

New information regarding Lishman/Lushman family research in Newfoundland:

In response to a query about new research on this family from Lorraine Ball, email dated 4 Jun 2012...

Aside from learning a more accurate idea of where Thomas Lushman and his family were located in the very early years of his being in NF, I've not uncovered any new documentation about the family. A couple of years ago, I found a family bible owned by one of the descendants, Robert D Chapman, of William Lushman who was brought to the US by Thomas in 1833. In that bible, it stated that William was born 24 Aug 1825 at Harbour Galley, Long Island, Hermitage Bay, Newfoundland. I suspect that this is the site from which Thomas departed from his family with William when he left in the fall of 1833 (rather than New Harbour). The island is not very large and a small boy of 8 could have walked across it with his father in cold weather once the ponds and lakes were frozen. I suspect that once they left the rest of the family, James Styles didn't waste any time in moving in with Susanna because they had a child by August 1835. It could have been that Thomas and William made their way to Galtois or one of the other small harbours on the south side of Long Island where they met up with Captain John Russell and the Ship Mechanic (and the Bennett family - Benoit family) where he joined the crew to finish the fishing season and earn passage to go with them to Marblehead (Mass).

This document (the bible) was quite a revelation to me as it clarified how Thomas could get away from his home with Susanna by walking across country and still find a place (accessible to a small boy) where a fishing vessel might have taken refuge for a time to consolidate their catch before continuing their fishing. This was not nearly so easy from New Harbour or Little River and I couldn't imagine where they would walk to from either of those places.

James and Susanna left Harbour Galley with Thomas' children (either before or after the birth of Elizabeth Styles) to go to New Harbour and subsequently further west along the coast to eventually settle in Little River by 1837-8. This is much more reasonable than to have Thomas and Susanna resident in Little River as early as 1822 when Bridget Lushman was born. That's just too early for that part of the coast.

This new information also explains why we find Bridget Lushman in the church records of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Burin. Why should she find herself in Burin if she was born and lived in New Harbour or points west??

The fact that Bridget is mentioned in Catholic records may indicate that Susanna was also Catholic. Certainly Thomas was Church of England as he was a native of England (probably Devon).