
THE GREENSPOND LETTER

Volume 1, Number 1

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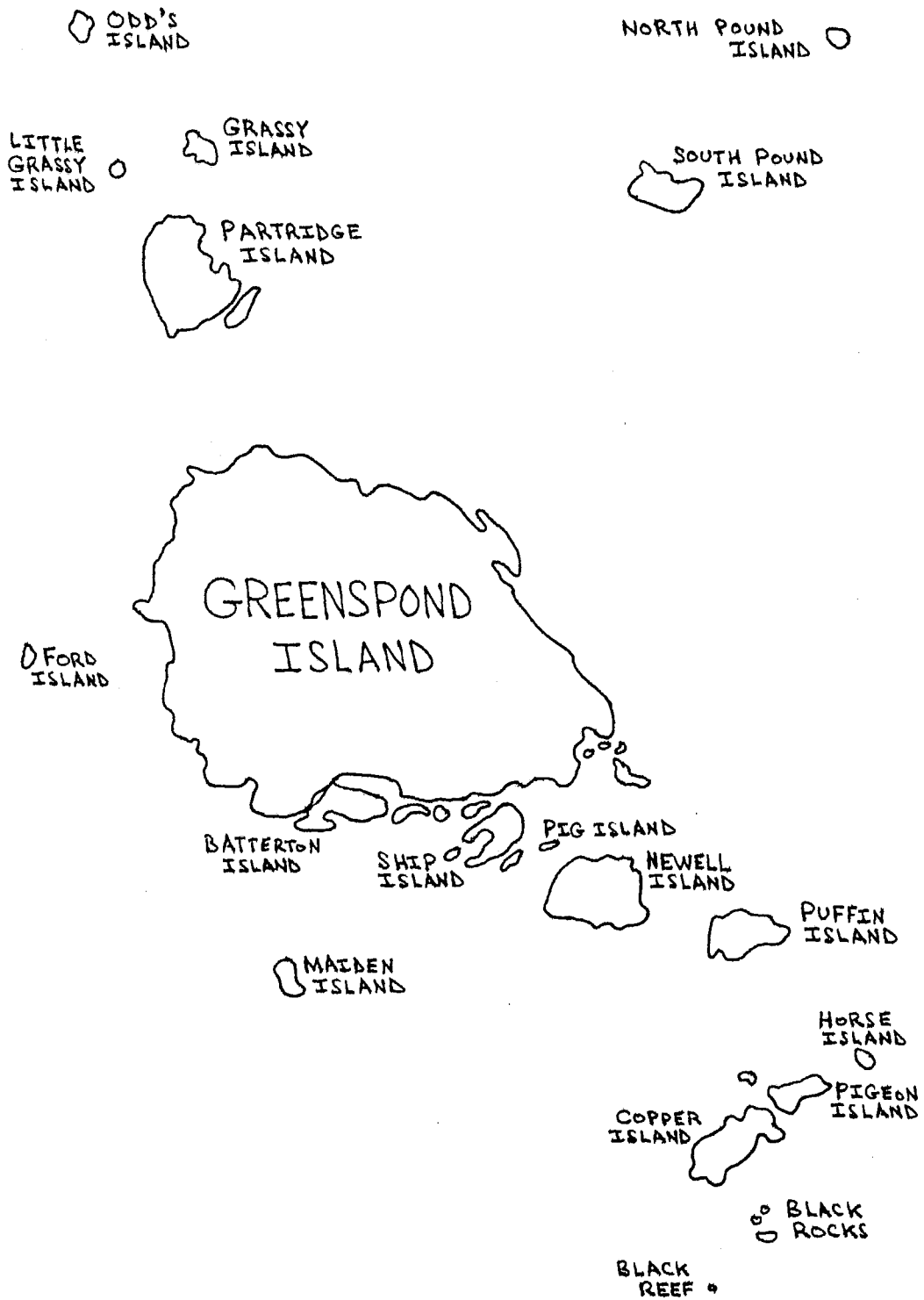


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From the Editor:

Welcome to the first issue of The Greenspond Letter. Greenspond is an island situated on the northwest side of Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland. It was first settled over three hundred years ago, in the late 1690s, by people from the West Country in England, predominantly Dorset, Devon and Hampshire. Greenspond is one of the oldest continuously inhabited outports in Newfoundland. According to British Colonial Office records, in 1698 Greenspond was inhabited by 13 men, women and children. By 1810, the population had increased to 600 and in 1901 there were 1726 inhabitants. Greenspond was one of the major settlements in Newfoundland. It was an important fishing, shipping and commercial centre and was called the "The Capital of the North". During the 18th century, there was a direct fish trade between Greenspond and Portugal. By the early 19th century, ships cleared Greenspond for such overseas destinations as Italy, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Greece, Ireland, and Britain. The major export was salt cod. By the 19th century Greenspond had become a clearing port and supply centre for the Labrador fishery. Its proximity to the northern icefields also resulted in a prosperous seal fishery.

The purpose of this letter is to provide an opportunity for people who are interested in the rich history of Greenspond to communicate with each other. This first issue contains a variety of articles reflecting this history. First, there is an excerpt from the radio program, The Barrelman, where William Burry's story of the biggest snowfall in Greenspond on April 7, 1906 is told by Joe Smallwood. The second article tells the story of the Greenspond town clock which was donated by Samuel Blandford in 1889. Next, there is an article by Cal Best, the Head of Reference and Researcher Services at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, on tracing your Greenspond roots. The fourth article, which will be a regular feature, contains two short biographies. This issue features Louise Saunders and Captain A.H. Burgess. This is followed by a rather lengthy list of the fishing rooms in Greenspond in 1805-1806. And finally, there is an interview with Clarence Burry, a Pond Islander living in St. John's.

The Greenspond Letter is published at the cost of the editor. The intent is non-profit and is to be used to disseminate information to others interested in Greenspond. This publication will print data submitted by anyone who has Greenspond information. Perhaps by sharing with each other we will be able to put together the Greenspond story. There will be four issues a year. If you are interested, please write:

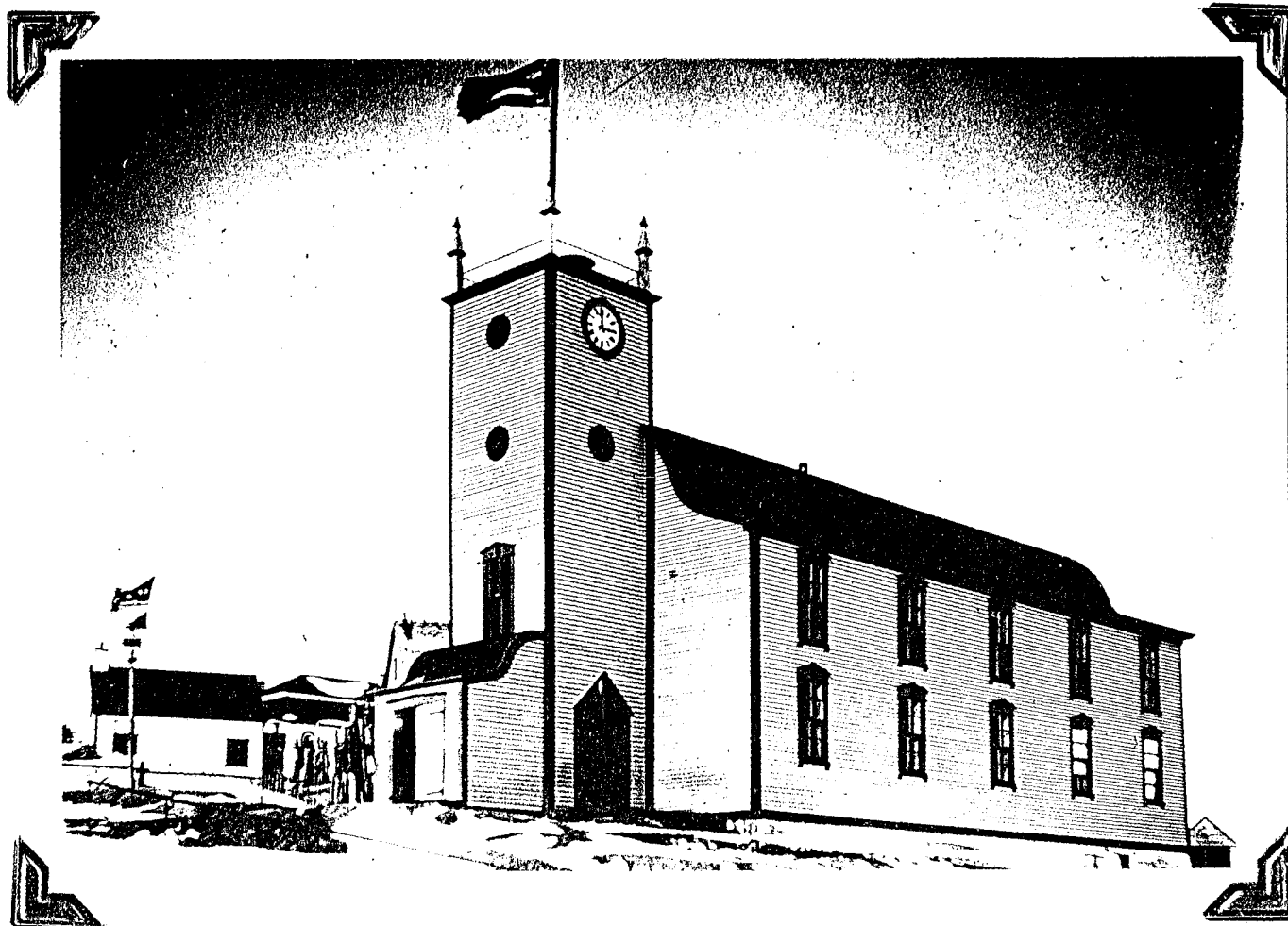
Linda White, Editor
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St. John's
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THE SNOWSTORM OF MARCH 24, 1939

The Barrelman was a popular radio program which aired for 15 minutes, six nights a week, eleven months a year from October 18, 1937 to December 30, 1955. It was sponsored by F.M. O'Leary Limited. Joseph R. Smallwood was the original "Barrelman" from its beginning until November 27, 1943. Michael Harrington succeeded Smallwood in November 1943 and remained until the show went off the air in 1955. The Barrelman was dedicated to "making Newfoundland better known to Newfoundlanders". The scripts from the program are now held in the Centre for Newfoundland Studies Archives at Memorial University of Newfoundland. The following excerpt is taken from the broadcast of March 24, 1939 and tells the story of one of the greatest snowstorms to hit Greenspond. The editor would like to thank Mr. F.J. O'Leary for his kind permission to reprint this article.

MARCH 24, 1939

"Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening.... I had a visitor today in the person of Mr. William Burry, formerly of Greenspond, but now a resident of St. John's. He came in to tell me of the greatest snowfall ever witnessed in Greenspond. It started on April the seventh, nineteen-hundred and six, which fell on a Saturday. That Saturday afternoon it began to snow, great flakes of snow falling so thickly as to darken the whole sky. All the afternoon and all through the night it continued, and when he, his father and his mother got up the next morning, Sunday, the snow had risen so high on the ground as to reach half-way to the top of the windows on the ground floor of the house. By four o'clock that afternoon it had reached halfway up to the top of the house, and they had to light the lamps, as not a streak of light could get into the house. It continued to fall all that day and night, and about ten o'clock that night they decided that they better get out of the house before 'twas covered completely in. This they did by crawling out through the upper part of one of the second-storey windows. It snowed all day Monday again, but on Tuesday it stopped, and then Mr. Burry's father got help from about fifty men to try to shovel out the house to enable them to go back to live in it again. The snow had packed so tightly together that in the cold weather it became impossible to shovel it, and the rescuers had actually to saw it out in big squares and blocks. And so much snow fell in Greenspond during those three days in Greenspond that it was the end of July before it was all gone again, and it was a common sight all through the hot summer month of July to see the boys throwing snowballs at each other. So, you see, there's still lots of time for us to get a big fall of snow yet, even if it is the twenty-fourth of March."



The Church of England Parish Hall, Greenspond, Bonavista Bay.

Photo - courtesy of Clarence Burry. Copy held at the Centre for Newfoundland Studies Archives, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

FROM THE EVENING TELEGRAM, ST. JOHN'S, JULY 10, 1889:

THE GREENSPOND TOWN CLOCK

PRESENTED BY CAPTAIN SAMUEL BLANDFORD

Unveiled amidst Great Excitement and Enthusiasm

Wednesday, July 10, 1889 was the day appointed for the unveiling of the beautiful clock presented to St. Stephen's Parish Hall by Capt. S. Blandford, a respected native of Greenspond. The hour appointed for setting the clock in motion was 12 o'clock (noon). Notwithstanding the inclement weather, an admiring and excited crowd congregated near the extensive building some time before the hour appointed, and preparations testifying their appreciation of the gift were made. When the clock was set in motion by Mr. Darius Blandford, brother of the donor, an appropriate hymn was sung by the choir of St. Stephen's Church, assembled beneath the tower,

and the sound of canon resounded far and wide. In the evening the members of the above named choir and Sunday School teachers gave their numerous friends a most sumptuous repast in the basement of the building in honour of the day.

At 8:30 p.m. every part of the handsome building was illuminated, but above all could be seen, to the admiration of the harbour, the bright gleaming face of the clock, which was illuminated with two powerful lamps. At 11:30 the singing of "God Save the Queen" with three hearty cheers for the donor of the clock, brought the eventful day to a close.

The Greenspond town clock is presently in the tower of St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Greenspond.

TRACING YOUR GREENSPOND ROOTS

The first resident Church of England clergy in Greenspond, the Reverend Nathaniel Allen Coster, began his ministry on the Mission on October 18, 1829. Reverend Coster, upon his arrival from London, found "loose papers [which were] part of a Register". Those 'loose papers' contained records of baptisms, marriages and burials as early as 1814. The first St. Stephen's Church in Greenspond was built in 1810 and services were conducted by lay people with rare visits from travelling clergy.

The Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador has the largest collection of parish records which are available for family history research in the province. Although the archives does not have photocopies of the original Greenspond parish registers, it does have copies of the baptisms and marriages performed on the Greenspond Mission prior to 1891/1892. These are transcripts of the original registers which were copied by the parish at the request of the Newfoundland Department of Public Health and Welfare in the 1940s. They are now part of the Registers of Vital Statistics Collection at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador. The following records are available for genealogical research at the Archives:

REGISTERS OF VITAL STATISTICS COLLECTION

PLACE:	GREENSPOND
PARISH:	GREENSPOND
REL DEN:	CHURCH OF ENGLAND
BAPTISMS:	1814 - 1850 Volume 76
	1851 - 1869 Volume 75
	1870 - 1892 Volume 78
MARRIAGES:	1815 - 1890 Volume 78A

An examination of the early baptism records, 1814-1820, gives an idea of the many families living in Greenspond and the surrounding area during that time period. Many of these surnames still survive in Greenspond.

Listed below are the surnames in order of their appearance which were located in those early baptism records. You will note that there are some spelling variations.

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1814 - 1815

Grunter
Bound
Hutchings
Burry
Hiscock
Stark
Spurrell
Goff
House
Hayward
Wells
Wicks
Beamister
Young

Bishop
Attwood
Tillers
Pritchell
Paul
Sweetapple
Dike
Stockley
Windsor
Oldford
Brown
Roberts
Randall
Shappick

1816

Hunt
Matthews
Mullett
Parsons
Green
Gillingham
Barnes
Paine
Hayward
Keen

1817

Sturge
Barnes
Burry
Harding

1818

Young
Millen
Durham
Steer
Hefferton
Feltham
Saunders
Caines
Vincent

1820

Blake
Carter
Gibbons
Osmond
Spicer
McBeth
Janes
Rogers
White

R. Calvin Best
Reference & Researcher Services
Provincial Archives

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Cal's maternal great-great grandparents, Abraham Norris of Swain's Island and Penninah Weakley of Greenspond were married at St. Stephen's Church, Greenspond, on November 24, 1858.

GREENSPOND PEOPLE

LOUISE SAUNDERS Louise Saunders was born in Greenspond in 1897, the daughter of Abraham and Bridget (Parsons) Saunders. She received her early schooling in Greenspond before going to St. John's where she completed her education at Bishop Spencer College. She subsequently went to work as secretary in the law office of Sir Richard Squires where she developed a keen interest in law. Saunders studied law and articulated for five years and in 1933 was admitted to the Bar, becoming Newfoundland's first woman lawyer. To mark the occasion, Sir Richard and Lady Squires held a dinner party in their home.

Saunders served in many community organizations. She was a member of the Local Council of Women and acted as its legal advisor. She was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Y.M.C.A. In her spare time she enjoyed knitting, playing bridge, and painting. In the first government sponsored Arts and Letters Competition held in 1954, her oil painting of St. Thomas's Church took first place.

Saunders received many honours during her life including an appointment as a Queen's Council, the first woman to receive such an honour. In 1967 she received a Centennial Medal from the federal government.

Saunders died on June 14, 1969.¹

CAPTAIN A.H. BURGESS Master Mariner. Burgess was born June 17, 1872 in Greenspond, the son of John and Jane Burgess. He received his education at Greenspond. In 1893 he married Elizabeth Lush and they had three sons and one daughter. Burgess prosecuted the codfishery for many years until 1904 when he was appointed second mate on the S.S. Virginia Lake. In 1914 he commanded the S.S. Kite at the seal fishery and later that year took command of the S.S. Kyle. The Kyle was built in England in 1913 for the Reid Newfoundland Company. By 1937, he had the distinction of having commanded every steamer in the government coastal service. Burgess received a medal from King George V in recognition of the longest service as a master of steamships in Newfoundland.²

¹ The information on Louise Saunders is from an essay by Sue Creighton in Remarkable Women of Newfoundland and Labrador (St. John's: St. John's Local Council of Women).

² The information on Captain Burgess was taken from Who's Who? (St. John's: The King's Printer, 1937).

REGISTER OF FISHING ROOMS IN GREENSPOND, 1805-1806

This list has been compiled using the Register of Fishing Rooms in Bonavista Bay 1805/1806 which is located at the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador.

1. **GEORGE BARBER'S ROOM.**

On Pond Island East End of the harbour of Greenspond.
Claimant: **George Barber.**
Originally built by claimant's family.
Occupant: George Barber, Greenspond.
Inherited.
Date of Entry: July 27, 1805.

This room has one stage. It is situated on an high angle two sides of which are washed by the sea, and from high water mark on the east side it extends nearly SW by compass, 36 yards, and is bounded on this line by ROOM NO.2.

2. **JOSEPH BARBER'S ROOM.**

On Pond Island East End of the harbour of Greenspond.
Claimant: **Joseph Barber, Greenspond.**
Originally built by claimant's family.
Occupant: Joseph Barber, Greenspond.
Inherited.
Date of Entry: July 27, 1805.

This room has one stage, extends along the landwash SE and SW, and is bounded by ROOM NO. 1 to the SE, and by ROOM NO.3 to the SW, being 20 yards wide.

3. **MARY HUTCHINS'ROOM.**

On Pond Island East End of the harbour of Greenspond.
Claimant: **Mary Hutchins, Greenspond.**
Originally built by claimant's family.
Occupant: Mary Hutchins, Greenspond
Inherited.
Date of Entry: July 27, 1805.

This room has one stage, extends SE and SW, 56 yards along the landwash, is bounded on the SE by ROOM NO.2 and on the SW by ROOM NO.4

4. PHIL BLACK'S ROOM

On Pond Island East End of the harbour of Greenspond.
Claimant: **Phil Black**, Greenspond.
Purchased 1793.
Occupant: Phil Black, Greenspond.
Held in right of purchase.
Date of Entry: July 27, 1805.

This room has one stage, extends 48 yards SE and SW along the landwash, is bounded on the SE by ROOM NO.3 and on the SW by ROOM NO.5.

5. LESTER'S LOWER ROOM

On Pond Island East End of the harbour of Greenspond.
Claimant: **Benjamin Lester & Company**, Poole, Dorset.
Purchased 1782.
Occupant: Benjamin Lester & Company, Poole.
Held in right of purchase.
Date of Entry: July 27, 1805.

This room has three stages and extends along the landwash 228 yards SE and SW, bounded on the SE by ROOM NO.4 and on the SW by ROOM NO.6. Two parallel lines running inland from the extremes of the landwash line enclose the stores, houses, flakes etc. and the whole is bounded backwards by the open country, an advantage equally possessed by every room on the north side of Pond Harbour.

6. REED'S ROOM

On Pond Island, middle of the harbour of Greenspond.
Claimant: **Keat and Read**, Greenspond.
Purchased 1802
Occupant: Keat and Read, Greenspond.
Held in right of purchase.
Date of Entry: July 27, 1805.

This room has three stages, extends along the landwash 191 yards, SE and SW, comprises all the buildings between two parallel lines running inland from the extremes of the landwash line, is bounded on SE by ROOM NO.5 and on the SW by ROOM NO.7.

7. BARRY'S ROOM

On Pond Island, middle of the harbour of Greenspond.
Claimant: **Edward Barry and Benjamin Johnson**, Greenspond.
Purchased 1799
Held in right of purchase.
Date of Entry: July 27, 1805.

This room has one stage, extends along the landwash 120 yards SE and SW, is bounded on the SE by ROOM NO.6, and on the SW by ROOM NO.8, and includes all its erections between parallel lines running inland from the extremes of the landwash line.

8. ATTWOOD'S ROOM

On Pond Island, West End of Pond Harbour.
Claimant: **Esau Atwood**, Greenspond.
Originally built by claimant 27 years ago. (1778)
Occupant: Esau Attwood, Greenspond.
Held in right of original possession.
Date of Entry: July 27, 1805.

This room has one stage, extends along the landwash SE and SW 120 yards, is bounded on the SE by ROOM NO.7 and on the SW by ROOM NO.9, and includes all its erections between parallel lines running inland from the extremes of the landwash line.

9. SAUNDERS' ROOM

On Pond Island West End of Greenspond Harbour.
Claimant: **Robert Saunders**.
Purchased 17 years ago (1788)
Occupant: Robert Saunders, Greenspond.
Held in right of possession.
Date of Entry: July 27, 1805

This room has one stage, extends along the landwash SE and SW 128 yards, is bounded on the SE by ROOM NO.8, and on the SW by ROOM NO.10, and includes all its erections between parallel lines running inland from the extremes of the landwash line.

10. BURRY'S ROOM

Pond Island West End of Greenspond Harbour.
Claimant: **David Burry, Senior**, Greenspond.
Originally built by claimant 30 years ago (1775)
Occupant: David Burry, Senior, Greenspond.
Held in right of original possession.
Date of Entry: July 28, 1805.

This room has one stage, extends along the landwash SE and SW 120 yards, bounded on the SE by ROOM NO.9, and on the SW by ROOM NO.11 and includes all its erections between parallel lines running inland from the extremes of the landwash line.

11. MCCARTY'S ROOM

Pond Island West End of Greenspond Harbour.
Claimant: **John McCarty**, Greenspond.
Originally built by claimant in 1801.
Occupant: John McCarty, Greenspond.
Held in right of original possession.
Date of Entry: July 28, 1805.

This room has one stage which extends within the boundary of ROOM NO.12. It extends along the landwash SE and SW 19 yards, bounded on the SE by ROOM NO.10, and on the SW by the east side of its own stage, and includes its erections between parallel lines running inland from the extremes of the landwash.

12. WINDSOR'S ROOM

On Pond Island West End of Greenspond Harbour.
Claimant: **John Windsor**, Greenspond.
Originally built by claimant 1799.
Occupant: John Windsor, Greenspond.
Held in right of original possession.
Date of Entry: July 28, 1805.

This room has one stage, extends along the landwash SE and SW 57 yards, is bounded on the SE by the east side of the stage of ROOM NO.11, and on the SW by ROOM NO.13, and includes all its erections between parallel lines running inland from the extremes of the landwash line.

13. STRATTON'S ROOM

Pond Island West end of Greenspond Harbour.
Claimant: **Thomas Stratton**, Greenspond.
Originally built by claimant in 1802.
Occupant: Thomas Stratton, Greenspond.
Held in right of original possession.
Date of Entry: July 28, 1805.

This room has one stage, which stands within the boundary of ROOM NO.12 - It extends along the landwash East and West, 35 yards, bounded on the East by ROOM NO.12 and on the West by unoccupied ground.

14. MANUEL'S ROOM

Pond Island West End of Greenspond Harbour.
Claimant: **William Manuel**, Twillingate.
Originally built by claimant's family 50 years ago. (1755)
Occupant: **Richard Kennedy**, Greenspond.
Held by lease: 4 pounds sterling per annum.
Date of Entry: July 28, 1805.

This room has one stage, extends along the landwash SSW and SSE, 20 yards, bounded on the SE by ROOM NO.15 and by its own stage and unoccupied ground on the SW.

15. LESTER'S UPPER ROOM

Pond Island West End of Greenspond Harbour.
Claimant: **Benjamin Lester and Company**, Poole.
Purchased 20 years ago.
Occupant: Benjamin Lester and Company, Poole.
Held in right of possession.
Date of Entry: July 28, 1805.

This room has two stages, extends along the landwash SSW and SSE, 100 yards, bounded on the SW by ROOM NO.14 and by the sea to the SE.

16. WHITE'S ROOM

SW side, or middle part of Greenspond Harbour.
Claimant: **John White and Edward Pond**, Greenspond
Originally built by claimants 1804.
Occupant: John White and Edward Pond, Greenspond.
Held in right of original possession.
Date of Entry: July 28, 1805.

This room has one stage, it extends East and West 50 yards, and is bounded on all sides by rocks and unoccupied land.

SHIP ISLAND, GREENSPOND

17. KEAN'S ROOM

Ship Island, Greenspond Harbour.
Claimant: **Kean, Esq.**, Great Britain.
Originally built by claimant's family 80 years ago. (1725)
Occupant: **Thomas Street**, Poole.
Held by lease.
Date of Entry July 28, 1805.

This room has one stage - a compass line extending from a post on the north side of the stage door, on the bank, SSW from S 30 yards then SW 87 yards, then WS 20 yards to high water mark on the West side of Ship Island, completely encloses this room.

18. GREEN'S ROOM

Ship Island, Greenspond.
Claimant: **Thomas Green**, Greenspond
Purchased two years ago. (1803)
Occupant: Thomas Green, Greenspond.
Held in right of purchase.
Date of Entry: July 28, 1805.

This room has one stage, extends along the landwash WSW and ENE 60 yards, is bounded on the north side by unoccupied ground and on the south by the sea.

19. BEN CARTER'S ROOM

Ship Island, Greenspond.

Claimant: **Benjamin and Joseph Carter**, Greenspond.

Originally built by claimants' family 80 years ago.(1725)

Occupant: Benjamin and Joseph Carter, Greenspond.

Held in right of inheritance.

Date of Entry: July 29, 1805.

This room has one stage - a compass line extending from a rock on the landwash on the north side of the stage SWW 82 yards, then SWS 60 yards, then SW 40 yards to high water mark on the south side of the Island, completely encloses this room.

20. BURTON'S ROOM

Ship Island, Greenspond.

Claimant: **Thomas Street**, Poole.

Purchased from the original proprietor.

Occupant: Thomas Street, Poole.

Held in right of purchase.

Date of Entry: July 29, 1805.

This room has one stage - a compass line extending from a post on the North side of the stage door of Kean's room SSW to W 30 yards then SW 87 yards, then WS 20 yards to the high water mark that bounds Kean's Room on the West side of the Island, then ES 80 yards, then ENE 40 yards, then EW 13 yards, then North from West 40 yards, then NE 36 yards to the water side, completely encloses this room and marks the boundary betwixt it and ROOMS NOS.17 and 22.

21. SAMUEL WHITE'S ROOM

East side of Ship Island, Greenspond.

Claimant: **Samuel Rolls**, Poole.

Nature of Claim: By will of Samuel White.

Occupant: **Benjamin Lester and Company**, Poole.

Held by lease..

Date of Entry: July 29, 1805.

This room has two stages - a compass line extending from a rock in the landwash adjoining Burton's Room, SW 36 yards, then SE 40 yards, then WS 13 yards, then WSW 40 yards, then WS 60 yards to the corner of Thomas Green's store, ESE 20 yards, then SE to E 120 yards to the rock on the North side of Carter's stage, completely encloses this room.

LITTLE GROUT'S ISLAND, GREENSPOND

22. CROCKER'S ROOM

Little Grout's Island, Greenspond.
Claimant: **William Crocker**, Greenspond.
Built by the claimant in 1802.
Occupant: William Crocker, Greenspond.
Held in right of original possession.
Date of Entry: July 29, 1805.

This room has one stage and is bounded on all sides by the sea.

GROUT'S ISLAND, GREENSPOND

23. BOURNE'S ROOM

Grout's Island, Greenspond.
Claimant: **John Bourne**, Greenspond.
Purchased.
Occupant: John Bourne, Greenspond.
In right of purchase and possession.
Date of Entry: August 24, 1806.

This room has one stage, and is entirely insulated, so that no other fishery can interfere with its boundary.

PIG ISLAND, GREENSPOND

24. PIG ISLAND ROOM

Pig Island, Greenspond.
Claimant: **John Feltham and Samuel Skiffington**, Greenspond.
Built by claimant 1802.
Occupant: Feltham and Skiffington, Greenspond.
In right of original possession.
Date of Entry: July 29, 1805.

This room has one stage, and is bounded on all sides by the sea. It has not extent sufficient to admit a greater quantity of fish than may be caught by one skiff.

NEWELL'S ISLAND, GREENSPOND

25. BURRY'S ROOM

West side of Newell's Island, Greenspond.
Claimant: **Thomas Burry and Company**, Greenspond.
Built by claimant's father.
Occupant: **Thomas Burry and Company**.
Date of Entry: July 29, 1805.

This room has one stage and occupies an extent along the landwash of 100 yards in the direction of east north by compass. It is bounded on the north by ground too much exposed to the sea for a safe fishery and on the south by a considerable extent of unoccupied ground, where a large room might be built. The occupants claim the void space and prevent the extension of the fishery thereupon.

26. BROWN'S ROOM

West side of Newell's Island, Greenspond.
Claimant: **William Brown, his brothers and sister**, Bonavista.
Inherited from their father.
Occupant: **John Ducey**, Greenspond
By lease at 4 pounds sterling per annum.
Date of Entry: July 29, 1805.

This room has one stage. The flakes and buildings are bounded on the North by Parker's Room, and on the south by a void space unfit for the fishery, being too much exposed to the sea.

27. PARKER'S ROOM

West side of Newell's Island, Greenspond.
Claimant: **John Parker**, Greenspond.
Built by the claimant 1806.
Occupant: **John Parker**, Greenspond.
Held in right of building and possession.
Date of Entry: August 20, 1806

This room has one stage. It is bounded on the North by unoccupied ground, and on the south by Brown's room.

INTERVIEW WITH CLARENCE BURRY

On Sunday afternoon, February 27, 1994, the editor interviewed Clarence Burry at his home in St. John's. Mr. Burry was born on Newell's Island on October 15, 1922, the son of Peter Burry and May Burton. He is married to Edna Carter, the daughter of Captain Gus Carter and Mary Hunt.

The following is part of the interview. The remainder of Mr. Burry's story will be told in future newsletters.

Interviewer: What are your earliest memories, Mr. Burry?

Clarence Burry: Well, my grandfather was Saul Burry; and his father was William Burry and his mother was Christina, and I can remember when she died... I was a little boy about four years old and she was in her eighties. I don't know her maiden name. She died in about 1926. I was born the 15th of October 1922. I'll be 72 years old now the fall. My father was Peter Burry and my mother was May Burton. She came from Port Nelson. I think it was called Port Nelson but they still referred to it as Loo Cove. See, these places, I don't know, I haven't seen any record of it but I have a feeling they were changed after Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar, the big navel battle in 1805.

I can remember deaconess Stella Burry had a little talk there on the radio a few years ago and she referred to going over on the Main to get water. Sometimes they'd have to go over to Loo Cove when the springs over in Jockey Cove would dry up. We'd go over to Port Nelson in the summertime when we were growing up, to visit the family, grandmother and grandfather. My grandfather's name was George Burton and he was married to Elizabeth Feltham from Safe Harbour. Grandfather had a brother who was lost on the Puritan, the ship that was lost on Cabot Island. They were all lost except for that fellow Hoskins. In Robert Saunders writings [in The Newfoundland Quarterly], he has the names of the people who were lost. Grandfather's brother was Job Burton.

I had two brothers, Bill and George. Bill was about two years older than I was and George was two years younger. George died about two or three years ago. He was in his sixties. Bill died in about 1965. And I have two sisters, Mildred the oldest. Mildred is married to Max Wicks. Margaret is the youngest and Margaret was the last one born on Newell's Island. Yes, Margaret Burry was the last person born on Newell's Island. She was born on October 21st - the only date in history that Margaret remembers because it was the same date that Lord Nelson fought the battle. And her husband, Nelson, Nelson Loder, who died last fall, his birthday was October 21st and that was why he was called Nelson. Margaret was born in 1928. And that was the last person born on Newell's Island.

Interviewer: When did you move to Greenspond?

Clarence Burry: We moved over to Greenspond, over to Ship Island really, in December of 1928. When Newell's Island was settled, there were five families who went there and apparently they divided the Island. There were five families: Burry, Carter, Cooze, Hunt, and Durham. There was Oliver Durham and Benjamin Durham. These were the five families that were there when we were there. Captain Peter Carter, you see, the sealing captain, he was born over there.

Interviewer: Did you go to school on Newell's Island?

Clarence Burry: When I was little boy I went to school from Newell's Island. There was a school on Newell's Island but it was closed down by my time. The school that was there had been a store. The Board bought the store from Oliver Durham. The Board fixed it up. I had an aunt, father's sister, Aunt Millie Hounsell, who taught on Newell's Island. The school was closed when I started to go to school.

Interviewer: Were there stores on Newell's Island?

Clarence Burry: There was a little shop. I can remember as a little boy the Hunts had a little store there. And at one time, my mother told me, but I can't remember this, it was before my time, there was a pub over there as well. This was a regular pub, the same as in England. I don't know who she was but they referred to her as Mrs. Green, Grandmother Green. But she ran the pub. I don't know where she came from but she ran the pub there, selling rum and other liquors.

Interviewer: Did you have a church there?

Clarence Burry: There was no church on Newell's Island. We would go over to Greenspond to church. There was a cemetery there. I started school in the spring in 1928 when I was five years old. We used to come over to the Parish Hall in Greenspond. We'd go to Ship Island in an old skiff, a rowboat. Uncle Mark Burry used to own the boat. The government paid him. I don't know how much. He'd row us over to the back of Ship Island. We'd get off and walk over Ship Island and where the drawbridge is now there was another ferry there. That was a ferry on a cable. It pulled us across. We'd get off and go up Church Hill, past the Anglican Church to the Parish Hall on top of the hill. That was where we went to school. Mildred, my sister, and Bill, my brother, and Uncle Asher Burry's sons Clifford and Joe: that's who went over to school.

There weren't many families left then. In 1928 there was us. There was Uncle Asher Burry, Uncle Job Burry, Uncle Zacharius Burry and Uncle Mark Burry. That was the only families left. Uncle Walt Cooze and his family was still there. They had a big house. Mark and Sally Burry had a big house with bay windows. Aunt Sally had a garden, a vegetable garden and a flower garden. They had willow trees which were brought across from England and some of the flowers she had were the pink stone crop, soldiers and sailors, monkshood, and sweet williams.

The fences in the vegetable gardens in the fall of the year were used to grow their hops, not for beer but hops for bread. They made barm. They planted the hops by the side of the fence. The fence served as a trellis. When the hops flowered and ripened, the old ladies would gather it in their aprons. They would put it on a piece of paper and let it dry out. When hops dries out it looks just like cornflakes. Then they would take the hops and steep it. There was no yeast then, you see, and the hops served as yeast. The dried hops would be steeped in a pot on the stove. Then you put it in a bottle and you would scrape off a potato, and add a little bit of sugar, and then put the hops in, put the stopper on and it would start to ferment. Then they'd take that when they want to make barm and put it in a bowl and add flour and mix it. This would rise then just like yeast.

There were several places in Greenspond that grew hops. Owen Hawkins told me three years ago that there is still hops growing over in Oram's Cove. That's over on back of the island where the Orams used to live. There is no one there now. That's where Edna's people, the Hunts, are from. Old Thomas Hunt, the ancestor of Skipper Bill Hunt and Noah Hunt and their crowd. They settled way over on back of Greenspond Island. They were great salmon fishermen. There is a cove over there called Tommy Hunt's Cove. They had the hops growing over there and they are still there now. There were two houses there belonging to the Orams. They had their root cellars, too, and all the rest.

Interviewer: Did your father go fishing?

Clarence Burry: My father fished. He was a carpenter as well. Like most of them. Some years, if the fish failed, they'd go to New York. Father went to New York twice. I can remember the last time he was there, we were living on Newell's Island. I was a little boy of four years old. The fish failed and they just took their tools, hitched a ride on one of the schooners to St. John's and then worked their passage to New York on one of the passenger boats that used to go from St. John's to Halifax and to New York. The Rosalind and the Sylvia were two that went to New York. They went there for one purpose: to make money. There was no such thing as working eight hour days. They'd work as long as there was daylight hours. Father did carpenter work. The last time he was there Edna's father, Captain Gus Carter, was with him.

There was six or seven of them who went to New York. Uncle Mark Burry, he had two or three sons who went up there as well but they stayed. He had one son, Malcolm, who ended up in Milwaukee. They did well there. The last trip my father made was in about 1925 or 26. And I do remember they'd always be sending down parcels, parcels of clothing and one thing or another and money. And someone came over from Greenspond this day with this box, a cardboard box, and opened it up and in it was this little tricycle for me. My Uncle Harry put it together. There was a little bit of gravel road... we put miles on that one, I guarantee you. Clifford Burry and me. Clifford Burry is the father of the lady on TV, Lynn Burry. Clifford and I were good buddies.

We moved over to Ship Island in December of 1928. We lived near where Sam Carter is today. Uncle Harry had it afterwards. That house was owned by Ben Carter, he was an old ex-navy man. But he went in to St. John's so grandfather bought the house from him. And the house on Newell's Island, over a period of three or four years, my father took it down and built it up down the harbour. It took a lot of time because they were away all the time, fishing, the seal fishery, one thing and another. So he took the house down and built it down the harbour. That's the one that George, my brother and Trixie lived in. It was a two-storey one when my father built it. It was a peaked one when it was on Newell's Island. But when my father put it up he made it a flat roof. Over the years George cut it down, made it into a bungalow.

I went to school at the old Parish Hall. That was the one with the Town Clock. The clock was put in by Darius Blandford, the old sealing captain. When they took the Parish Hall down, they put the clock in the church, St. Stephen's Church. I went to school up there. There were two rooms. There was a top flat and lower flat. And I went to school there with a Miss Sharpe, the teacher there. I taught with her later in Corner Brook. She died a few years ago. She was strict but everyone loved her. She was a marvellous teacher. There was one time she had sixty pupils in her class. Sixty from primer to grade four. When you got to grade five, grade five to eleven then was taken over by another teacher in the other room. And that's just the Anglicans. A little further up the road was the United Church. Mr. Crummey was there then, the principal. There were different teachers there over the years. There was a Miss Halfyard, and Olive Harding from Greenspond. Further up the harbour was the Salvation Army school. That's where Jean White has her house now. Bob and Jean White changed the school into a house. There were a lot of houses on Ship Island. Where Graham White is now, Uncle Sam Hoskins lived there. And right across the road from him was another house. There was Uncle Sam Hoskins, Martin Burton, Skipper Ned Carter, Bob Carter, Uncle 'Son' Carter, that's Walt Carter's grandfather, Captain Frank Green, Pearce Burry who came over from Newell's Island, Freddie Green, Stanley Mullett. Going down around, there was Uncle Neddie Peckford, and Stevie Peckford. The house that Sam Carter lives in now that was Hector Carter's house. Going down around the other way there was the Hunts, Uncle Henry Hunt,

that's Edna's family. And Uncle Noah Hunt, that's Mary and Tom's family. Coming up the hill, there was Skipper Walt Carter. The fisheries minister, that was his uncle. He had a schooner. On the other side was Allen Carter's place. We were great friends. And Reg Carter. He was my friend. He was killed in the air force, in the war. Coming up on the other side, there was another house, Joe Carter. He moved to New York afterwards, Aunt Rachel and Joe Carter. There was another family, Jim Carter, Johnny Carter, and coming down over the hill, there was a Wheeler, Skipper Ed Wheeler. And then there was us. There was Jim, Roy and George Carter. Now George Carter was the artist. He's in Toronto. He's getting up in years now. He must be in his eighties. I remember one summer he went to work in Grand Falls with the Goodyear Stores. One summer he came out to Greenspond. It was a beautiful fine day in August. And the sky was full of those nice white billowy clouds. And when I came down over the hill he was out on the bridge with his easel. He had a painting that was finished. It was a painting of a schooner that Captain Peter Carter had, called, I think, the Harriet, a three-masted schooner. That was all done but he wanted the clouds. So he was there sketching the clouds, big fluffy clouds. I can remember looking at it. He was a great artist.

Interviewer: So, you went to school at the Parish Hall?

Clarence Burry: I went there for a year or so and then the Board built a new school. It was right by St. Stephen's Church. It was torn down later and someone built a house there. Llewellyn Granter up in Pond Head, he was a great carpenter and boat builder. He built this new two room Anglican school right by the Church. It was brand new, all brand new lumber. And while they were building that, they took us the pupils and we went down, right opposite Hutchings Store. There was the Orangemen, you know, the Young Britons, they had a building down there, so that's where we went to school, that is the primary school. The high school, Mr. Batten's class, they went into the Church of England Parish Hall, the CEAA, the Church of England Assistant Association. That was situated, you know where Tom and Francis Bragg's is, well just the other side.

Interviewer: What year was that?

Clarence Burry: Well, I was in Grade 1 and Miss Sharpe was there as teacher. About 1929. I'd have to check it out. I started in Primmer. She promoted me and Eric White in the middle of the winter because we knew the Primmer. That's Eric White who was married to Linda. When the teacher thought you were qualified, even in the middle of the winter, she promoted us. We moved on at our own pace. Then we moved into the new school. It was beautiful.

Interviewer: Did you have assembly when you went in first?

Clarence Burry: Oh yes. We had two rooms. There were hinged doors, folding doors, so you could swing them back. It was heated with coal, you know, a pot-bellied stove. And the boys, even in grade two, had to take your turn lighting the fire in the mornings. You'd take up your kindling, your bundle of splits to start the fire. The coal was in the school. When your turn came, you'd take a week, starting the fire. A turn. That word 'turn' is used for lots of things. When we bring water, two buckets of water, we say a turn. Go over and get a turn of water - two buckets.

Interviewer: What time would you be in school?

Clarence Burry: Well, you'd have to light the fire, depending on the time of the year. Whoever was lighting the fire would be there. And someone would go up to Mr. Batten's and get the key, the fellow in the upper room. And he'd open up and we'd go through to the other room. It was about half past eight. School didn't start until nine thirty. You'd get a big roaring fire going by eight thirty and you'd have the place warmed up. And you were responsible then for getting the coal. It was kept underneath the school. We'd raise money from the Christmas concert to get coal. The government didn't supply it.

Everyone had a Christmas concert, the United Church, Anglicans, Salvation Army, everyone had a concert. All different days. There were three separate schools, you know, and we got along well. We'd go to all the concerts. We had plays, recitations, singing. We would start all our concerts with the Ode to Newfoundland and close with the national anthem, God Save the King. There were well-educated people in Greenspond. The Hutchings, they had quite a lot of music. They went in here to Littledale. The Hutchings girls, Annie Lou and Edith, they came in here to take commercial courses for the business. Edith married a Reverend Joliffe Quinton. He came to Greenspond in 1939, just before Rev. Kirby who married Stella Carter. Rev. Quinton resigned. He married Edith Hutchings and then he helped run the business, Hutchings Store, during the war years.

Interviewer: Who were Edith and Annie Lou's parents?

Clarence Burry: Philip Hutchings and Louisa. Annie Lou's aunt, her father's sister, Edith Hutchings, she was a missionary in China. She came back sometime in the late twenties or early thirties cause I can remember seeing her. She was getting up in years then.

Interviewer: So, did you go right up to grade eleven?

Clarence Burry: I got my grade eleven in '39. There were two of us. Reg Carter and I. Just the two of us. Lots of boys when they got older, went to work on schooners. There was lots of work. Girls would quit when they got to grade eight or nine. I was the only one in the family to continue on to grade eleven.

With the outbreak of World War II, Clarence Burry signed up with the Royal Air Force. He spent the war years as a pilot with the Allied Forces and after the war, he returned home to Newfoundland. He attended Memorial College on Parade Street in St. John's. He subsequently earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and taught school at various places around Newfoundland.

POPULATION 1921

GREENSPOND	1203
NEWELL'S ISLAND	78
SHIP ISLAND	158
PUFFIN ISLAND	18
ENGLISH HARBOUR	70
