

Appendix 2

Earliest Records for Various Areas

- **Conception Bay South Records**

- **Rev. Edward Wix Records - South / Southwest Coasts**

- **Placentia Bay Records**

- **St. Alban's / Bay D'Espoir / Conne River Records**

- **Earliest Church Records for the West Coast**

- **Channel and Codroy**
- **Bay St. George / St. George's**
- **Bay of Islands**
- **Bonne Bay**
- **Northern Peninsula**

- **Labrador Records**

Conception Bay South Records

Church of England/Anglican

- In early 1800, clergy from the Parish of **St. John the Baptist (Cathedral), St. John's** visited settlers. See *Parish Records* and *Registers of Vital Statistics* finding aids.
- The Parish of **St. Thomas's, St. John's** has a few records, circa 1830-1835, from this area. See the *Parish Records Finding Aid*. Rev. Edward Wix visited this area in his travels and his records are with this St. John's parish. See also *Appendix 2 - Rev. Edward Wix Records - South/Southwest Coasts*.
- In 1845, Rev. Benjamin Fleet was the missionary for the South Shore (Foxtrap Mission) which covered eleven settlements from Topsail to Seal Cove. This was a mission of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel (SPG).
- Fire at the **Foxtrap** mission destroyed the records of baptisms, marriages and burials, for the years 1845 to 1875, See **Foxtrap** and **Kelligrews** in the *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid* for records starting in 1876.
- **Topsail** became a separate mission in 1860. See both *Parish Records* and *Registers of Vital Statistics* finding aids for records after 1860.
- In the **Topsail** records, Rev. Fleet has noted a few families with birth/baptism dates of each family member, circa 1830's to 1850's. See *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- Earlier entries recorded with the Portugal Cove parish were lost through fire in 1938.
- As many of the early families in Conception Bay South originated from the **Brigus / Port de Grave part of Conception Bay**, it may be worthwhile to check the records of **parishes in that area**. See *Parish Records* and *Registers of Vital Statistics* finding aids.
- See *Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador* for the history of specific settlements in this area.
- See the *Newfoundland Ancestor*, Volume 17, No. 3 and Volume 18, No. 1 for *Attempted Population Reconstruction of South Shore, Conception Bay, Up to Persons Born 1845*. "This is an attempt to reconstruct the residents of the South Shore, Conception Bay covering those living roughly during the period 1835 to 1845."

Roman Catholic

- The Parish of **St. John the Baptist (Basilica), St. John's** contains the earliest Roman Catholic records for Conception Bay South. See *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- From 1844 to 1877, the whole of the South Shore of Conception Bay was part of the Parish of Portugal Cove. The parish priest would make periodic visits by land or by sea to the different settlements along the shore. See **Portugal Cove** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.

- On July 14, 1914, the church at Kelligrews burnt, but it is uncertain as to whether any records were lost at that time. During the tenure of Father Robert A. St. John, 1930 to 1948, another fire destroyed the new presbytery at Power's Court. Parish Records dating from the start of the parish, circa 1877, were lost.

Methodist / United Church

- **Topsail** Methodist records start, circa 1886. Earlier records were the responsibility of the **St. John's Methodist** circuit. See *Parish Records Finding Aid*.

Rev. Edward Wix Records, South/Southwest Coasts

Church of England/Anglican

- Archdeacon Edward Wix travelled the south and southwest coasts of the island of Newfoundland during the years 1830 to 1835. As there were no established parishes or resident clergy in those areas at the time, Wix brought his records of baptisms and marriages to St. John's.
- Archdeacon Wix was the first incumbent of St. Thomas' parish in St. John's. Wix originally used the first "Register of Births" which was used at St. Thomas' to record baptisms performed by him during his visitations around the coast. It records baptisms performed at such distant places as Topsail, Torbay, Pouch Cove, New Perlican, Pushthrough, Burgeo, Port aux Basques and St. George's and, any other places along the route of his visitation. There are only a few marriage records.
- One of the most interesting records of his work is a journal "Six Months of a Newfoundland Missionary's Journal" printed in 1836. It records Wix's tour of visitation to the southern and western shores of the island of Newfoundland in 1835. Starting in February, Wix walked overland to Placentia Bay, crossed to Fortune Bay, taking boats from settlement to settlement. His attempt to travel through the country from Bay du Nord to Bay St. George was not successful. He, instead, coasted from harbour to harbour, aided along by fishermen. After reaching Sandy Point, he returned to St. John's in early August, having travelled for six months.
- See *Parish Records Finding Aid - Church of England/Anglican, St. John's, St. Thomas's* Parish, Boxes 1 and 2, or see *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid*, Vol. 30 and 30A.

Placentia Bay Records

Church of England/Anglican

- The first resident Church of England missionary for the Placentia Bay mission was appointed in 1842. Harbour Buffett became the headquarters of this mission in 1848 with responsibility for all Placentia Bay residents of the Church of England faith.
- On September 28, 1913, fire destroyed the Church of England parsonage at Harbour Buffett.
- The parsonage fire destroyed the baptism records of the parish pre 1890 and the marriage and burial records pre 1911. See **Harbour Buffett** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for available records.
- In the period, circa 1830 to 1835, Archdeacon Edward Wix visited the Harbour Buffett area. The Parish of **St. Thomas's, St. John's** records baptisms performed by him. See the *Parish Records Finding Aid* and *Appendix 2 - Rev. Edward Wix Records - South/Southwest Coasts*.

Roman Catholic

- For early Roman Catholic records, see both **Argentia** and **Placentia** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- There was a Roman Catholic parish in Placentia Bay, circa mid 1850's. It had responsibility for many of the smaller settlements in Placentia Bay not covered by the Argentia or Placentia parishes. It had a priest stationed at St. Kyran's / Oderin. By 1911, there was a resident priest at Bar Haven.
- In the early 1940's, during the pastorate of Father Cacciola, a fire destroyed the records of the Bar Haven parish that also included the earlier records of the St. Kyran's / Oderin parish.
- See the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for the **Placentia Bay** Parish records. The collection consists of family records compiled after the loss of the original records. Father Cacciola had served the parish for quite a number of years and had married and baptized the members of many families. It is likely that he was responsible for putting together this information, probably with the assistance of the families concerned.

St. Alban's / Bay D'Espoir / Conne River Records

Church of England / Anglican

- See the Parish of **Hermitage Bay** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* and the Parish of **Hermitage** in the *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid*.
- See Appendix 2 - Rev. Edward Wix, South/Southwest Coast Records and the *Parish Records Finding Aid* with regard to his records, circa 1830 to 1835, held at the Parish of **St. Thomas's, St. John's**.
- See **Grand Bank, Methodist**, pre 1840's. In late 1842, the Hermitage Cove Mission of the Methodist Church changed to the Church of England.

Roman Catholic

- During the second half of the nineteenth century, there were priests stationed at various times in Harbour Breton, St. Jacques and St. Bernard's.
- The *Survey of Parishes, 1979*, indicates that fire destroyed the records of the Parish of Harbour Breton, prior to 1911. The parish covered the area from St. Jacques, Gaultois, English Harbour West and Boxey to Harbour Breton. Earlier records covered from Ramea to Harbour Breton.
- The *Survey of Parishes, 1979*, indicates that St. Bernard's Parish holds baptism and marriage records starting in 1860 and burial records starting in 1891. The parish covered the area from St. Alban's, Bay D'Espoir to English Harbour East, Fortune Bay. The original records are with the Parish; the Provincial Archives does not hold copies.
- Prior to 1860, the Parish of **Burin** was responsible for this entire area. Its records start in 1833. See *Parish Records Finding Aid*.

Earliest Church Records for the West Coast

Channel and Codroy

Church of England / Anglican

- See **Channel** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for records starting in 1852.
- For records pre 1852, see **Bay St. George** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- In the period, circa 1830 to 1835, Archdeacon Edward Wix visited the Codroy Islands. The Parish of **St. Thomas's, St. John's** records baptisms performed by him. See the *Parish Records Finding Aid* and *Appendix 2 - Rev. Edward Wix Records- South/Southwest Coasts*.

Methodist / United Church

- The earliest recorded reference to a visit of a Methodist missionary to the “Western Shore” of Newfoundland is that of the missionary from **Grand Bank** in the 1840's. In 1859, the missionary of the **Petites** Circuit had the responsibility of visiting the “Shore.” See the *Parish Records* and *Registers of Vital Statistics* finding aids.
- Establishment of the Channel Circuit occurred circa 1862. See **Channel** and **Port aux Basques** in the *Parish Records* and *Registers of Vital Statistics* finding aids.

Roman Catholic

- **Codroy** Roman Catholic records start, circa 1863. See **Codroy** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- Earlier records were the responsibility of the **St. George's** Parish starting in 1850. See **St. George's** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.

Bay St. George / St. George's

Church of England / Anglican

- The Church of England Parish of Bay St. George started, in 1841. The records of the mission start in that year. The mission was responsible for the entire West Coast of Newfoundland. The early records include baptisms of older children and adults made possible by the arrival of permanent clergy. See **Bay St. George** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- In the period, circa 1830 to 1835, Archdeacon Edward Wix visited the Bay St. George. The Parish of **St. Thomas's, St. John's** records baptisms performed by him. See the *Parish Records Finding Aid* and *Appendix 2 - Rev. Edward Wix Records- South/Southwest Coasts*.

Methodist / United Church

- Records for the Bay St. George Methodist Circuit start in 1883 (baptisms and marriages) and 1875 (burials). See **Bay St. George** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- For earlier records, see **Channel** and **Bonne Bay** in the *Parish Records* and *Registers of Vital Statistics* finding aids.

Roman Catholic

- Rev. Alexis Bélanger, the first resident priest appointed to the West Coast of Newfoundland, arrived in Sandy Point, Bay St. George in September 1850. The records of the St. George's Parish start at that time. See **St. George's** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- For the earliest settlers of the Roman Catholic faith on the West Coast, there was a total absence of organized religion. To practice their faith and to receive the sacraments, some travelled great distances to places in Quebec and Nova Scotia. As well, Canadian priests often availed themselves of the semiannual trips of the supply steamers servicing the lighthouses and signal stations on the coasts. These priests, with the approval of the Vicar-Apostolic of Newfoundland, administered the sacraments of baptism and matrimony.
- Circa 1820, Rev. William Hearne paid a visit to the Western Shore of Newfoundland. He travelled by foot across country with the aid of a native guide. He visited Sandy Point and Robinson's Head. For records, circa 1820, see **Parish of St. John the Baptist (Basilica), St. John's** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- In the year 1848, the Right Rev. Bishop Mullock of St. John's, accompanied by Rev. Richard Condon, Parish Priest of Placentia, made a visitation of the West Coast as far north as Ferrole on the Northern Peninsula. For records, circa 1848, see **Parish of St. John the Baptist (Basilica), St. John's** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.

Bay of Islands

Church of England / Anglican

- In the period, circa 1830 to 1835, Archdeacon Edward Wix visited the Bay of Islands area. The Parish of **St. Thomas's, St. John's** records baptisms performed by him. See the *Parish Records Finding Aid* and *Appendix 2 - Rev. Edward Wix Records- South/Southwest Coasts*.
- From 1841 to 1865, the Bay of Islands area was the responsibility of the Bay St. George mission. See **Bay St. George** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- In 1865, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel sent a missionary to the Bay of Islands. The Bay of Islands Parish (now St. Mary's Parish) was established at Birchy Cove (later renamed Curling and now part of Corner Brook).
- The records of the Bay of Islands parish, which also had responsibility for Bonne Bay, were lost through fire in 1870. Rev. Ulric Rule, who had performed most of the baptisms and marriages from 1865 to 1870, was able to compile, from memory, a list of most of the names. See **Bay of Islands** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- With the opening of the pulp and paper mill in Corner Brook in 1925, a new parish was established. See **Corner Brook, St. John the Evangelist Parish** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for records starting in 1926.

Methodist / United Church

- The earliest Methodist records, held in the Bay of Islands area, are those of the Curling (now part of Corner Brook) Circuit. The records start in 1902. See **Corner Brook, Curling Pastoral Charge** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- For records pre 1902, see **Bay St. George** and **Bonne Bay** in the *Parish Records* and *Registers of Vital Statistics* finding aids.

Presbyterian

- See **Bay of Islands** in the *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid*.

Roman Catholic

- For Bay of Islands records starting in 1870 (now held by Sacred Heart Parish, Curling, Corner Brook) see **Corner Brook** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- For records, pre 1870, see **St. George's** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.

Bonne Bay

Church of England / Anglican

- For records, pre 1871, see *Appendix 2 - Earliest Church Records for the West Coast - Bay of Islands*.
- For records, pre 1865, see **Bay St. George** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- For records starting in 1871, see **Bonne Bay** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- See Parish of **St. John the Baptist (Cathedral), St. John's** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for lay baptisms, 1849, West Coast, Northern Peninsula and Labrador.
- In the records for the 1870s, there are numerous marriage records, entered by the clergy, which had been performed previously by laymen. As an example: In May 1874, Rev. Joseph J. Curling married a couple in Bonne Bay. His record states, "having been previously married (Sept. 1857) by a layman, there being no clergyman resident or to be found in the place at the time, according to the custom on the shore."

Methodist / United Church

- The Methodist records for Bonne Bay start in 1874. Bonne Bay was initially responsible for the Bay of Islands area. See **Bonne Bay** in the *Parish Records* and *Registers of Vital Statistics* finding aids.

Roman Catholic

- Bonne Bay records, starting in 1943, were the responsibility of the Deer Lake Parish. The Provincial Archives does not hold copies of the Deer Lake records. The original registers are with the Parish.
- For records pre 1943, see **Corner Brook**, and pre 1870, see **St. George's** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- See **Codroy** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*. In Box 1, Baptisms, 1886 to 1898, pages 155 and 159 have records of baptisms performed in March and April 1888 and "copied from Fr. P. W. Brown's notes of his itinerant journey to Straits of Belle Isle Mission (Summerside to Bird Cove)."

Northern Peninsula

Church of England / Anglican

- The earliest Church of England parish on the Northern Peninsula started, in 1849, with the appointment of the first resident clergy at the Mission of Flower's Cove. See **Flower's Cove** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- For records pre 1849, see **Bay St. George** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- See **St. Anthony** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for records starting in 1880.
- See **Strait of Belle Isle** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for records starting in 1849.
- For settlements on the east side of the northern Peninsula, see **White Bay** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for records starting in 1864.
- The *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid* notes **French Shore** in the Herring Neck register (# 85). This is, in fact, a reference to as little as one record for someone from the French Shore.

Methodist / United Church

- The earliest Methodist records for the Northern Peninsula are those of St. Anthony. See **St. Anthony** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for records starting in 1873.
- The *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid* notes **St. Anthony, French Shore** in the Bonavista registers (#'s 69, 72 and 72A). This is, in fact, a reference to one baptism, 1889, for a child baptized at Bonavista, but born at St. Anthony on the French Shore.
- The *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid* notes **French Shore** in the Herring Neck register (# 89). This is, in fact, a reference to as little as one record for someone from the French Shore.
- For records pre 1873, see **Church of England, Flower's Cove** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*. Many Methodists in the Flower's Cove area would have converted from the Church of England after the arrival of the first resident Methodist clergy.
- See **Flower's Cove** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for records starting in 1874.
- See **Englee** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for records starting in 1882.

Roman Catholic

- Appointment of the first resident priest in the Port Aux Choix Parish occurred in 1889. Records start at that time. A survey of parishes, conducted in 1979, indicates that one register has four baptism entries for 1889 of persons born in 1858, 1867 and 1868. The Provincial Archives does not hold copies of the Port-aux-Choix records. The original registers are with the Parish.
- For records pre 1889, see **Corner Brook**, and pre 1870, see **St. George's** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- There are a few records for the French Shore in the records of **Tilting** and **Harbour Grace**.
- For settlements on the east side of the Northern Peninsula, see **Conche** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*. Records start in 1873. For earlier records, starting in 1842, see **Tilting** in the same finding aid. For records, pre 1842, see **King's Cove**.
- See **Codroy** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*. In Box 1, Baptisms, 1886 to 1898, pages 155 and 159 have records of baptisms performed in March and April 1888 and “copied from Fr. P. W. Brown’s notes of his itinerant journey to Straits of Belle Isle Mission (Summerside to Bird Cove).”

Labrador Records

Church of England / Anglican

- The visit of Bishop Edward Feild to Labrador in 1848 was the first visitation of a Church of England clergy to that coast. He appealed to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for assistance in establishing missions in Labrador; in 1849, Forteau and in 1852; St. Francis Harbour saw the arrival of their first missionary.
- See **Battle Harbour** in the *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid* for baptism and marriage records, circa 1850 to 1881/1882.
- See **Battle Harbour** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for marriage and burial records starting in 1880.
- The parish at Mary's Harbour, Labrador holds the original Battle Harbour Parish records.
- See **Forteau** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for records starting in 1884/1885.
- See **Flower's Cove** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for records, starting in 1849, of Forteau and other settlements in Southern Labrador from Red Bay to L'Anse au Clair,
- See Parish of **St. John the Baptist (Cathedral), St. John's** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for lay baptisms, 1849, West Coast, Northern Peninsula and Labrador.
- See Parish of **Strait of Belle Isle** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid* for some Labrador records starting in 1849.
- See **Labrador** entries in the *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid* for miscellaneous Labrador records held by **Conception Bay parishes such as Bay Roberts, North River and Port de Grave.**
- Cartwright Parish, covering Seal Island and Frenchman's Island in the south to Rigolet in the north, were lost in a rectory fire in 1928. Records dated back to the 1890's.
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Methodist / United Church

- See **Happy Valley, Labrador, Northwest River and Red Bay** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- Check the **name of a specific place** in the *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid*.
- See **Labrador** entries in the *Registers of Vital Statistics Finding Aid* for miscellaneous records held by Conception Bay parishes such as Carbonear and Harbour Grace.

Moravian

- See **Labrador Methodist** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*. A few Moravian records are included there.
- Memorial University of Newfoundland holds microfilm copies of some Moravian records written in German

Roman Catholic

- Very early records for Labrador were the responsibility of the Parish of **St. John the Baptist (Basilica), St. John's**. See *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- Priests sometimes visited Labrador from Quebec. As well, Canadian priests often availed themselves of the semiannual trips of the supply steamers servicing the lighthouses and signal stations on the Labrador coasts. These priests, with the approval of the Vicar-Apostolic of Newfoundland, administered the sacraments of baptism and matrimony.
- In 1856, the newly formed Diocese of Harbour Grace included Labrador.
- The new Diocese of Harbour Grace was responsible for sending missionaries to Labrador. Priests would accompany those engaged in the fishery on the Labrador coast to attend to their spiritual needs from May to October. See **Harbour Grace** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*.
- As well, see **Carbonear, Fortune Harbour, King's Cove, Northern Bay** and **Tilting** in the *Parish Records Finding Aid*. Each of these parishes, in the Harbour Grace Diocese, sent priests, at various times, to the Labrador mission.