





# Summary of Local Events at Harbor Grace for the Year 1852.

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- January 1. Dedication of Temperance Hall - Soiree.  
 16. Meeting of Inhabitants to address the Legislature on sundry matters of local interest.  
 20. Gale of wind (W.N.W.); shipping much damaged.  
 22. Bark "Rothsay" launched.
- February  
 14. Mutual Insurance Club met.  
 16. Sons of Temperance Library opened.  
 17. Benevolent Irish Society held annual meeting.
- March 2. Sealers sailed.  
 10. First Telegraph message from Harbor Grace to St. John's.
- April 7. First arrival from the Ice.  
 18. News reached of numerous Sealers wrecked in Bonavista Bay.
- May 4. First Gas-pipes laid.  
 24. Procession of the Sons of Temperance - Soiree.  
 31. Ceremony of laying Corner Stone of R.C. Chapel.
- June 14. Directors of "Newfoundland Steam Packet Company" met.
- July 14. Meeting of the Grand Division of the Sons of Temperance which took place in the Hall.
- August 14. Mutual Instruction Society established.  
 15. Temperance Fete at "Stradbally", the farm house of Jeremiah Hartery.  
 31. Town first lit with gas.
- October 5. Arrival of the "Lady LeMarchant" (Conception Bay Steam Packet.)  
 11. Trial trip of the "Lady LeMarchant" on the waters of the Bay.  
 31. Political meeting at Mosquito.
- November  
 10. Nomination of Candidates.  
 16. Election of Members for the General Assembly.  
 24. Meeting of the Wesleyan Missionary Society.
- December  
 7. Rutherford's spacious new Shop opened.  
 13. An unusually high tide at 9 a.m.  
 18. Copies of Mr. Archibald's celebrated letter to Dr. Field (sic) first received here.  
 22-23 Grammar School Examinations took place.



The Beacon  
(On the Point of Beach)

The Beacon to be erected on the Point of Beach, at the entrance of our harbor, for which a sum of money was voted by the Legislature last Session, has just been planned by a competent architect, and will, we understand, in all probability be in course of erection next week, The shaft is to be of strong timber, well-framed, 35 feet high, with a diagonal span of about 15 feet, (a hexagon in figure), surmounted by a brilliant, gas-burning lamp, with projecting gallery and balustrade. The whole will form a conspicuous object, and serve as an admirable landmark for vessels running into port at night or in thick weather. It was a desideration long wanted.

--The Weekly Herald, Sept. 8, 1852.

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To the Editor of the "Herald":

Registrar's Office, Court House,  
Harbor Grace, 14th September, 1852.

My dear Sir,

I send you to be re-published for the public information, the marks for the Bar to guide vessels into and out of the Port of Harbor Grace, prepared under the personal inspection of my friend, the late Rear Admiral, Toup Nicolas, C.B. - K.H. and Kt. F.M.

I am, my dear Sir,  
Faithfully yours,  
JOHN STARK, Registrar,  
Northern Circuit Court.

H.M. Ship "Egeria",  
Harbor Grace, 9th Nov. 1821.

Directions for Sailing into and out of Harbor Grace.

Ships going out of Harbor Grace with scant winds, should never open Long Harry of the Easternmost land; that mark will lead clear of the White Rock and North Bar. For the South Bar, never open Ship's Head Beacon to the Southward of the Beacon on the Beach, until the Beacon opposite the Chapel opens to the Southward of Father Ewer's House. You are then clear of the South Bar and may haul to the S.E.

Jas. Trivick,  
Master "Egeria".

Leading Marks into Harbor Grace.

The Beacon on Ship's Head, just open to the Northward of the Beacon



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on the Beach, will lead in mid-channel; or Long Harry just touching the Easternmost land. The Beacon open of Father Ewer's House, will lead along the Eastern side of the Bar in four fathoms low water, Spring Tides. The Beacon between Father Ewer's House and the Spire, is the cross mark for the Spit or point of the Bar. The Beacon on with the west end of Doctor Stirling's House (now the Nunnery) leads along the west side of the Bar, in five fathoms low water, Spring Tides.

Jas. Trivick,  
Master "Egeria".

From the Records of the late Surrogate Court, Volume 14.

September 15, 1852.

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\*\*\* Responsible Government \*\*\*  
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Sworn in: May 22, 1855

Philip F. Little - Prime Minister.  
AMBROSE SHEA - Elected Speaker.

St. John's East: John Kent, Robert Parsons, Peter Winsor.

St. John's West: John Fox, A. Shea, Philip F. Little.

Harbor Grace: James L. Prendergast and John Hayward.

Carbonear: Edmund Hanrahan.

Bay-de-Verde: John Bemister.

Harbor Main: Thomas Byrne and William Talbot.

Other districts: Placentia and St. Mary's, Burin, Fortune Bay, Trinity, Bonavista, Fogo, Burgeo and La Poile.

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#### Necrology

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Died, on Saturday evening last, in the 74th year of his age, Thomas Danson, Esq., Senior Police Magistrate; for many years a leading merchant in this district, and the last of a respectable family which had been established here for nearly a century. The deceased through the course of a long life, earned for himself the reputation of an honest man, and in all his decisions on the Bench, his judgment was invariably guided by a strong sense of justice, and a conscientious desire to do what was right.

The funeral obsequies of the lamented gentleman will take place today at 3 p.m., when the friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

--The Weekly Herald,  
June 14, 1854.



----- A HYMN -----  
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One hundred and twenty five years ago, on the occasion of the sonsecration of the Right Reverend Dr. John Dalton, the first Bishop of Harbor Grace, the Rev. Henry Carfagnini composed, in Latin, a celebrated hymn. The translation given here was the work of Thomas Talbot.

Hail, solemn day! whose presence throws  
A cheering ray o'er human woes -  
Link'd third with that whose beaming glows  
Of Christ above.

On which, the World's wide expanse o'er,  
The blest Synaxis all adore  
With Faith bright-burning evermore  
And trusting Love.

What peerless radiance from the skies  
To us this blissful day supplies,  
Whose brightly-streaming glories rise  
To glad the Soul!

For oh! in Christ's domain behold  
Enclosed today another Fold!-  
Another Shepherd's name enroll'd  
On Heaven's scroll!

God from the bright empyrean spoke,-  
His voice the solemn silence broke,-  
The startled echoes sudden woke  
O'er Earth and Sky.-

"Go John", He said, "henceforth my name  
Be thine in Israel to proclaim,-  
Go, teach my Flock with holy flame  
To mount on High".

Up Heaven's wide dome swift plaudits rise,-  
The high command deep 'mid the skies  
Recording Angels, as it flies,  
Eternal trace.

Responcive echoes gladness bore  
The word of joy with fleet wing o'er  
The fir-crown'd hills and winding shore  
Of Harbor Grace.

Then grove, and wave, and verdant plain  
Impulsive catch the blissful strain;  
Nor silent doth the voice remain  
Of woodland bowers -

By hedge-row shade, in brake and dell,  
The birds with soft, low-gushing swell,  
The joyful tidings whispering tell  
Beneath the flowers.



"Good Shepherd, come, our footsteps guide  
 To realms where fadeless joys reside",  
 The Flock with eager accents cried

And holy zeal,  
 "For thou canst cheer Life's dreary way,  
 Shed 'round our path Hope's brightest ray,  
 Our griefs, our woes bid pass away,

Our sorrows heal.

With Learning fraught, with wisdom blest,  
 And virtue thron'd within thy breast,  
 Our heavenly guide, our safest, best,

To thee we cling;

Mild, gentle, bland, benignant, kind,  
 Thy loving accents fondly bind  
 Our hearts to thee - Oh! there we find  
 Life's living spring".

Thrice happy Flock! when Heaven supplies  
 With such a Shepherd, watchful, wise,  
 To guard your steps, - where danger lies

To point the way.

Henceforth beneath his guardian eye,  
 The snares that 'round your pathway lie,  
 And Satan's wiles you may defy, -

Oh happy day

As, when returning summer glows  
 And bids retire the wintry snows,  
 Your flower-deck'd vales and hills disclose  
 A prospect rare!

Then warm'd by his inspiring zeal  
 Your hearts shall quick'ning radiance feel;  
 And flowers of Grace anon reveal

Thy beauty there.

He'll keep you in the ancient way -  
 From sliding paths where Errors stray  
 He'll warn you off; and there display

The snares around.

He'll show you where Life's peril lies -  
 By meet example, counsel wise,  
 He'll smooth your pathway to the skies,  
 Where peace is found.

A Star refulgent o'er the tide  
 Of Life's dark trials, his light shall guide  
 The Flock in safety to his side,

To shelter there.

And when temptations 'round thee grow,  
 His faithful people he will show  
 To triumph o'er th'infernal Foe,  
 And break Death's snare.



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Good Shepherd, go,- preach God on High,-  
Transplant the Flock amid the sky  
For which they pant, for which they sigh  
With longing free;

And He whose act, by power divine,  
Has made the Shepherd's portion thine -  
Oh, let his wisdom ever shine

A guide to thee.  
May Christ abound in all thy ways,  
Thy steps direct, thy virtues raise,  
And crown at last thy well-spent days  
With bliss untold.-

Encompassed by the Power divine,  
May long and happy days be thine,  
While 'round thy Heart's affections twine  
The docile Fold.

May God, the self existent One,  
And triple Godhead - blest Triune!  
With glory crown thy labours done  
Thro' endless day;

And Heavenward as thy spirit flies,  
May Flocks' and Shepherds' praises rise  
To thee eternal thro' the skies,  
We humbly pray.

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The Hymn was copied from "The Patriot and Terra-Nova Herald", its issue  
being July 14, 1856.

It may be of further interest to add that the poem was prefaced with  
the line: "Fuit homo missus a Deo, cui nomen erat Joannes".

Thomas Talbot was born in Ireland in 1818. For a time Principal of  
St. Bonaventure's College, Talbot also edited a weekly, "The Record", and  
in the year 1832 he was elected M.H.A. for Conception Bay. He was a great  
scholar - a classicist of stature - for he was familiar with several tongues  
which included, besides English, Latin, Greek, French, Spanish - and Irish.  
In writing this I am thinking on the curriculum of our Grammar School, for  
what I have just written seems like an echo!



The Heyday of Harbor Grace

The days of the town's greatest strength, vigor and bloom were decades ago when men of vision capitalized on the resources of the sea. Hence the following few examples are given to indicate something of the export trade of the town in years long gone.

From the Ledger of 1851.

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- CLEARED: June 27 - "Jacinta" (Spanish), Capt. Paris, Alicante,  
fish - Ridley & Sons.
- June 28 - "Patriot" (Prussian), Capt. Suhr, Queenstown,  
oil and skins - Ridley & Sons.
- June 28 - "Arabella Tarbet", Capt. Kearney, Liverpool,  
oil etc. - Punton & Munn.

Passengers:

In the "Arabella Tarbet", for Liverpool, Messrs.  
Fisher and Quinton.

CLEARED: July 3 - "Margaret Ridley", Capt. Brown, Barbados,  
fish - Ridley & Sons.

CLEARED: July 13 - "Bideford", Capt. Major, Liverpool,  
oil etc. - Punton & Munn.

CLEARED: November 13 - "Nundeeps", Capt. Beckford, Naples,  
fish - Punton & Munn.

November 17 - "Enriqueta", Capt. Tone, Leghorn,  
fish - Punton & Munn.

November 17 - "Heindal", Capt. June, Rio de Janeiro,  
fish - Ridley & Sons.

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To jump to 1864, on January 27 of that year, Ridley & Sons shipped 6,100 quintals of codfish on board the Spanish brig "Amelia". That was one of the largest cargoes ever dispatched from the port of Harbor Grace.



Public Officers and Their Salaries  
1852

E.E. Brown, Comptroller of Customs at Harbor Grace, 150 pounds, Imperial, and 2½% for collecting revenue and surveying shipping, say 120 pounds

Thomas Danson, Stipendary Magistrate at Harbor Grace, 180 pounds, sterling.

Lewis Emerson, Clerk of the Peace at Harbor Grace, 100 pounds, sterling.

Robert J. Pinsent, Stipendary Magistrate at Harbor Grace, 150 pounds, sterling.

M. Stevenson, Pension for loss of office as clerk of the Peace at Harbor Grace, 40 pounds, sterling.

William Stirling, Gaol Surgeon at Harbor Grace, Coroner, with fees of office, 30 pounds, sterling.

Richard Brace, Gaoler at Harbor Grace, 90 pounds, sterling.

Sir John Gaspard Le Marchant, Governor, 3,000 pounds, having a house and allowance for fuel and light, 200 pounds. Total: 3,200 pounds, sterling.

---"The Pilot", March 6,  
1852.

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The Point of Beach

In the beginning the whole of the Point of Beach, south of Water St., was vacant land, called the Ship's Room; and there was another Ship's Room near Courage's Beach, where vessels had been built for generations. In 1811 a law was passed abolishing Ship's Rooms, and the land was sold to buyers, and grants given by the Surrogate. At the advent of Responsible Government (1855) there were only two buildings at the Point of Beach: the Soper Store and the "Sail Loft". Before the Light-house was erected on Harbor Grace Island (1837) or the Beacon on the Point of Beach (1852), ships were guided in by a white rock on the Beach near Caplin Cove, and a large pile of rocks, much improved by Captain Cook in 1762, at the Point of Beach. These indicated the channel for safe passage.