at Trinity he heard of Daniel Cameron's brick making operation at Brickyard, near Harcourt in Smith's Sound. He obtained work with Cameron circa 1860 and bought the operation for the sum of 400 pounds. In the meantime, James' brother Joseph who had emigrated from Crewkerne, also obtained work with Cameron but Joseph later left his employ and became the first mail carrier in Smith's Sound. James continued brickmaking until his death in 1906 and modernized the operation by acquiring an automatic Quaker brick making machine in 1901.

James married Isabella White of Trinity, a daughter of Charles and Eleanor White and a brother of Dr. Robert White (Sr.) of Trinity in 1859. Her nephew, William Charles White of Dr. Robert White, became the first native born Anglican bishop of Newfoundland in 1918. James and Ellen, his second wife, had three sons, Benjamin, James (Jr.) and William, who carried on the family brickmaking and

sawmilling operation which they later converted to steam power and prospered. Ben met with a fatal accident when he lost his leg in the brick making crusher in 1920. This was a hard blow and James and William gave up brickmaking at the end of the 1921 season and concentrated on lumbering. Brickmaking was not resumed again on the Pittman property. William had five wives and died in 1979 at the age of 90 years. His brother, James (Jr.) became a surrogate doctor in his later years.

James Pittman's closest friend was Charles Pelley, Scholar John Tilley's grandson who owned a sawmill at King's Cove (Milton) and had a keen interest in brickmaking. James Pittman took an interest in sawmilling of which he had little knowledge and wished to learn more of this business. Charles Pelley would frequently walk to James Pittman's residence at Brickyard during which time they exchanged information about their businesses until the early morning hours. As a result, Charles Pelley started brickmaking at Milton in 1886 about the same time that James Pittman started his sawmilling operation. By 1894, James was placing orders for both bricks and lumber with the Consolidated Foundry Co. (Mr. John Angel) at St. John's. Six of these letters written over the 1892-1897 period are in the possession of the author. During the 37 years of concurrent operations, the Pittmans and the Pelleys maintained a cooperative business relationship. The second wife of James Pittman (Sr.) was Ellen Pelley of Thomas Pelley of Harcourt, Smith's Sound, a relative of Charles Pelley through their Hant's Harbour ancestry.

CHARLES PELLEY 1850 - 1924

Charles Pelley was a son of John Pelley of Hant's Harbour who along with his family moved to George's Brook in 1862. John was married to Mary Tilley, a daughter of Scholar John Tilley and had at least one daughter, Cassandra, and four sons, Edmund, Frederick, Charles and John. Charles Pelley's great grandfather was William Pelley of Poole, Dorset, who had a brother Samuel-Richard and both were residing at Poole around 1740.

It was the 5 sons of William (John, James, Joseph, George and Stephen) and the 3 sons of Samuel-Richard (Richard, Alexander and Josiah) who immigrated to Newfoundland (several locations including Hant's Harbour) but the two brothers remained in England. When John Pelley and his sons moved to George's Brook in 1862 it was the timber and fine river on which to build a water power sawmill that were the principal attractions. Shortly afterwards, they had constructed two sawmills.

Once established in the sawmilling operation, they built a schooner to carry their lumber to market around the coast and in St. John's. In 1886, Charles started the Pelley brickmaking operation at Milton and combined this activity with sawmilling. His nephew, Malcolm, who was nine years old at this time, assisted his uncle. After Charles died in 1924 Malcolm carried on the family business until he died in July, 1964. Shortly after in the same year, L.E. Shaw

Limited of Halifax, a large brickmaker, bought the majority of shares in the Pelley operation and became Pelley-Shaw Newfoundland Limited. In 1971, the operation was sold to John Green and it became Trinity Brick Products Limited. It ceased operations in 1999.

Charles Pelley's grandfather is believed to have been Richard Pelley (Sr.) of Hant's Harbour. Richard, still, in effigy, watches over the community of Hant's Harbour in the establishment of which he took a large part. His tombstone carries his bust made by a distinguished English sculptor.

JAMES DEAN 1802-1865

James Dean was the grandson of James Dean (Sr.) and was born at Old Perlican in 1802.

He married Sarah Pelley of Hants Harbour in 1831 and moved across Trinity Bay to Southport around 1832 and became the second permanent settler in the inner reaches of the Random Region. His father, James, remained behind at Old Perlican and died there in 1854 at the age of 80 years.

James remained an inshore fisherman but took a very active part in the activities of the Methodist Church within Random. He is credited with establishing the Methodist Church on the Northwest side of Trinity Bay and became an active lay reader in the Church. Records survive of a number of baptisms that he conducted throughout the bottom of Trinity Bay and in the Southport (Fox Harbour) area, including the baptism of Mary Jane Pelley of Thomas and Priscilla Pelley at Fox Harbour (Southport) in 1851, one of the first baptisms recorded in Random Sound. The first Methodist cemetery to be established in Random or Smith's Sound was by James Dean on Dean's Room at Fox Harbour (Southport). It is a fairly large cemetery with every grave marked with a crude slate/stone marker.

James' grandfather James (1724-1805) was born at Winkton, Hampshire, England and immigrated to Newfoundland (Old Perlican) in April, 1749 as a clerk/servant in the employ of William Warn, an independent English merchant, who dealt with over 200 fishermen in Trinity Bay.

His will of 1780 survives and likewise his deed covering his property which he purchased at Old Perlican in 1787. His daughter, Sarah, married William Pittman who was Garland's manager at New Perlican until around 1830 and who was known as the Astrologer of Newfoundland. W. Pittman's family later expanded into shipbuilding at New Perlican. The property that James Dean purchased at Old Perlican in 1787 for 40 pounds was previously owned in the mid 1750s by Johnathan Thaine of Christchurch, England, who also owned one of the earliest fishing stages/plantations at Heart's Ease Beach, Trinity Bay. Ironically, James' grandson, James Dean, was the second settler to take up permanent residence in the inner reaches of the Random Region approximately one mile from the site of Johnathan Thaine's earlier migratory fishery base at Heart's Ease Beach.

The marriage of Sarah, the daughter of James Dean (Sr.) to William Pittman (Jr.) of Trinity circa 1800 established the initial kinship between the two families. James Pittman (Sr.), the brickmaker of Smith's Sound, ^{of Crewkerne, Somerset} was not of the family of New Perlican Pittmans from Abbotsbury, Dorset. Jessie Dalton, a granddaughter of James Pittman married Thomas Dean of Southport in 1902 and further reinforced the Pittman - Dean relationship. Their daughter, Elizabeth, married Raymond Pelley of Harcourt, and it was his great-aunt Ellen Pelley who was the second wife of James Pittman (Sr.).

Note: Walter Allward (1876-1954) a noted Canadian sculptor, was a great-grandson of William and Sarah (Dean) Pittman. He designed and executed the Canadian War Memorial at Vimy, France.

GEORGE VARDY 1818-1882

George Vardy, a native of Burton Green, Hampshire immigrated to Newfoundland (Grate's Cove) around 1839 at the age of 21 years. He was a day school and Sunday school teacher in Hampshire and pursued this occupation after immigrating to Newfoundland. In 1841, he married Mary Martin of Grate's Cove and around 1850 he moved across Trinity Bay to Clay Pits, mid-way between Southport and Little Heart's Ease, and now an abandoned community where he fished and farmed.

George Vardy became the first Anglican teacher in the Random region and taught school from 1859 to circa 1875 at Heart's Ease Beach.

This Anglican school chapel opened in 1859 at Heart's Ease Beach and served the communities of Southport, Gooseberry Cove, Heart's Ease Beach and Butter Cove. His salary in the 1860s was \$60.00 per year. In addition, he served as a Sunday school teacher, a layreader in the Anglican church, and was a Justice of the Peace for the area.

The site at Clay Pitts, Random, chosen by George Vardy, was particularly attractive and is now a largely overgrown meadow. He died in 1882 at Clay Pitts and was buried in the family graveyard at Clay Pitts which was shared with the Benson family of Grates Cove who occupied the west side of the Random site. His headstone states "In Memory of George P. Vardy, J.P., ¹⁸¹⁸⁻¹⁸⁸² A Native of Burton Green in the Parish of Christchurch, Hants, England".

One of his children, Eliza Jane, a teacher, married Edmund Seward of Gooseberry Cove who died at Clarendville in 1906 at the age of 46 years. He operated mail boats, Labrador schooners and banking schooners from Southport (Fox Harbour) where he resided for approximately 10 years before taking up residence at Clarendville circa 1897. Eliza Jane wrote that her father never forgot his mother in England and often heard him say that when he left the quay in England he would give all he ever saw if he could get back to his mother. He is quoted as saying that the last he ever saw of her she was wringing her hands with grief. A Vardy family reunion was held at Clay Pitts in 1991 by which time the descendants of George and Mary (Martin) Vardy numbered approximately 450.