

71

The Ferry Linking South With North

What was long desired - a Ferry in 1853 comes to the people of  
Harbor Grace.

RULES

For the Regulation and Management of the Ferry across the waters of  
Harbor Grace:

1. The Ferry Boat to be a good cod-skeins skiff, with two sails.  
She is to have the letters "F.B", 12 inches in length, painted  
on her bow.
2. The Boat to be manned by the Ferryman and one Assistant from  
November to March inclusive; and from April to October inclusive,  
the Ferryman alone may manage the boat at his option.
3. The Boat to run from and to Thomas Fitzgerald's wharf on the  
South Side, and Thomas Higgins' wharf on the North Side, at  
the following hours, viz:-

From South Side

At 9 a.m. }	April
11 a.m. }	to
3 p.m. }	October

At 9 a.m. }	November
1 p.m. }	to
	March

From North Side

At 10 a.m. }	April
12 noon }	to
6 p.m. }	October

At 11 a.m. }	November
3 p.m. }	to
	March

4. No cattle to be carried.
5. Passengers to be carried free of charge in ordinary cases.
6. Goods weighing above 50 lbs. to pay at the rate of 6d. per cwt.
7. In extraordinary cases requiring the Doctor or Clergyman, the  
boat is to run at any time; and the Ferryman is authorized to  
charge One Shilling currency for the trip, forth and back.

COURT of SESSIONS,  
Harbor Grace, 13th August,  
1853.

No fewer than 2,478 passengers crossed in Mr. Fitzgerald's ferry-  
boat from March 24 to September 4 instant. This shows the need of such  
a conveyance, and that an increase of the grant voted for this service  
may reasonably be applied for at the next session of the Legislature.

--Standard, Sept. 7, 1853.

NOTE: Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald of the South Side was appointed Captain.  
The Order was signed by Lewis W. Emerson, Clerk of the Peace;  
and approved by Command of His Excellency the Governor.

(Signed)  
JAMES CROWDY.



The Harbor Grace Rifle Corps

For over 200 years there was a British Military centre at Harbor Grace, and a garrison town for some 100 years. In 1855 the entire Regiment was withdrawn, due to the demand for soldiers in the Crimean War (1854-1856). The Harbor Grace "Standard" of July 10, 1860, had this to say:

"We are much pleased to observe the spirit in which our townspeople have taken up the Volunteer Rifle move. No. 1 Company was but a short time since formed, and it is astonishing to observe the rapid progress that is being made by officers and men. Every day's drill is highly creditable to those who have the management of the Company, and to every man in it, and, indeed, with the energy displayed by the officers and drill master, and the determination and perseverance of every man enrolled, it bids fair not to be second to any company in the Island.

"We are glad to find that a good band will likely be formed amongst its members, and that suitable flags are to be presented to the Company by the inhabitants, and have every hope that before the end of September, it will be in a condition to enliven our town by its presence in handsome military costume.

"We have much pleasure in giving place to the following correspondence:-

Sir,

I have the honor to acquaint Your Excellency, that at a meeting held in this Town on the 6th instant, for the purpose of raising a Volunteer Rifle Company, a number of respectable persons enrolled their names and formed themselves into a Corps to be called "No. 1 Harbor Grace Volunteer Rifle Company", and elected for their Officers, J. Hayward, Esq., M.H.A., Captain; H.T. Moore, Esq., Lieutenant; and R.S. Munn, Esq., Ensign.

On behalf of the said meeting and corps, I respectfully beg to solicit Your Excellency's sanction and approval of these appointments.

I have the honor to be  
Your Excellency's obt. servant.  
JOHN MUNN, Chairman.

To His Excellency, Sir A. Bannerman, Governor, &c., &c."



The Rifle Corps drilled at the Parade Grounds, near Military Road; but if the weather were not suitable, in the long room at the Barracks, from 6:30 to 8 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays; and from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Practice for rifle shooting was held west of "Target Hill", near Lady Lake.

In a practice held here on August 20, 1862, Bulls' Eyes were scored by Captain John Hayward, Lieutenant Henry Moore, John Strathie, Luke Fallon, William Duff, James Ash, and George Howell.

In a match held at St. John's on September 5, 1864, the Harbor Grace team swamped their opponents. The list follows:

<u>Harbor Grace</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>St. John's</u>	<u>Score</u>
Lieut. T.H. Moore . . . . .	33	Lieut. Smith	27
Sergt. J. Godden	40	Corp. A. Smith	18
Corp. J. Strathie	33	Private Thorburn	28
Private Andrew Lamie	40	Private Ellis	27
Private O.V. Travers . . . . .	37	Private Fletcher	19
Private William Duff	47	Private McBride	15
	<u>230</u>		<u>134</u>

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William Duff was regarded as the leading marksman. He was employed by the firm of Paterson & Foster, but he later went in business at Carbonear. Moore and Godden later represented the District of Harbor Grace. Travers was grandson of Oliver St. John and great grandson of Surrogate Charles Garland. Strathie was in charge of the Gas House. Lamie emigrated to Montreal.

#### A Rifle Picnic

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(From the Harbor Grace "Standard"

"Wednesday, the 20th day of July, 1864, will be long remembered by the people of Harbor Grace as one of the most agreeable and pleasant holidays ever spent and enjoyed by them.

"It was the day of the third picnic held by our Volunteer Rifle Company, and for fine weather, fun, amusement, and thorough enjoyment, certainly far surpassed its two predecessors, which it will be remembered, were both held at Bay Roberts.



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"At 12 o'clock the Company, headed by their excellent band, marched from the Barracks through the town, to the ground of the "Alexandra Cricket Club"; and there, in the presence of a vast number of spectators, went through with their usual steadiness and precision, the various evolutions in light infantry drill and review, manual and platoon exercises, until about 2 o'clock, when they piled arms and sat down to a first rate dinner, provided by Mr. John Barry, to whom great credit is due for his effective exertions in catering for such a large number. Including the Rifle Company, over 100 sat down to dinner, and considering that arrangements had been made only for 80, that essential part of the day's proceedings passed off with great success and satisfaction.

"After dinner the other sports of the day, consisting of cricket, dancing, running races, etc., etc., commenced, and in a short while the field presented a truly gay and animated appearance. In one part of the ground, the members of the "Alexandra Cricket Club", and in another part, the lately victorious "Unionists", clad in their cricket dress, were each enjoying themselves in the noble game. (There were then 2 cricket clubs in Harbor Grace.) At the North end before the refreshment tent, a party were amusing themselves by tripping on the light, fantastic toe, through the giddy mazes of the dance, to the inspiring strains of the violin and flute; while through the whole field were scattered numerous groups of spectators of all ages, in holiday attire, and freely interspersed with large numbers of the fair sex, whose gay and brilliant appearance and blooming countenances gave a charm to the scene, and occasion which only the presence of the dear creatures can bestow. Add to all this that the weather was everything that could be desired, the whole firmament clear and unclouded, and the strong, fierce rays of old Sol finely tempered by a gratefully cooling breeze from the westward.

"During the afternoon the Band contributed greatly to the pleasure of the party by playing at intervals several airs and marches in a very superior style. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Mr. Conway for the able manner in which he has brought forward the Band in their practice; and great credit is due also to the members of the band for the ability and aptitude which they displayed on this occasion. . . ."

July 27, 1864.



Farming At Harbor Grace

A century ago and more it was the custom for Harbor Grace to hold an Agricultural and Horticultural Fare to which the Newfoundland Government annually contributed 100 pounds sterling. But, regretfully, nothing of the sort is known here now - or has been for years - which is but another indication of the sad decline of the area.

As evidence of the industry of the past, the prize list for the year 1865 follows:-

Best sample of oats . . . . .	John Malone, Mosquito.
Second best ditto	Bishop Dalton
Best sample of Sweedish turnips	Bishop Dalton
Second best ditto	R. Walsh
Best sample, Aberdeen turnips	R. Walsh
Second best ditto	H.T. Moore
Best sample, common turnips	R. Walsh
Best sample of potatoes	Arthur Thomey, Mosquito
Second best ditto	Edward Kelly
Third place ditto	Jeremiah Lyons, Mosquito
Fourth place ditto	Thomas Scanlan
Best sample, cauliflower	W.J.S. Donnelly
Second best ditto . . . .	W.H. Ridley
Best sample of cabbage	Bishop Dalton
Second best ditto	W.J.S. Donnelly
Best celery	W.H. Ridley
Second best ditto . . . .	Bishop Dalton
Best carrots	H.T. Moore
Second best ditto	Mrs. Farrell
Best parsnips	Bishop Dalton
Second best ditto	W.J.S. Donnelly
Best sample, broad beans	Mrs. A. Munn
Second best ditto . . . .	W.H. Ridley
Best damsons	J.J. Roddick
Best apples	W.H. Ridley
Best flowers	Mrs. S. Elliott
+ + +	
Best horse under 3 years	R. Walsh
Second best ditto	Ed. Foley, Brigus
Best heifer	Bishop Dalton
Second best ditto	J. Munn
Best ewe	Bishop Dalton
Second best ditto	Bishop Dalton

(continued next page)



76

Best ram . . . . .	Bishop Dalton
Best bull	G. Mackinson
Best pair of pigs	W.H. Ridley
Second best ditto	T.C. Toussaint
Best two lambs	T. Higgins
Second best ditto . . .	H.T. Moore
Best turkeys	W.J.S. Donnelly
Best geese	W.H. Ridley
Best ducks	W.H. Ridley
Best varieties of hens	W. Squarey, Jr.
	& J.J. Roddick
	& G. Mackinson

October 25, 1865.

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Following the Fair, a long letter appeared in the press which reflected the euphoria of the day. The letter, extolling the merite and success of the Fair, concluded with the sentence:

"Mark my words, Mr. Editor, our soil will yet become the mainstay, if our fisheries should fail."

--Agricola

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As a sort of footnote to the above, and as further evidence of the work ethic of yesteryear, the following should be of interest:

In the year 1892 Mosquito produced a head of cabbage that weighed 22½ pounds. It was grown by a Mrs. Murphy, and was on display in the store of Joseph Ross, situated on the south side of Water Street, opposite Bannerman. Also, in 1889, five Swedish turnips weighing a total of 40 lbs. were on display in John Hogan's shop. Some years before that, John Hogan raised 12 turnips which weighed 108 lbs. And to add just one more item: In 1890 at Mosquito, Laurence Keefe killed a pig which, when dressed, weighed 624 lbs.

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Organ For The Cathedral Of Harbor Grace, Newfoundland

(From "The Morning Herald" of England, as reproduced in the "Standard".)

1860

A selection of classical music was given last evening upon a new organ, destined for the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Harbor Grace, Newfoundland, to a select audience, including many of the elite of the musical profession, at the establishment of the builder, Mr. Robson, of St. Martin's Lane. The testing of the noble instrument was highly satisfactory, and fully displayed its power and richness of tone. The organ possesses two sets of manuals and pedal of 16 feet register. The arrangement of the tops and various mechanical appliances is eminently calculated to aid the gorgeous ceremonial of the Catholic Church, the character of the music there employed necessitating such endless varieties of effect, and consequently rapid stops, etc. The soft stops, etc., are each perfect of their kind, and giving to the inhabitants of the distant colony of Harbor Grace, one of the finest organs that can be constructed.

--September 12.

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Fire Engine

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We have great pleasure in announcing the arrival of one of the best Engines we have ever seen; it was imported by Messrs. Punton & Munn for the Fire Company and Wardens of this town. It is called the "Medlock", and was built by Hall & Sons, Oldham, England, by order for about 200 pounds, currency. . . .

Hr. G. "Standard",  
October 17, 1860.

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Ordination

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Rev. T. Godden, B.A., the son of Mr. Thomas Godden of Harbor Grace, was ordained in Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal, on Sunday, December 20, 1863.

"Standard", Feb. 10,  
1864.



The Custom-house

The original building where customs and duties were paid, and where vessels were entered or cleared, was a wooden structure which in 1870 was replaced by a brick and stone structure. It was a one-storey affair.

A letter dated July 29, 1867, and sent to the Harbor Grace "Standard" relative to the Custom-house, reads as follows:

Dear Sir:

I see by the "Supply" Act of 1867 that the Legislature granted the sum of \$6,000 for the erection of a Custom House in Harbor Grace. It is high time that the said building should be commenced - even supposing a piece of land for the site thereof had to be purchased, the above handsome grant would be quite sufficient therefor, and for the erection of the building. If this be not done, we may well fear that the present contracted old crumbling apology for a Custom House will, before long, fall down. . . .

July 29th, 1867.

Yours,  
Beta.

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NOTICE

Route of Steamer "Lizzie".  
(After April 20, 1867)

- Monday: Leave Harbor Grace at 9 a.m. for Carbonear and Portugal Cove, returning to Brigus.
- Tuesday: Leave Brigus at 8 a.m. for Bay Roberts and Cove, returning to Harbor Grace.
- Wednesday: Leave Harbor Grace at 9 a.m. for Portugal Cove, returning to Brigus.
- Thursday: Leave Brigus at 9 a.m. for Cove, returning to Carbonear and Harbor Grace.
- Saturday: Leave Harbor Grace at 9 a.m. for Cove, returning to Brigus, Carbonear and Harbor Grace.

NOTE: After the 1st October, the time of starting will be 8 a.m. each morning instead of 9 a.m.  
FARES - 7 shillings and 5 shillings.

-- G. MACKINSON.







-----: L E T T E R S :-----

Newspaper letters are forever! Here are a few examples:  
1. From Carbonear to the Editor of "The Weekly Herald":

Sir,

Allow me to express the gratification I feel, at seeing the claims and rights of this very populous and important town advocated in your Paper, and in the "Public Ledger". The subject is a stirring one, calculated deeply to interest the entire public mind. Who would have thought it possible, that in the nineteenth century such injuries could have been inflicted, such slights received, as have been inflicted and received in the treatment of this town.

I am not, Mr. Editor, in the habit of writing for newspapers, so I must beg you and the public to excuse my style, while I narrate a few instances, in which it will clearly appear that Carbonear has been neglected and insulted, while her rival, Harbor Grace, has been petted and pampered in a manner and degree perfectly disgusting. I must tell you plainly, once for all, that several of the leading intelligents of Carbonear, require exactly the same things for our town as are established in Harbor Grace. We think ourselves of as much importance as the Harbor Gracians; we have not the same things; this is the point on which we feel we have a right to complain. We do complain of the injustice of the Government. I proceed to show the glaring differences - facts are stubborn things. I will set them in order, side by side, after the manner of Cobbett's Gridiron.

Harbor Grace

Carbonear

1. Has the District Court and Gaol - a stone building, with all the proper offices; said to have cost 5,000 pounds. Here the Circuit and Sessions Courts are held - and here offenders are imprisoned. The annual expense of this establishment is probably 1,200 pounds, including the salaries of the public officers, viz., Two Stipendary Magistrates, Clerk of the Peace, Registrar of Deeds and Chief Clerk of the Northern Circuit Court, Deputy Sheriff, Gaoler, three constables.

Has a Lock-up House, a very poor building of wood; it is seldom or never used for any purpose whatever. Why should there not be an establishment here, similar to that at Harbor Grace? The distance between the two towns is nearly 4 miles; the expense should be a secondary consideration. At present there are one Stipendary Magistrate and three Constables. We have several persons among us who are anxious to make themselves useful to the public by accepting office; and they could obtain recommendations.