

CAPTAIN R.H. TOBIN MAY 1895

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The following appeared in the North Sydney Newspaper under the heading:

Thrilling Escape from Death - Forty-eight hours in the Rigging of a Sunken Vessel, then Rescued by Life Lines.

North Sydney, Nova Scotia, May 8, 1895: Captain R.H. Tobin of North Sydney, has arrived home, having lost his schooner, the *Freddie Walter*, on the Penguin Islands, which consist of 22 rocks about ten miles from the rockbound coast, where many a good ship and crew have met their fate. Capt. Tobin left St. Pierre on the 19th ult. for this port in ballast. The following Tuesday morning, a heavy breeze from the southwest came up. The pumps got choked. They headed for Burgo. She was then about 80 miles from St. Pierre. The weather became too thick to make Burgeo; wore ship again; the pumps being now free, and the course shaped for Miquelon. The wind veered southerly, increasing to a gale, the foresail was carried away and the storm trisail was bent in its stead. The foresail was repaired and set and the captain went down in his cabin to take his position. While examining his charts, he heard his crew shout "breakers". He at once rushed on deck and grabbed the helm and put it to port. He was just a minute too late, for the vessel struck on the western end of the rocks. The Captain shouted to stand by the ship. One poor fellow, Thomas Power of Placentia Nfld. jumped for the rock and was not seen afterwards. Two others jumped and landed safely on the rock. The vessel lurched off the rock and began to sink rapidly, and about half a mile further down a break was seen in the rocks into which she was driven. She sank to the sheer poles, and the captain and another man took to the rigging, where they remained for forty-eight hours. She struck at 10.30 a. m. on Tuesday the 23rd ult. The first night they were in the rigging, the bottom was knocked out of the vessel. Some fishing boats took the men off with difficulty. If the wind had not subsided the men on the rock would have been washed away. As it was they were hauled through the water to the fishing boats with the aid of life lines and were greatly exhausted.

Richard F. Tobin was born in Northern Bay, Newfoundland on 15 Oct 1840. He was the son of Richard and Mary Hogan Tobin who were born about 1800 in Northern Bay. Richard F. Tobin's Hogan grandparents were William and Elizabeth Hogan. William Hogan (from Ireland) settled first in Ochre Point and is listed in the Plantation Book for Northern Bay. Richard F. Tobin's Tobin grandparents were Patrick and Judith Keefe Tobin from Northern Bay (originally from Goram, Kilkenny, Ireland).

Richard F. Tobin operated his business from Channel, St. Pierre and North Sydney.

BOOKMARKS - From the *Gazette* A Memorial University of Newfoundland Publication
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Fish into Wine: The Newfoundland Plantation in the Seventeenth Century By Dr. Peter E. Pope

Combining innovative archaeological analysis with historical research, in *Fish into Wine*, Dr. Peter Pope examines the way of life that developed in seventeenth-century Newfoundland, where settlement was sustained by seasonal migration to North America's oldest industry, the cod fishery.

The unregulated English settlements that grew up around the exchange of fish for wine served the fishery by catering to nascent customer demand. The English Shore became a hub of transatlantic trade, linking Newfoundland with the Chesapeake, new and old England, southern Europe, and the Atlantic islands. Dr. Pope gives special attention to Ferryland, the proprietary colony founded by Sir George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, in 1621, but later taken over by the London Merchant Sir David Kirke and his family. The saga of the Kirkes proves a narrative line connecting social and economic developments on the English Shore with metropolitan merchants, proprietary rivalries and international competition.

Employing a rich variety of evidence to place the fisheries in the context of transatlantic commerce, Dr. Pope makes Newfoundland a fresh point of view for understanding the demographic, economic and cultural history of the expanding North Atlantic world.

Dr. Pope is a professor in Memorial's Department of Anthropology. Catherine Desbarats of McGill