

#3170 John G. Fitzgerald, 67 Reid Street, St. John's, NL, A1E 2K8, Canada or e-mail jffitzgerald@nf.sympatico.ca .

PITCHER/VAVASOUR

Seek info on the death and burial of Eliza Pitcher nee Vavasour, wife of Harold E. Pitcher. They married 28 October 1903 at the Anglican Cathedral, St. John's. The 1945 Census listed Eliza Pitcher, widow, age 70 residing at 77 Hayward Avenue, St. John's with her sons Alexander and Gordon. Eliza was born 8 October 1875 at Tilt Cove, Green Bay, NL. Contact information: #1462 Herb W. Goudie, 217 Park Avenue, Mount Pearl, NL Canada A1N 1L3 Telephone 709-368-0459

MY EXPERIENCES WITH SERENDIPITY IN GENEALOGY Submitted By #0153 Joe Petrie, Norwood, Ma

Serendipity was a session subject of a Joint Genealogical Conference of the New England and New York Genealogical Societies. The speaker was Henry "Hank" Z. Jones Jr., one of only fifty life Fellows of the American Society of Genealogists, who had written a book on Psychic roots, serendipity and intuition, essentially about his luck in doing genealogy. It was more or less a follow-on book to his earlier triumph with the two Volume *Palantine Families of New York*. I had a chance to talk to Hank and found that he was also a friend of Glace Bay's Daniel Petrie (a family friend and a Petrie third cousin) from Hank's days as an actor at the Disney Studio. I'm not sure that I believed in Serendipity - at least not then!

This is a story about my becoming a believer in genealogy serendipity!

For background, I remember vividly how my Mom was overjoyed when her North Sydney - Halifax Tobin first cousin Allie (Ellen Aloysia) Burke Ahern was honored with the Order of Canada. Mom could not get enough news about it! (Tough to do when you live in the US.) The Halifax newspapers were full of news stories of Allie and her late husband Gee Ahern, who rose from a Sports Reporter to Mayor of Halifax to MP. Allie was being honored for her public service to Canada and

for humanitarian pursuits - causes dear to her that would improve Canadians lives. Of course, none of my Mom's American sons really understood the importance of it! We were raised in a Canadian household but some things Canadian had little or no meaning!

After my Mom died, I visited my Aunt May (Mary Aloysia) Tobin in Halifax often at least on a three year cycle. One evening, she suggested that we visit Allie. I think that she wanted me to hear about the Ceremony, see the pictures of the Ceremony etc. Very Impressive!

Afterwards, Allie, May and I talked about my work on the family tree. At one point Allie told me that I should put some effort into our Hogan family. It must have been pretty obvious that I did not know about a Hogan family on the tree! Serendipity! I learned a lot that night! I never knew for example that my Aunt had traveled to Newfoundland a number of times to research her Tobin and Hogan families. I learned that most of what Allie knew had really originated from discussions with Aunt May after those trips and from her sister Nonie Lohnes (nee Honora Burke) whose family was stationed at a Lighthouse in Newfoundland in the 1930s.

My aunt's revelations were startling! Unfortunately, because she was visually handicapped, Aunt May had never written about her research. She agreed to get it written down for me. In fact, she dictated it to friends and gave the papers to my late brother to hand-carry to me the summer before she died.

After the visit and long before the envelop was delivered, I set out to find out about my Tobin and Hogan roots. I quickly found a record of my great grandparents' (Richard Tobin and Honora Dooley) Banns of Marriage which identified his parents as Planters in Northern Bay Newfoundland. That document alone added another generation.

I wrote a letter to the Librarian at Northern Bay to determine whether records existed in that town for my Tobin family! Serendipity! The letter was undeliverable! There was no town library! Rather than discard it (typically this happens to undeliverable US mail), the Postmaster read it and

gave it to Edward-Vincent Chafe, a teacher at the local Corpus Christi Catholic High School (it had a library). More importantly, Ed is a Certified Canadian Genealogist with access to the Northern Bay's Corpus Christi Parish records. (Ed eventually published a history of the Parish.) Over a few years, Ed provided in a series of letters information on the origins of my Tobin and Hogan families and family group data, marriage dates, christening dates etc. In addition, he has also periodically sent updates and corrections to information that I gathered and collected from other genealogists: cousins Arthur Doyle, Sister Joan Butler (from Glace Bay), Jim McCarthy and Matt Mullaly as well as M. Denise Butler, Raelene Earle and Ken Duff. Serendipity - I was becoming a believer!

More Serendipity! Two of my late North Sydney grandaunts, Sister Loretta (Mary Elizabeth Tobin) and Sister Joseph Aloysia (Sr. JA - Anna Bridget Tobin), who were both members of the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, had willed me their breviaries. (I suspect that they hoped that I'd follow the family tradition and become a religious!) One evening, I decided to clean out the assorted notes that were kept therein. I started with Sr. JA's. I read each side of all the documents - lots of memorials to dead friends. One noteworthy memorial was from her sister, Sister Loretta, for the late Bishop John March, Roman Catholic Bishop of Harbor Grace. On the back of it, Sister Loretta wrote that Bishop March was daddy's cousin! From that little memorial, in a few months, with letters to Newfoundland genealogical societies and archives, I was to add more information about my Hogan families.

Now to finish the story about my Aunt's hand-carried envelope. About a year after our Aunt's death, my brother found the envelope with my name on it. When he looked in, he found the documents! (He added documents that he had transcribed for her.) Sheepishly and with a great deal of apologies, he passed me the envelope at a family party that my wife and I were hosting. Because there were nearly 40 people at the party, I never looked at it - I simply put it aside for later. Much later! Months later! When I opened it, I found that Aunt May had

identified all the families she could on Family Group Sheet-type documents! I also found that she had never had much success with the Newfoundland research and was stuck on the March family! More serendipity! One document in Aunt May's (remember she was my Mom's sister) envelope documented my Dad's tree as she knew it. It identified Dad's O'Brien grandmother - quite a find because none of Dad's living Petrie first cousins knew their grandmother's maiden name! I suspect that Dad did not know it either!

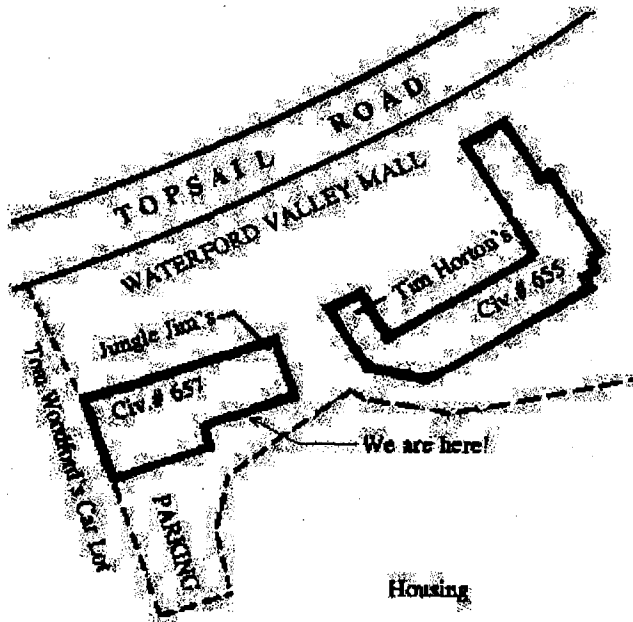
Serendipity! Are you a believer?

LIST OF ELECTORS, 1955, HAGGERTY STREET ST. JOHN'S CENTRE
Submitted by # 0459Pat Walsh

Street Address	Name	Occupation
2 Haggerty Street	England, Isaac	factory worker
	England, Iris	housewife
	Adams, George	operator
	Adams, Jean	housewife
3 Haggerty Street	Power, Thomas	checker
	Power, Marjorie	housewife
4 Haggerty Street	Wakeham, Thomas	carpenter
	Wakeham, Ellen	housewife
	Morrissey, Cyril	brewer
	Morrissey, Elizabeth	housewife
5 Haggerty Street	Walker, Llewelyn	clerk
	Walker, Mary	housewife
	Walker, Harry	clerk
	Walker, Beatrice	England
6 Haggerty Street	Hogan, John	longshoreman
	Williams, Eunice	office clerk

OUR NEW OFFICE LOCATION

We have moved our office to 657 Topsail Road, in the West end of St. John's. We are in the Waterford Valley Mall that consists of 655 and 657 Topsail Road. To access our office you have to drive or walk between Jungle Jim's restaurant and Tim Horton's coffee shop and down a slight hill, then turn right and we are about fifty feet from the corner. There is parking in the front along Topsail Road and in the back near our office.



BOSTON PILOT NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS 1831 - 1921

Submitted by # 531 Joseph Petrie,
<JPETRIE@massbay.edu>

From 1831 to 1921, the weekly *Boston Pilot* newspaper contained advertisements in a column entitled "Missing Friends." There were about 31,000 ads published, focusing primarily on Irish Immigrants. One of those ads was about my gg grandfather, Richard Tobin of Northern Bay, Newfoundland. Paid for by his brother Michael, a resident of Thorold, Ontario, it was published on September 29, 1855. Michael was searching for his brothers Richard of Black Head, Conception Bay, Newfoundland and Patrick of Prince Edward Island.

The NEHGS published the ads in 8 Volumes beginning in 1989. Ruth-Ann Harris, who co-edited

the 8 volumes while on the faculty at Northeastern University and later at Boston College, is the guiding force behind BC's effort to catalog the material and establish a web site. The site is up and running - with plans to display a copy of the ads in the near future! See :infowanted.bc.edu

A COMPUTER JOKE

Thank you to Gordon A. Watts, British Columbia

THE COMPUTER SWALLOWED GRANDMA

The computer swallowed grandma.
Yes, honestly its true.
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely.
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus,
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin,
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online.'

So, if inside your 'Inbox,'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me!

Author Unknown

THE RAILWAY IN OUR DAILY LIVES

From the Railway Coastal Museum e-Bulletin
August 2005 By Simon Neufeld, Railway Coastal
Museum 495 Water Street P.O. Box 6012 St. John's,
NL Canada A1C 5X8
<sneufeld@railwaycoastalmuseum.ca>

For many Newfoundlanders, the railway and coastal boats were a basic part of life. As a historian, it is