

## FROM IRELAND TO NEW BRUNSWICK

Since 1171 Ireland was under domination by the English. Irish were banned from being mayors, bailiffs and clergy unless they took an oath of allegiance to the King of England. During various centuries British laws forbade the Irish Gaelic language, hurling (the national sport), Irish dance, Irish dress, Mass and the right to vote. Lands were confiscated by English landlords and worked by Irish tenants. Penal Laws oppressed 75 percent of the population in the early 1700's. They endured religious persecution. Thousands were exiled to populate British colonies. To escape the cruelty, oppression, corruption and ensuing impoverishment many Irish emigrated to the Americas where they hoped to find freedom and to carve a new life.

It was around 1819 that our forebearers left their homeland. Some arrived in Blue Cove (Waterloo) after 1815. Others came to Pokeshaw and Black Rock.

This coast was entirely unsettled from Maisonnette to Janeville in the early 1800's, with the exception of a French settlement at Grand Anse (1809) and a trading post, sawmill and four buildings at Pokeshaw Harbour (owned by the Hagars and J. Young).

Irish neighbours and relatives cleared land, built dwellings, cut trails in the woods and made passages down the high cliffs. Mostly they farmed, fished and did logging and milling to support their large families in this parish of New Bandon, Gloucester County, N.B.

Life on this coast was not easy but the Irish, alongside their Acadian neighbours and those from the Jersey Islands have proven to be hard-working and resourceful.

### SMALLER FONT

Credits: J. Barry, M. Tracey, D. Constable, G. Riordon, M.A. Riordon Barry

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